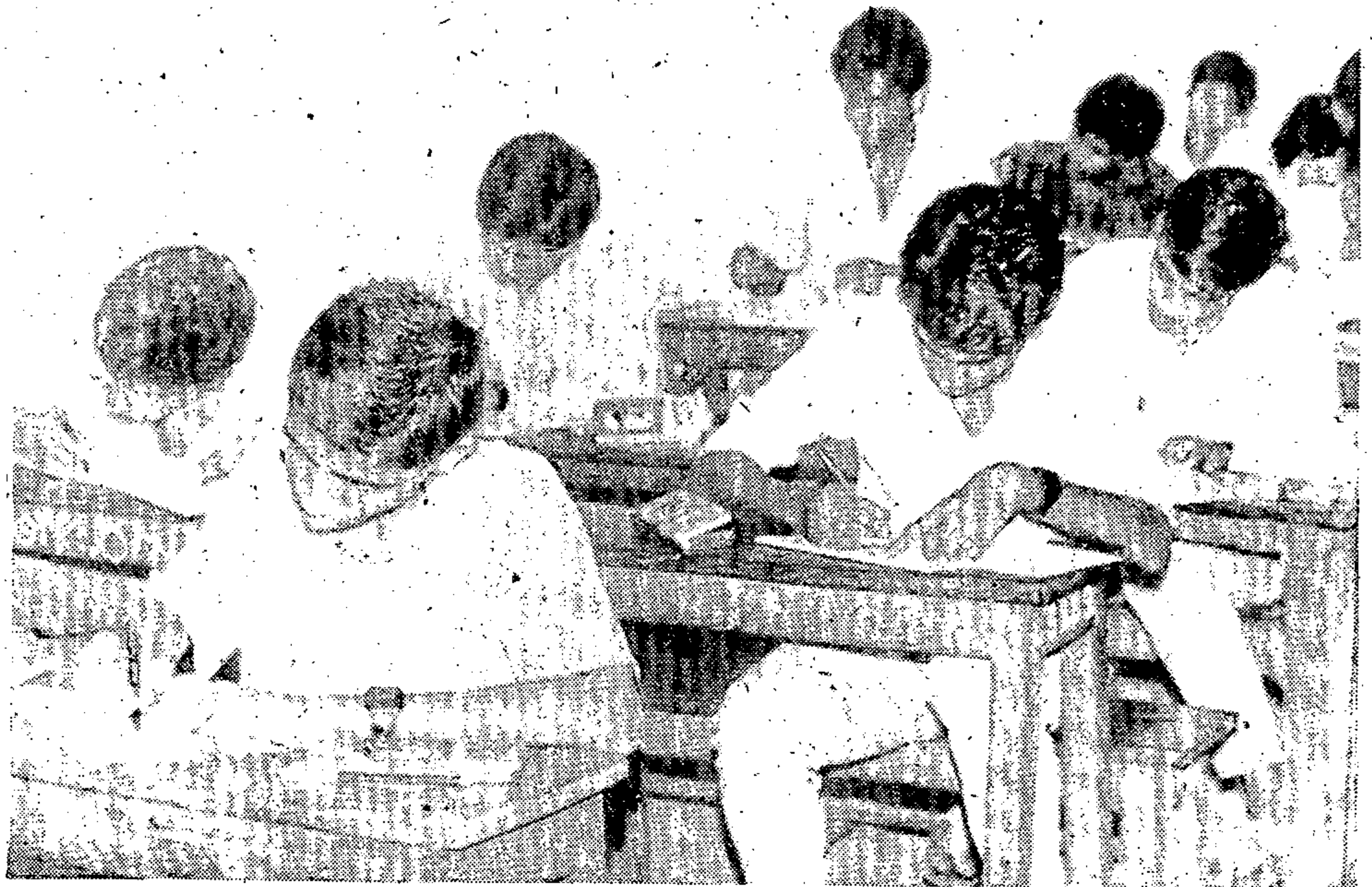




SSEB: Test of copying ?



This year adoption of unfair means at the SSC exam has surpassed all previous records. In spite of strict vigilance and extra care, as many as 8,500 students were expelled from different exam centres at the end of the first three exams—Bengali, English and Mathematics.

It may not be out of place to mention that last year in the said exam a total of 8,000 students were expelled from the four Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education of the country. It was hoped that the figure would be less this year as a number of centres had been cancelled and disciplinary action had been taken against a number of persons who adopted unfair means last year and also against those who aided them.

The number of students expelled is about two percent of the 4.49 lakh of SSC examinees appearing from the four Boards of the country. In first three days eleven teachers were expelled for

helping the students and for negligence of duty.

Suffle between the students and the law enforcing agencies leading to the opening of fire at Sonargaon has also made headlines in the different newspapers of the country.

But why? Why are things getting from bad to worse instead of improving? According to some, the present day students are least concerned about studies. They know that they can manage to sit for the exam by adopting unfair means. They know there are some teachers who will be only too happy to aid them on payment of some money. There are certain such examination centres at Tangail, Tongi, Sonargaon, Munshiganj, Savar and Manikganj to name only a few which are known for such things. At these centres there is a queue of immigrant students from the metropolis who come here to cheat and pass the exam. Private lodging and hotels are set up to accommodate these students

and their guardians on payment of a high fee. How these things go on happening year after year unchecked baffles us. The Boards are aware of such centres but no move is taken to cancel them.

The process of double registration needs to be stopped. Although much has been written about it in the past it is very much there. The Boards should take steps to solve this if they want to arrest adoption of unfair means in the examinations. Computerising the Board admission and registration process will make it easier to check and cross out such dual admissions/registration and help to stop migration of students from the cities to the rural areas.

If one visits the toilets of the exam centres one will be amazed to see a stack of different kinds of books particularly thin note books. The examinees bring these and keep them in the toilets where they go every now and then for consultation. No little

space is spared. Books are stacked in the pipes, on the commode top, on the sink, on the window sill, etc. Book sellers say that before the SSC and HSC exams all note books are sold. The cheaper the note book the more it is sold. On average a student buys two copies of the same book—one for using the right pages and the other for the left. These are cut and sneaked into the exam hall.

Moves are underway to change the examination system and to replace it by a quizz type of paper. Concerned quarters feel that this change too may not help to stop adoption of unfair means in the exam, rather it might go up. With different sets of quizz type of paper a mike is enough to dictate the answers of the different sets.

As things stand there is no possibility that the situation might improve in the near future. We have to seriously look into it and see what can be done.