

Each of them stated their reasons for joining the War, at which point arose questions about patriotism and the role of language and where we stand. At this point, Col. Nazrul Islam took over and waxed eloquent on the subject of culture and upbringing in the role of developing patriotism in Bangladesh.

The fervent atmosphere of the event encouraged the guests to answer as many of the eager questions as possible, many of which included queries as to why the war took place in the first place, what the situation of East Pakistan during that period was like, the issue was of hate that still exists, the concept of "Muktijuddher Chetona", and even one student's uncertainty, "whether it makes me unpatriotic if I support the Pakistan team during cricket?". Akku Choudhury articulately wrapped up the session with a very simple, yet moving explanation on the spirit of patriotism- "Muktijuddher Chetona, very simply put, is ones' love for one's country, and this can be expressed in one's own way."

The discussion then ended on a positive note, and was followed by refreshments and photographs. The invited guests expressed their appreciation to the organiser for holding such a discussion and were encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the young participants. HOPE has further plans for their patriotism project, so stay tuned for more news coming soon.

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