

LETTERS
TO
THE EDITOR

The Bangladesh Times, 1 DIT Avenue, Dhaka 2

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Appeal for
English

Sir.—It is understood that the Syndicate of Dhaka University has decided to withdraw compulsory English from the B. A. (Pass) course. This decision has given rise to serious reaction among teachers, guardians and all who are interested in education though many will definitely nail this decision.

As a result of this decision, the percentage of successful students may rise considerably. There will be more students in attendance but the quality may deteriorate to a very low level.

Many graduates will come out with a poor knowledge of English among whom some are likely to be teachers of English in schools. This will be found to be unsatisfactory in any class because English up to HSC level is quite inadequate.

Necessity to emphasize English is important as an international language. In spite of this there is in Bangladesh a growing anti-English movement among some members of the public. By driving out English from academic life we can arrest our development and do nothing to improve our mother tongue. On the contrary, learning English will be an aid to our own language.

Practically all books of knowledge are in English, and only a few have been translated. Translations are not always dependable & adequate and if any one wants to know the real sense of anything one has to go to the English version.

Currently the Bengali language is being introduced in some government offices. This may be all right where those employed do not know English. In private offices, however, banks, industries, mills, factories and commercial firms the candidates ignorant of English will find no employment. The problem of unemployment therefore will increase and become more critical. If educated people do not know this language we are sure to be retarded. To fight against English might be as good as to fight against knowledge. We need both in our national life. Learning English has already enriched our mother tongue.

In these circumstances I fervently request the Syndicate of Dhaka University to reconsider their decision and re-introduce English in the Degree course (both in pass and honours).

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15.5.84
5.11.8