



PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

Expectation vs Reality: Board Exams

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Board exams are a very big deal for almost every Bangla medium student. We grow up hearing that our JSC/SSC/HSC results will define our self-worth for the rest of our lives. We take year-long preparations in order to have a certain number stamped to our identity.

However, when the time for the board exams does come around, and eventually passes by, you're left with an odd feeling of the board exams not exactly being what they seemed. Here are some expectations vs. reality moments you'll likely face regarding this.

First of all, practicals. You underwent so much stress for two years just to keep your practicals updated. Spending hours

and hours at the lab, staying up till 4 AM and feeding your entire squad shingara to help you complete them, just so you don't miss the deadline. And because you're such a great procrastinator, you still had to go on a manhunt for someone to give your bundle of papers an autograph the day before your test exams. After going through this for your pre-test and test, you decide to finally cave in and take a trip to Nilkhet with your hard earned savings in your pocket. With all that effort, you expect your precious practical copy to be treated with utmost importance, right? WRONG. They'll take it, give it a quick slash with a red pen, rip it down the middle and toss it out. Ouch.

Next, the hype. The whole year

leading up to your respective board exams will be all about the hype. Just like how the media hypes everyone up before an international sports event, your surroundings will be doing the same for your upcoming exam. Parents, teachers, seniors, friends and some certain dishonest people with connections will have you convinced that it will be the make-it-or-break-it moment of your life.

So after all that hard work and finally securing a "5", you realise you're not actually that special. Moreover, the high of getting a 5 is quickly drowned out after a couple of months, when the next set of academic challenges kick in. When I got a 5 on SSC, I was on top of the world for a few days. Two and half

months later, college quizzes had me in complete despair.

Last but not the least, you realise board exams aren't such an intense ordeal as you thought. Even if you don't get your desired result, for every next-door auntie making you feel bad, there will be 10 friends or seniors comforting you and giving you emotional support. You end up with some fond memories of being with your school or college buddies one last time with the uniform on.

All of this is easy to say when you're done with the exams and they are a thing of the past. But for a candidate, board exams can seem like a harrowing experience. Eventually, once you're done with them, you will realise just how

Economics: the deconstructed edition

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Once you have studied a subject long enough, it grows a hold over you. More importantly, everything around you seems related to it. For some frank understanding, here are some theories of economics dressed as everyday matters. Do note that these explanations are far cries from the actual applications.

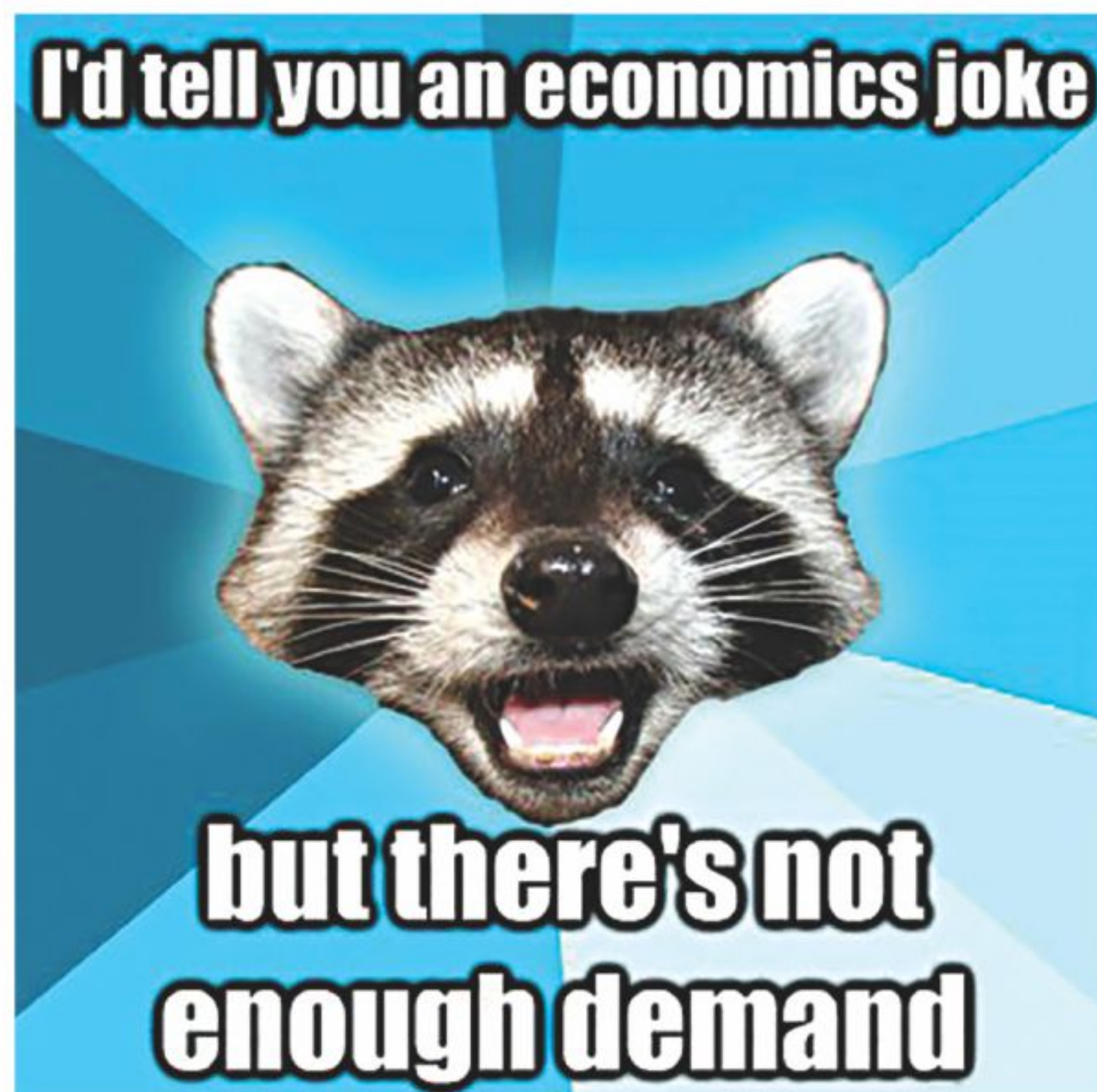
THE OPPORTUNITY COST

The main concept of economics is based on the fact that resources are scarce. Now, opportunity cost is the lost benefits from the options that you forgo – like the lectures you miss when skip class. So, in the morning when you decide to sleep in, the opportunity cost is not being able to see your crush. Now, there are of course a few questions backing up the choice.

1. Are you deprived of sleep? Yes, you are.
2. Would you have slept in class anyway? Yes, you would.
3. So, sleeping in was the best option and also a no brainer.

THE INELASTICITY

The basic idea behind the concept of elasticity is the necessity of a product in your life. To put it simply, once you wake up from the extra few hours of sleep, is where elasticity comes in. Here is when you ask for the heavenly caffeinated nectar. There's no point in elaborating this because the love for morning cups of tea is known to all. And since no one really fancies a headache halfway during the day, so without any exaggeration, people cannot



live without caffeine. So, the demand for caffeine is inelastic.

On another note, it would be a good way for caffeine lovers to profess their liking for someone by saying "You're not a dragon, you're *dudh chaa*".

THE PRODUCTIVITY AND HUMAN CAPITAL

Once the episode(s) of procrastination have ended, every-

one tries to get to work. Oversimplification renders that when you're efficient, you are productive and when you're skilled, you are a part of the human capital. All our lives, the system has tried to discipline us to spike up our usefulness in the society. However, after careful consideration it can be said that the only thing most of us are good at is being a couch potato. In my defence, we are all efficient enough to drag ourselves into passing degrees that certify that we know about the forces behind a bouncing ball. After that we have to learn about income tax the hard way, but that's okay too because we fake it till we make it.

EXTERNALITIES

Externalities can be said to be collateral damage or benefit that civilians have to endure after the superheroes are done fighting. These problems are endless, stretching from friends who do not tag you in a minimum of ten memes an hour, to those who have a K-pop reference for everything. The "jhalhuri" condition you are in after a rickshaw ride is also an externality. Nevertheless, endurance is key because the entire population of our country has superhero potential to create more externalities. Who else can survive with chemically blackened rivers?

However, it would still be considered a positive externality if anyone took up to read actual economics afterwards.

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