

## DU should seek legal redress in student torture case

THE decision of the disciplinary committee of the University of Dhaka recommending that seven university unit Chhatra League activists, accused of torturing another student in which he lost sight in the right eye, provides for hopes when the Chhatra League, the student organisation of the ruling Awami League, keeps making the headlines for all the notoriety that it could put on display. The seven students, as an investigation committee of the university's Salimullah Muslim Hall finds, on February 6 beat up the victim as he wanted his calculator back. The victim, who had the cornea and orbit of the right eye damaged after being punched indiscriminately, is reported to be leaving for India for better treatment. Although the decision on their expulsion that the university disciplinary committee made is pending a university syndicate decision, it is good that, unlike in many other incidents in the past, the university authorities have this time taken cognisance of the incident of crime, instituted investigation and found the accusation against the seven students to be true. While this might not stop such incidents from taking place altogether, this could provide a pointer or a departure point to take action against similar incidents if they take place in future.

With the administrative action as far as the university jurisdiction is concerned being done, what remains for the university authorities to do is to file criminal cases against the accused who the authorities have found to be involved in the torture of the victim, causing his eyesight to be damaged. As the university authorities have taken cognisance of the crime and have made a disciplinary decision on their punishment, it is the moral obligation of the authorities to seek legal redress in the issue. This will further help to resolve many other problems that happened in the past and that will happen in future. This is likely to help the university administration to deal with such incidents. With Chhatra League leaders and activists ceaselessly fighting within themselves and attacking general students on campuses of educational institutions across the country, the situation has reached a concerning pass, both for the Chhatra League and general students. Fights that the Chhatra League has within itself and against others have disrupted academic environment time and again in the past six months. At least five activists of the student organisation were killed in within the organisation fights in the period. The train should stop, once and for all.

The authorities of the University of Dhaka, therefore, must take up the issue seriously not just by taking administrative and disciplinary action against the accused in question but also by thinking about seeking legal redress to afford justice to the victim. The authorities should think about filing criminal cases, especially after the university administration took cognisance of the crimes that the accused did. The university could thus help in the dispensation of justice and could inch forward towards effectively stopping such incidents of crimes from taking place on the campus.