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An appeal to DU authority

Dear Editor,

We were the candidates of BA (Pass) Examinations, 1988, from Dhanbari College Centre under the Dhaka University. Our examination was duly started on November 19 and continued up to December 22, 1988. During that time our examination would be normally started and completed according to schedule with adequate number of invigilators in each and every room. Police forces were also engaged in their regular duties outside the centre. No misbehaviour on the part of the candidates was reported by any invigilator, police or any duty officer coming from outside.

The university team and the upazila level officers also visited the centre regularly and no one ever tried to threaten them. Hall superintendent along with the Principal of the college visited every hall of the centre regularly.

For some unknown reason the Principal was absent from the college on an examination day i.e. 21 December. On that very day a high ranking DU officer (concerned with examination) came to the centre and without entering the hall he left centre within

a short time. Subsequently we learnt that he left the place by taking a picture of an outsider who allegedly had a question paper in his hand. On December 25 a report was published in the newspaper and it was learnt that the said centre and all the examinations held there had been cancelled.

We like to assert the following points to the authorities concerned. If they knew that copying was widely going on in the centre they ought to have changed the centre immediately or suspended the examination of the centre temporarily with a view to making a newer arrangement for the candidates of this centre. Or, they could press for more strict measures. They should have taken any of the above measures at least to save the life of good and innocent students.

Before giving all the students a heavy punishment the authorities should have considered the following points:

(i) A year is very valuable in the life of every man including a student. Measures should have been taken in such a manner so that a total

year is not lost from the life of all those students. (ii) the students who (if any) were caught red handed only could be victimised instead of victimising all the students. (iii) If there was any allegation of widescale copying the authority should at first make a thorough examination. (iv) As all the examinations were duly held and all the answer scripts were also duly sent to the authorities concerned punishment could also be given to a few students (instead of all) on the basis of answer scripts too. (v) Cancellation of centre means the authority of centre failed to perform their duties properly. Then cancellation of centre would be the proper thing and the examinations should not be cancelled.

It is sad that the authorities concerned have remained totally silent about our fate for such a long time. We therefore request them to kindly do justice to us as early as possible.

Yours sincerely

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