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Ongoing changes in education system

We must get used to a modern education management network replacing the prevailing system to materialise our dream of achieving the Millennium Development Goal by building up a knowledge-based society with skilled manpower, writes ***Amit Roy Chowdhury***

A New Age file photo shows students taking SSC examinations in a school in the capital Dhaka in February 2015. — Sanaul

OF LATE, the government's decision to carry out an online process of admission to Class Eleventh sparked debates and criticism in different tiers of our society. The ministry of education became the epicentre for all cross-currents of opinions while initiating some attempts to overhaul the existing system of education. The government could not stay comfortable with the efforts in the run-up to achieving the target. Repetition of incidents such as leaks of questions, for instance, triggered fury among students and guardians. Some abortive attempts to plug the loopholes in the system were made much to the embarrassment of the authorities. More importantly, even if it happened to be rumours, it left some malignant patches on learners' psychology and inhibited a healthy process to learn and go through tests for landing on actual grounds of knowledge.

Not only that, an apparent failure to curb unrest in public universities is still adding to lapses in fair management. A year ago, a government initiative to ensure admission to higher educational institutions on the basis of the GPA at the SSC level, faced the same huge resistance from different quarters. But in line with the spirit of the education policy, the education ministry tried firmly to impose a ban on private coaching, initiate the structured-question curriculum, generate optimum use of technology inside classrooms, innovate peer inspection for effective academic supervision, act to remove corruption from different stairs of the education management system, launch online monthly payment order operation, transform textbook contents into e-books and mobile applications for learners and credit stipend allocations directly to individual bank accounts of the beneficiaries; and these activities reflect an honest intention to bring about some positive changes in technological support system. Any lapses, thus, either on part of the data sender or of the collector, or any institutional lacks because of inaccurate planning or implementation process, or failure in effective communications with stakeholders to dissipate the mist of confusion or contradictory news updates available in different news media, whatsoever the reasons are, students along with guardians were locked in a state of despair and uncertainty; which the minister himself confessed and regretted. The minister also iterated his firm commitment to ensure access of all concerned to admission process in due course.

Now the question remains that those particular students had to go through an unprecedented ordeal when their SSC exams were held. Unscrupulous trend of our politics was on its way to capitalising the students' future for vested gains. Many of them fell fresh victim to physical violence and atrocity, very few could [illegible] while [illegible] stressed his [illegible] in my life and in events [illegible] mental [illegible] mured in scandal.

[illegible] coach Miguel Herrera was sacked on Tuesday following allegations of an assault against a television journalist, just two days after guiding them to their seventh Gold Cup trophy in the United States.

The combative 47-year-old — who also coached Mexico to the last-16 penalty shootout loss to the Netherlands at the World Cup last year — is alleged to have attacked the journalist, Yesenia Ortiz, of the coach [illegible] FIFA is enmeshed in scan- [illegible] but no sooner had he done so than Prince Ali bin Al Hussein, who lost out in the previous vote in May to Blatter, turned on him and described him as 'not good for football.'

The Jordanian prince said Platini, considered a strong candidate, was not the man to run the sport's global affairs. 'Platini is not good for FIFA. Football's fans and players deserve better,' he said in a statement.

Earlier in the day, Platini officially announced his campaign to run against Platini and make a second bid for the high-powered post.

'I am at one of those decisive moments, at a juncture in my life and in events [illegible] tion and in a way contributing [illegible] standardisation of education.

I hope that the policymakers take a few more steps that can e[illegible] update overhauling of age-old e[illegible] tion system. Impartial appointm[illegible] of competent teachers through a central recruitment pool, their tra[illegible] and due salaries must be ensured. Specially in case of institution hea[illegible] transfer must be done in due cours[illegible] Teacher training has now gained a [illegible] ferent dimension against the backdr[illegible] of a newer perspective. The training of untrained teachers by the trained ones of the same unit can speed up the professional development skills that can cater to contemporary needs. Performance-based promotion should be included in the service rules closing the practice of promoting teachers on the basis of seniority. Separate public examinations centres should be built in every upazila on a priority basis so that the normal class schedule of different institutions is not hampered. Evaluation of answer [illegible] students unethically. If these ambitious attempts to make online college admission run smoothly, the whole process will be disciplined and get rid of such an ominous undercurrent of mischievous activities. If this system survives, the vast majority of students would be benefited.

Admission seekers can escape an additional stress on funds and strenuous mobility in the plight of finding out a suitable college in an area, may be, unknown to them. It is noteworthy that the government has set a ceiling of admission fees that varies categorically from urban to rural areas; it would make the total procedure more transparent and accountable. The machines are not able to identify the poor nor the rich, neither the rural nor the urban. Thus a poor but promising student from a marginalised section of society can even find a space in the city; it may pave his way for unfolding a new horizon of prospects.

I hold still an opinion that if we fail to go along the silent revolution that [illegible] alongside my own future,' he said.

'What is clear is that FIFA needs new, independent leadership, untainted by the practices of the past,' added Prince Ali.

It now appears the 39-year-old, who is the third son of King Hussein of Jordan, may be plotting a fresh campaign to run against Platini and make a second bid for the high-powered post.

'I was also guided by the system, support and encouragement that many of you have shown me.'

He promised to work tirelessly 'in the interests of football.'

'There are times in life when you have to take your destiny into your own hands,' he said.

Blatter ignored those calls and was duly elected for a fifth term as president, only to announce his intention to stand down on June 2 as world football's governing body became embroiled in scandal.

Blatter, outspoken opponents of the most ter's regime, and publicly called for him to stand down after seven FIFA Executive Committee members were arrested on corruption allegations in raids in Switzerland prior to May's election.

Blatter, who has been in the sport for almost four decades, announced his intention to stand down only in the last two days after a television journalist, Yesenia Ortiz, of the coach [illegible] Mexico to the last-16 penalty shootout loss to the Netherlands at the World Cup last year — is alleged to have attacked the journalist, [illegible] FIFA is enmeshed in scan- [illegible] but no sooner had he done so than Prince Ali bin Al Hussein, who lost out in the previous vote in May to Blatter, turned on him and described him as 'not good for football.'

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