

## The DU Admissions Scandal

The people of this nation have always been justifiably proud of the Dhaka University and look to it to produce its future leaders. As such we expect the university authorities and teachers to be imbued with the highest ethical and moral standards and because of this ideal, the admissions test scandal has come as a great shock.

Not that cheating is unknown, because we have all been witness to it at different times but this time round it has taken place on such a wide scale, the shock is not going to subside soon. Obviously a symptom of the malaise that has overtaken the educational sector we can at least be proud of one thing—the Vice Chancellor's directive to identify the university students involved in this admission forgery has borne fruit as according to reports, Dhaka University authorities have withheld the admission-test results of another 950 students of Ga-unit for tampering with the mark sheets of SSC and HSC exams, and for adopting unfair means in the exam halls, in addition to the previous 800 students of Ga-unit.

The question we must ask ourselves is how was it we all failed to see the distressing signs of decline in ethics and morals? Or did we see it, the university authorities included, and simply turn a blind eye to it in the hope it would go away? But if cheating and tampering with SSC and HSC mark sheets has invaded the university and on such a wide scale, it may be true to say that corruption has now reached its zenith. But if the problem of corruption no longer shocks, this means that a case of this magnitude will have little impact on people's minds. Surely this cannot be true? Because if keeping corruption out of the university is too difficult, one can only wonder where the nation is heading.

Corruption is often justified by the corrupt on the grounds that everyone is corrupt to some extent. If that is true there is very little one can do about it but to our minds this is not so because the vast majority still believe moral norms and standards matter, therefore as individuals we cannot afford to remain indifferent to what has been going on. But unless corrective actions are taken, the nation will have to pay the price or be caught up in an indestructible cycle of corruption.

If corruption is allowed to spread beyond the critical limit, it will become even more irreversible and even if we take small corrective actions, it will not have a lasting effect. Some people say we needed a jolt like this to snap us from out of our complacency. For we as a nation are to blame for we have failed to imbibe in our children a high standard of honesty and decency. However, if as some claim there is no inherent lack of moral standards in our society, then why do such things happen? Are there no answers?