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## Matters Of The Moment

# Action Against Unscrupulous Teachers

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PRESIDENT Shahabuddin has justifiably underscored the urgency of taking action against unscrupulous and dishonest teachers who instead of taking classes encourage their students to attend tutorial homes or coaching centres they have set up at their respective residences. They suffer no pricking of conscience while drawing salary without any work.

When he sharply reacted to unfair practices being adopted by teachers, he did not have only secondary school teachers at the back of his mind. He had in front of his eyes such college and university teachers as are alleged to have sexually assaulted their girl students or got answer scripts filled in by students at home to give them higher marks in exchange of pecuniary benefits. Such unethical and unprincipled teachers cannot be trusted with education of our children. They cannot set precedents for their disciples to follow. On the contrary, they show their students the way to success through unfair means.

Such teachers constitute a big blot in the academic life of our educational institutions at all levels from primary to secondary level and from higher secondary to university level. They show young learners how to succeed in examinations without undertaking serious study and by adopting unfair means.

The propensity to such crimes and commissions has made its way to the teaching community during the past three decades af-

ter liberation when old values and established norms have crumbled to pieces, yielding place to a life of material advancement attainable by means, fair or foul. Gone are the days when men fired by sublime ideals, used to take to teaching and dedicate their lives to pursuit of knowledge. Gone are the decades that have produced profound scholars, saints and savants like Dr Mohammed Shahabuddin, Dr. G. C. Dev, Professor A.B.M. Habibullah, Professor Sajjad Hossain, Dr Ennas Ali, Dr. A. Matin Chowdhury etc. Many in the new breed of teachers, who have intruded the teaching after liberation, have very little scholarly aptitude and no fire of idealism. Gifted with smaller minds, they run for acquisition of wealth at the cost of high ideal of their profession. There are, of course, honourable exceptions who deserve respect and commendation of all concerned. President Shahabuddin could not have such talented, scrupulous, idealist teachers of the new generation in his mind when he called for action against teachers who have infiltrated into our educational institutions and vitiated their academic atmosphere by their shady deeds.

But the question is how such elements managed to obtrude upon our educational institutions. The governments that came to power during the past 27 years after liberation pushed their own men regardless of their academic qualifications and competence in educational insti-

tutions at all levels starting from the primary to the university level. Most of these teachers at the instance of their backers and benefactors are required to play politics designed to serve as prop to students working for political aggrandizement of their patrons. The governments, which patronized such elements in the new generation of teachers, were of necessity obliged to pay them a price for the service rendered by them, by way of overlooking or winking at their aberrations. As has been stated, their aberrations include regular absence from classes, asking students to attend tutorial homes in their houses or sexual onslaught on girl students. They are often paid heavily for inciting students to violence and setting one group of students against another. These undesirable elements are too deeply engrained in the academic life of the country to be weeded out at will.

President Shahabuddin is a man with an illustrious judicial background. He does not represent any party or grouping. Solely guided by his own conscience, he issued a statement at the inauguration of the Education Week insisting on the importance of eliminating such unscrupulous elements from all educational institutions in the country. In issuing this statement the President has merely articulated the sentiments of all fair-minded, impartial, non-partisan citizens who have the good of the country at the back of their minds. But the president's state-

ment is only an expression of pious wish which can scarcely carry us very far in the direction of denuding our educational institutions of such unethical and unscrupulous teachers.

President Shahabuddin should, therefore, take the initiative to convene at Bangabhaban a grand colloquy to deliberate on problems pertaining to the unhealthy academic atmosphere prevailing in our educational institutions in the light of lapses being committed by a group of teachers appointed on purely Npolitical considerations. Of all interest is the student politics, acts of terrorism, rape, violence and vandalism in our educational institutions etc, being buoyed up by vested interests from behind the scene.

The president should invite leaders of all political parties, teachers, students, members of parliament, trade bodies, bench and the bar, and finally guardians to discuss problems paralysing academic life of schools, colleges and universities candidly and openly in a bid to devise ways and means of driving out the ghost polluting academic life of our educational institutions. The concourse must hammer out a consensus on the ways and means of solving problems facing our educational institutions. The decision to be adopted by the concourse must, of necessity, be implemented in letter and spirit and political parties must be made to commit themselves to the decision before its implementation.