

## Managing Education Boards

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive to immediately form a task force with the aim to improve the management of the eight education boards is a welcome step. After the leakage of SSC question papers, there was a need for looking into the activities of the different education boards. Now that the SSC examinations have the same set of question papers for all five boards, the need is even greater to plug the holes at different points and, to improve the management of all other aspects related to education. The Prime Minister has rightly demanded a fool-proof package and storage system of question papers. The task force will be given the responsibility to look after the affairs of the lone madrasa education board, technical education board and national curriculum and textbook board in addition to the charge of the five secondary and higher secondary education boards. So here is an attempt to make the board authorities accountable to this task force. After what has been ailing the boards on an endemic basis, such a remedial measure was inevitable.

Now the expectation will be that the task force is constituted with people well-versed in the technical as well academic matters. Besides they themselves are people of integrity and high profile. Not the slightest inkling should be in public mind that the body will just be a supra-authority hardly serious about going about its business. The body not only will be entrusted to restore confidence in the public mind, that it is possible to root out corruption at least from our education arena but also be empowered to devise qualitative changes in the whole management system to meet challenges of an ever sophisticated type with the introduction of personal computers (PC) and other educational implements. The method of future leakage can be compared with the access of PC users to specialised information. Luckily that is in the future but let us be aware of it.

Presently however, the task force will have to play a sobering role through coordinating and supervising the acts of the boards. In that task we hope the boards will not be resentful to extend co-operation and put their acts together. After all, here is an issue that is likely to decide the future of our young generation. A public examination of the country has to be a prestigious one and we need to free it from corruption and then wholesale commercialisation of education has to be brought to an end. This is how our education at this level might get improved.