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CU Under Siege

SUNDAY'S flare-up at Chittagong University more or less followed a familiar pattern: one student leader got roughed up by rival activists; his infuriated peers launched attack on the assailants; and campus-wide armed conflict broke out, killing a few and injuring few others. The university authorities took recourse to a hackneyed administrative measure: closure of the halls of residence and suspension of all examinations until such time as tension got defused. The police was, as usual, passive throughout the gun-battle and became active when it was over. At the receiving end are general students with a big question mark over their future. The academic glitch will surely result in session jams, meaning thereby their stay at the university has been prolonged once again for no fault of theirs.

Despite their avowed commitment to root out terrorism, the mainstream political parties, neither the ruling nor the opposition, have apparently made any attempt to dissociate themselves from the terrorists under the student activists' guise. On the contrary, patronisation of such anti-social elements has been steadily on the rise, so suggests the frequency of such flare-ups.

We are not against student politics *per se*; in fact, our opposition is to the blend of politics now in currency on campus. There should be an end to such a political culture, to such an orgy of killing and getting killed. In other words, we would like to urge the politicians once again to delink themselves from students and not make the campus their battlefields. Immediately, however, we would like to see resumption of normal academic activities at the Chittagong University.