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LETTERS FROM READER

Rationalising higher education

Your leading article under the above caption (22 May) is most welcome. I read it with interest. You have hit the nail right on the head, although mildly, when you said that "the malaise in the educational sector is just a reflection of the general erosion of values everywhere". You have rightly suggested "to identify the basic faults in the system of education". True, but a question arises, "do the basic faults lie entirely in the system or in the poor human material at which the system is composed?"

In answer to this question, I feel tempted to quote from a recently published book — "The Light of Other Days" by one Prof. S. H. Shaidai. He says: "The British educational and legal systems have prevailed with relatively less changes in almost all the countries that had formed the Commonwealth. There is nothing much wrong with the systems. The educational system prevalent in our country is more or less the same at the higher level, as I found in Great Britain. This system has succeeded in Britain, as their political system has succeeded. But it has miserably failed in our country. It has succeeded there because of good human material. It has failed here because of bad human material. Their social and political institutions are the offshoots of their character; our social and political institutions are the offshoots of our character. We all inwardly realise though we do not openly admit that the fault for the failure of any

system, be it political or social lies not so much in the system alone but to a large extent in the defective nature of the human material. Instead of changing the system we would do well to concentrate our efforts on improving the quality of the human material — the bricks with which all the social institutions are built. The social institution will always largely be the expression of human personality of which they are composed. Moral values and standards are ethical problems. They cannot be solved by any political or social theories, however grandiose they may be. In the last analysis it is the spirit — the moral fibre that makes a nation".

What are the ways to improve the moral fibre of the nation? In the correct answer to this question lies the solution of all our social, political, economic and educational ills.

ABDUR RAHMAN
39/A, Gulshan Ar.
Dhaka.

Bagerhat College needs attention

Bagerhat P.C. College was established in the year 1918. The college was taken over by the government in 1979 and since then nothing has allegedly been done to improve the condition of the college.

The old buildings are in a dilapidated condition and they can collapse at any time. The hostels of the college were severely damaged at the cyclone of 29 November of 1988. But till today nothing has been done for their reconstruction and as a result the students are to make their own arrangement for accommodation at different places, far from the college.

The college does not have authorised number of teachers. And the laboratory is not well equipped to run the science classes.

The education authority is therefore requested to look into the matter and do the needful.

ABUL HASAN KHAN
19, Dhanmondi R. A.,
Road No. 6.