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## IU expels former BCL leader, four activists for 1 year

Humayun Kabir Jibon | Updated at 12:24am on July 16, 2023



Islamic University in Kushtia on Saturday expelled five students — a former leader and four former activists of the ruling Awami League-backed student body Bangladesh Chhatra League — for one year for torturing a first-year student of finance and banking department.

The victim, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the university decision and demanded permanent expulsion of the accused.

The decision was made at a meeting of the disciplinary committee held on the campus with vice-chancellor Shaikh Abdus Salam in the chair.

The expelled students are then BCL university unit vice-president Shanjida Chowdhury Ontora of statistics department and her associates Tabassum Islam and Maobiya Jahan, of finance and banking department, Halima Khatun Urmi of fine arts department and Israt Jahan Mim of law department.

Ontora is a student of 2017–08 academic session while the rest four are students of 2020–21 academic session. All of them are residents of Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall.

IU pro-vice-chancellor M Mahbubur Rahman, treasurer M Alamgir Hossain Bhuiya, proctor M Shahadat Hossain Azad, acting registrar HM Ali Hasan, among others, attended the meeting.

Proctor M Shahadat Hossain Azad told New Age that the university authorities expelled Ontora and four of her associates from the university for one year as per the code of conduct of the university.

The one year of the expulsion will be counted from Saturday, he said, adding that the decision of the meeting would be sent to the High Court by July 19.

The victim female student said, 'I am not satisfied with the university administration's decision against Ontora and four of her cohorts, but rather horrified by it.' She said that she became worried about her security as there was no guarantee that the accused would not take revenge on her after returning to the campus.

The victim was tortured and intimidated by the then IU unit BCL vice-president Shanjida Chowdhury Ontora and her associates, including Tabassum, Mim, Urmi and Maobiya, in Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall on the campus at night on February 12.

Ontora, at one stage, forced the victim to get undressed and videoed the incident on the mobile phone.

Ontora also threatened that she would make the video viral on social media if the victim disclosed the matter to anyone, according to the complaint the victim filed with the university administration, including the university proctor, student adviser and hall provost, on February 14.

On February 15, the university authorities formed a five-member probe body headed by IU law department chairperson Reba Mondol.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil on February 16 asked the Kushtia deputy commissioner to investigate the incident by a three-member body and submit the report to it in seven working days.

Hearing a writ petition filed by IU alumnus and lawyer Gazi Mohammad Mohsin, the court also asked the university authorities to keep the accused BCL leader and activists off the campus during the investigation.

Two probe bodies formed by the Islamic University authorities submitted their reports on February

26.

Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall administration expelled the five accused on February 27. On March 1, the Bangladesh Chhatra League expelled Ontora and the four activists for torturing and humiliating the female student.

Based on the probe report submitted by Kushtia district administration on February 28,, the High Court bench on March 1 asked the university to suspend the accused BCL leader and activists.

The court also asked the vice-chancellor and registrar of the university to immediately remove Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall provost Shamsul Alam and house tutors Moumita Akhter and Ishrat Jahan for their alleged negligence that led to the ill-treatment of the victim.

The IU authorities later suspended the five accused students from the university as well as removed Shamsul Alam as provost of Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall.

The university authorities had also notified Ontora and her four associates asking them to submit their responses to the complaint in seven working days.

The university administration also allocated a seat to the female student in Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall on her choice following the High Court order.



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