

Containing unfair means in examination Rhetoric yes, solutions also

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THE Secondary School Certificate examination (SSC) 2001 under the seven Education Boards, Dakhil examination under the Madrasa Board and vocational examination under Vocational Board began on 15 March in 1503 examination centres amid violence and unfair means. On charge of adopting unfair means more than 5000 examinees were expelled. An outrageous examinee named Khairul Islam stabbed Asst. Commissioner Mosharraf Hossain at Nandail. Police arrested 20 people for supplying copies to the examinees. Some invigilators were expelled for assisting students in copying. Ninety-eight Dakhil examinees were expelled in Comilla. Controller of Comilla Board collected five gunny bags full of copies from different examination centres. Chairman of Comilla Board requested the Deputy Commissioner to deploy additional policemen and BDR personnel at 14 examination centres to check massive unfair means by examinees. The spectrum surely does not reflect the expectation of the nation.

The Ministry of Education of present government launched their programme by organising a workshop at BARD in Comilla on 14 November 1998 to contain unfair means in public examination. Hon'ble Education Minister, Law Minister, some parliamentarians and eminent educationist Prof M Akhtaruzzaman, president, Bangladesh College-University Teachers Association spoke on the occasion against unfair means in public examination. It was not the end. After that several seminars, symposia and workshops were arranged to motivate the society. In addition to that, this year the government for the first time brought into light the consequences of unfair means through advertisement in the daily newspapers and television. But no sign of improvement is visible. Nation is confronting a question: are we going to prepare only certificate-based generation without a backbone of proper knowledge? History depicts that it was widely accepted when written examination

was first introduced in 1364 to award Bachelor's degree in Law by the oldest university of the world The Bologna University in Italy. Later on this written examination system was introduced by the Jesuits in England in 1540. About Oxford University the information is obscure but Cambridge University, after Sir Isaac Newton and his successor's earning proficiency in mathematics, instituted the written examination in 1747-48 (John Jebb's report 1772). A code of rules (in Latin) for the conduct of school examination was introduced in 1599, which was not revised until

administration, Board authorities become active and media coverage against corruption and unfair means is given. But the fact of agony remains that instead of diminishing unfair means in examination gets proliferated after different approaches to contain it.

Examination Evaluation Committee in 1986 reported some reasons of unfair means in public examinations. These are: (1) deterioration of social values; (2) unrest in politics; (3) disaster in economy; (4) less pursuit of quality education in classroom; (5) want of honesty among teachers; (6) widespread

the institution is decreased teachers will lose their job. It seems to me that it is one of the hindrances to send quality candidates to sit for examination and might pave the way of unfair means in the public examinations. In this regard it seems only nationalization of education system may solve the problem to some extent.

We have no sympathy for the teachers who were expelled in different examination centres due to involvement in corruption in examination. Our language fails to castigate them. They have stigmatized the image of teachers' community as a whole. They should be severely punished. Yet, as the teachers act as invigilators in the examination halls they have a great role to play to eradicate the unfair means in the examination centres provided the total atmosphere of the centre is in favour of the same. So teachers should be bestowed with responsibility with faith in them, because they are the only instrument that can play a pivotal role.

To make examination centres 100 per cent free from unfair means some revolutionary and effective steps are to be taken avoiding all sorts of outdated bookish rules and regulations. The steps can be:

- (1) Enforcing Rule 144 around the examination centre strictly.
- (2) Restricting of entrance of irrelevant person (however powerful one might be) in the examination centres.
- (3) Freeing examination centres from all sorts of political influences.
- (4) Providing life security and job security of teachers/invigilators.
- (5) Giving importance to quality of students instead of quantity.
- (6) Arranging temporary court in every examination centre to mete out punishment instantly.
- (7) Ensuring proper primary searching of candidates/examinees at the entry point of the examination centre, if necessary by seizing Admit Cards for a few minutes.

If we really mean to make nation free from the curse of unfair means in public examination we should act accordingly.

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SOME of the potentially crippling problems we are faced with are not of the military regime's making but having toppled an elected government, albeit with sufficient reason, the buck now stops firmly at their desk. Or at least till they let go the reins of absolute power inherent in any military rule and start down the road to civilisation (as opposed to democratization, or should we call it civilization). Those without political ambition have no reason to resort to rhetoric but in the absence of any absolute denials from those who matter about the Chief Executive becoming President soon and relieving Tarar from his gilded misery it is safe to assume that those who matter in the military regime want to remain people who matter even after their military regime becomes history. The "Charge of the Light Brigade" crowd (ours not to reason why, ours but to do and die) has done "selection and maintenance of aim" as per Clausewitz principles of war, the elevation of the CE to the top slot. Except for a handful of principal supporting cast (two will supposedly take up the two four-star slots becoming available unless a third slot can be safely invented), the rest will pass into history as all extras do in a movie production. After shedding their uniforms, these khaki-collared workers will face the simmering wrath of civilian bureaucracy who will stoke the approbation of the masses into believing the ridiculous canard that all the khaki-clad made millions while in service. With all their acknowledged good intentions and their professionalism the military regime seems blissfully unaware of the major catastrophe we are heading into. It is almost as if they want to ignore problems seemingly apparent to every one else. It is said elephants wear dark glasses so that Tarzan may not recognize them but that Tarzan wears dark glasses so that he may not recognize the elephants.

The gravest water shortage in the history of the nation, potentially the most serious of a long line of our many serious problems, requires our immediate attention. Looming over us for sometime,

the vagaries of divine nature has thrust this crisis upon us, and aided by a not so very small modicum of bad water management and administration. Without creating panic a full fledged awareness campaign must be launched to educate the public to conserve water, and when faced with substantially less water than they are normally used to, to cope with less water. The military regime had better start planning for an accompanying economic crisis, led by the failure to achieve crop targets, nose-diving levels of production and a steady decline in employment, both in rural and urban

seeding of clouds quite widely last year, we could use this method in catchment areas and those of prime agriculture need eg wheat growing areas presently. Our major water reservoirs are Tarbela, Mangla and Warsak. Over the last year, at Tarbela the minimum inflow recorded is 11600 cusecs when the reservoir level was 1369 feet while the maximum inflow was 180000 cusecs, the reservoir level being 1550 feet. The minimum inflow at Mangla was 3080 cusecs when the reservoir height was 1040 feet while maximum inflow was recorded at 100000 cusecs with the recorded

tern and schedule to effect a regular supply over the next several weeks rather than a rush of mass water entering the Dams and catchment areas at irregular intervals. The Kharif crop being almost upon us, our agriculturists, particularly in Sindh, will certainly delay the planting of cotton. Rice uses far more water and its cultivation has to be drastically curtailed.

Allocating water prudently, priority must be given to the wheat-growing areas that rely on rainfall only, enough water being earmarked for major power stations so that shortage of electricity does not add to the problems, eg tubewells, essential manufacturing plants, hospitals etc. The Federal Government can work out with the Provinces their most essential water requirements and ensure that the very minimum reaches them. The Provinces must daily monitor proper water distribution. Non-essential industries using an inordinate amount of water must even be closed down if required, working out means of conserving water, including reduced domestic and commercial supply as opposed to supply to industries. The public have to be educated with respect to a complete check list of "dos and don'ts", avoiding water for lawns, public garden, etc, which should completely switch to treated sewage water. On an emergency basis small sewage treatment plants can be manufactured for domestic and commercial purpose. If the alternative is that "green areas" should go without water, so be it. Water for human beings is far more important in such circumstances than for decorative plants and flowers. If human beings die off, who will be left to enjoy their beauty?

A water emergency should be declared, the crisis centre can be called "Water Resources Centre" and a Task Force with charge given to an overall authoritative boss capable of enforcing the laid down strategy must be organized immediately. The Chairman must have due mandate and authority for coordinating all water functions in the country, overriding any other authority with respect to water matters as long as the emergency exists.

level at 1202 feet. At Warsak, fed by River Kabul only, the minimum inflow was 1210 cusecs and maximum recorded 78700 cusecs. Somehow we have to continue to keep optimum cusecs of water flowing into the Dams and get their reservoir levels up. Tarbela is fed by the Indus River, one portion coming from the Hunza side, the other from Leh in the Siachen side. To feed Mangla Dam River Kunhar drops into River Jehlum which in turn originates in Wular Lake in Occupied Kashmir as does Neelum River. River Poonch drops into Jehlum River near Azad Pattan and River Kotli at Kotli, both originating in Occupied Kashmir. To artificially increase the flow of water into the three major dams, and other natural catchment areas, judicious use of explosives must be used to dislodge snow from mountaintops upstream in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir into the feeding rivers. Because snow bound origin areas feeding Warsak Dam are in Afghanistan we can request the Afghan Government for help.

While there is a strong lobby against tinkering with ecology, glaciers can also be dynamited at crucial nodal points to feed more water downstream. We can request Swiss, Swedish, Norwegian, etc experts with experience in explosives in snow-bound mountain areas to help us, particularly above the 20000 feet vertical limit area. Our own Army engineers have handled explosives for the construction of roads in high mountain ranges for years, their experience will be invaluable. With adequate snow in the mountains to feed Pakistani rivers for several years, one cannot imagine our Karakoram and lower Himalayan mountain ranges remaining without snow for any one year, meddling with the ecology should not have any long-term effects and even if it did our problem is immediate. Explosives have to be laid according to a pat-

Excerpts from the 'declassified' main report of Hamoodur Rahman Commission

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ADMIRAL Ahsan's explanation on this point is that when the postponement was announced on the 1st of March, he made desperate efforts to persuade the President to come to Dacca urgently. It was his view, shared by General Yaqub, that not only was the only answer to the problem, a political solution, but that the only other alternative, military action, would have had to be an all out operation, shutting the door finally on political negotiation. Consequently, military action could only be taken if all hope of conferring with Shaikh Mujibur Rahman was finally given up. That action could be limited to preventing violence and the forcible interference by the Awami League with the people's ordinary avocations, without attempting to curb peaceful demonstrations by that party, does not appear to have been feasible either by Admiral Ahsan or General Yaqub. On the 1st March, therefore, the Admiral rang to Rawalpindi wishing to speak to the President but was able to contact only General Pirzada who advised him to telephone Karachi where the President then was. At Karachi also he could only contact General Umar who told him that the President was busy but that he said would pass on the message. He spoke next to General Hamid who professed ignorance of the political developments and, when asked to speak to General Yaqub, said he did not particularly wished to

do so. An hour later Admiral Ahsan was informed that he had been relieved. He accordingly handed over to General Yaqub and left Dacca on the 4th March. General Yaqub's thinking as to the feasibility of military action after the 1st March, on a comparatively smaller scale, was, as we have stated, much the same as that of Admiral Ahsan. He too urged the need of a political solution and advised that the President should come to Dacca immediately. He also advised that no government, without political backing, could possibly control the situation, and the formation of such a government could obviously, as he pointed out, be done only with the President's consent and by his orders. Although he did not put it in so many words, the suggestion is obviously that some kind of provincial government headed by Mujib or his nominee must take over at once. This advice being rejected he resigned on the telephone on the night of the 4th March, and confirmed this by a signal on the 5th announcing his intention to hand over to Major-General Khadim Hussain Raja. He was, however, told to await his relief and accordingly he left Dacca on the 7th after Lt-Gen (now General) Tikka arrived to take over from him. It does not, therefore, appear that there was any categorical order from Rawalpindi prohibiting either Admiral Ahsan or General Yaqub from taking any action to prevent the

outbreak or spreading of violence after the 1st March. Ahsan, it is true, resigned on the 1st and was not, therefore, in a position to take or not to take action thereafter. But his view we have seen and it is the same view which induced General Yaqub to refrain. It is true of course that the local authorities had been told to keep the door for negotiations open and to refrain from arresting top ranking political leaders without express permission but this need not have excluded the maintenance of law and order; it did not, as we have seen, prevent another senior officer (though lower in rank and command to General Yaqub) from interfering on the 7th March. We cannot therefore, agree either that General Yaqub was prohibited by the President from doing what seems to us his plain duty or that he was right in thinking that action, if taken had to be of such an order as to result in civil war. Nevertheless, we cannot avoid the suspicion that authorities in Rawalpindi also had some part to play in this curious inaction. For, although General Yaqub concluded that General Yaqub had developed cold feet and, therefore, sent General Tikka Khan to replace him, the latter also followed the same policy up to the 25th March, 1971, after which of course an all out military action was launched.

General Yahya has claimed that in view of the attitude of the Pakistan Peoples Party he saw

little point in convening an assembly where hardly a West Pakistani member would be present and that, therefore, he had no alternative but to announce the postponement. The Pakistan Peoples Party, however, had not put forward the postponement of the assembly as the only possible course of action. It had made two alternative demands, either that the assembly be postponed or that the 120-day limit be removed or enlarged. General Yahya could well have resorted to the latter but for some unexplainable reasons this provision in regard to 120 days was treated by General Yahya from the beginning to the end, as sacrosanct and admitting of no relaxation. Even assuming, however, that he was left with no alternative but to postpone the assembly, the General could and should have fixed a new date. He was being constantly advised from East Pakistan that a postponement sine die would be received very badly.

It is obvious that after the postponement of the assembly announced on the 1st of March, General Yahya should have taken at least the very earliest possible steps to meet Mujibur Rahman. It is necessary to go back a little and to refer to an incident which may possibly have affected General Yahya Khan's willingness to come to Dacca on an early date after he had announced the postponement of the

assembly. In the first week of February 1971, the President sent a message to Dacca inviting Shaikh Mujibur Rahman and his colleagues to Rawalpindi. This invitation was conveyed to Mujibur Rahman by Governor Ahsan but the Shaikh declined to come, stating as his reason, that he had summoned a conference of the MNAs and MPAs of his party. Strong efforts were made by both the Governor and the Martial Law Administrator General Yaqub to persuade Mujibur Rahman to go urging upon him the fact that a Presidential invitation was always regarded as a command which it was discourteous to refuse and in any case such a refusal was likely to hurt the President's vanity, a result which would hardly contribute towards amity and a friendly solution of the constitutional and political problem. However, Mujib completely refused and tension of course continued to mount because at that time a date had not yet been fixed for the meeting of the National Assembly. In some part at least the announcement on the 13th of February must have relieved the situation.

A few days later, however, came a telegram from the President in strongly worded language which we quote:-

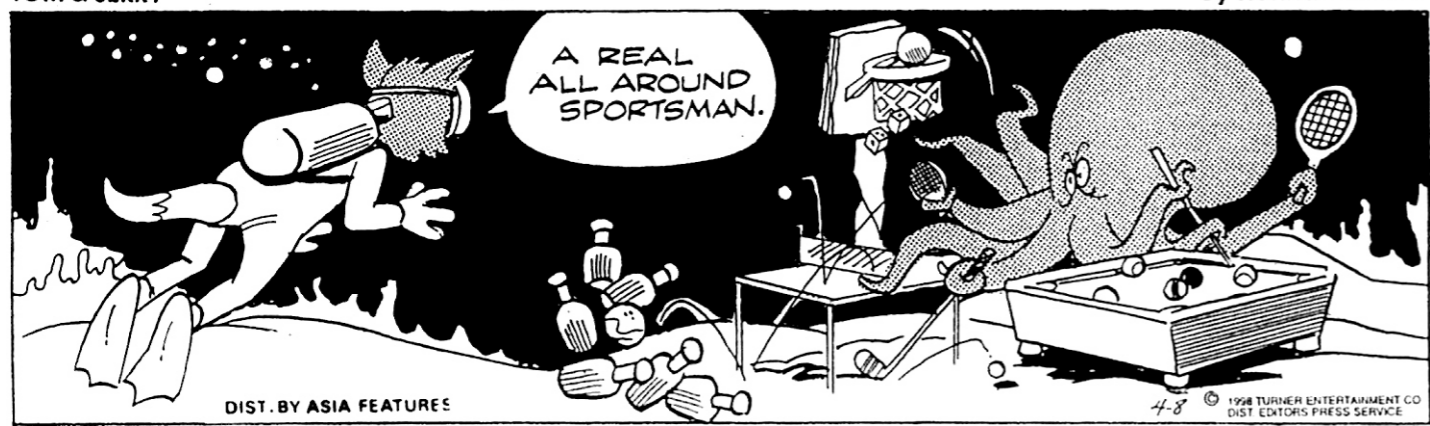
"Convey to Shaikh Mujib that I am very dissatisfied with his refusal

to accept my invitation to visit Rawalpindi. If he does not arrange to come to Rawalpindi as soon as possible he will be entirely responsible for the serious consequences which will follow."

While we do not disagree that it would have been both more politic and more courteous for Mujibur Rahman to have visited Rawalpindi and that the President's vanity might undoubtedly have been hurt by his refusal to do so, we cannot but regard the contents and tone of this telegram as un-statesman like and hardly indicative of the dignity and wisdom which should be the necessary attributes of the head of a State. Governor Ahsan was asked to read this telegram to Shaikh Mujib and to hand it over to him in the presence of the Martial Law Administrator. The feelings of the Governor, who had all along been urging the desirability of a political settlement with the Shaikh, and who was by now suspect as being too soft and leaning to Mujib in his inclinations, may well be imagined. He made frantic communications to Rawalpindi, urging that this would only raise Mujib's temper, at the last minute, however, instructions were received to withhold the message.

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TOM & JERRY



James Bond

