

Violence on CU Campus

INTERNECINE conflict, often, bloody, within Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) seems to have become a familiar phenomenon at different universities across the country. Even before the outrage over the recent fracas between the 'killer' and 'rapist' groups of the BCL on the Jahangirnagar University campus died down, rival factions of the student front of the ruling party went into an armed clash at Chittagong University on Thursday last, leaving 50 wounded including four bullet-hit police personnel. The Syndicate came up with a rather hackneyed administrative measure: indefinite closure of CU. Police, for their part, also went by the book, raided a few halls of residence and "arrested 10 BCL cadres along with arms and ammunition." Such 'raids', in all probability, would make no difference and a handful of armed goons, in the name of student politics, would continue toying with the fate of general students.

In recent times, student politics has often hogged the headlines for wrong reasons. Violence on campus at different educational institutions across the country has often been perpetrated on materialistic rather than idealistic issues. Besides, many a 'student leader' has been implicated in cases of such heinous crimes as murder, rape, extortion, kidnapping, arms and drug dealing, etc. On the whole, it has been a fall from grace for student politics. Mainstream political parties have made matters even worse. While denouncing on-campus violence in public, they have hardly taken any tangible effort to disassociate themselves from the 'deviant' activists. The prime minister's much-publicised anti-terrorist stand does not sit in with an apparently endless sequence of violence perpetrated by the student front of her own party.

In our view, alarming escalation of campus-centred violence lends weight to President Shahabuddin's call for a moratorium on student politics. While denouncing the incident and urging the authorities to resume academic activities at CU, we would like to extend our plea to the mainstream political leadership to sever relationship with their deviant student activists rightaway.