

Chhatra League atrocities continue

IT IS although disturbing but not surprising that the ruling Awami League-backed Chhatra League, which is known to have engaged in clashes, within and outside the student organisation, on campuses of various educational institutions, often hampering academic activities, again embarked upon such clashes within itself over seating arrangement on National Mourning Day, on Tuesday, at Shariatpur Government College, which left nine people injured. This happened when the college authorities organised a discussion and a prayer session in the college auditorium to mark the assassination of the country's founding president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Not only that, in another incident the same day, as New Age reported on Wednesday, two factions of the Chhatra League at Ulipur in Kurigram had the temerity to clash amongst themselves, which left 11 people injured. It is not uncommon that Chhatra League factions have a propensity to swoop on one another equipped with iron rods, sticks and sharp weapons. This kind of activities by BCL activists has often thwarted the efforts of the academic institutes to maintain the education standards of the past or to keep pace with the gradual advancement of knowledge, to say the least.

The Chhatra League, like other student organisations when their parent party is in power, has been involved in activities that hamper the administration by trying to establish its supremacy on areas and institutions, to have a share or all of development job put out to tender and to grab land, set up commercial establishments and sell them. Besides that, the Chhatra League mischief has centred on education - vandalism of educational institutions, humiliating teachers, leaking questions of various examinations, including those meant for teacher recruitment, forcing enrolment of students who are not qualified and even destabilising campuses of educational institutions because their fellows fail to pass the examinations. There are countless such cases taking place every other day across the country. Money seems to be a driving force of the Chhatra League, or any other student organisations when their parent party is in power, while indulging in these scandalous activities.

In the wake of such incidents, high ups in the Awami League and the government play blame game saying that all committing such offences are no Chhatra League activists, that the perpetrators are no longer Chhatra League activists or that some outsiders infiltrated the organisation only to have its image blemished by committing such offences. All such patronising statements have encouraged the Chhatra League to keep committing crimes. One can recall that during the past tenure of the Awami League, the prime minister warned on several occasions troublemakers in the ruling party-backed organisations, especially the Chhatra League, of dire consequences, something that is yet to happen. One has no reason to hope that the incumbents will, on their own, streamline the organisation at least to ensure a congenial atmosphere for learning on campuses. To make that happen, socially conscious people need to raise their voice in a sustained manner.

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