

Dear Editor:

The current situation in the Engineering University, a prestigious institution in Bangladesh, is a very frustrating one due to the intransigence of the authority. They have been turning down every proposal and plea made by the students and this lack of sympathy towards the students has caused severe unrest among the students.

Following their refusal to consider any of the students demands the students started boycotting classes. As this institution is run by public money the common people has to know what has been happening there.

A few years ago the authority decided to take class tests regularly. In this institution an academic year consists of two semesters. In each semester classes are usually held for 11 weeks and not more than 13 weeks in any way.

After that there is a preparatory leave for 3 weeks and then the examinations begin and last for one month. In each 11 week (nearly 3 months) classes they take 2 to 3 class tests on each subject. So students are to give  $3 \times 10 = 30$  class tests (taking an average of 10 subjects) during that time.

After they have to sit for another one month's semester examinations. These huge number of tests have always been a nightmare for the students and this causes a great tension among the students which is detrimental to physical and mental growth.

I am a first year student and how much burden those tests put on me they never bother to consider. On Saturday we have physics practical class and have to prepare that practical and make a report a day earlier, because we are to perform the test on our own. On that day there are other classes too and we are supposed to get ourselves prepared for every class by reading the matter earlier.

On Sunday there is a class called model lab and the duration of the class is  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  hours. For nearly two hours we give written test and viva voce and after that there is a lecture of about 30 minutes. To get ready for this classes we spend 4 to 5 hours. On that day there are 3 other class and workshop practice.

On the next day there is civil drawing class and we prepare a drawing sheet before the class and that takes about 3 hours. There are other 5 classes on the day too. Tuesday begins with a class (shop 108) and lasts for  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  hours and after the class oral tests are held.

Next day, among other classes, there is a chemistry practical class ( $2 \frac{1}{2}$  hr), and for that we prepare reports and get ready a day earlier. A holiday of two days follows after that. We have to study mathematics in the holiday and it takes a lot of our time because amid heavy pressures of study we hardly get any time for math before holiday.

So, we hope the reader will understand under how much pressure and tension we study. And if we are to give those 30 tests in three months time it will obviously be a enormous pressure on us.

The student's second demand is that the university should increase the scholarship money. In 1968 they gave 100 taka per month and this has not changed over these 20 years. Prices of other things have increased and the still increasing rapidly but that 100 taka has been a fixed one (!).

Every month, in my case, I need 5 to 6 hundred taka to meet my expenses. Why that much? Because we do not have any bus transport like other universities and I go there by rickshaw or by bus.

Then we have other things to buy such as books, files, drawing sheets, pencils and various equipments. We also have to photo copy books which is very important and all these take ample money. My father is not a millionaire so I have to get some money by helping a student in his lessons. Almost 70% student of BUET do this and the teachers know this fairly well.

When the students protested and demanded the withdrawal of the class tests the authority cited examples of western developed countries. Perhaps we know that in America the tuition fees are too high as we are sometimes informed of. But we also know that almost every student gets 2 to 3 thousand dollars as scholarships and various grants in America. Besides they don't have to worry about anything. They live and grow up in affluence.

When we first stepped into the campus of BUET we found a great respect for teachers there and when the classes started every student stopped talking and absorbed himself in understanding the lecture. No teacher ever complained about the disobedience of the students.

In other institutions students now dare to threaten the teachers which we never did and will never do. Because we really respect and love them. In other educational institutions

## Disorder 2

From Page-2

students boast of getting out from the class room during the lectures.

But I have never seen any one getting out from the class in the middle of a lecture. Because we want to study but we don't want to be over burdened by those class tests. Thinking you;

Yours sincerely  
A student of BUET,  
Dhaka.