

## BCL continues to hamper educational activities

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 on the campus of the Suhrawardy Medical College on Sunday leading to the closure of the institution for an indefinite period. In the latest in the series, as New Age reported on Monday, two BCL factions equipped with iron rods and sticks had clashed in front of the academic building and hospital till 2:00pm, when police had to intervene to bring the situation under control. The residential students, according to the report, left their halls by 4:00pm following the clash and the college administration had no other options but to close the institute for an indefinite period. This kind of activities by the BCL activists will thwart the efforts of these institutes to maintain the education standards of the past or to keep pace with the gradual advancement of knowledge, to say the least.

Chhatra League leaders and activists have 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 ever since the Awami League assumed power in 2009. But the Chhatra League mischief has mostly 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 is a driving force of the Chhatra League, or any other student organisations when their parent parties are 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 games saying that all committing such offences are not 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 here 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. For that to happen, socially conscious people need to raise their voice in a sustained manner.