

Opinion

Bachelor Of English Language Teaching

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I went through an 'Opinion' by Mr. Subrata Kumar Das on the Bachelor of English Language Teaching (BELT) programme of the Bangladesh Open University (BOU) in these columns of the Bangladesh Observer on May 8, 1999. In the opinion of Mr. Das the overall performance of the programme 'proves as simple failure'. In an effort to substantiate his personal view Mr. Das complains mainly of delay in the distribution of books and failure to maintain time-schedule.

As against the assertions of Mr. Das, I should state that all activities related to the programme are going on smoothly. On completion of their second semester, the students of the first batch of BELT programme are attending summer schools ending which they will go for practice teaching. Meanwhile, registration for the third semester has been com-

pleted and classes will begin on June 4, 1999.

His allegation that students are not being properly attended to at the Regional Resource Centres (RRCs), has no basis. The main business of these centres is to extend co-operation and assistance to students and it is for this reason only, they remain open on Fridays as well. If Mr. Das is aware of any specific case of inattention or indolence at any of these centres, he may please bring it to the notice of the authority so that it can take necessary action for amendment.

BOU is not aware of any cassette player of any tutorial centre going out of order. It may be pointed out that BOU does not supply cassetteplayers to tutorial centres. If it were the case that any cassette player of a particular tutorial centre was not in order at the time of listening test, the tutor or the invigilator, as the case

may be, could read out the test material loudly as an alternative way of holding listening test. It would not, in any way, affect the test.

What are those 'hundreds of new failures' that according to Mr. Das, BOU has begotten with the introduction of the BELT and how the induction of a new programme can give birth to innumerable failures, are not clear to us. Is it not simply a sweeping remark coming out of a mind possessed with negative attitude? The allegation that RRC people go for picnic even on the dates scheduled for holding tutorial classes for the BELT programme, i.e. on every first and third Friday of the month, is vague. Is it feasible for anybody, not to speak of RRC people, to go for picnic every alternate Friday? For information of Mr. Das, none of the RRC people went for picnic on any Friday during the past

one year. His suggestion that all books on BELT including those on teaching method should have their English version, is not acceptable because the Academic Council of BOU does not feel it that way. According to the council, the books on methodology should be in the mother tongue for easy and clear understanding of the students.

It is desirable for critiques like Mr. Das to refrain from making such uncharitable allegations as may create confusion's in the minds of the people? Would he rather look for the positive side of BOU which has recently taken some initiatives in the field of communication technology, like the use of internet net-working and installation of audio teleconfering for advancement of education through distance methods.

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