

Four expelled and 22 get suspended expulsion for vandalism at BUET

By DU Correspondent

The BUET authorities yesterday expelled one student for life and three others for four terms with two terms of 'suspended expulsion' for their "involvement in vandalism and terrorist activities on the campus on April 25 and 26".

The authorities also ordered 'suspended expulsion' of 22 students for varying periods for involvement in the incidents.

The action was taken following a probe body report on the incidents, said a press release issued by the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology last night.

The press release neither contained the names of the students nor mentioned the period of suspended expulsion of the 22

students. All have been fined.

But some BUET sources claimed that the punished students included seven Executive Committee members of the Engineering University Central Students' Union (EUCSU).

The press release said, some more students were fined and served with warning letters while some others were only warned.

Decision regarding seven more accused students have been kept pending as they could not be contacted, it said.

When contacted over telephone, the Vice-chancellor refused to talk while the chief of the probe body and the public relations officer were not available.

More police were deployed on the campus yesterday after the announcement of the punishment and security around the teachers' quarters were beefed up.

A senior teacher seeking anonymity however told The Daily Star last night that the authorities had decided to reopen the university on July 4.

Several student leaders also said on condition of anonymity that they might call an indefinite strike on the campus protesting the authorities' decision.

Earlier in the afternoon, the All Party Students' Unity (APSU) at BUET at a press conference rejected the probe body report and reiterated its de-

mand for a judicial probe to "ensure an impartial inquiry".

The APSU leaders demanded reopening of the university immediately and threatened of tougher agitations for non-compliance.

Terming the probe body report 'manipulated', 'partial' and 'politically motivated', APSU said, "It was crafted as per directive of the BUET Teachers' Association (BUETTA)".

In a written statement the APSU said, "The report is shamefully silent about the role of some teachers who provoked students to go violent when some students started agitation demanding cancellation of ex-

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pulsion of a student.

"We reject the probe body report as it is devoid of neutrality and does not reflect behind-the-scene causes of the violence. The report has been prepared in the light of the illogical demands of the BUETTA."

"All the members of the six-member probe body are leaders of BUETTA and involved in active teachers' politics. That is why, their investigation is partial and their recommendations are motivated to meet the purpose of BUETTA," the APSU statement said.

"The probe body has accused many students for provoking violence but it is shamefully silent about some teachers who directly provoked students for indulging in terrorists activities."

"Demands of BUETTA which include dissolution of EUCSU, expulsion of student leaders and a decision not to teach more than four batches of students are totally illogical", the APSU statement said.

Among others, ANM Wahiduzzaman and Dipankar Dipak of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Mokammel Hayat Khan of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Shoumen Hazra of Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Mosharraf Hossain and Waheed Palash of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front addressed the press conference held at the BUET cafeteria.

Sources at the BUET said the probe body accused 280 students for their involvement in the vandalism, either directly or indirectly. Of them, 40 students had direct involvement and 56 had indirect involvement. The remaining 184 were accused of provoking. All the students were served with showcause notices earlier.

A group of students ransacked different academic buildings on the night of April 25 and attacked some teachers' residential quarters on the following night in a row over expulsion of a student for adopting unfair means in examination. The BUET was closed sine die on April 27 following the incidents.

The six-member probe body comprising teachers submitted its report on the incidents to the BUET authorities on May