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LETTERS FROM READERS

University admission tests

During the latest admission tests for Honours courses at the University of Dhaka, many students did not understand the meaning of some of the compulsory questions. For example, many of the candidates wanted to know from the invigilators the meaning of words such as "entertainment" and "admire". Having come for admission to the highest seat of learning, one candidate asked me the meaning of "learning".

For approximately one quarter of the students are found cheating which appears to be a traditional habit born in the school and nurtured in the college in order to flourish in the university. When I told one student to stop talking with his neighbour, he poked two fingers into his nose and embarked upon a vigorous clean-up operation, while simultaneously whispering, hoping that I would not notice the movement of his lips. So I advised him to either clean his nose or confer with his neighbour, instead of doing both at the same time.

I noticed another candidate continuously copying from his neighbour, so, I twice requested him to change his seat. He refused to move, so I took his script and placed it on another empty desk, and then he moved there. After a while, I went out of the examination room for

a few minutes. But when I returned I was surprised to find he had gone back to his original seat. Again I removed him, and he was so desperate and helpless without his neighbour, that after a few moments he again returned to the old seat. Then I took away his script but without any confession or apology, he told me that I am wasting his time!

It is such characters that after obtaining admission from the academic authority repeatedly create trouble in the examination halls of our university. I wanted to disqualify one student after I had warned him more than a dozen times to stop cheating, but my senior colleague advised "let him be". This same professor complains to me about the deterioration of our academic standards.

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