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Abuses In SSC Results

Teachers, students and their guardians held a demonstration in Cox's Bazar town on August 12 in protest against the Comilla Board of Education accusing it of gross irregularities in the compiling and publication of the SSC examination results. The angry crowd gheraoed the DC office demanding for a corrected version of the results to be published in 48 hours, and threatened district-wise protest demonstrations in case the Board failed to comply with their demand.

Similar cases of abuse reported from centres like Feni and other ones also call for reinvestigations and republications of the corrected results.

Alleged irregularities include cases of failures of students with the best records in their class and tutorial performances and, consequently, with great expectations about their results in the final school certificate examination. On the other hand are the cases of students, with poor class performance records, springing surprises by their unexpectedly good results. Besides, results of the examinations held in 8 centres in the region have revealed a 25 per cent pass percentage compared with the overall 74 per cent of the results under the Board. This needs explaining. And the Board has to do it.

Allegations concerning the results, among other things, darkly point to malpractices such as pay-offs or kick-backs made to and by interested quarters for undeserved good results. Added to this have been the alleged errors in the operation of the computer system in the compilation of results. The computer has introduced a novelty; but inefficient handling of it has spelled disasters.

What lends credence to such allegations is the fact that complaints from students and guardians about tampering with results, leakage of question papers, errors in the questions set, apart from cases of abuses such as illegal gratification involving individuals or sections of Board staffs have occurred in the past. The Comilla Board case therefore is one calling for immediate steps to meet the allegations made by the affected hundreds of students and guardians.

Now that corrected results have been published for Cox's Bazar centres in question similar claims for correction of results have been received by this paper from examinees of centres like Feni and other ones. A similar action is therefore called for in their cases also. This is to be done as soon as possible, while at the same time, one would insist that the computerised method of compilation of results be updated enough to turn it into a fool-proof one in dealing with such crucial matters as the results of public examinations, for students and their guardians. The system had better be shed if it keeps bedevilling all in the way it has so far.

The other need, as insistent as the technological one just mentioned, is a thorough cleansing of the Education Boards of the country of all possible abuses that have been a matter of frequent allegation by their clients. That, of all things, secondary or higher secondary education should be seen infected with such a malaise is perhaps the most depressing fact about our academic culture,—not to use a stronger word of censure to describe such decline in society.