



EDITORIAL

Educational loss

Like all other aspects of our national life, our educational system has also been gravely affected by this year's devastating floods. It is not easy to calculate the educational loss in terms of money alone. The financial loss incurred by the educational institutions owing to the collapse of buildings, damage to chairs, tables and other furniture is colossal. A rough estimate puts the loss figure at Tk. 320 crores. The loss sustained by the students because of long closure of schools, colleges and universities is irreplaceable. The normal process of education is hampered in our country for a variety of reasons. This has also created an adverse impact in the academic system.

Everybody is aware how the country's education system is about to be crippled because of 'session jam'. Added to it is the calamitous effect of floods which has damaged the very foundation of universal education system. Many educational institutions in the capital and other urban areas have been used as shelter points or relief centres for the flood affected people.

The students of the schools, colleges and universities have plunged themselves in rescuing the flood stricken people and later relief work. Some students have even sacrificed their lives while engaged in relief and rescue operation. They were not prepared at this critical hour of the nation to stay back at home and commit lessons to memory. This is the manifestation of social consciousness and maturity of our youth force.

The closed educational institutions have by now reopened. Many students have been affected by different types of diseases during the floods. Now if the authorities put pressure on the students to compensate for the losses incurred during the floods or make attempts to complete the courses hastily this will instead of making up losses will lead to frustration and dependency among the students and tell upon their merit. This aspect needs careful attention from the authorities.

Mere completion of the syllabus is not education. The students must be free from the nightmare of quickly completing the examination courses. While carrying on with educational the impact of the recent floods has to be kept in view. The losses cannot be compensated for by merely accelerating the completion of syllabus. The students have to be looked after and treated well in the present circumstances.