

Opinion**SSC Examinees And The Boards**

Syed Monirul Rahman

THE Secondary Boards of Education do not seem to hold the welfare of the SSC examinees as being of paramount importance. This is most abundantly clear particularly in this session, 1998. That is why papers of various subjects have been scheduled one after the other on consecutive days instead of being held after an interval of five or six days as was the practice in previous years.

Question papers have been allowed to leak out despite last year's bitter experience, which caused so much suffering to parents and the SSC examinees who had to take the exams all over again.

This time no announcement has been made as to when the exams, the question papers of which have been leaked out, will be held. In fact, the silence of the Boards is disquieting.

The over-riding fear is that those students who gained from the leaked out question papers will be allowed to get away with it. Guardians and students say their fear of such high

handedness is justified because the Boards instituted cases against the journalists supposed to have been responsible for publishing the question papers in the hands of many students before those exams were held!

These parents and students feel that if the newspapers had not made the question papers public, the Board would have tried to bush up the whole affair. Now the newspapers, which they tried to make the first batch of scapegoats, have forced them to take action. So the second batch of scapegoats, the BG Press workers, are being hauled away right and left.

Where were the Board personnel when BG Press was doing the printing? Was it not the Board's responsibility to check the final proofs and give the order for printing the question papers? Do they not guard the question papers zealously so that no copy can be made by anyone? And what was the Education Ministry doing to prevent a repeat this year of

last years' SSC question paper leakage?

How much money is spent on holding an SSC examination and in teaching the students upto that level? If 90 per cent do not pass, is it not a wastage of public money, our money?

They say if so many students make it through the SSC exams jobs cannot be provided for them. It is overlooked that whether they acquire the Secondary School Certificate or not, all of them will all have to be provided with jobs. No one who wishes to work can remain unemployed.

In advanced countries like the USA and Japan a very high percentage of students are said to "graduate" from high school.

Some of them go to universities, others to vocational or technical institutes. This should be our goal too.

In the case of our girls most go through the SSC to be good wives, knowledgeable and helpful to the

husband and the children. In the case of the tragic death of the husband, education may be an insurance allowing them to take up employment or be self-employed as entrepreneurs.

Does the Boards care for the students or wish to thwart them from doing well at the SSC in every way possible? They why did BTV, which is watched in practically every home, unlike cable TV, telecast LIVE the exciting, nail-biting final of the one-day international Coca Cola Cup at Sharjah between Australia and India??

Could the SSC examinees study that night as the other interested members of the family watched the gripping match? Yes, certainly the Boards of Education and the Ministry care deeply for the welfare of the SSC candidates. The World Cup '98 (Football) is coming up. BTV will telecast 56 matches LIVE for whom? The HSC candidates will be having their exams at that time as the whole nation watch the games.