

VOICES ... Young People Speak Out

Paralysed Generation

by Dilara Begum

An opinion given by a writer in The Daily Star on August 22, 1996 horrified me. This respectable lady encouraged the prevailing negligence of English in our country. I request to all, please do not turn us into perverts. Your generation spoiled us, experimented on and with us, played guinea-pig with us. But now is the time stop that.

One side condemns us for not knowing English, and other side does not find us to be honest to our mother language. One aspect the elders don't know that now we are trying our best to learn the both. Your generation created this Sonar Bangla for us in which we do not have enough money to pay for learning better English. But we certainly need it. Why? I with my full respect to her want to say that I think this writer still lives in a remote world and is far from reality. She said that for a few jobs we needed to know English. Please look around, and just look at a job advertisement in the daily Ittefaq regularly. Even a cook have to know English to get him or herself a job.

In every job, no matter what the salary is, the requirement is always "spoken and written" English. May be your generation had a nice life without knowing English but we certainly cannot afford to do so. These days, we have to know English, have to have experience, pleasant personality, have to be attractive, smart, pretty, etc. I found an ad of a job wherein the company requested that only the sons and daughters of dignitary should apply. What do you now say, dear elder generation?

If you are computer literate, I need not explain to you how complex is the Bangla keyboard - Bijoy Bangla. Standard Bangla and so on.

I know how a power generator works and this is sufficient for me. I do not need to know the Bengali meaning of 'power

generation. We are already 300 years backward in science and technology than all the other countries, please do not push us back into another 300 years. Now I want to mention a different point. Everyone is aware of the so-called "set-code" problem and much have been said about that. I was very much attentive when our education minister, a much-felicited ex-CSP officer said in the House: "Whom to blame - the examiner, the computer or the students, obviously the students. I want to know Mr Sadeque: What about the invigilators in the rooms who were to help the students?"

Our PM termed us the age group of 21-27 as 'paralysed'. We are not aware of our real history because it was not included in our textbooks. Textbooks are not the only way for us to know the history. Besides textbook we read other books, we always hear from our parents, we also read out our parents' and relatives' faces. There are some of the stone inscriptions always ready for us. Will you agree with me that this is the only nation in which a PM declares the "most creative generation" as "paralysed generation"? Will we keep our eyes closed when our Taka is devalued in every month and our beloved university is closed? From December to January we observed hartals and non-cooperation. The whole month of March, we enjoyed non-cooperation, later the election etc. Now we have got a schedule for example, but we are scared. For a general student like me, normally in educational institutions means whether I can attend classes, whether I can sit for exams in time. These rights were preserved during the tenure of our ex-VM Emdajuddin Ahmed. Now all our educational expenses are increased and we spent this year doing almost nothing. How can we bear the extra expenses and how can we live doing nothing?

about 'world literature and philosophy' is also true. We never denounced this fact; instead we accepted and listened to everything - in a very orthodox manner - what they had been telling (or preaching?) to their progeny. We always took them for granted that "they are the ones" who can and will direct us to even a better state of knowledge which will make our

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present pathetic state... istrative reform comm... est of those involved... mentation of numbers of... istrative system took plac... atees after committees to... ight of the day and the...

50-50: What do you have to say?

Who is paralysing? Everyone blames our generation. Okay, PM if we are paralysed (or paralysed by someone), then please kill us one-by-one and then make a healthy (not paralysed) 0-20 and 28-infinity age-groups. If you can make a better future for this country in doing that, the departed souls of these age-groups will be happy. Everyone shouts in the loudest voice terming our generation as frustrated toll-collectors, drug addicts, so on... But is there anybody to hear us what we want to say? If anybody wants to know what we want, we certainly need a leader who is serious about it. We want an honest and patriot leader. We had a leader. Everyone agreed on that and also agrees that when he was brutally murdered, his family was found to have possessed nothing. Nor any of his relations possessed anything illegal. It is really surprising and unbelievable fact that after ruling a corrupted Third World country for four years he had nothing. I know there is much debate about him that he killed thousands of army-men, armed that he was not actually the announcer of the independence etc. But we, the 21-27 age-group, believes that honesty and patriotism should get the top priority. Does this belief PARALYSED us? None but the PM knows.

Now I want to conclude requesting our seniors, do not underestimate and neglect the post-Liberation generation. We are not frustrated toll-collectors and drug addicts - we want to serve this nation hand in hand.

The writer studies physics at Dhaka University.

Politics and Prejudice

by Md. Shakhawat Hossain

Living emphasis on law and order, the Prime Minister has urged the opposition to cooperate with her government in establishing a society free from corruption and terrorism when these two social diseases have already gripped the whole country. She also said there would be no compromises with terrorists and terrorism.

Home Minister Major (rtd) Rafiqul Islam has also said a new policy to eliminate terrorism and to ensure security of life would be formulated after a couple of weeks. But with the passing of time, law and order in the country is deteriorating day by day. At least 55 people were killed and several education institutions, including four medical colleges were closed down within first 19 days of the new government after taking charge. So, the real picture of law and order in the country is really grim.

That PM and Home Minister sought to root out terrorism and corruption has slightly delighted us as we are living in an unrest society where normal life has become a matter of dream because of the everyday violence throughout the country. Hearing both PM and Home Minister, we are delighted and hopeful, but that is not enough.

A number of efforts were also made by the previous governments to root out terrorism and to recover illegal arms, but all of their actions ended in smoke because of unknown reasons. Military were also deployed but their attempts again went in vain. That is why, we cannot be delighted and hopeful enough.

Development of law and order and eradication of terrorism from every stage of society is a must for ensuring an atmo-

sphere congenial for normal life and also for national development. We know overall development of law and order fully depends on the performance of our law enforcing authority mainly consisted with police and the Administration. But this authority could not be able to play a vital role to improve the situation by removing terrorism from the society. There is yet to see any successful role of the law enforcing authority in this regard.

Realising the present problems of police, the Home Minister has said police department would be restructured, if needed. It is easy to find out the problem as to existing structure of the police department, if we look at the thana level. At least 11 first-class government officers of various departments are engaged in almost every thana whereas there is no first-class officer from the police at thana level. No doubt, the nature of police job is wider and multi-dimensional than other departments working at thana level. Officer-in-charge known as OC, is the chief of thana police. It is mentionable that there is at least one gazetted officer at the administration, land, agriculture, livestock and

even at fisheries department. An inspector of police who is a second-class officer, feels a little bit of accountability for his responsibilities when he takes the charge of a thana as an OC. It is also unfortunate to have no post, which is higher to OC, for better supervision at the thana level. Obviously, the job dimension of an OC is more diversified and expanded than other first-class officers working at the thana level. An OC who is actually an inspector, is paid under the salary-scale of Tk. 2300... whereas the salary scale of a TNO, top-most man in administration at thana level, is at least Tk 4800... and the highest scale of a TNO is Tk. 6300...

This existing problematic structure of police creates another problem in their everyday work. Both police and administration have to work together for restoring law and order. But there is a communication gap between these two departments. There is a huge gap in the hierarchy as well. The highest person in police at thana level is officer-in-charge, only a second-class officer, whereas the supreme man of the administration is TNO. Another problem regarding

present structure of police is the direct appointment of a first-class officer at the district level. Without having no practical experiences at the grassroots or thana level, a BCS police officer is now being appointed ASP just after completing a couple of month's training course at the Police Academy. It is also an illogical and unwise matter as grassroots experience is a must for a policeman to realise the importance of such kind of multi-dimensional job.

According to Police Rule of Bengal, 66 per cent from BCS and 33 per cent from inspectors working as Officers-in-Charge should be appointed for the post of ASP. But unfortunately, this rule have not been following for the last 10 years, as most of the ASP have now been appointed only from BCS cadre. So, for the sake of raising inspiration among the policemen, we should start to apply this rule by maintaining the given percentage for the appointment of ASP.

It is more than difficult for our police alone to restore law and order. They must need the help of local people to bring the overall situation under control. Local community involvement is another vital aspect for removing violence from the grassroot level and for developing law and order of the country. But there is a huge distinction between police and public. So, we should have to try to reduce the gap between police and the local people by arranging frequent meetings and many other programmes with local community with a view to getting the positive help from them in arresting terrorists and removing local violence.

Views expressed in this write-up are the writer's own.

Cashing In on 21st Century

by Farhana Islam

We all have heard about the big promise 'Education for All by the year 2000' - a resolution adopted by the World Summit on Education for All, held in Jomtein, Thailand, in 1990. Yet, standing where we are now - only 4 years away from the 21st century, one cannot stop wondering whether this great 'dream' will ever be fulfilled.

In the context of Bangladesh the hopes and expectations of being a truly educated nation are more distanced. Despite, all our setbacks, I, as a part of the young generation cannot simply give up in despair. The 'new era' that I yearn for is not merely the revolving of a hundred years into the next century, but an era of a truly resourceful education system in Bangladesh.

An increasing number of students at the pre-university level, especially high school and college levels, doubt whether the subjects they learn will ever be of any use in their future lives. Taking the example of a compulsory subject like 'agriculture' at the SSC level for male students, it is easy to comprehend how inapplicable this subject will be in future life, unless he wants to be come a farmer. The politicians put a lot of baseless sentimentality into this matter, not considering the future consequences. Therefore,

our syllabi should be designed in such a way that whatever we study in our pre-university levels can be applied in our later stages of academic and professional lives.

Mainly three types of education i.e., Bangla and English mediums, and Madrasa systems in our country which categorise students from the beginning of their academic life, create long-term prejudice and discrimination. Every child must have the right to be educated in the same way up to high school level - in my opinion, it is up to Grade six.

The syllabus, if designed in a way which introduces all areas of learning to a student will be most beneficial, creating awareness of the wide range of opportunities that lie ahead of them. Students must be kept up-to-date especially in their fields of learning.

Returns, or students who have returned home after staying abroad for a few years are often left no option but to attend English medium schools because of their deficiency in Bangla. These students should be given the opportunity to study in public schools where teachers provide special classes emphasising on the areas they lack.

Students, who wish to

choose particular professions, should be provided with the basic and practical know-how of the profession, field-trips, assignments etc., can be a part of this programme.

Cultural diversity is one of the realities of today's complex world. Students at the primary level who come from different cultural backgrounds should be given the opportunity to express themselves. In this regard, show-and-tell lectures will enable them to know about and appreciate other cultures. All the Bangla textbooks from grade 7 onwards should also be available in their English translations.

Telecommunication networks is vital for the next century, especially in education. Telecommunications is viewed as an important component in addressing many education problems and needs. The value of interactivity in a live distance-learning context is that it allows pupils to communicate with teachers in a manner similar to face-to-face classroom communication. This enhances the learners' interest in the content.

Adult education in the rural areas, influential people like the chairmen of the unions, the village religion preachers etc., can play a vital role in motivat-

ing the villagers towards a mass literacy programme. Instead of formal institutionalised education, a non-formal system of teaching, for example, the programmes extended by the NGOs of our country are more effective in spreading the light of knowledge to rural adults. The focus of this type of education should be life-oriented that can be applied to their daily lives, i.e., agriculture, nutrition, health, childcare etc.

As human beings are the best of Allah's creation, 'education' is one of their fundamental rights it is not the duty of any individual but the duty of us all as a nation to irradiate illiteracy in, if not by the next century. The intellectual elite and moneyed people have a great deal of responsibility in this regard. Above all, we need our politicians to keep their heads cool and be more considerate about our future. There are scores of ways these 'classes' can help open inquisitive minds. This way they will not only be educating everybody but also be investing in the future of Bangladesh.

Without the initiative - who knows? We might just be missing 'Education' - the right to knowledge.

The writer is an Honours student of English at University of Dhaka

Teach Us the Right Stuff, 'Mr Papa'

by Iffat Parveen

We feel let-down when you people think us to be 'illiterate' in every respect

FINE: our elders - meaning our progenitors of the '60s, and later, of the post-independence period - have all kinds of knowledge very well-conceived (according to them) which we don't have.

That they were taught 'correct' languages, both Bangla and English, is true; that they understand more science than us is true; that they know more

about 'world literature and philosophy' is also true. We never denounced this fact; instead we accepted and listened to everything - in a very orthodox manner - what they had been telling (or preaching?) to their progeny. We always took them for granted that "they are the ones" who can and will direct us to even a better state of knowledge which will make our

destination fulfilled.

But unfortunately they did not what were expected from them. Whether they failed (or didn't want to) is still a big question mark before us. Now the same lot - from the country's prime minister to our bosses and superiors at the offices to our fathers and mothers - bracket us to be half-educated, half-witted generation,

perplexed and distracted from everything that Life and Nature have in their thresholds.

You don't value our ideas and philosophy - you disregard what we call poetry, what we call politics, and even what we call love. So, what exactly is it - what all - you want us to do? Why don't you teach us, dear path finders?

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Tuesday 10th September (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes).

BTU 3:00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary 3:10 Recitation From the Gesta 3:15 Documentary Film: Cinema Europe 4:00 News in Bangla 4:15 Esho Para Shikhi 4:45 Cartoon Series: The Animals of Parthlingwood 5:00 News in Bangla 5:20 Sangeeta: Modern Songs 6:00 News in Bangla 6:05 National Television Debate Competition 7:00 The News 7:05 Open University 7:25 Comedy Series: Seinfeld 8:00 News in Bangla 8:40 Drama Serial 10:00 News in English 10:30 Apan Priya 10:55 Mini Series 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Wednesday's programme 11:40 Close down

BBC 6:00am BBC Newsroom inc.

World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 7:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 8:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 9:00 BBC World News 1:15 Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: The Farnborough Air Show 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 4:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00 BBC World News 6:15 The Money Programme 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:30 Time Out: The Travel Show 9:00 BBC World News 9:15 Panorama 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Building Sights 11:00 The World Today 1:30 BBC World Headlines 1:35 Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Airport 3:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Hours 4:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia To-

day/24 Hours 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newnight

CHANNEL V 6:30am Frame By Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Jump Start VJ Trey 9:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:30By Demand VJ Trey 1:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 2:30 First Day First Show 3:00 The Indian Top 10 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 By Demand VJ Trey 5:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 6:30pm Planet VJ Alessandra 8:00 Planet Ruby 9:00 The Vibe10:00 First Day First Show 10:30 Soul Curry 11:00 Speak Easy 11:30 The Vibe VJ Trey 12:00am Over The Edge VJ Sophia 12:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 Haysan 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Bill Board US Countdown

STAR PLUS 6:30am Volttron 7:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 7:30 G.I. Joe 8:00 Sabar Rider And The Star Sheriff 8:30 The New Adventures Of Black Beauty 9:00 Aerobics Oz Style 9:30 Charles in Charge 10:00 Mr Balvedere 10:30 Yan Can Cook 11:00 El TV 11:30 Gabrielle 12:30 Santa Barbara 1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 2:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 3:00 Remington Steele 4:00 Yan Can Cook 4:30 El TV 5:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 5:30 The New Adventures Of Black Beauty 6:00pm Lost In Space 7:00 Home and Away 7:30 Charles in Charge 8:00 MASH 8:30 Chicago Hope 9:30 The Extraordinary 10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 11:00 Santa Barbara 12:00am The New Twilight Zone 12:30 Baywatch 1:30 Kriket 2:30 El TV 3:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 4:00 Hooperman 4:30 Home and Away 5:00 The Sullivan 5:30 Gabrielle

STAR Sports 7:30am Tiger Cup 1996 Group A Cambodia vs Laos From Jirong 9:30 International Motor-sports News 10:30 Indonesian Open Day 3 2:30 Asia Sports



Chicago Hope on Star Plus, Tonight at 8:30

Show 3:30 The Asian Football Show 4:00 KENT Beach Volleyball 4 Man Fm Hong Kong 5:30 Formula One World Championship Italian Grand Prix From Italy 7:00pm Same Day Delay Tiger Cup 1996 Group B Malaysia vs Brunei From Nat. Stadium 9:30 World Superbike Championship 1996 Netherlands 10:30 Cricket '96 Natwest Trophy Finals 5:30 Inside PGA Tour

ZEE TV 5:30 Suno Bhai Sadho 6:00 The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 ZED 8:30 Hum Honge Kaamyaab 9:00 insight 9:30 Gaane Anjaane 10:00 Namaste India 10:30 Graviera Ki Umeed 11:00 Close Up Antakshri 11:30 Nirma Aasha 12:00 Tol Mor Ke Bol 12:30 Mr Mirto 1:00 ZED 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:30 Kunsukshya 3:30 Zalka Ke Safer 4:00 Nerolac Aashiyans 4:30 Aur Ek Minute 5:00 ZED 5:30 Cartoons 6:00 Positive Health Show 6:30

STAR MOVIES 7:30am Horror: Invitation To Hell 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Action: Lethal Charm 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Musical: Meet Me After The Show PG (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Classic: All About Eve G (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Film Club: Love Field 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Romance: Love At Large 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Family: The Peanut Butter Solution PG (Hindi Subtitles) 9:00 Hollywood 1 On 1

Through The Gears 7:00 Captain Cook Shaahi Dawat 7:30 Gaane Anjaane 8:00 Aap Ki Pasand 8:30 Hum Paanch 9:00 Sallaab 9:30 Tara 10:00 Hasrat-ein 10:30 The News 11:00 Gharouda 11:30 Dastana 12:00 Darrar 12:30 TVS Sa Re Ga Ma 1:30 Galaxzee 2:00 Arabic Programme 2:30 TMM 4:00 Surtal 4:30 Hum Zaameen 5:00 Jagran

EL TV 00:30am Helen Special 01:30 Music Time 02:30 Chad Chad 03:30 Jazzbaat 04:30 Bacche Man Ke 05:30 Helen Special 06:30 Music Time 07:00 Chad Chad 08:30 Jazzbaat 09:30 Bacche Man Ke 10:30 Ajab

PTV 8:00 am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Beauty Care

11:30 Newslite 12:00 Meri Marzi 12:30 Kamaal Combination 1:00 Amitabh Bacchan Special 2:00 Music Time 3:00 Karz 3:30 Abhinavi 4:00 Khal Bhi Aaj Bhi 4:30 Unpanyas 5:00 It's My Choice 5:30 Dil Dekhe Dekhe 6:00 Darmandra Special 7:30 Daane Anar Ke 8:00 Film Chaat 8:20 Hasen Pal 8:30 Number 1 9:00 Ortem Hit The Hit 9:30 Instinct Purnahshetra 10:30 Stand by Me 10:40 Salsal 11:00 Mooly Usha Uthup Show 11:30 Follere Chalo Cinema 12:00 Akanksha

8:50 Fun Kadha 9:10 Dhanak & Health Tips 10:05 Har Taan Heli Deepak 10:30 English Film: Home Improvement 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Anila (Serial) 12:00 Sports Hour 12:55pm Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 The Science Show 2:00 Yeh Jahan (Music video) 2:25 Animated Classics 3:15 Geography & Gammar School 4:20 Mifti Sona 5:00 Allah Huma Labbaik 5:25 Qabhi Mein Soochta Hoen (Drama Serial) 6:25 Aou Courses 7:00 Dhanak 7:45 English News 8:15 UN Quiz 8:45 Jab (Drama Serial) 9:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabrainama 11:20 VCD Top Ten (Pakistan Video Countdown) 12:30 Dr. Qun Medicine Women (Jeon Saymon) 1:35 Khas Khas Khabrain Close down

8:30am Gaane Jaane Maane 9:00 The Three Stooges 9:30 Dennis The Menace 10:00 Dream Of Jeannie 10:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 11:00 Pechan 12:30 Kismet 1:00 Zamin Asman 1:30 Mere Message Meri Geet 2:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 4:30 Jai Bir Hanuman 5:00 10 Civil Lines 5:30 The Three Stooges 6:00

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Mere Message Meri Geet 6:30 Dennis The Menace 7:00 Premier 7:30 Dream Of Jeannie 8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 Cine-Prime-Hindi Feature Film 11:00 The Young And Restless 11:30 Chamatkar 12:00 Open Jaise Times 12:30 Jeevan Mita 1:00 Sunday Ki

Sunday 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed

DD 7 10:00 Janmadin 10:35 Classical Music 11:00 Ghare Baire 12:30 Prachin (Serial) 1:00 Janani (Serial) 1:30 TBA 2:00 TBA 2:30 Belayan (Serial) 3:00 TBA/Nirjan Dupure Premier Gaan 3:00 Dk Darshan 5:05 Science Prog -Bigan Prasange

5:30 News 6:00 Palli Katha 6:30 Chitrangali 7:00 Amake Dekhun 7:30 Bangla Sambad 7:55 Dinandin 8:00 Param Purnam Ramkrishna 8:30 Naan 9:00 Janani 9:30 Jeeban Setu 10:00 Bangali Movie Club Film Show 1:00 Closed

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