

Deadly violence at CU

Act urgently to address it

WE are deeply saddened by the death of two Chittagong University (CU) students on its campus on Wednesday during a clash between two groups of students.

As could be gathered from reports, the deadly violence started from a trifle exchange of words between classmates of the same department. But the argument soon took a violent turn triggering armed clashes between rival student groups belonging to Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (Shibir).

The question that naturally arises is how could the CU administration allow just an argument between two students to come to a head leading to fatalities? This brings to glaring light that either there was lack of preparedness on the part of university authorities to pre-empt the violent turn of events or the law-enforcers did not effectively intervene, or both.

Had they been able to act promptly and intervened in time, the situation could be brought under control and the lives of two students saved.

It may be recalled here that the CU campus has been notorious for similar eruptions of student violence since long. In most cases, rival student groups engaged in clashes to establish their supremacy on the campus.

The campuses automatically become prone to violence when lethal weapon-wielding students roam around. This is highly reprehensible, since the very purpose of the students' going to the university is to study and not fight with weapons.

To maintain peace on the campus, we suggest that the university authorities contemplate along the line of having campus police squads. This could be dovetailed to a trouble-shooting mechanism in the universities.

But all this cannot be a substitute for prompt, efficient and effective law-enforcement when the need for it would arise.