

# CAMPUS

## Teaching of English

Sameena

A meeting of the Council of Ministers with the President as its head recently took a decision to make English compulsory from class one to class

issue and do something to change the situation. It does not need to be emphasized that the standard of English was much better here during the Pakistan days but

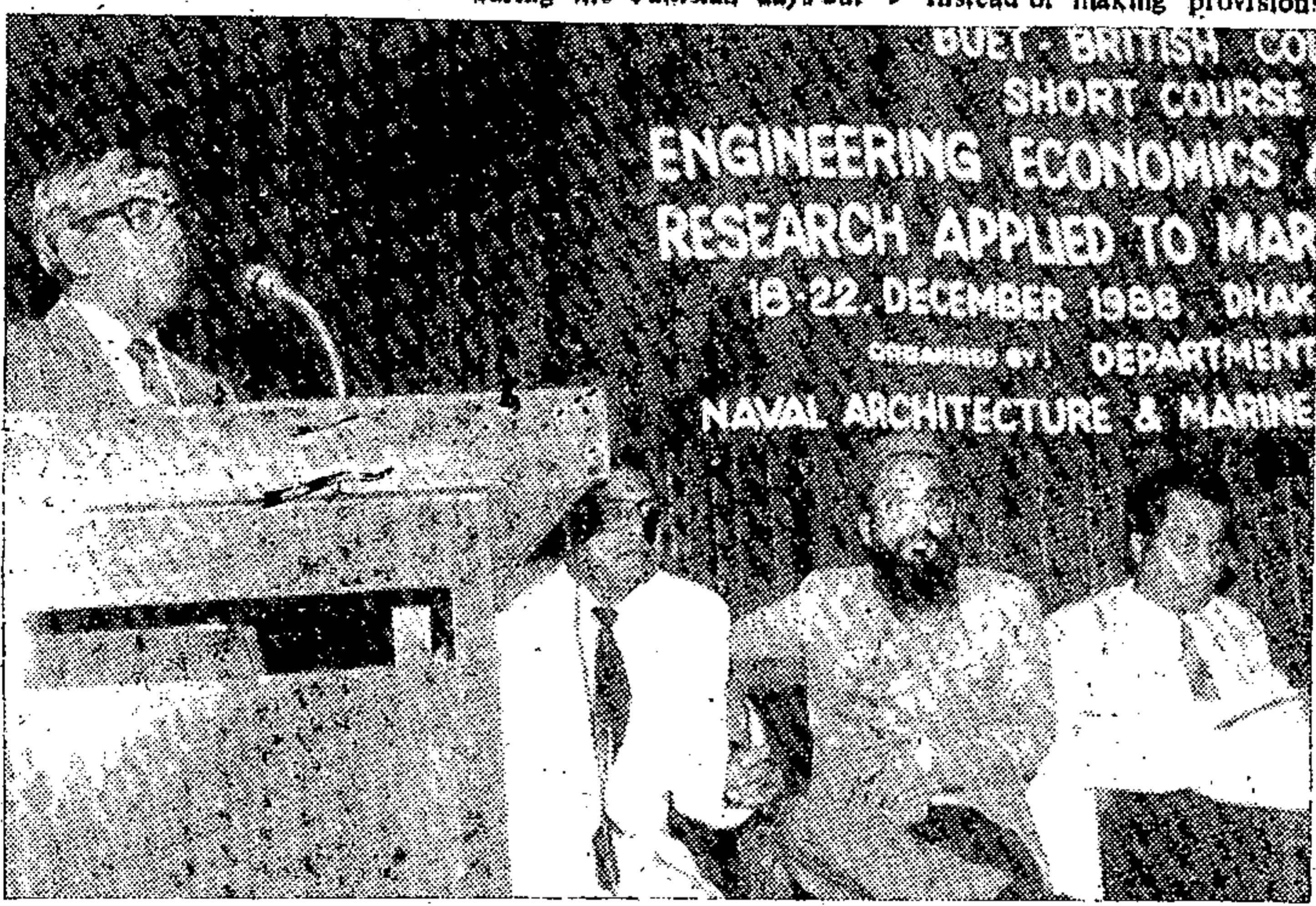
towards English. Suddenly we become all for 'Bangla' overnight. We tried to switch everything to Bangla even teach the technical subjects instead of making provisions

who proceeded abroad for higher studies were the worst sufferers. Their English was so poor that they could not cope abroad and many had to return back home even from India before completing their course. What was happening was that our students did not learn English properly at all, instead they were burdened with an additional load. The failure percentage in English at the SSC and MSC level justifies this assertion.

We hail the decision to make English compulsory at all classes in the school. But we feel nothing worthwhile can be achieved unless and until the quality of English teachers can be upgraded.

The standard of English in the rural area is appalling. Inexperienced, non-qualified teachers teach this subject. Quite naturally the students from an early age develop apathy towards English and do not learn it. So it is not unnatural to find students write, "I am a dog" instead of "I have a dog."

The teachers of English of the school level should be properly trained. From time to time refresher courses should be arranged for them so that they can upgrade their skills. Books suitable for the age group for which they are meant should be written by experienced teachers. Unless we can do this we cannot expect the standard of teaching English to improve, but above but experimentation with language needs to be stopped on a permanent basis and all efforts concentrated to improve it.



Prof. M. H. Khan, Vice-Chancellor, BUET, delivering his speech as chief guest at the inaugural function of a Short Course on "Engineering Economics and Operational Research Applied to Marine Industries" joint organised by BUET and British Council recently.

In our country, English is taught in the Schools as a compulsory subject from class three. But the appalling standard of this international language has forced us to rethink about the whole

after the liberation things have changed. The standard has fallen miserably. Our repeated moves to give importance to Bangla and make it our national language has directly led to our apathy

for translating books in to Bangla. Every February with the coming of the Ekushey we concentrated more and more on Bangla. Gradually English lost its importance. Our students