

BCL men continue their atrocities

WITH their attacks on teachers at Islamic University in Kushtia on Monday, leaders and activists of the Chhatra League affiliated to the ruling Awami League appear hell-bent on continuing their misdeeds regardless of the damage such activities have already caused to the image of the government led by their parent organisation, let alone them. Additionally, they appear to have become more so on extending the arc of their criminal acts. As New Age reported on Tuesday, when teachers of the university under the banner of their association were holding a peaceful sit-in in front of the administrative building there demanding resignation of the vice-chancellor, the pro-vice chancellor and the treasurer, a group of Chhatra League led by the university unit president and the general secretary beat up them leaving at least 30 of them injured. Worse still, in association with some employees loyal to the vice-chancellor, they pelted the protesting teachers with stones in the presence of the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice-chancellor. Teachers at the university have been on strike since November 11 in protest against recruitment trade reportedly perpetrated by the vice-chancellor, pro-vice-chancellor and their cohorts that also include Chhatra League leaders there in recent times.

Ever since the incumbent government assumed office in 2009, the BCL people have engaged in various sorts of crimes such as extortion, abduction, rent-seeking, admission trade, sexual harassment on female students and tender manipulation etc in and outside educational institutions around the country. The less said about their series of attacks on their political rivals – especially the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-backed Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal men, or the factional clashes they have engaged in, over the control of different university campuses over the period, the better. It is needless to say that most of these clashes resulted in, on the one hand, the closure of the institutions concerned, sometimes, for an indefinite period hampering immensely their academic activities and, on the other, fatalities and injuries to scores of students.

The key functionaries of the government, including the prime minister, meanwhile, on a number of occasions vowed to get tough on the BCL troublemakers in the past four years or so only to, regrettably, forget later. Besides, the authorities of different universities, handpicked by the incumbents, are seen to have remained silent in almost all the cases relating to BCL atrocities there in this period. Obviously, such a situation cannot make the law enforcement personnel, including policemen, deployed on different campuses to keep law and order accountable even at the very least. Hence, against this overall backdrop, it is little wonder that BCL hoodlums continue their atrocities in an intensified manner. Either way, the government is urged to rein in the unruly BCL men if it is at all committed to ensuring academic atmosphere on campuses.