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## THE DAILY STAR

প্রাধিক • FED: 4 1999 · · · · · প্রাধিক • FED: 4 1999 · · · · ·

## Educational Rot

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has been dismayed by the extreme moral degradation at the educational institutions of the country. His frustrations have been so deep that he has asked for 'stern punishment' for the wrong-doers. He felt that moral erosion can no longer be stopped by sermons or advice'. His observations came at the National Education Conference in the city Tuesday. He has not only touched upon the immoral and criminal aspects of the problems but has also suggested possible measures to stem the rot in the most vital sector of our national life. It must have been very painful for him to recount an incident of a government college where teachers realised huge amount of money from students and then started fighting for the 'booty'. If teachers, who are supposed to be engaged in the noble profession of preparing the future leaders of the country fall easy prey to moral turpitude then who do we turn to? The recent scandals in JU and DU have rocked the country's conscience and laid bare the injury in social fabric that had long been swept under the carpet.

The President has also pointed his finger at the horrible state of primary education, specially the abominable activities of many teachers who cheat both the students and the government. He was absolutely right in suggesting punitive measures against the offenders to stop recurrence of such incidents. We wholeheartedly support the President in his efforts to rid the educational institutions of corruption and malpractice. We also strongly endorse his suggestion to form a local committee in each primary school for running it, including passing of salary bills of teachers. That way the teachers will be made accountable to the committee. Unless this vital sector is disciplined, there is little hope for the nation. The government must listen to his timely advice and act immediately.