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## Unearthing Fake Certificates

The seizure of a huge number of fake certificates of different education boards and universities along with revenue stamps of different denominations, embossed seal and other materials and equipment used for making such forged documents comes as no surprise. There was a suspicion that gangs were involved in forgery of documents enjoying a high demand from people looking for a short-cut in life. Moreover, the number of enquiries made from abroad—the USA, Canada and New Zealand, in particular—in recent times about the veracity of certificates to the concerned universities, mostly Dhaka University, has gone up alarmingly. No wonder, such complaints led to detection of false certificates in most cases. How tragic we have to deal with impostors in an area where it is impossible to play-act. For knowledge has no substitute, least of all when specialisation in any discipline is concerned. But our desperate youths are undaunted and avail themselves of every opportunity—fair and foul—so far as employment in a foreign country is concerned. Who the bigger criminals are—those who supply the forged documents or certificates or those who obtain them in exchange for money may be just an academic question. What matters most is getting rid of the evil from society.

The first and most important measure against forgery of certificates, mark-sheets etc. would be the production of original documents in a way that defy copying by the most efficient forgers. To that end the Education Ministry has already made a move. Soon certificates will be produced with security seals. The new passports bearing similar security seals are said to be safe enough. If the certificates can have a similar guarantee, the prospective forgers will feel discouraged to go about their evil business. The second option is to do away with any such need. This means creation of a proper atmosphere for education and opportunities for employment.

No point producing graduates who have no demand in the employment market. Technical and vocational schools and colleges can be of help in this regard. Information and communication technology (ICT) in particular has opened up a new avenue for the young people. True, it has. But what remains unspelled is the costly access to ICT education or knowledge. There is a paramount need to bring down the expenditure involved in acquiring a reasonable level of knowledge of this technology so that the youths from poor families can easily receive computer literacy and higher education in ICT.

The planners and policy makers must have a broad vista before them while planning for the country's unemployed and young people. Let the education be mostly need-oriented for the average students or learners. The higher education must be reserved for the more gifted and talented ones who are creative as well as research-minded. The task is challenging but this is how we can minimise the need for forgery of important documents like certificates.