

## Reign in errant BCL cadres

### *Impunity breeds criminality*

OME Bangladesh Chhatra League men's continuing heavy handedness, we believe, is a direct result of the impunity being enjoyed by the errant party cadres. Their complete disregard for the rule of law was again on display inside Jahangirnagar University, when they needlessly beat up a campus-based reporter for videotaping the beating they were handing down to an outsider being escorted to the proctor for extortion.

The authorities are yet to take any tangible and effective action against the ruling party lawbreakers, while the party itself has also not done so, even when crimes were of the gravest kind. One of those crimes was the alleged beating and torture of a freedom fighter and philanthropist, who later died, succumbing to the injuries inflicted upon him by the ruling party men.

So much leeway has, in fact, been afforded to them, that their intra party clashes have led to many deaths. From January last year till October this year alone, 52 Awami League men were killed and nearly 3,500 individuals injured in 334 incidents of internal clashes. Meanwhile, individuals affiliated with the AL are heavily lobbying the home ministry to have the criminal cases filed against them withdrawn, reportedly, on political grounds.

If the situation is allowed to continue, lawlessness will increase. We call upon the administration to uphold the rule of law to save any shred of confidence in our justice delivery system and the ruling party to remove the impunity being afforded to its members. //