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Exam system is rotten

Dear Editor :

I have read with much interest an article under the title "Examination scandal" written by Mr Borhanuddin Ahmed which appeared in your paper on 1.5.87. He has narrated in some detail his experience of two examination centres where SSC examination was being conducted. He found that copying and other malpractices were being committed on a mass scale by the candidates and in some cases with the connivance of the invigilators including policemen on duty.

Of late copying at examination centres has been a subject of much criticism especially in the newspapers but there does not seem to be any sign of reversal. On the contrary the candidates are more determined to attain their objective even by resorting to violent methods.

The writer has suggested that the present system of examination may be done away with and instead school and college authorities may certify that a student has attended school/college for a certain period of time.

There is much sense in what he has suggested. After all what is the value of a certificate which is obtained by adopting unfair means in the examination hall? Moreover, certificates which are obtained by means fair or foul are by themselves no passport to either jobs or higher studies.

For that further tests and interviews are necessary. So why go through the present system of examination which in ultimate analysis is more or less an exercise in futility.

In the circumstances I would like to suggest that to start with the present system of examination at the SSC level may be abolished and schools should conduct their own examinations according to syllabus laid down by the board. Those passing will be given school leaving certificate and the place obtained in order of merit may be mentioned i.e. obtained (place) in a class of (total number of students in the class).

Yours truly,
MAJOR (RETD) ZAMAN,
Dhaka.