

Letters to the editor

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Practising Bangla

You are rather modest in your above-captioned editorial in incisively pointing up the now-felt, oft-forgotten urgency for practising Bangla. To be sure, you are right: 'It will do good to Bangladeshis desiring in our national image if our ambassadors or delegation chiefs abroad speak in Bangla on appropriate occasions using interpreters for their dialogues.' Why only abroad, Sir? Even at home, also we sometimes have nice occasions to project before the world, without being branded chauvinistic or jingostic, our love for mother tongue.

The other day the UNICEF chief was interviewed on our television. The interesting part of it is that, knowing very well that we do not follow French, he preferred to answer all his questions in French rather than in English. Could he speak English? Well, when our interviewer, for example, asked him, 'Do you think ...?' It was not necessary for his interpreter to render to him. Croyez-vous que ...? I felt like uttering 'Amra apnar sathe Banglaebalte chai' for the interpreter to tell him 'Nous desirons vous parler en Bangla.'

The light-throwing interview was well conducted. I, however, believe it could have more lively, been placed this way: the interviewer would put questions in Bangla; the interpreter (maybe a Bangali) would translate into English or, better still, into French; the interviewer would answer in French, if he so pleased, and the interpreter (maybe his interpreter) would translate it into English or, better still, into Bangla. What a polyglot beauty!

In practising mother

tongue there is facility, there is facility, there is ease, and there is pride. Let us not wince from practising Bangla even if Spanish or German-speaking interpreters are needed. To wist a famous apothegm: language should be the first resort of a patriot.

EKLAMUR RAZA
Shilpa Rin Sangstha,
Dacca.

Admission into Shaheen School

There should have some rigid principles for admission into any school and the concerned administrative authority should strictly adhere to those for the sake of natural justice and fair play to the admission seekers. Almost all schools of the city seemed to have some principles with regard to the same with the exception of the one-time reputed Shaheen School, Dacca. Last year, they conducted an Admission Test to select students for admission into different classes but to the utter dismay and disappointment of the guardians many deserving students were not selected as the said test was merely an empty show. Only those who, either could influence the authority directly or through his relations or the respective teachers (who examined the scripts) were selected.

The cat came out of the bag as some of the guardians could manage to get their non-selected wards admitted at a later date by resorting to the same practice. As a result many guardians formed an attitude of hatred towards this unwanted policy of the school. This year the school

authority did not conduct any admission test. They only admitted the wards of those who could influence the authority either by dint of their high position or financial power of giving big donation or through some relations of the Principal.

In one sense, this is good as the matter is now crystal clear. Only those people can try for admission who fulfill these special condition without being put to harassment by sending their wards to sit for Admission Test and anxiously awaiting for a frustrating result. The donation system only enables the richer people to get their wards admitted leaving no room for the students belonging to the middle class or the poorer section of people. This kind of practice in educational institutions should not be allowed to go further in a society like ours. Every right-thinking people should stand against it.

There is still another interesting side of the picture. Some guardians are found to be prone not to see any other student admitted as soon as their ones are accommodated through any means fair or foul. This was clearly indicated in the last guardians meet-together on Sunday, January 28, 1979. One lady guardian lodged a strong protest against admission of any other student further on the plea that shortage of space in the class room is a problem for existing students. At this the Principal got enraged and told the meeting in an oblique voice that he was sure that the lady has no other wards left for admission this time. In fact, she has managed to get all her three sons admitted into the school through back-door influence.

Under the circumstances, I would like to request the gov-

ernment to intervene in the matter and urge the concerned authority to frame some well-thought-out principles with regard to the admission for the sake of natural justice and fairplay to all.

ONE WHO KNOWS

Affairs of a college

The Chittagong Engineering College which was established to produce engineers for development of the country has been sitting idle for the last 4 or 5 months after the unhappy incident that took place in October 1978. The students are blaming the College authorities for drastic action against them while the College teachers are blaming the students for their untowardly behaviour.

College teachers decided in January, 1979 to reopen the College but 38 students who were expelled from the College are creating troubles and they have been obstructing other innocent students to join the class on the grounds that the college authorities must withdraw expulsion order.

We the poor guardians, fail to understand why no action has been taken by the high authorities to solve the above crucial problem. We take this opportunity to request the highest authority to kindly intervene and appoint Judges of the High Court to probe into the matter and find out the real culprits so that careers of future architects of Bangladesh are not nipped in the bud.

MR. MOHD. MUSA
Anchorage
2 Reshik Hazari Road
Chittagong.