

# The Daily Star

Thursday, October 10, 2019  
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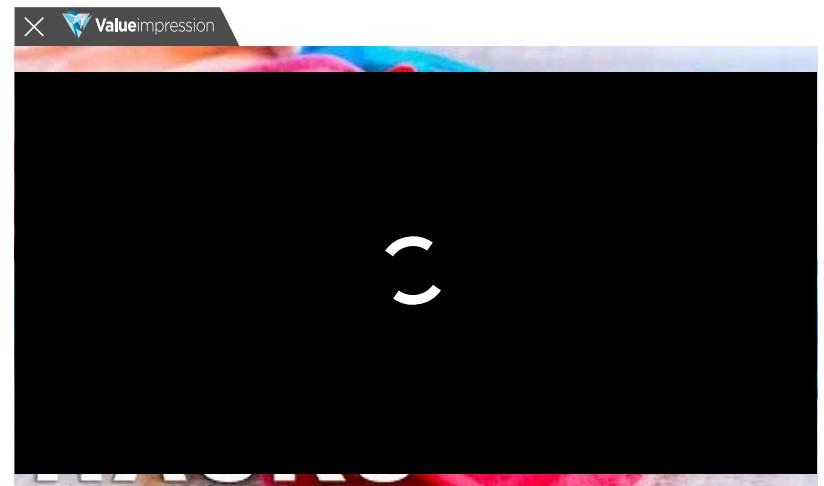
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12:00 AM, October 10, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 04:00 AM, October 10, 2019

## Ban politics at Buet, punish the killers

*Calls grow louder also for removal of vice-chancellor; protests over Abrar killing rage on*

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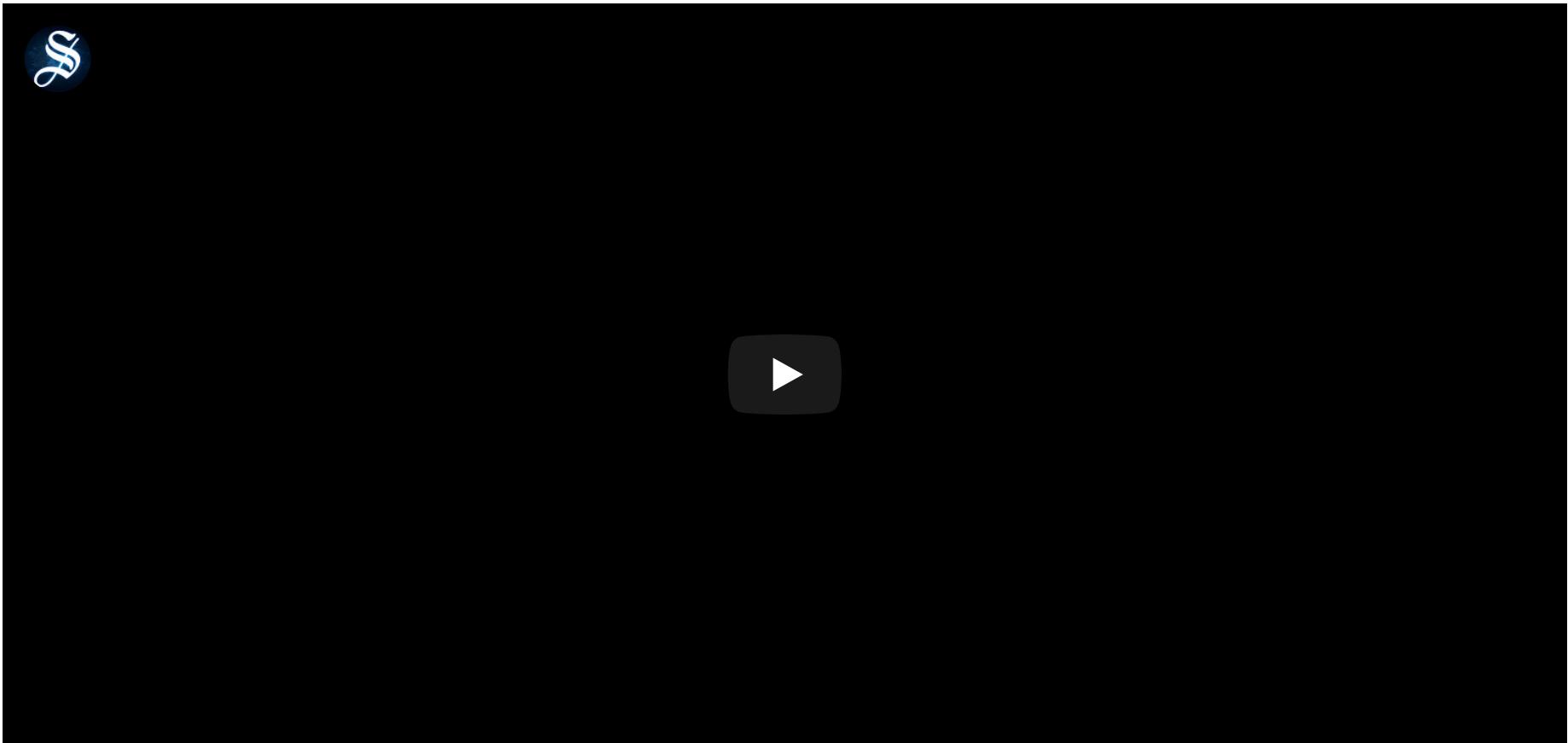


Dhaka University students marching with black flags near Buet protesting the killing of Abrar Fahad and Rahman

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#### Staff Correspondent

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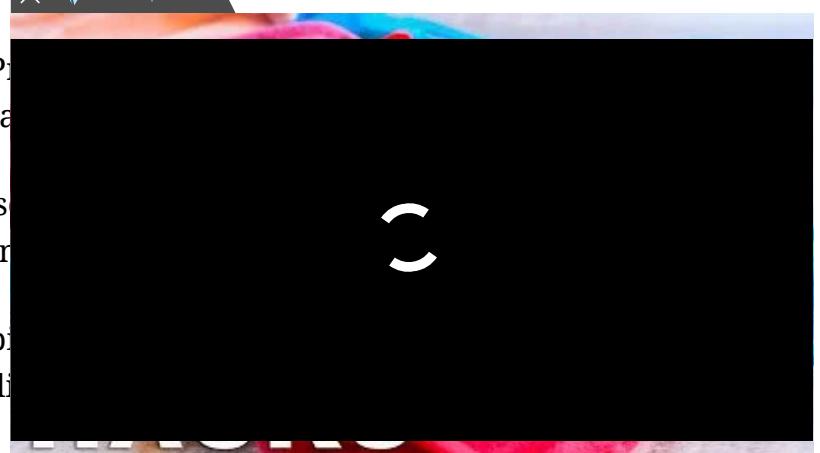
The call for punishing Buet student Abrar Fahad's killers is getting louder as the alumni of the university and more teachers yesterday joined the student agitation sparked by the brutal murder

 Valueimpression

The alumni and the teachers demanded the removal of Vice-Chancellor P. S. Md. Abu Taher and "improved security" on the campus. They also called for overhauling the university administration.

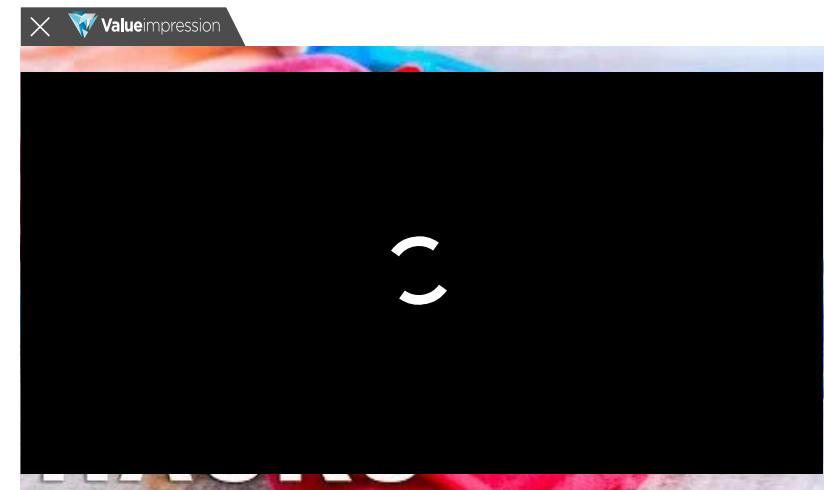
The agitating students and teachers demanded a ban on organisation-based politics on the campus of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), saying politics of terror has long been a threat to the university.

The student demonstrations yesterday spread like wildfire across the capital city. The students and their guardians too demanded that the VC be ousted immediately.



At Buet, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal Khan, the provost of Sher-e-Bangla Hall, resigned yesterday. Abrar, a second-year student of electrical and electronic engineering department and also a resident of the dormitory, was beaten to death by a group of Chhatra League leaders inside the hall sometime between 7:30pm Sunday and 2:30am Monday.

Law enforcers and his fellow students suspect Abrar was attacked because of one of his recent Facebook posts, which seemed critical of some recent deals with India.





demonstrators of left-leaning student bodies near Buet campus. Photo: Palash Khan/Anisur Rahman

## 'REMOVE VC'

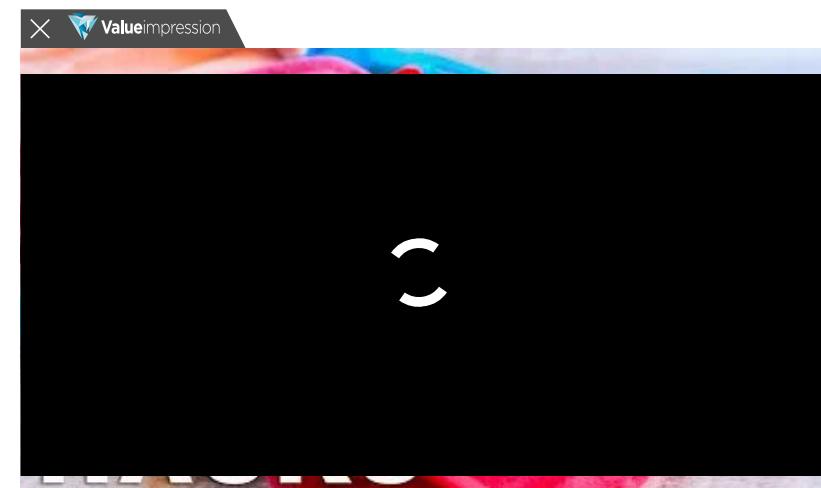
Over a hundred members of Buet Alumni Association yesterday thronged agitating students on their demands.

At a rally there, they demanded removal of the VC, recasting of the university administration, expulsion of the accused students and trial of the murder case at a speedy tribunal.

Association President Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury placed a seven-point demand, including banning politics and ragging on the campus.

“This brutal murder [of Abrar Fahad] is the outcome of the university authorities’ reluctance, mismanagement and failure to ensure security on the campus,” he said.

“Qualified, bold and neutral persons should get promotions and the Buet administration needs to be recast through the removal of the VC. These are needed to protect the image of the institution,” he added.





Buet alumni form a human chain at the Shaheed Minar on their campus demanding justice for Abrar

## ULTIMATUM

The agitating students of Buet continued their demonstration on the campus home their 10-point demand, including death penalty for Abrar's killers.

Skipping classes, the protesters joined a sit-in on the university's Shaheed Minar and a half later, they put up barricades at Palashi Intersection and in Bak

Their demands include expulsion of all the accused students, prevention of torture that comes in the form of ragging and ban on organisation-based politics on the campus.

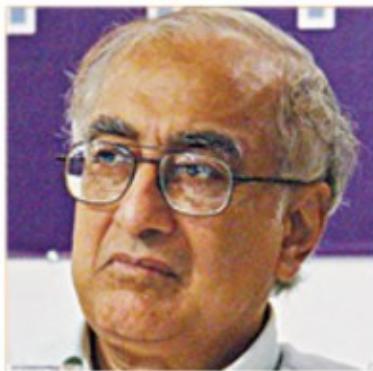
The protesters gave the university authorities a two-day ultimatum to give compensations to Abrar's family, remove the provost of Sher-e-Bangla Hall and identify and expel the students who killed Abrar.

The university authorities were given until October 15 to meet the other demands.

Around 500 students of Dhaka University brought out a procession on the campus around 1:30pm and extended support to the demands.

Earlier in the morning, a section of Buet teachers and students brought out a silent procession, demanding justice for Abrar.

Around 7:00pm, Buet students held a candlelight vigil on the campus over the same demand.



PROFESSOR JAMILUR REZA CHOUDHURY, PRESIDENT OF BUET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**"This brutal murder [of Abrar Fahad] is the outcome of the university authorities' indifference, mismanagement and failure to ensure security on the campus."**



Valueimpression

**"Buet dormitories' administrative system has collapsed... the halls are now run**



## BAN 'INDIRECT' POLITICS

Buet Teachers' Association also expressed solidarity with the agitating stu

Speaking to reporters, the platform's President AKM Masud said their meeting in the morning decided that they would recommend banning "indirect" politics by students and teachers on the campus.

At that time, he also placed their eight-point demand, including resignation of the Buet VC.

"Such a situation has been created as the VC did not give proper assistance in the academic activities. He is responsible for Abrar's killing. We will not let our institution get spoiled because of an "unskilled" vice-chancellor," said Prof Masud.

The other demands include evicting outsiders from the university halls.



ARCHITECT  
IQBAL HABIB

**"Some so-called  
meritorious  
students are  
becoming  
monsters.  
Why?  
They have to  
be stopped  
immediately."**

#### 'ENSURE SECURITY'

Holding black flags, students, teachers and their guardians brought out a justice for Abrar and safety of students on the campus.

They alleged provosts were failing to ensure security at the dormitories a



NOTED ACTOR  
HAYAT

**"The student  
demonstration  
is actually the  
outburst of an  
accumulated  
resentment  
among the**

At a rally at the foot of Raju Memorial Sculpture, eminent lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua slammed the Buet administration over Abrar's killing and asked, "If you failed to ensure security of students, why did you take the responsibilities as VC, pro-VC and provost?"

"They [Chhatra League activists] killed freedom of opinion through the killing of Abrar," he said.

Jahangirnagar University's Prof Anu Muhammad said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina "should shoulder the responsibilities of all activities of Chhatra League as she was the organisational chief of Chhatra League".

DU Economics Professor MM Akash said students being tortured at guestroom of dormitories were leading miserable lives.

DU teachers Gitiara Nasreen, Asif Nazrul, Kaberi Gayen, Samina Luthfa, Tanjimuddin Khan and Ducsu Vice President Nurul Haque Nur also spoke at the rally.

At a sit-in on the campus, BNP-Jamaat backed "White Panel" teachers of Dhaka University demanded capital punishment for Abrar's killers.

Left leaning Pragatashil Chhatra Jote and Pro-BNP student body Chhatra Dal brought out separate processions from Madhur canteen premises on DU campus. They also demanded capital punishment to the killers and an end to student torture at dormitories.

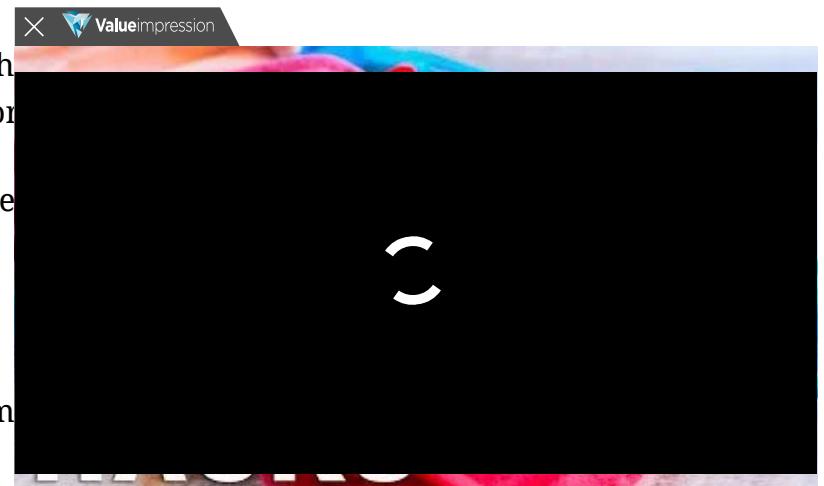
## BCL WARNING

Acting president of Chhatra League Al Naheen Khan Joy yesterday said the "country will respond with a reply" if anyone tried to destabilise the country over Abrar murder, reported *BD News 24*.

"Police and administration are doing their work. Chhatra League has already responded to the killing of Abrar. We will respond to any other incident," he told a press conference at Dhaka University.

## 3 MORE REMANDED

Three students of Buet -- Moniruzzaman Monir, Akash Hossain and Shamim Hossain -- were remanded each yesterday in connection with the murder.



Metropolitan Magistrate Tofazzal Hossain passed the order after DB Inspector Wahiduzzaman produced the trio before the court with 10-day remand prayer for each of them.

A total of 13 students of the university were arrested in connection with the murder case filed by Abrar's father.

The accused include 10 members of Buet BCL. The other seven are on five-day remand.

Meanwhile, students and teachers of different other educational institutions, including Chattogram University and Rajshahi University, continued demonstrations yesterday for punishment to the killers.

Chhatra League men beat up Chhatra Dal activists at Jahangirnagar University and Jagannath University and barred them from holding protests.

## Related Topics

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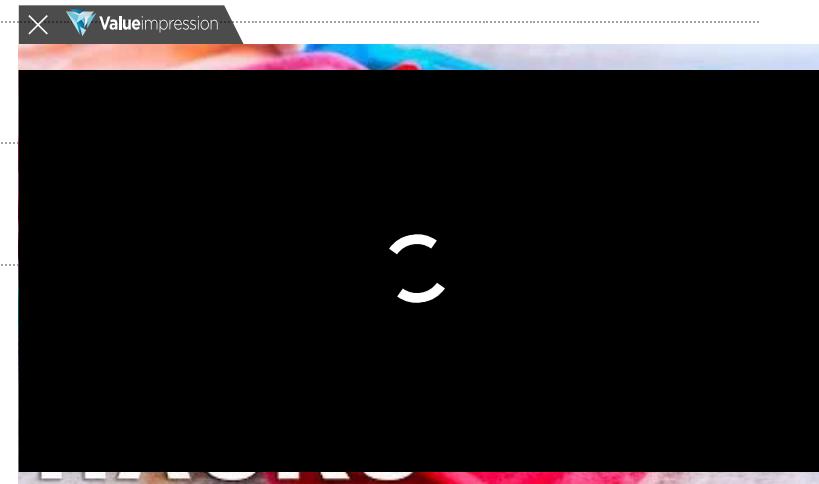
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