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BUET Expulsion and APSU Demands

NO sooner had the BUET authority announced its decision to take disciplinary actions against a few students implicated in the act of vandalism last April than the All Party Students Unity (APSU) announced its rejection of it. The latter has threatened to go for strikes and other actions to force the withdrawal of the decision. It may be recalled that last April parts of BUET premises were vandalised and equipment and computers worth several lakhs of takas were destroyed by students following disciplinary action against a student for appearing in an examination for somebody else. These students also attacked residential quarters of some teachers and terrorised their family members. In face of two days of continuous mayhem the University suspended classes on April 27 which are yet to resume till today.

The university probe body, formed to investigate the incident, submitted its report to the administration on May 30 following which BUET authorities expelled one student for life, three others for four terms (two of which are 'suspended'). In addition 22 students have received 'suspended expulsion' for their involvement in the incident. Given the nature and the extent of the students' indiscipline on the nights of April 25th and 26th we consider the disciplinary actions to be highly inadequate. Except for one expelled for life and two others suspended only for two terms, virtually no punishment has been meted out to others. BUET authority's leniency is exhibited by the fact that no criminal charges were pressed against students who destroyed property worth lakhs of takas and physically assaulted teachers and their families. At least there should have been provision for financial compensation by the students to be paid in instalments over time. The obvious 'softness' of the punishments has encouraged students to reject it. Reports of internal politics of the teachers and division within them have further encouraged the students to take positions which they have no right to take.

The APSU wants a judicial probe body instead of a university probe body to decide on the issue. First of all they have no right to do so. Let them come out with evidence showing that the BUET probe body's work has been faulty or partial. The aggrieved student or students can easily go to the High Court and seek redress. There are numerous examples of students going to courts of law against expulsion orders and being reinstated if found innocent. APSU should not become protector of vandals. On the contrary it should become a partner in making BUET the centre of excellence that it was.