

EDUCATION WORRIES

Education worries of the guardians in Dhaka are deepening. Compared to a decade ago, the stress on guardians on account of the education of their children have grown heavier. But the opposite should have been the case because the current problems have not sprung up overnight. They accumulated gradually and lots of warnings, worries and requests were raised, when the problems were just beginning to show up. But it seems that all the pleadings were in vain and the present situation is a reflection of this.

Side by side with massive commercialisation of education there are allegations from many dismayed guardians that their children are no longer doing as well in schools as in the past. It could be learnt from queries that this decline in their performance was not really linked to any drop in the seriousness of the students themselves. In most cases they were good students and were taught at home by well educated and devoted parents. Their real trouble lay elsewhere. They and their guardians all sensed that the main reason for poor grades or their positions in class sliding down, was related to another factor, i.e their continuous refusal to suggestions from some teachers that these students should hire them for private teaching. The inability of these students to respond positively to such overtures invited the teachers' wrath. As a result they are being graded poorly. The students who are being graded higher, were found engaging these school teachers for their private teaching. Allegedly these favourite students also receive question papers and other valuable tips before examinations.

The guardians of affected students at one stage considered approaching the school authorities for redress of the situation. But they were advised against the step by other experienced guardians who pointed out that such complaints would be futile because entire school authorities themselves were involved in such practices and they would not admit their own guilt or take the necessary administrative measures to flush out such immoral activities.

The above are only some of the anguishes of innocent students of the schools of Dhaka who are failing to keep pace with the greed and commercial instincts of their teachers. Many of these students attend so-called elite schools. The knowledge of such malpractices are symbolic of the level of immorality to which these teachers have sunk in their race to become wealthy.

It has indeed become a very justifiable demand that the greed of these teachers should be checked and their moves to make education a purely commercial proposition stopped.