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Deadlock in BUET takes a new turn

Staff Correspondent

The two-and a half-month deadlock created in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) over expulsion of a student, has taken a new turn. The students of the university threatened to wage a greater movement protesting the action taken by the university authorities against 57 students on the basis of an inquiry committee report.

The students in a meeting on Friday formed "All Party Students Unity Council" (APSUC) and vowed to paralyse the academic activities of the university through non-stop movement until their demands including a judicial inquiry into the violent incident on the campus that took place on April 25 and 26 were not met.

A APSUC leader said that they would violate the decisions taken by the BUET authorities against 57 students on the basis of the inquiry committee report. "We do not think that the report prepared by the teachers of BUET is impartial because the teachers were also involved in the violent incident", he said adding only investigation by a judicial inquiry committee could bring back peaceful academic atmosphere in the university by revealing the facts.

BUET was closed sine die since April 27 following violence on the campus, that caused damage to property worth about Tk. 50 lakh. On the same day, the university authorities formed a six-member inquiry committee to probe into the untoward incident. About one month after the incident, the inquiry committee published its report accusing a good number of students.

On the basis of the report the Academic Council of the university took action against 57 students. Of them one was expelled for life while suspended expulsion order was issued against four students for four years. This caused resentment among the students.

Meanwhile, APSUC brought out processions at different halls of the university and conducted a mass conduct programme on

Saturday and Sunday to mobilise opinion of the general students in favour of its action programmes.

Sources said they will announce their action programme today (Monday) through a press conference. Their programme may include hunger strike.

However, leaders of Engineering University Central Students' Union (EUCSU) urged the BUET authorities to take all possible measures to hold smoothly all the term final examinations, scheduled to be held from July 20.

The EUCSU leaders will also meet with the leaders of APSUC, an alliance of four student organisations including Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) today (Monday) and will urge them not to interrupt the examinations, an EUCSU leader said.

However, the general students are very frustrated with the whole crisis.

"We are still worried about the situation. We don't know what could be its impact on our exams a number of students said. "Due to this uncertainty we are not being able to concentrate in the exams".

"The students of BUET have already suffered a huge loss due to an unscheduled closure of the university for 69 days", another student voiced his concern.