

## Letters

All letters to the Editor, The Bangladesh Observer, should be typed with double space and the envelopes containing them should mention specifically the words "Letters Column".

### The English

The bold editorial of the Bangladesh Observer (Aug 20) on English should act as an eye opener to the Bangladeshis. Enough has been said and written on the point and the cry for English has been unending. Therefore the sooner the embargo on English goes the better for the people who really want to build a healthy and prosperous nation free from any obsession. Let us start using English in all spheres of life. Bewailing for Bengali will never bring salvation to the nation. The pundits of Bangla Bhasa could not so far enrich the language. Continuation of normalcy can only contribute to prosperity and nothing else. Healthy growth will never be achieved if we persist in banning English. We all know that there are Bengali speaking people in West Bengal. They learn Hindi as state language, English as second language and then the vernacular. It does not mean that their economic, educational, professional and mental growth have been retarded. Rather the phobia for Bangla and Bangla alone may hinder growth of a very very poor nation like Bangladesh.

So let us shun the ego, the pride and prejudice and learn English to acquire mobility and to acclimatise ourselves to the changing circumstances of the world.

Of course, there are professional intellectuals who want to breathe in Bengali and keep the heart of the nation beating in Bengali and above all to beat their own drums in Bengali but so far the achievement is of no great importance. They have succeeded only in putting the nation in the abyss of linguistic hypertension. They will surely leave the nation intellectually retarded linguistically barren and dependent and mentally hallowed only by the great poet Rabindra Nath Tagore's mysticism which is infinite.

I shall therefore urge the government and the officials to be tolerant and not to throw away everything in English. Let everybody be usual and on his own in the matter of language.

Parents want that their children should be bilingual and the desire is so strong and indomitable that the rich will invariably and of necessity send their children to English medium

schools and poor will curse chauvinism if English is not allowed to be taught to their children.

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### II

Let us be grateful that at last sanity has prevailed. The Government's decision to have English as a second language is a step in the right direction to stop the inevitable slide into oblivion. Other countries have tried isolationism too and realised their folly. Fortunately for us our turn around has come swiftly. BY all means maintain and develop the mother tongue of the majority but let us not be cut off from progress and future technological advancement by our shortsightedness in a very competitive world. Our people should not be put at such a disadvantage and the Government is wise to this.

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