#### VOICES ... Young People Speak Out \_\_\_

#### Poribohon, Poricholon and Bikiron

Tubaishi Rubab Matin explains how bypassing English may turn out to be bypassing advancement

UR long dead ancestors were able to gift us with a past, with a history, with a culture which is glorious in so many ways. which we can be proud of. which we can boast of. We have martyrs who sacrificed themselves for the sake of our freedom, for the sake of our mother tongue. Since then we took the holy oath of not letting their spirits go down and as we have the reputation of being an impetuous nation we thought we did so by excluding all other languages from our curricula except Bengali.

But the shahids dreamt about something greater, they longed for a country which would be free from any aggression, a nation brave and smart enough to spring up before the whole world, the peoples free in thoughts and language.

Today in our education system there are two clear different streams. One is the America-oriented English-speaking. English-talking, English-thinking group studying in different English medium schools, the others studying in regular Bengali medium schools and colleges with the compulsion of studying everything in Bengali. In this medium science. geography, physics, chemistry and the like are being taught in Bengali.

There is a subject English which is very poor and low in standard. As a result most of the students passing out from these institutions are not very confident about their English: some are competent to have a shaky English conversation. but most of them are very weak in English, Of course,

agree with the fact that

private coaching has bec-

ome a common inclina-

tion nowadays among school

and college students. As a

whole, many regard private

teachers as greedy and sel-

fish people who induce stu-

dents towards their own

institutions for profit only.

The days when education cen-

tres were regarded as a se-

parate entity for profit-ma-

king organisations and teach-

ers were expected to teach

everything within class-hours

I cannot vouch for teach-

ers of Bengali medium insti-

tutions but for English

medium ones. I can come to.

the conclusion that private

tutors are an integral part of education and deservedly so.

sented both from the stu-

dents' and teachers' point of

views. It would seem logical

that if the students are given

an opportunity to broaden

their academic horizon and if

such means are within their

grasp, why should they hesi-

tate to grab it? Private tutors

provide just that opportunity.

We have been repeatedly re-

minded that schools should

provide the necessary educa-

tion and private tuition un-

dermines the need of schools

in a society. A very glib and

shallow statement indeed! As

one writer in this page has

previously pointed out, our

society is getting competitive

and a good education is fast-

becoming basic just to com-

pete with other individuals;

and if private tutors give us

the edge over our competi-

tors, what harm would it ul-

brings out a very tricky ques-

tion how good are schools?

Why can't we directly go to

private tutors instead of using

up time and money to attend

This argument, however,

timately come to?

My arguments can be pre-

are gone. Or, have they?

there are some exceptions but

exceptions are always so rare. Finally, ending up college life and entering into the university level is even more massacre. Because, at these level mostly for the lack of adequate books most students have to take up English as their education medium, specially in the science subjects like micro-biology, botany, chemistry, physics, anthropology etc. Engineering, architecture, medicine where you don't have any option, you are compelled to study in English. Here most of the students who studied everything in Bengali previously face a very horrifying sit-

Though they have the capability of doing well they cannot do so for having difficulty with English. Because, they become so familiar with Bangla terms that they don't have the faintest idea about its correct English term. From practical experience. I have seen a group of first year students of **BUET** felt totally lost and blank when they were attending a lecture on the subject 'Climate and Design' when the words 'conduction'. 'convection' 'radiation' occurred; only when the words were translated in Bengali as 'Poribohon' 'Poricholon' and 'Bikiron' they breathed a sigh of relief.

This is the general condition for most of the students here. And those students going abroad for their education also face an embarrassing situation and find it very difficult to cope up with everything in English. Change in this situation has become an emergency. English has to be up-

now getting a motorway connection to England. Another example is Wakefield, in the middle of tingland, which sells itself as being at the crossroads of three major motorways and the site for a huge rail-freight terminal serving the Channel tunnel. Pioneer, a Japanese consumer-electronics firm, port in Europe, with flights to most places continent, America and East Asia as well as a

roreign investors. By being able seamlessly from planning to financing and construction, the Northern Development Company (NDC) has attracted more than 350 foreign firms to the region. Getting Nissan to set up its £850m European car plant near Sunderland and Fujitsu to build a £400m microehip factory at Newton Aycliffe have been N Dollargest coups. The region

more than in South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. And although British productivity has greatly improved in the past decade, it is still only half America's level and three-quarters of Japan's. For firms wanting to set up shop inside Fortress Europe, Spain is beginning to look a better bet. Still, Japanese manufactures are more upbeat about Britain than manufacture employers are. A recent survey by Tourist Rosses firm of accoun-



dated, the science subjects like physics, chemistry and biology must use all English

sold these days. In the 1960s, Scottish exports were

The world today is a world of communication. It is becoming smaller and smaller day by day. For our betterment, for our sake we cannot stand isolated anymore. We have to mingle with the wide world outside. Inter-net, fax, satellite telecommunication has made

tants, found that, though the economy had slowed markedly, few Japanese firms had reduced their direct investment in Britain. Indeed, many were in the process of boosting their capital spending in their British facilities. While virtually all the Japament in Britain had improved significantly in re-

etting worse. In a sense, both were right. ushover. Factory for factory, they squeeze far more the local subsidiaries of Gene Motors (Vauxhall) and Ford, where workers produce respectively 33 and 32 cars a year. Britain's lone domestic firm,

Rover, manages only 27. Before the Japanese arrived. Rover produced only half as many. For Japanese manufacturers, with their well capitalised plants better-trained workforces, lean production and status-conscious management, doing busines in the property is almost too easy. No wonder dome forms applain about feeling the heat. And the is well only 1.30% of British manu-

el. NKK or Sumitomo Metal decides to give British Steel a run for its money. And ing up plans to see whether they can do for Britain's white-goods business what they have already done for its consumer-electronics and office-automation industries. Wait until foreign firms control 40-50% of Britain's manufacturing base. Then things could



ceased to look to London for their salvation have it very easy to take part in any event at any corner of the world. Everything is shared in every part of the world, everything is becoming international. This is the information age, and the only medium to interact through people for home, business or educational

purposes is English. So. it is of

vital importance to acknowl-

edge the international lan-

Another ludicrous argu-

guage - English.

pressed Scotland now has lower unemployment

look where the goods and services they produce are than the national average. Conurbations that have

# Would-be University's Unique Flaws

Shegufta Hasan and Shafquat Rabee went to find out how effective is the education of Eden

Some students complained that sometimes they are

forced to sit for exams without completing the course

DEN College is one of the most distinguis-hed educational insti-tutions of our country. Established in 1948, the college still has the reputation of an ideal institute as it runs a sound educational ambience. The college outstrips many other women's colleges because its academic output is quite remarkable.

The number of students studying at Eden is more than 6.000 and the college may also become a Women's University in the true manner pretty soon. In spite of creating a good academic history and having a relatively congenial educational atmosphere, the students of this college experience some odds these-days as there prevail some in-institute disorders over there. The Voices team visited the college to have a brief idea of its educational atmosphere and other relevant issues and, of course, to know how really are the students getting on in this institution.

Most of the students of the college, admit that the atmosphere of the college campus is suitable enough for their education. Despite the presence of political parties, the ambience remains congenial for the real purpose.

"Politics does not hinder our education as much as it is thought of and the relationship among the students and the teachers is quite amicable." said Kona, a student of Islamic

Like many other colleges. Eden College has the presence of some mainstream political parties like BNP. Awami League etc. Students informed that only during the election time the college atmosphere becomes little chaotic while it remains calm throughout the

The college authority maintains a strict education system

and examinations are regularly held. Students admit this very much but some of them complained that often they are ferced to sit for examinations without having ample time to complete their courses, as the National University fixes the dates of examinations not considering whether their course is completed or not. "We were better under Dhaka University," said Paru, a student of Philosophy depart-

ment. Students of this college are happy with the ability of their teachers. "They are very friendly and efficient;" said a student. But the students feel the acute shortage of teachers. "They are too limited a number of people to teach all the students belonging to different levels," stated Paru.

In fact, it becomes whole

lot tougher for a teacher to

teach students of Masters level

alongside HSC and Honours

levels equally well. "A teacher

cannot devote himself or her-

self to three levels of education

at a time," said Hena, another

student of Philosophy depart-

tions, students need more

teachers to be employed and

they want the authority to

withdraw HSC level from this

college. "In order to improve

the quality of education of the

college, the college certainly

needs a perceptable increase

in the number of its teaching

staff," said a teacher request-

ing anonymity. Students also

demand a number of new

classrooms to be constructed

as they are too many to be ac-

commodated in the present

number of classrooms.

As a remedy to this situa-

ment.

In Eden College, students have only a few subjects at the Masters and Honours levels and they think it is quite inadequate. Since the college is looking forward to becoming a university, the augmentation of the number of subjects'should get priority.

"If we could have more subjects at these levels, it would be much better." So was the opinion of Jhumur, a student of Geology, likewise many other students.

There are mainly three halls of residence on Eden Collège campus. But the number of seats in these hostels does not at all meet the demand. It was informed that the students of this college, specially those who come from other districts outside the capital, face severe problem to get seats. It often requires strong

lobbying to get seats in these

halls. Students also alleged

that sometimes they are ha-

rassed both officially and polit-

ically when they try to get

want her name to be men-

tioned informed that at times

the political parties provide

students with seats in the halls

but in return they demand the

direct involvement of the stu-

dents in politics. Students

consider this awesome situa-

tion as unfortunate and unac-

ceptable and they want the

government to take initiatives

to remove their sufferings and

establish more hostels in the

provement of hostel facilities.

There is an amazing aspect

that two of the halls have no

names. They are known as the

They also demand the im-

college compound.

Another student who didn't

Natur Hall (New Hall) and the Puratan Hall (Old Hall). Hosteldwellers think these names are disgraceful and they want the college authority to take immediate steps to name these halls after the names of renowned persons as most of the educational institutes did.

Eden College has a number students which is more than six thousand, yet it provides no transport facilities to its students. The only bus that the college has is not utilised to serve the students many of whom come from distant places. Students said that often it becomes really difficult for them to attend the classes timely as they don't have any college bus. Hence, students want the authority to intensify emphasis on removing this long-felt suffering.

Students of Eden College feel some other lackings which are yet to be fulfilled. They do not have any cultural club on the campus, and as a consequence of this, their cultural activity is impeded. Students also demand the improvement of the college canteen and they want it to serve non-contaminated food with cheaper price. In short, students want the enhancement of the College campus as well as its educational ambience.

Although the College has experienced some ups and downs in the recent past, its academic result has been impressive enough throughout the years. Besides education. its students contributed in our cultural and political arena outstandingly.

If their sufferings are eradicated and if the government adopts effective and sincere measures to fulfil their demands, it is strongly believed that the students of this college will be able to keep its glowing reputation ever-illu-

### Tutors for Hire...

. . . And why not, writes Faruq Hasan, arguing in favour of private coaching

schools? The answer lies in our present attitude regarding schools. Most of us consider schools useful only because of the prestige attached to a school and nothing else; as another writer has cleverly pointed out: we also attend schools "for the certificate"

But schools provide us more than that. Discipline. practice, conduct, regulation and orderliness are just some of the few things schools provide which private tutors fail to or are weak at providing. We must view the work of private tutors merely as an extension of what they teach us at school and not depend upon them as the only source of education. If we do so, it won't be the fault of the teachers but our own schools provide lessons on a wide

variety of subjects and it's entirely up to the students to single out their weaknesses and attend private classes to consolidate their positions. Again, many may ask: what

the poor students are to do in such a situation? Are they not being unfairly blamed for something which their wealthier friends have easy access to? This concept is entirely a myth! Any student who can afford to pay around Taka 13,000 as yearly charge. Taka 3,000 per month as annual fee, and again, Taka 1,000 as fee for miscellaneous activities and thus study in a typical English medium school can hardly be considered "poor"; can they? Simply put, such "poor" students do not exist in English medium schools: to almost everyone private tutors are easily accessible.

## Write and Let Know

If you're a college student — or a would-be college student — in both Bergali and English mediums, including cadet and residential colleges: ITS YOUR PAGE TO WRITE. This paper invites you to write on subjects concerning "you", "your" society and "your" country

Please don't forget to mention the name (along with yours) of your college or institution and the class you're in. You're also encouraged to send news (don't be scared if it's a bad one - trust your VOICES editor) with photographs (if possible) of events that are taking place in your institution. We intend to publish them in our COLLEGE CORRIDOR column. Mail/send them to -VOICES

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ment presented by a writer explaining how students become attracted to the opposite sex at such centres. But tell me, even it we do get attracted, doesn't such "attractions" start initially at school where we first meet them? The same writer extends a solution to ending this regime of private tutors by encouraging students "to seriously acquire more knowledge".

A typical class session consists of around 45 minutes in which we are expected to take notes and try to understand everything the teacher tells us. Compare this to the nearly two-hour classes conducted by private tutors where we get special attention at the subjects which we are weak at if your solution is to be applied which class do you think offer the pupil more chance and opportunity to "seriously acquire more knowledge"?

And what about the teachers themselves? At college level, a good teacher earns a salary of about Taka 10,000 to 15,000, hardly sufficient to keep a family going. In the end for obvious reasons, private tuitions are an important source of income for them. If you are serious about stopping private tuitions, have a chat with the college principal about a raise in teacher

In the end, my arguments are a pledge to all of you to not pass off private tuition as a bane on society and a mean to undermine schools and colleges. On, the contrary, let us view private tuition with a healthy attitude and put things to proper perspective. private tuition is simply an extension of the most important weapon we have -- edu-



College daze: Eden College needs an overall improvement.

### No Short-cut to Learning

#### Naser Kalam on the education system

ANGLADESH is a small country of 55,598 square miles. It is a poor couhaving 12.00,000.00 people in its concised area. In Dhaka city alone there live 1,400 people in each square kilometre. In this city, there are lots of schools and colleges and few universities from where students, the next generation rulers get education. But, the question is: how many of them get the best education? And meanwhile, the standard of the institutions has to be taken into consideration. If we observe the SSC or HSC results of Dhaka Board and all over the country, we will have no mistrust about the terrific canon of the institutes.

We all know that after food. cloth and shelter, education is the most essential basic need for all of us. Its value is invariable all the time. Let's take a look at the recent education systems in the backdrop of our homeland. From a reliable statistical source. It is seen that the kids who start their schooling, don't persist at least the primary section for various reasons. Why does such predicaments occur? Because of the ignorance of our parents and that of the society, some upper-class idiots think that what's the value of education money is everything. They think that their bairns should be devoted to the ancestral business and thus make their lot and will be well-established in life. This kind of anticipation from their minds should be removed.

Anyway how about the studeats who continue study and pass towards the end; what type of education they achieve and what is the system which

is now going on? There are thousands of obstacles and restrictions and students have to have lessons through the private tutors and have to depend fully on others. Even so as to prepare lessons, an honours' or a 'masters' class student also can't do and rush through the blazeful 'coaching centres'

What is a 'coaching centre'? A coaching centre means a laconic educational institute from where pupils get the lessons easier. In the UK or the USA or any other developed country there is no private teaching system. Students

there get education in the school and college and to get more and brilliant information they familiarise themselves to the library: go through the reference books, nib out the points and thus obtain dazzling scores. In this zone, one can't be good without plagiarism. Teachers here contribute notes and thousands of students just copy that and that's mostly acceptable to every-

Education here means plagiarism; nothing creativity stands. Coaching is something like gambling here, for our



Hall coaching: These are not classrooms, I need classrooms

haughty gambler teachers, it's the hot business to earn a lot. They don't think about the students but only about the way of their earing. Thus they, themselves clear the path to hell for the student. Students don't know anything about the texts. Even many of our school and college students have no Bengali or English books. They don't need books, they need only pompous notes because the teachers won't give higher marks if a students don't write

that specific note. Even most of the secondary and higher-secondary teachers get annoyed with the students if they (students) don't come to their house. Teachers can get lessons easy to understand for the students in the classrooms, but they don't do that. If they do so their hot business will no more be alive. At universities, the student have to do the shopping for the teachers if they want their viva voice scores better. For example, the teachers of Dhaka or City College, in class hours they don't get anything for the student but digest the salaries only. Private teaching seems to be

their main profession. In fact, teaching is a noble profession. But our teachers make it alloyed. Their job is to shape-up the students perfectly. Teachers' irresponsibility is proved when a brilliant student go abroad for higher qualification. One should remember that the education which cann't make a kid civil from uncivil, cann't build up a student as a self-sufficient man, should not be given any value. Because, we all know: "Education is the backbone of a nation." If any nation is backboneless (illiterate) it is destined to be destroyed.





TOM and JERRY



