

## Deferment Of Uni-track Education System!

It is good to hear that there is a strong possibility of deferment of the introduction of the uni-track education system at the secondary level. The possibility looks bright following a meeting of the national curriculum coordination committee (NCC), a 22-member body responsible for supervising the school curricula on Wednesday last. We hail the NCC for its observation that the country is not prepared enough for such a system right at this moment. We would be happier if the committee pointed out the weaknesses of the system and suggested some remedies for them instead of just focussing on the aspect of preparation.

We understand the committee members' limitations and if their recommendation gets approved by the ministry, the introduction of the system will be deferred by at least a year. We should still be grateful to the committee members for doing this favour for the nation. At least a year's time will be available for both the supporters and opponents of the system. Let there be some brain-storming sessions where both parties will be given full freedom to argue in favour or against. If the supporters can convince the opponents of its merits, let the system be introduced. If the opponents prevail, let us not introduce the system at all.

We understand quite well that there will be immense pressure from the donors who provided about TK 500 crores for introduction of the system. How the money was spent is certainly an issue, but not as important as the future of the young learners. Those who spent the money will have to be accountable to the appropriate authorities, but for us it is more important to know if the students will benefit more than before.

What we resent most is the education ministry's attempt to put in place a system, keeping the nation in the dark. A matter as important as the introduction of an education system at the secondary level should be free from all narrow considerations. If it is an improved system, almost the entire nation will be a beneficiary; if it is a substandard system, the nation will be a loser.

So there is no scope for getting anyone's personal ego hurt or inflated in the process. The attempt should be towards making the system as perfect as possible.

Education experts have been unanimous—and we could not agree more with them—that the proposed system is far from a desired one. The reasons are many. First of all, the very word 'uni-track' is a big hoax or bluff. Neither has the system sought to bring the different streams of education such as the madrasa education—both under the education boards and the quomi type, English medium and general education into one broad stream, nor has it touched the curricula of the stream other than the general and that too of class IX and X.

The strongest objection to the system concerns the reduction of science education. We can have a look how science in the name of general science and environmental science has been made a casualty in the lower classes. The subjects have been treated perfunctorily and the books are also badly written. This is not the way of bringing our students at par with their counterparts in other countries of the subcontinent—let alone developed countries. We therefore ask the educationists to have a thorough review of our text books at the lower level as well and suggest what is most appropriate at the secondary level. However we know it for sure that science education has to be more intensive and the proposed subject of business education can be dispensed with.