

তারিখ ... NOV. 28. 1999 ...
পৃষ্ঠা ৪ কলাম ২

Degree Exam Chaos

THE 1999 degree examinations (Pass & Certificate) under the National University (Jatiya Bishwabiddalaya) commence today amidst unprecedented chaos, according to press reports. But fortunately the students are not responsible for such a situation, at least this time around.

The confusion in which this important series of examinations for about two hundred and seventy-five thousand boys and girls is being held is the creation of an inept and inefficient management at the university. The admit and registration cards for the students are allegedly full of mistakes and there is also a short supply of answer scripts. Half of the 134 centres, till Friday, did not receive the answer scripts. A number of reasons have been cited by the authorities for the indiscrepancies, the major one relating to the computerisation of admit cards for the first time and also short supply of printing paper from the Karnaphuli Paper Mills due to lack of funds. Furthermore, the centres were not even timely asked to collect whatever answer scripts were ready for delivery. The University authority said that they had issued instructions to the centres to rectify the faults in the admit and registration cards and hoped to solve the problems by Saturday night.

This is not for the first time that the National University is conducting degree exams. But the chaos and confusion dogging the examinations this year, speak ill of the administrative and organising capabilities of the authority. We believe that examination fees were realised from the students in advance, yet shortage of funds was cited as the main reason for not getting paper for answer scripts from the KPM. Why? Apart from the fees from students why must an important national institution suffer from lack of funds for conducting its examinations? We suggest the Education Ministry and the University Grants Commission take appropriate measures to prevent future mismanagement of degree exams.

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