

DAILY STAR

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## Question Paper Leakage

With the leakage of the Bengali first paper question confirmed from two places in Chittagong, SSC examinees around the country, instead of devoting themselves wholly to the best possible preparation for the remainder of the first major examination of their life, are distraught over a distraction that is not only shameful but also disastrous for the future of evaluative system of the land. The saving grace in this thoroughly abominable revelation however is that the rot is limited to two places and has not broken as an epidemic all over the country, thanks to authorities' cautionary activism. But the point to reckon with here is that it happened at all.

While the Education Minister's suggested motive that some people are out to tarnish government's image for political reasons may be worth hunting, there is no denying that a section of the Board employees is principally responsible for the leakage of questions. For them SSC and HSC exams are great yearly occasions for windfall; they eye them as the vulture does a carrion. Irony is that everybody knows about this 'have money we will do' or 'anything is possible' sort of spirit prevailing in every education board of the country. Yet no punitive instance is ever heard. The task force report which created quite a bit of stir and optimism seems to have been sent to the cold storage in the face of opposition by the board employees' unions. We would urge the government not to fight shy of reform in such a vital sector of the nation from the fear of disruptive actions and threats by an immoral clique. These people are campaigning against the task force report because they know its implementation will bring out the skeletons from the cupboards. We suggest the government make the report public immediately. Once the media is in a position to inform the people of the crisis and its possible remedy, government's job of weeding the corrupt elements out and installing a clean, efficient and modern examination system will be lot easier.

It is time government stopped seeing question paper leakage as a stray or sporadic problem. Unless it looks into the heart of darkness, we warn, things like leakage will keep on coming like recurring decimal.