

# The Daily Star

Thursday, October 10, 2019

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## Sexual harassment in educational institutions

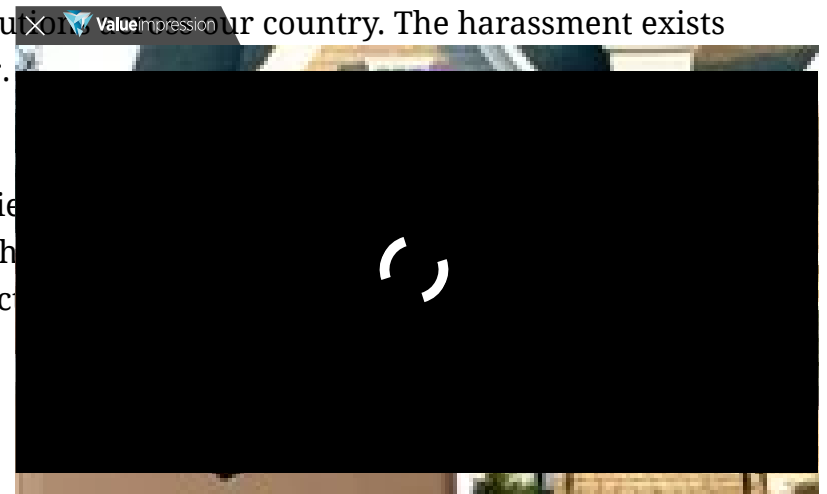
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Akib Sumon, Bangladesh Agricultural University

Sexual harassment is becoming a common problem in educational institutions in our country. The harassment exists from primary levels to university levels, but is rather severe in the latter. It affects many female students, who continue to suffer silently.

Many of the abusers use Facebook as a means of approach. They send friends requests to the girls and try to intimidate them in several ways. They even set traps, luring the girls with gifts. Sometimes they threaten to fail the students if they refuse to oblige. Many of the victims are often well connected with those in power.



Even though many brave students have protested against such crimes, many more have suffered. Despite the existing laws, most of the victims tend to stay silent, suspecting that the stigma attached to the issue will further worsen the situation.

I urge the respective authorities to take stern action against the molesters and enable the victims to report such matters with ease and discretion. I also hope that they will ensure a healthy atmosphere, free from predators, in the educational institutions and beyond.

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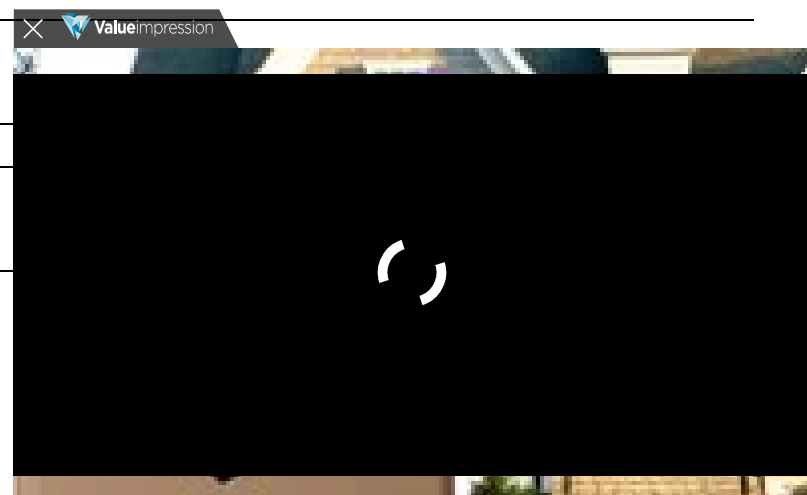
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