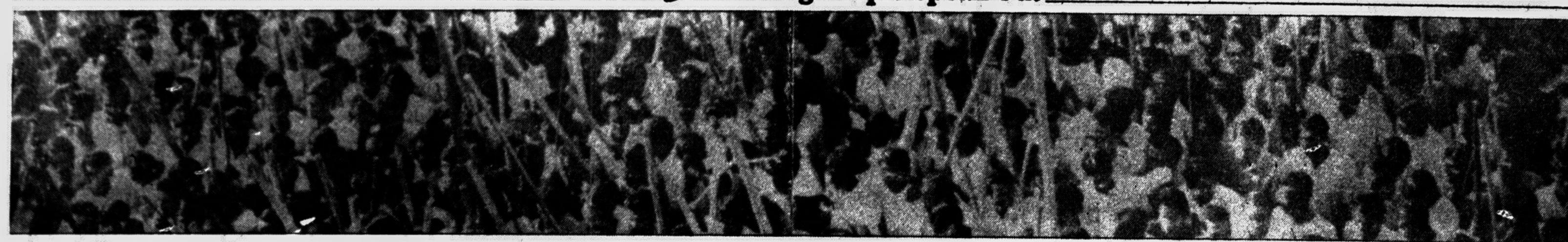


VOICES ... Young People Speak Out



Hopeless Equations!!

Sajid Rizwan Matin is confused to see the distortion of war history

of Bangladesh

HERE is a quotation says. "After you've heard two' eyewitness accounts of an auto accident it makes you wonder about history." Very true indeed, because the two witnesses would recount two different stories, each of them narrating it with their own theories and colouring it with their imagination and thus misleading the fact. So, doesn't it make one dubious about the history?

If the description of such a minor account like an accident is perverted in this way, then the proclaims of the historians are most likely to arouse suspicion in the minds of the later generations, which in our country is horrifyingly observed. The facts of our glorious Liberation War are also been ambushed and the political parties are trying to mould the historical events with their self-made actuality in order to glorify some particular political

leaders, who are luckily not alive at present.

But the political parties hopelessly continue their argument over such facts and some of them even deny the truth. They seem to be looking back all the time trying to present examples that can cast a bad name on other parties. It has been 25 years of our independence but still the people, mostly the war-time generation, are divided on the ground of facts. But no matter how hard they try, the truth can never be blurred.

Bangladesh fought against Pakistan to be free from their monstrous clutches, and India came to our help. Inside Bangladesh the Jamaat helped the Pakistanis and lots of other people opposed our independence and they still exist in Bangladesh. Those who were for the indépendence of Bangladesh contributed from their places with their extreme capability and nobody's

participation was less impor-tant than the others. That is the fact and that is how we should judge the war-time

leaders. But shamefully our political parties kept arguing over these matters, whereas they should have been doing positive works towards our progression, and all these have resulted in a deep frustration among the newer generation.

They have lost all their hopes of any major breakthrough in our economic plight. Their apparition of an industrial revolution have been trampled under the naked greed of our national patriotic leaders. Political leaders should have been more cooperative, they ought to lead the country to an emerging tiger status. But they vainly came up with some peculiar accusation all the time trying to prove how worthless their rival parties could be, and never looked back on their own flaws, let alone confessing or saving

'Joy Bangla', 'Bangladesh Zindabad', and 'Narae Takdir clearly point out the partition between three groups of extremist politicians. These three slogans and their significance can easily amount to an endless quarrel which is actually meaningless and a dissipation of time.

Ex-president Ziaur Rahman (who, though killed by a military coup, is called a shaheed by his fellow supporters) is the worst leader from Awami League followers' point of view. and to BNP. Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman is the most awful ruler. Nobody gets any credit from the opponents, no matter how much they have con-tributed in our Liberation War.

Jamaat-e-Islami, the orthodox, pro-Islamic fanatic party, supported Pakistanis in 1971, moreover they have helped them to slaughter three million Bangladeshis (or should I write Bangalis? Both of them resemble the countrymen of Bangladesh and mean the same . to me) — that is an indelible

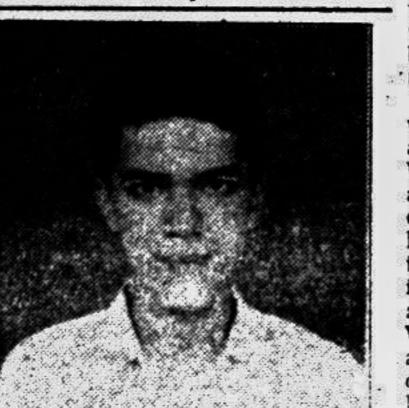
But are Jamaatis repentant for that or have they ever admitted their guilt? On the contrary, they are now attacking the memorials of the war and trying to demolish all the records. They now dominate a major part of the villagers and most of the mosques and the madrasas. What will happen if they somehow become the ruling party? Will they leave any records of the past uncorrupted, whereas they have already started to destroy them?

Now all the political parties need to end their disputes over the past, they should give up the habit of manipulating history and forget all the controversies thereof,

They should be launching programmes that will guide to our betterment. It has been quite a long time; Bangladesh must come out of the poverty and under-development image. In order to do that, the mainstream political parties must create a congenial atmosphere and must uproot every anti-Bangladesh beliefs.

Here are two students' reaction when they were asked to write about their opinion on the recent political crisis.

Samik Barua Architecture Department. BUET



WHAT is a farmer thinking right now as everything is shut-down including the distribution of fertiliser? What will he do with all the highpriced fertiliser if the growing season passes away? Today in this time of political unrest the higher middle class and the extreme upper class might stock food in their refrigerators, but who knows, they might also be affected by this wind tomorrow. It is not the farmer alone who is suffering. the whole country seem to be disintegrated with economic failure and bankruptcy.

The present political situation has not grown overnight, it is the result of about two years of political dilemma which mainly happened because of the dishonour and disrespect to each other's opinion. In the past, we saw the intellectuals always thought of the people's welfare, but they are also divided now, giving one-eyed opinion in favour of their own political affiliations. This does no good. It cannot resolve the political unrest throughout the country causing lots of bloodshed and woes to the people. The 15th February election and so-called re-elections are only the out-

N Bangladesh the system

of public examination is

age-worn and defective.

The result is that our standard

of education is on the decline.

The situation is at present so

miserable that in many cases

foreign countries don't

recognise degree/diploma

awarded by our universities

self, four education boards set

different types of questions for

the same examinations. Here.

again, the students under dif-

ferent boards do not enjoy

equal treatment and this puts

them in an adverse situation in

admission tests taken by dif-

ferent boards and universities.

That's why many people

think that it's not a fair system

to judge the merit of the stu-

dents of all boards. And the

percentage of successful exam-

inces vary in different boards

and universities creating dis-

appointment and discontent

among them in as far as their

choice of colleges and varsities

for higher studies is con-

To eliminate this discrimi-

nation, the government has

recently decided to set same

question papers for H. S. C.

Even within the country it-

and boards.

come of the series of mockery and lies that have been going on for about two years. Unless we resolve them. Bangladesh will be in serious trouble, left behind in the race of the nations worldwide.

We have mixed up truth with lies, what's happening and what should be happening. We are sick and tired of lies and are waiting for the truth to come out and triumph. We still hear bombs and crackers blasting on the streets, people dying with bullet-wounders and all anxious about the future. Would our springtime pass away only with the memories of sleepless agony of nights. heavy with the smell of explo-

Nándini Saha Chowdhury Holy Cross College.



OUR national politics has changed the actual definition of democracy. In our country. democracy is not the government by the people, for the people or of the people. Here the term 'people' is replaced by the self-seeking politicians which is causing the inter-collision among them at this moment. In the current situation, the present ruling party is acting to protect the Constitution whereas the opposition is stubborn on their demand of 'caretaker government' as well

as for the downfall of the present government. They are taking actions like hartals. strikes, non-cooperation movements and pushing our economy to a path of great misery. I am very confused about their actions. Because if they are so sure of the effects. of these actions, why haven't they taken this sort of programme to check the terrorism in the educational institutions which costs so many valuable lives? The people of the country would surely feel more relieved if terrorism can he stopped than having the caretaker government.

cent of our voters are politically ignorant. They cast their vote in exchange of money or obeying the orders of their employers. Caretaker governs ment will not be able to make up for the lack of political education among the rural people. Again, this political movement is giving chance to the autocrats and fundamentalists to re-establish in our national politics. Even Awami League which has fought against them just a while ago. accepted them as companions. These will cause great harm not only to our socio-economic structure but also to our future politics. On the other hand, the obstinate attitude of the ruling party not to agree with the opposition is creating a terrible crisis.

. Moreover, about 60 per

In a democratic country, every conscious adult has the right to elect an eligible and reliable ruler for the country. But now as almost all the politicians are moving for selfinterest rather than the welfare of the country, we are facing a problem not to find such individuals. I believe that a national leader needs to be well-educated, honest, selfconfident, generous and ready to make sacrifice for the welfare of the people. He/she must have the power and prudence to take the right decision in time which in our country is very rare. In this context, I remember

a true incident that took place

in former Soviet Union. Once there was a great famine in a part of Russia. Because the railway labourers were in a strike, food supply to that area was not possible. There was no time to discuss and meet their demands. The then honourable ruler of Russian Union asked the labourers to call off the strike. The starving people had got the first priority of Lenin. Then, Lenin, who was one of the greatest leaders of working people of all times ordered to apply force to prevent the workers from creating obstacles to food movement. That immediate decision saved many lives. I am sure that the person who will rule the nation strictly in this way to benefit the majority will be the right kind of leader for us. Until and unless we get such a self-less and brave leader, we can't ask for a better tomor-

wouldn't drag the problem to this stage. I would eradicate it at the first stage. I would surely admit the need for a caretaker government and thank the opposition to realise its value and make me aware of. this. On the contrary, if I were one of the opposition. I would try my best to make others realise the necessity of caretaker government. Our politics is too much city-based. I would have change that. If the people are aware of its necessity they would certainly gain their demand at any cost as it happened in 1971. The politicians must realise that people have elected them to work for the people's betterment, not to destroy it as they are doing now. Do our politicians have no other measures to take but to see the disaster and accuse one another for causing it?

If I were a leader today, I

The Wayfarers of Darkness

Who will rescue the young generation from the vast ocean of frustration, asks Rumana Parveen

E the teenagers are standing between the carefree, unconcerned life of childhood and the highly competitive future with bitter reality. This is the time to draw the line between future and now, and to be prepared for its depiction. To cross the ocean of life, we need a compass which should be made of ethics and moral

Ideals and precept may differ person to person but their exact form is basically same. and that is, humanity which is formed with intellect, conscience, non-discrimination. honesty, devotion and progressiveness — to do good to society and to make human life propitious and successful.

Though unfortunate, it's true that moral ethnics are gradually vanishing from the present-day society. They are outcasts having no place, demand or honour in the society. As a result, the present generation has become bewildered and deviated. The helmsmen of the society do not bring

NOTICE

The article "Can Statesmanship Triumph Over Folly?" by Rehman Sobhan that appeared yesterday in this page was written before March 2, 1996. So it did not touch upon the developments taking place since

forward any specimen or moral philosophy as can be followed by us. The violation of ethics and ideals in every step is procreating a disorientated gener-

ation. We have forgotten the true precept of learning long ago when it was the time to acquire knowledge and to attain humanity. Backwardness of syllabus, anarchy in administration, low standard, insufficient opportunity of getting education, corruption, lack of good teachers and moreover terrorism at the educational institutes have annihilated the morals of education. So we are opting to acquire only certificates as the ideal of learning. Incidentally comes the

topic of professional life. irresponsibility, corruption, misuse of power, nepotism and so on eclipsed all the professions. The social surroundings are beyond discussion. Moral degradation, selfishness, malice and envy, dispute and quarrel, gradually-increasing crime, extreme decline of law and order, extinction of justice, deception, terrorism and rule of "might-is-right" have turned the society incompetent for living. The ideals of 'this' society is to live and kill. to sink in your own thoughts and to make your own material

Again, a part of the society is killing each other by committing fatal crimes and drug addictions. Our generation is frustrated, because we cannot have any destination of our life

DO YOU RENT ROOMS?



Cloudy, cloudy future: Rescue us

living is such a society where the value of honesty is discarded everywhere. We see that the lessons of morality we learnt in educational institutions have no connection with reality .

Being successors of an eminent history, tradition and culture we should have a great precept and specimen of our own, but we don't have any. We don't know which way we should head. When the direction is unknown, the very existence of the path is futile and no goal can be reached by walking along that path. How will, we get the trace of true and auspicious life?

Being perplexed, we, the thirsty of light, are turning into the wayfarers of darkness. We are adopting those ideals and ethies as the provender of

our way of life that are descending and even inimical to true ideals of humanity. We are walking along a blind lane that has no destination. Very soon. we would sink being pushed by

their presence. When moral othics are proved futile in social and national life: how can we practice them in our life? Nothing can be more unfortunate than living in such a society as ours.

the granite wall of infinite vac-Who will rescue us from this vast ocean of frustration and bewilderness? And real life, we become dismayed and dejected about future life. If seems that truth, honesty and morality have no existence in reality. They are found only in books. We talk about them but never practise them or feel

> exam (from 1996) for all the boards of the country. The government has also decided to discourage speculation in preparation for the exams, which consists in selective reading and thereby restraining the students from forming a true and real foundation of knowledge. To this end in view repetition of previous year's questions has been fore-

> > put on broad reading.

But the introduction of this new method of test-taking has created fear and confusion among the examinees of this year. Their anguish has been manifested recently in resorting to violent activities. Most of them are of the opinion that the sudden introduction of superficial change will result into more failures in the examination which will ultimately bring about national loss and squeezing opportunities for higher education.

cast and emphasis has been

To investigate the outcome of these decisions among the students the "Voices" team has conducted a survey among 400 students of 20 different col-

The first question was to find out wether the decision of unifying questions of the HSC examination of all boards right or wrong?

Forty point nine per cent voted positively and welcomed

the introduction of the new system spontaneously, 59.1 per cent were not convinced with the idea of it.

Judging the Age-worn and Deflective

The second question was about its timing 15.9 per cent agreed that this system should be applied from this very year of 1996. Others (84.1 per cent) demanded that they needed. more time to get prepared psychologically and practically for a radical change like this, it just cannot be adopted overnight. They exclaimed "why us? Why should we be the scapegoats?"

Thirdly, we asked the candidates of HSC '96 about their coming exam and its preparation, 43.18 per cent are confident to finish their required preparation in due time. For the remaining 56.82 per cent students at a harmilian task and they are atract they might not accomplish their desired preparation within due time.

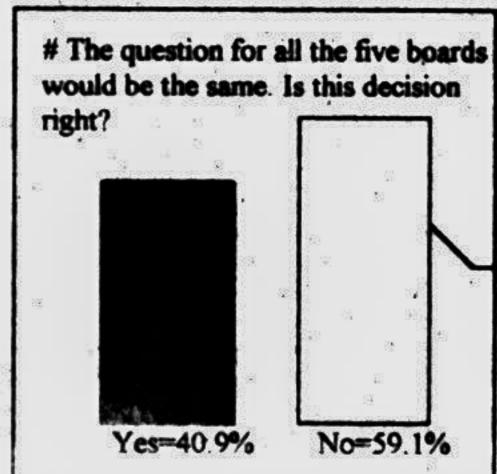
When it came to the question of standard, 34 per cent predicted the standard would raise. 34 per cent conveyed their feelings that it would be the same as before 32 per cent fears it may get worse.

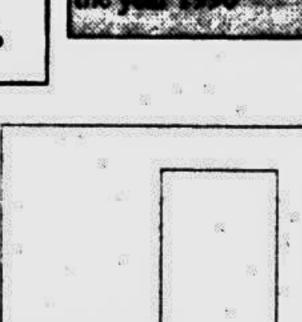
The most vulnerable point on which the whole career of a student depends, is the admission test which determines his/her future profession and the life ahead of him/her. At this point, 70.4 per cent unanimously demanded to have a separate admission test disregarding their numbers achieved in the HSC.

From this survey, it is evident that most of the students realise the necessity of this more competitive and better education system. The state and souring old system groans for a change. But this changes should not occur radically. The students need to be well aware of the changes in proper time so that they can prepare themselves accordingly. The authorities need to undergo detail discussions and proper plannings about correct education system instead of jumping and switching from one system to another every year and turning the students into ginipigs for their experiments.

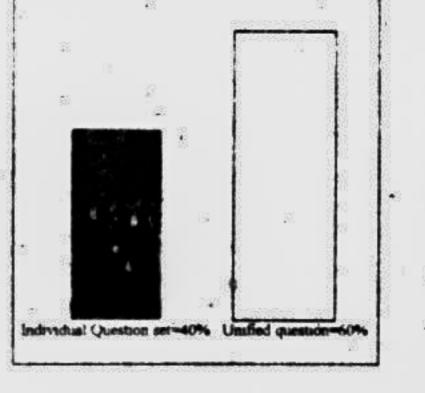
However, the present Education Secretary has assured that the HSC Batch '96 won't face any inconvenient situation in their coming exam. We surely hope so! We also wish all the candidates very best of their luck!

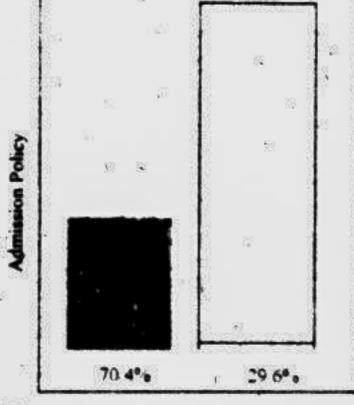
> Samina Husain and Tubaishi Rubab Matin





SOUR PRISON THE





COLLEGE CORRIDOR

It's a Party Time

The students of University Laboratory School who passed the SSC in 1994 organised a re-union party in a local restaurant on 7th of this month. Almost all the students of the batch attended the re-union and they had a lot of fun there.

New Executive Body in DCDC

On the 1st March the 2nd executive committee of Dhaka College Debating Club handed over the power to the newly-selected executive members of DCDC. The new executive-committee members of Dhaka College Debating Club are Mustafa Ahmed Ali (president). Anik (vice-president), Tanvir Ahmed Bappy (secretary general). Noman (asst. secretary general). Muntahi (press & publication secretary), Riad (organising secretary), Pulin (treasurer). There are also six executive members in this executive committee.

In a press release issued by Bangladesh Debate Federation. president Shamsul Kabir and secretary general Imran Khan congratulated the new body of DCDC.

We are in Picnic

Although winter is over, some people are going to picnic. The students of Class XII of Vigarunnisa Noon College went for a picnic on 7th of this month. They had a lot of fun there.

SSC Exam and World Cup

The education board of Bangladesh has announced the SSC examinations routine. This exam will start from 26th of this month. So the candidates of different schools are passing a very hard time because the exam is at doorstep, they can't enjoy the Wills World Cup. Good luck. candidates.







