

JnU students under BCL attack

Merits stern action

WE strongly condemn the attack by a section of Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL) on a peaceful procession demanding residential halls for the general students of Jagannath University (JnU). It is indeed disquieting to note that the BCL launched the assault, reportedly led by the President of its university unit, because the students did not participate in the protest under its banner. That these so-called leaders have no respect either for their fellow students or the rule of law is rather evident from the display of force that they have exhibited in the campus. Are we to believe that the BCL leadership thinks it is acceptable to coerce others into believing its cause? Through what else but engagement, we ask, can a student body win the hearts and minds of their fellow students?

This is not the only occasion on which we have witnessed such action involving the BCL. In point of the fact, the latest assault merely adds to the list of the BCL's rowdy behaviour in many educational institutions across the country.

We are shocked that no disciplinary action has yet been taken against the errant BCL cadres. The authorities should also understand the sufferings that the students are going through because of lack of accommodation and solve the problem quickly. It must find ways to repossess the properties it has lost to the encroachers and also find alternative arrangements.

On its part, the BCL leadership needs to dissuade its members from carrying out such violent and self-destructive activities. The organisation should try to live up to its past glory. We also believe that the Awami League central leadership has a role to play in this regard.