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Bid to halt unfair means in public exams

## BCTA demands suspension of student union activities

Suspending student union activities during public exams is an effective remedy for menacing unfairness in the examinations, leading teachers said, recently.

Citing the antidote Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA) observes political influence is a major incentive for the examinees to go for copying. As the HSC examinations begin on May 10, the BCTA in a Press conference in Dhaka on Friday urged parliamentarians and political leaders to restrain their visits from visiting exam centers.

The student activists always play a key role in compelling invigilators and administrations to allow the examinees to adopt unfair means. In refusal, the teachers are attacked physically and mentally.

During the last SSC examinations, two teachers--Shamsa Kumar and Ashutosh Pal of Baharbagh High School in Magura--were seriously injured for trying to restrain such wicked elements.

"Teachers alone are not able to stop copying in the exams. Roles of students, guardians, administration and local influential are vital in this regard," said BCTA President Principal Kazi Faruq Ahmed.

To arrest copying, he also said while determining exam centers carefully it should be ensured that no center is set up following political or regional influence.

Urging all teachers to discharge their responsibilities with utmost honesty and sincerity, the BCTA president however said like in other professions some

people also intruded into teaching who are not eligible for the noble career.

"We have no hesitation to criticize ourselves or demand punishment if anyone of us plays foul," Kazi Faruq said referring to the seven-point suggestions of teachers' federation for stopping copying in the exams.

He, however, said ensuring human resources depends on quality teachers, which is also depending on due remuneration of the teachers. He demanded a separate pay scale for the teachers and placed some other demands relating to their salaries.

Addressing the press conference BCTA General Secretary Principal Asadul Haq mentioned a "double standard" of the government.

"We all want a cessation of the copying. But when teachers remain strong not allowing copying, which results in a bad result of a certain college, the government issues show-cause notice as to why grants of the college will not be cancelled," he told newsmen.

In this respect, he cited a government decision that the government will not look into the results before the year 2004, but all efforts will have to be enforced to stop unfair means in the examinations.

A total of 571,074 examinees sit for the HSC exam under the seven education boards from May 10. Board-wise examinees are Dhaka 164,534, Rajshahi 169,441, Comilla 69,235, Jessore 71,458, Chittagong 45,230, Barisal 34,085 and Sylhet 17,091.