

# The Daily Star

Sunday, October 13, 2019  
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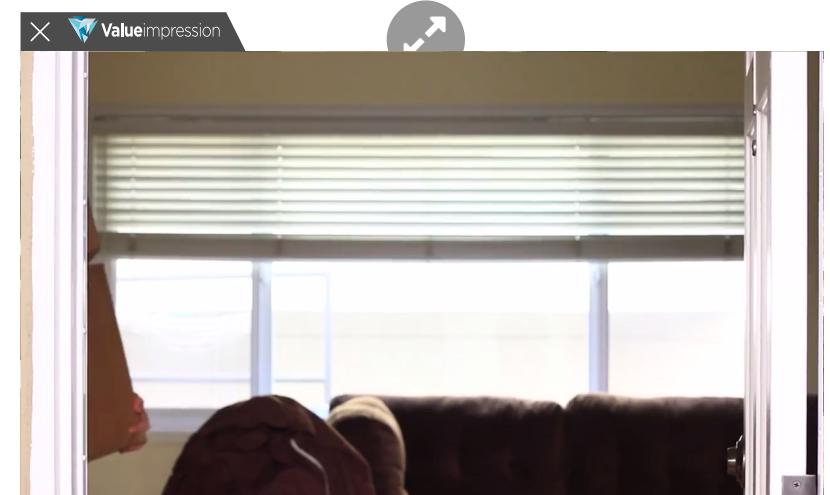
12:00 AM, October 11, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:00 AM, October 11, 2019

## EDITORIAL

# University authorities must take charge

*Exercise your authority and do your duty*

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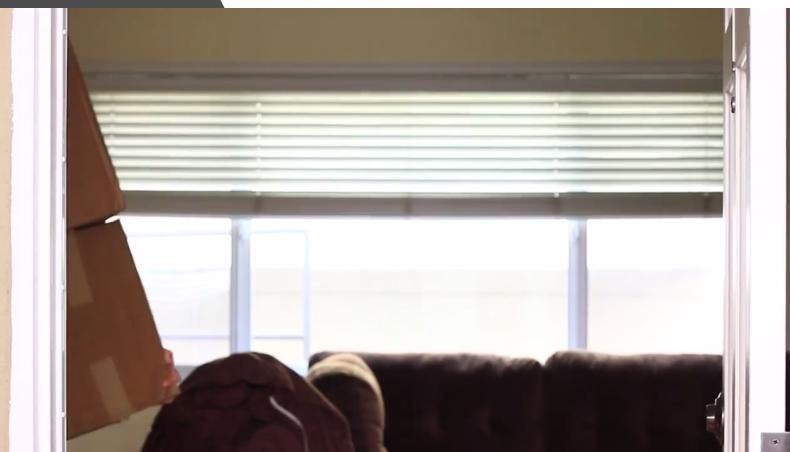


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We welcome the PM's announcement that she would direct the authorities to ensure that criminal activities in the universities are stopped. We welcome her statement as well as her resolve to cleanse the campuses of criminals, thugs and crooks. By the time we go to press, more than 24 hours will have elapsed since the PM made her comments, but nothing palpable seems to have been done in this regard. Although we believe that it is the duty of the authorities to ensure a congenial environment on the campuses and impose their authority without fear or favour, and without waiting for specific directives from the highest quarters, we hope that the relevant authorities would move immediately and start implementing the prime minister's directions.

It is disheartening and shocking that the words "terror" is used to describe the deportation of some of the students belonging to the student wing of the ruling party. It is clear that the public universities had lost control over their institutions, and it was not the students of the BCL cadre that ran on the campuses, because either the administrators had the courage to act against them or appeased these goons for their own benefit.

We want that the highest seats of learning be restored to their pristine character, where there is an opportunity for intellectual advancement through open discourse and free exchange of ideas.



And that can only happen if the faculty is non-partisan and unbiased and where the administration can apply the rules strictly without fear or favour and without being back-seat-driven by ruling party cadres. The prime minister's intentions are clear. Cleanse the campuses, wrest back the control of the universities from criminals and exercise your authority given to you by the state.

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