

## Reopen the BUET Early

**N**EARLY two months have passed since the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) was closed down following student anarchy on the campus. This premier engineering university of the country and once the model of discipline and academic normality amidst pervasive disorder across the seats of higher learning is in a bind. To briefly recall the chronology of events, students went on a breaking spree on April 26 and 27 demanding cancellation of disciplinary action ordered against a student who had surrogated a friend to sit for his tests; the university was closed since April 28; the authorities served show cause notices against more than a hundred students on different allegations; and the hearing of the students' versions is now in progress. On the basis of a report filed by an inquiry committee, the Board of Residence and Discipline of the BUET is currently at work to finalise steps against the students alleged to have committed offence. The university is expected to reopen some time in the second week of July when the disciplinary process will have been completed. That is, if all goes well. We would not go beyond that rather muted expression of caution for the present, preferring to keep our best hopes with the approach of the Board of Residence and Discipline to the whole issue of normalising the academic atmosphere at the BUET. Basically though we maintain that it is a question of teacher-student relationship being put ahead of other agenda, hidden or overt of any group on the campus.

While the action against 'unruly students' is under process the university has certainly fallen behind the calendar. It is in for a sessions jam, a sordid prospect created not only by an unscheduled closure of the university but also by the teachers' reported decision not to take classes for more than four batches in a year. They might be agreeable to teach another batch at the most. In that event, the freshers into the 1998-99 academic session, who will make up the 6th batch, might have to wait for two years before their classes begin. We urge the BUET administration and the teachers' association to think of special measures to head off that impending tangle of sessions in what we regard as one of the finest institutions of its kind in Asia.