

University admission test: Hasty decision will not help

BITTER TRUTH



MD. ASADULLAH KHAN

There is no denying that allowing the students to sit for the test a second time forces first time admission seekers to face unequal competition. Students passing the HSC examination in 2014 got less than two months' time to prepare for the test, whereas students of 2013 batch got more than a year. Statistics reveal that 48% of the students selected for admission in the department of their choice were second time admission seekers. Because of mass migration of students from the department they studied in for one year, about 450 seats fall vacant every year, and that vacancy ran up to Master's level. In view of the seat crisis in a premier institution like DU, where almost

46 students are vying for one seat, this loss is colossal and totally unacceptable. The decision taken by the DU authorities will hit the batch of 2014 very hard, if implemented from 2015. But in view of the large number of seats falling vacant every year, sooner or later a brake had to be applied to give merit a chance and encourage aspiring students to prove their worth. All concerned hold the view that there has been a catastrophic decline in the standard of education during the past several years. High-ups in the education administration might also agree after a thorough analysis of the state of education that there was hardly any correlation between achieving golden A-plus and acquiring knowledge. Eminent educationists hold the view that the educational scene does not inspire much hope. They further assert that it would be unwise to do away with admission test at this juncture without making serious effort to improve the quality of education at SSC and HSC levels. Though learning in classes throughout the nooks and corners of the country is being replaced by coaching centres, there is no scope for nurturing talent or building the basics in such centres. Students learn by rote the answers of model questions, which in most cases are set in the examinations, and achieve success. The students are not at fault for such large scale failure in admission test in DU

because it was not the question of pass or fail, it was the question of selecting the best out of a big number of successful candidates in view of the limited number of seats available. It would be unwise and unjust to penalise the batch of 2014 students without warning them beforehand. The decision by the DU authorities will go a long way in arresting desertion of seats from different departments in the University. Most shockingly, consequent upon the unequal competition the batch of 2014 admission seekers had to face, the majority of them almost lost the battle. It was learnt authoritatively that out of 45,053 students selected for admission in DU this year, 21,493 students came from the 2013 batch! Evidently, when a student loses one academic year in his career, he or she gets psychologically upset, loses the desire for studying or making an effort for achieving excellence. The decision of the DU authorities will no doubt open a floodgate for private universities. Given the fact that many students, although meritorious, are not able to bear the cost of education in a private university, their education would come to an abrupt end because of the decision. Experience shows that students of earlier batch resorted to foul means like taking help of digital technology. This has to be stopped totally by shutting down mobile network for the duration of the examina-

tion. Strict monitoring and effective vigilance in the exam hall are the only means to arrest fraud and unfair practice. With about 600 teachers at the disposal of the DU, at least one DU teacher could be employed in each exam room along with others when admission tests are held outside the boundary of the university. The problem may be solved by raising the standard of universities outside Dhaka. This will necessitate recruiting qualified teachers, and offering them attractive salary and residential facilities near the campus. For example, if Rangpur or Pabna University has qualified teachers in each department, well-stocked library, 24-hr Wi-Fi internet facilities, equipped laboratories, as well as residential facilities, then students of North Bengal would definitely study in those universities. The rush to DU has to be stopped by offering incentives like scholarships to students when they enroll themselves in other universities. On the other hand, a teacher at Dinajpur or Rangpur University must not feel disenchanted for being away from Dhaka and must be allowed to avail scholarships for enhancement of academic degrees on equal footing with other premier universities.

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SHAH JALAL INTL. AIRPORT The ninth worst airport in Asia



RIDWAN QUAILUM

SHAH Jalal International Airport has been ranked as the ninth worst airport in Asia in a survey conducted by an organisation called Sleeping in Airports. Passengers who had the privilege of passing through this airport will know very well why it made it to the list of worst airports in Asia. Compared to a decade ago the quality of service at this airport has improved, but it is still below par when compared to other international airports. Some of the major and basic issues that need immediate attention at the airport are highlighted below. Toilets are an important part of an airport as it is natural that, before or after a plane journey, passengers may need to use the toilet to freshen up. However, the condition of the toilets at this airport—dirty and unhygienic floor, commodes and urinals; broken, missing or dysfunctional hand showers, flushes and faucets; no toilet paper, tissue roll, paper towel or hand dryer; odour of urine; and dirty and broken mirrors—may not help passengers to freshen up, rather it will make them feel sick. It just seems that the people in charge of cleaning and maintaining the airport toilet lack proper training about how toilets at an international airport should be maintained. During peak times it is not uncommon for passengers to wait for more than an hour to receive their luggage from the conveyer belt. In addition, a passenger may get damaged luggage or even wet luggage if it is raining. Often times there are not enough trolleys around the conveyer belt area, which is why arriving passengers, after completing the immigration process, often have to haggle or get into a competition with other passengers to get hold of a trolley. Many passengers arriving at the airport in the middle of the night wish to stay at the airport until dawn. However, the lack of pest control makes it tough for the passengers to stay there as they have to constantly battle with mosquitoes and flies. Chaos and talking and arguing in a loud voice are common features of the airport. Sometimes one may feel that one has come to a kitchen market in Dhaka. The electronic message boards and the TV screens often do not provide updated information about gate number or conveyer belt number, leaving passengers utterly confused. A reliable taxi or limousine service at an affordable rate is also a common service provided at international airports. However, limousine service at this airport is unheard of and the taxi service that exists is expensive, which forces most arriving passengers to arrange their own transportation beforehand.

The writer is a Transportation Engineer working in Thailand.

Hartal: Children the sufferers

TAHSEEN RASHID

JAMAAT has called for 72 hours of hartal on Thursday, Sunday and Monday. When one hears such news, the things that come to mind are economic shutdown, destruction of vehicles and adults getting hurt. But how many people think about the children?

I went to a local hospital during hartal in December, 2013. The cries of innumerable mothers could be heard in the background; the mothers of Shanto, Lal mia, Murad, Belal, Sumi, Surma, Rony, Riad, Hasan, Lima and countless others. They were all weeping loudly, blaming their own sins for the appalling fate of their children. They believe that it was due to their mistakes that their children had been cursed with misfortune. But one must stand beside them, to tell them that it was neither their fault nor their child's.

You might not know these children, because they are 'not' the children of anybody famous. They are 'nobodies.' But they all have something in common; they were all killed or maimed during hartals. The more one sees the consequences of hartal, the more helpless one feels. None of these children had said anything against their attackers, or did anything against them. Most of them might not have even known what hartal meant.



So far, I've only talked about the physically affected children, now let me move to the mentally affected ones. Unless you like studying (which I doubt most people do) one cannot believe how tiresome it is to study the same thing a hundred times, since the same exam is rescheduled over and over again due to hartals. Revision is very much needed before an exam, but overloading the brain can sometimes stress one out. To make the current situation worse, the months of November and December are exam months for both the Bengali and the

English-medium educational institutions. Beside this short term disadvantage, a long term disadvantage that the children face is the fact that their schools are not able to finish the targeted syllabus within the required time, due to these 'unexpected circumstances.' Other than this, our country had also received the threat of not being able to host the British Board if these hartals were to continue. For Bengali-medium students the conditions are worse, with the government announcing that there will be no promo-

tion to the next grade without examinations. This means that the children will have to give their exams under any circumstances. Thousands of students had also given their PSC and JSC exams in desperate conditions. The more a country is unable to run its education system smoothly the more backward it will become in all respects.

Besides school kids, it is also very hard for university students who 'have' to attend their exams, with the consequence of missing one exam being a big 'F' beside your name on results day. The more the violence and closures continue the faster our country will start to sink. Everyone, including me, had thought that Bangladesh was progressing in the right direction and we could become a first world country in the years to come. But this 'dream' looks like a rather dim prospect in the eyes of most countrymen now. To solve this problem we must act fast and together for what is right because, "we are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."

So if you do not want to harm us, the children, stop the hartals! If you want our nation to become a first world nation, stop the hartals! If you want your own children not to be affected, stop the hartals! Because soon enough, you will not be able to save your children.

The writer is a student of Class 9, Sunbeam School.

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10-28

Yesterday's answer

G	H	O	S	T	G	R	A	V	E	
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R	O	T	O	R	E	G	G	E	D	

CRYPTOQUOTE 9-8
B MWWFBCQWL HX RQSSLR WG WNBR: B
ALDLFJMDLGFWGGIMAXLTSQRL.
- YOGFLASLBJNWBABJML

Yesterday's Cryptoquote:
HISTORICAL EVENTS ARE NOT INEVITABLE; IT IS ONLY IN
RETROSPECT THAT THEY SEEM SO.
- ARNOLD TOYNBEE

A XYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three
L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and
formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are
different.

HENRY by Don Trachte

CROSSWORD by Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

- Plant pests
- Michael Jackson hit
- Spoken
- Items for players on a pitch
- Stunround
- Neddlie shapes
- Castle surround
- Give for a time
- Wreckage
- They hold power
- Mayo buy
- Wedding words
- Case down in buckets
- Peruse
- Come together
- Statuesque
- Warning sound
- Nocturnal blood-suckers
- Lotion additive
- Croquet need
- Layer
- Unwavering

DOWN

- Jadson 5 hit
- Foreach
- "Bali-"
- Was restless
- Sea walls
- Flower part
- Fraternize
- Lyracist Gershwin
- Sewer critter
- Overhead trains
- Oven feature
- Viper's poison
- Follow as a result
- Disney mermaid
- Kind of wave or basin
- Gloss target
- Lawn material
- "The one" star
- Death personified
- Wander aimlessly
- Halloween choice
- Prepares for war
- Good place to dye
- Boxing great
- "The Simpsons" bartender
- In the style of
- Danson of "CSI"
- Hog home

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders in two envelopes are hereby invited by the undersigned for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 1(one) 1000 kg passenger lift with 6 stops for the project of construction of area office and regional warehouse in SMC's premises at Bogra only from bidders who have successful experience in supply, installation, testing and commissioning of minimum 10 (Ten) nos. similar or above capacity passenger lift at commercial /apartment building project in Bangladesh. Out of above 10 nos. lift, minimum 05 nos. must be of gearless tractionlift of 1000Kg or above capacity with minimum speed of 1 m/sec.

Interested Bidders are requested to collect Tender documents from **02-11-2014 to 19-11-2014** during office hours (8:30 am to 5:15 pm Sunday through Thursday) from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk. 500.00 (Five hundred only) nonrefundable for each set of tender document.

- The Tender must be accompanied by Earnest money at the rate 2% of quoted price in the form of Bank Guarantee /Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favor of "Social Marketing Company".
- Tenders will be received at the 1st floor of Social Marketing Company, 33, Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213 up to 3:00 pm on **20-11-2014** and only technical offers will be opened on the same day at 3:15 pm in presence of the tenderer(s) or their representative if any.
- The SMC authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest bidder.

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- In this offer, eligible customers will be able to enjoy 10 paisa/10 second to any local number for 3 days by recharging exactly BDT 29. At the same time, customers will also be able to enjoy 5 paisa/10 second to any GP number by recharging the target amount. To know the recharge target, customer needs to dial *577*33# (free of charge)
- Eligible customers can take the offers individually or at the same time
- The lower tariff is only applicable from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- The validity of the 10 paisa/10 second offer is 3 days and the validity of the 5 paisa/10 second offer is 5 days
- After the validity or designated time band, customer will go back to the regular product tariff
- Customer can recharge the target amount or BDT 29 to extend the validity period
- The discounted tariff will be offered during the aforementioned time only, and besides this time period, customers can use the recharge amount for any purpose and the regular respective product tariff & pulse will be applicable
- This special call rate will be applicable (as per the offer) including with MYZONE, Super F&F, F&F and Community rates
- This offer is not applicable on Nishchinto 11 paisa offer or 7 paisa GP-GP offer
- 40 minutes at 10 taka offer (25 paisa offer), or any bundle or bonus minutes will be consumed first
- Customers, who have joined after 31 July, 2014 and do not have any activity after 30 June, 2014, will not be eligible for the 5 paisa/10 second offer
- To opt-out from 10 paisa/10 second offer, please dial *111*31# (free of charge)
- To opt-out from 5 paisa/10 second offer, please dial *111*32# (free of charge)
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