

Attack on RU students Role of Police and BCL contemptible

WE strongly condemn the police attack on the students of Rajshai University in collusion with the Chattra League cadres.

Is there no other option open to the police to disperse agitating students than use of lethal weapons? We wonder why this option particularly when it is students that they are dealing with. Yet the police indulged in shooting at agitating students of the university injuring more than 100 persons including many journalists.

Equally despicable was the part of the Chattra League in the attack, whose role seemed to be in aid of the police. And the police were happy to turn a blind eye literally because, when asked, the police commissioner said that he had not seen weapon wielding BCL activists on the spot.

This is the first time after AL's coming to power in a controversial and largely voterless election that its student front has indulged in the most blatant show of force stemming from arrogance of power and in which, we are sorry to say, the university authorities played no small part. And what has eventuated at the University following the students' demand a fortnight ago of, among others, waiving the increase in fees and doing away with night classes, is because of the ham-handed handling of the matter by the University authorities.

We are afraid we are seeing the revival of the brutal character of the BCL that we had seen during the greater part of the last tenure of the AL. And this can only be stopped if the violent BCL cadres are meted out the most exemplary punishment.

We intend to comment separately later on the question of increase of fees in public universities, which we think is at an unrealistic level at the moment.

EDITORIAL