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Students, teachers remain at loggerheads

No end to BUET crisis

Varsity Correspondent

The students of the 1998-1999 session the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) are experiencing a pre-admission session jam due to the closure of the university for an indefinite period which will add to their regular jam of one year and a half.

They have become scapegoats as most of the students and teachers are locked in a fight for realising their demands. The teachers have announced a three-point demand against the four-point demand of the students.

The teachers are demanding the expulsion of four students of whom three were caught by police and one by the teachers during the attack on the teachers on April 26. On the other hand, the students blamed the teachers for 'provoking' them during the students' movement which resulted in what they said a massive rampage. They demanded the authorities not to take any kind of action against them for their involvement in the rampage.

"They can't punish us for what they have triggered", a representative from the alliance of the student organisations active on the campus told this correspondent.

The teachers are not only demanding the expulsion of these students but also urging the authorities to file criminal cases against them.

The dispute over the authorities' decision to expel a student of the Civil Engineering Department has brought BUET to a standstill.

The teachers' association of BUET on April 29 expressed their determination to remain steadfast to the demands while the students have taken a similar posture.

The allied student body voice their demand for the removal of the Director of Student Welfare for directly provoking the movement and for being silent when police picked up three students during the rampage on April 26. The students, however, were released immediately.

While talking to The Bangladesh Observer, a senior leader of one of the student or-

ganisations brought several allegations against Dr. Azadur Rahman of the Civil Engineering Department and said that they had also demanded the authorities to take action against him.

Dr. Azadur Rahman caught Dipu redhanded when he was appearing for one of his classmates class test. The students alleged that he had beaten up Robin, a second year student, on April 26 during the rampage in the teachers' residential area. Dr Azad also ordered a security guard to beat another student,

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Ziaul Bashar during the movement of the architecture students a couple of months back, alleged the students.

Meanwhile, teachers' association of different universities including the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association expressed deep concern over the heinous acts of the students. They strongly protested the attack on the teachers and their helpless families.

The residential hostels of BUET have been vacated and the students have to stay out of the halls until further order. It has been causing great suffering to the students who don't have homes in Dhaka.

They are not able to go to their village homes as they are expecting the examinations to be held on short notice. Moreover, most of the students are engaged in private tuition.

"It was my dream to study in BUET, but now my family is insisting on transferring my credits to any foreign university," said Lizon, a student of the Department of Civil Engineering.

Talking to this correspondent, guardian of Lizon said, "I'm quite at a loss. I don't know what to do with child when these types of uncalled for unrest prevail in the educational institutions. Besides, I saw the name of BUET nowhere in the ranking of the Asian Technology Institutes", he added.

Meanwhile, a group of about five hundred students have submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor urging him to hold their examinations under special consideration immediately.