

Messy Examination

To say that the on-going degree examinations began amidst chaos and confusion is a gross understatement. It is unbelievable that any authority anywhere can think of holding examinations at this level under such an unprepared and disorderly condition. The authority of the National University however has a reputation of managing the affairs of education in similar fashion ever since the responsibility of different universities were handed over to it. Time and again it has frustrated the very purpose of bringing together the administrative functions of the country's universities under the management of a single authority.

It is beyond comprehension what really prompted the NU authority to go for the computerised system of registration for this year's examinations when the process is far from complete and flawless. Does the authority like to gamble with the fate of examinees? The world would certainly not come to an end if the authority waited yet another year and made every attempt to get rid of the defects and various other disorders still troubling the system. There are complaints that admit cards were not either issued or did not reach the examination centres in time. On the other hand, false registration of a good number of candidates has been reported. So, what is the message? Genuine students will either fail to appear at the examinations or be subjected to unnecessary harassment and anxieties before they make it to the examination centres. The authority should know that even if a single candidate is deprived of his/her right to sit for the examinations, it has failed in its duty. A Bangla daily reports that as many as 70 candidates from a college could not appear at the examination due to non-availability of admit cards.

As a last measure the authority issued a standing order to give permission for candidates to sit for examinations with special numbers allocated either by the NU authority after the centres have contacted it over telephone or by the in-charge of the centre concerned. The mess created by the NU can only be imagined. Is there any guarantee that a few fake candidates will not as well take the chance?

We feel disconcerted specially when the education boards and the ministry are trying to make the examination system more functional and efficient. Already a decision has been taken for bringing about a change in the format of the SSC and HSC questions so that copying will be a thing of the past. Now the reports of mass copying, submission of answer scripts written outside of the examination halls and other malpractices in the degree examinations are much too worrying, to say the least.

The NU had better taken a much longer time for introduction of the computerised system instead of doing the job shabbily. It needed to be on guard before holding the examinations because its poor performance will definitely have a negative impact on reining in the copying and adoption of other unfair means at the examination centres. Management of the affairs of education has to be perfect and efficient. Otherwise, opportunists will take undue advantage, vitiating the whole atmosphere of education. This is what is happening now. The nation certainly deserves better.