

Focus Fatimiyah

Education



Issue-14 | Jan -10

Only for Members

Message



It gives me great pleasure to write for the 14th issue of Focus Fatimiyah Education the 2nd under its new management. Fatimiyah Education Network is firmly focused in inculcating value education, as an additional component in academics. In today's day and age schools and the students are so focused on the "right" grades that values often go amiss. In addition, many a households have working parents who may not have enough quality time to spend with their children. We are therefore attempting to fill this gap and a separate department has been created at FEN to cascade down the need for imparting values as part of academics.

We were fortunate to have Mrs Rukhsana Haji as the chief guest for the girls' and Mr Rafiq Habib for the boys' convocation. Mrs Haji praised the efforts of adding value education and lauded the contribution of Bibi Zainab (SA) in enhancing women's role. Mr Rafiq Habib talked about the role of discipline and hard work in his path to success and advised the students to use prayers as a "steering wheel" and not a "spare wheel". Such words of wisdom from people who are "achievers" will motivate students who have stepped into the next level of their career path. President KPSIAJ and Chairman Education Board, Mr. Abul Hassan Gokal, reflecting upon the tremendous responsibility on a teacher's shoulder quoted Imam Ali (A.S) "A drop of rain falls in the oyster's mouth, and also in the snake's. The oyster turns it into a pearl and the snake into poison. As is one's capacity, so is one's creation".

In these months of mourning, I would like to take the opportunity to focus on the act of "Giving".

In today's world it is sometimes difficult to put into perspective the event of Karbala, the challenges that Imam Hussain (A.S) faced and how we can relate it to our modern, everyday lives. It is an event that strikes the heart not only because of the ways in which the Imam and his family died but because they were the best of people to whom the worst happened.

Through the gift of giving, Imam Hussain A.S (along with his family) was able to take the notion of ignominy and turn it around so that his sacrifice actually became the greatest gift that we could have received from him.

We often hear that when you give, you get back, but we rarely understand this concept. Often when we give, we expect to receive something in return, whether it is acknowledgement, appreciation or something concrete in terms of monetary value. The whole beauty of giving lies in that you have to surrender, let go, and give knowing that you are doing it in order to better someone else's life; and that itself could be the ultimate reward for giving. Imam Hussain (A.S) sacrificed his life, his family, his position all in the spirit of giving us hope and truth for a better life. He surrendered to the will of Allah and gave open-heartedly; putting his full trust in Allah, knowing that Allah would take care of the rest.

The people who died in Karachi on Ashura this year also gave their lives for the glory of Imam, as did the people who were injured and were left behind to deal with the aftermath of what happened. For the sake of their faith they gave their spirit wholeheartedly to voice the call of the Imam and to tell the world of what happened in Karbala 1400 years ago; and although there is a pall of sadness, but, for their act of "Giving" they will be remembered forever.

The message that I would like to share with our colleagues, educationists, teachers, students and well wishers is that we are all involved in the act of Giving. When you give you get back, but it is only through non-attachment to outcome that we can fully learn to receive the benefit of what we give.

I would like to thank all the stake holders who are in this journey with us, namely, the parents, Mrs. Rakshanda Ovais - ED and her dedicated team, the gracious donors, Office bearers and members Managing Committee of KPSIAJ, in particular, Mr. Abul Hasan Gokal, Agha Asgher Hussain Shaheedi, Mr. Ashraf Ali Haideri, and also Mr. Riaz Premjee for their untiring efforts and contributions.

Ali Naqi Taqi

Secretary Education Board - KPSIAJ

Fatimiyah Education Network Convocation 2008 & 2009

Fatimiyah Education Network organized the Convocation for outgoing students of class X of Fatimiyah Girls School on 14th December, 2009 and Fatimiyah Boys School on 15th December, 2009. The ceremonies were held at Shaheed Hamid Ali Bhojani Hall.



Mrs. Rukhsana Haji, Principal Qamar-e-Bani Hashim School was the Chief Guest at the Girls convocation. She said that the importance of education, at the community level was promoted in the past by some visionaries and it is due to their vision and sincere efforts that today we see the fruits.

Mrs. Rakshanda Ovais, Executive Director of FEN welcomed the guests. She gave detailed information about various educational activities being undertaken by FEN.

The Vote of thanks was presented by Mrs. Fatima Abul Hassan Gokal.



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Message for students'

One of the major concerns of every other person in the society either a professional, house wife, or a student, is that there is never enough time in the day. They feel overwhelmed by the long list of responsibilities, obligations and assignments. This results in stress leading to tension and finally ill health. Time management is one of the most important skills that one needs to master, but it is also one of the most difficult. When you are a student, multiple assignments of home work, projects, co curricular activities, social events and so forth take most of your time. Since it is impossible to remember every thing you need to do, the best possible way is to keep a track of your days. For this you need a system to manage all your responsibilities and time lines.



Here are some tips:

Challenge and question your own habits, routines and the way you spend your time. Be flexible and creative in finding different ways of doing things. keep in mind time management is an acquired skill, and it might be a new skill for you. If you try to organize your time, and it does not go well at first, never fear. The more you start to manage your time, the easier it will become.

Practice the following:-

Make a to-do list: This could be on daily, weekly or fortnightly basis as per your needs.

Prioritize the activities : Once you have prepared the to-do list, start prioritizing your tasks.

Set deadlines for yourself : Keep paper or a calendar with you to jot down notes or things you need to do, and follow these up with commitment.

Be flexible: Remember that there will always be interruptions and distraction. Allow time for them as well.

Utilize your time in productive activity: We often spend time watching television, talking on the phone, sleeping late. When making a to-do list, keep time for these as well because for a healthy mind, social and constructive activities are also essential.

Best of luck students!

Samira Ramzan, Principal, Fatimiyah Girls School

Value Education at FEN

To ensure the continuous and significant inculcation of the philosophy of Islamic values, the pilot program of Value Education commenced with great enthusiasm at FEN. The aim of the Value Education program is to make curricula conform to the Islamic philosophy of education which includes virtues of good citizenship, conservation of culture, personal development, social efficacy, spirit of co-operation and willingness for welfare work, and above all, to realize one's purpose in life. This aim can be depicted in the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) that the heaviest thing which will be put on the believer's scale on the Day of Judgment will be goodness of conduct. The program was initiated with the formation of the Value Education team comprising of Professional Development Teacher, Lead Teachers and teachers of both Fatimiyah Girls and Boys school. The theme of "respect" was chosen to be incorporated in the curricular and co-curricular activities. In this regard, the Value Education team has designed theme based lesson plans and activities. In addition, an environmental and cultural ambience such as thematic soft boards, thematic lesson plans and professional development sessions are also part of the program. Moreover, students have prepared a Value Education portfolio to maintain a record of their efforts in relation to the theme. Although it is very early to comment on our efforts and undertakings, however promotion of the Value Education program will ensure the presentation and practice of Islamic values compatible with cultural and social harmony.

Tabassum Fatima Hemani, PDT - FEN



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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader

Assalam-Alaikum

World Teachers Day is held annually since 1994. It is an occasion to celebrate the special role of the teachers and the dignity of the teaching profession. Teachers Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm in Asian countries where teachers and the teaching profession is held in high esteem.

The Day was celebrated at FEN on 5th October, 2009 to appreciate our teachers, whose hard work deserves our applause. Teachers have played a major role in the success of FEN. They have shouldered a big responsibility not only to ensure that our students develop good skills in subjects, but also that they become responsible citizens.

We can further improve our education system by exhibiting respect and support for our teachers and letting them know that we value their contribution. We need to look for ways to support them in their efforts to develop and enhance their professional expertise.

As parents you can also help; one of the ways is to recognize teachers for the significant role they play in our lives, and show respect and support for them. Let us take time to say 'thank you' to the teachers of FEN, Pakistan and the world.

*Sakina Nanji
Editor*

Introduction of Hifz-e-Quran Programme at FS-ECE

It is our endeavor to provide an environment conducive for young learners; where they can flourish. In the early years, the child learns from his surroundings and from the interaction with people around him.



Keeping this in view a program titled Hifz-e-Quran

was initiated at the Fatimiyah School of Early Childhood Education (FS-ECE) at the beginning of the current session 2009-10. The objective is to make the children aware that the Holy Quran is the book of life for the Muslims; and to instill and inculcate the value of the holy verses in their lives.

The program was initially designed by Muhammad Mehdi Taba Tabai. He experimented the methodology on his young son, Muhammad Hussain Taba Tabai, and he acquired his 'doctorate' at a very young age.

Ms. Syeda Kaneez Fatima Shahab, currently working as (lead teacher) Islamiyat is conducting the program at FS-ECE. She received her Quranic Education from the institute established by Dr. Tabatabai at Qom, Iran.

Co-Curricular Activities

International Youth Day

International Youth Day is an awareness day designated by the United Nations to draw attention to youth issues worldwide. The theme for 2009 was Sustainability: Our Challenge. Our Future.

Celebration of International Youth Day at FGS generated many thought provoking questions. Two senior teachers (Ms. Hamida Hassan and Ms. Nishat Zehra) were invited as guest speakers. Both the teachers shared that their generation did not have the numerous technological facilities that are available to the youth of today. The use of technology has impacted on all aspects of our lives; it has opened up a lot of opportunities for the youth. Youth is very comfortable with the use of new and creative inventions available in the market. However, we have observed that some youngsters are misusing for e.g. spending their precious time indulging in chatting on the internet or messaging on cell phones.

The Principal of Fatimiyah Girls School in her message reminded the students that there is a need for our youth to realize that they should make constructive use of all the facilities available to them. They should not waste their precious energy in non-productive activities. We believe that our Youth is confident and has the potential to lead the country towards peace and progress.

Election for the Student Council

Election for the Student Council was held on 25th August, 2009. The process was well organized and students participated with great enthusiasm. Syed Aun Muhammed Naqvi student of class X B was elected as Head Boy. Muhammed Bilal of class IX C was elected Deputy Head Boy. In their messages to the students, the members of the Student Council pledged to work with a sense of responsibility.

Teachers' Acknowledgement for S.S.C Results

On November 18, 2009 a get together was organized by the Management, to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of the secondary teachers of FGS and FBS, for 100% results in the S.S.C Part I and II Examinations, 2009.

The Chairman Education Board, Mr Abul Hassan Gokal, in his address appreciated the efforts of teachers for the academic achievements of the students but emphasized that real success lies in character building of the students. He said that teachers can act as role models and inspire students through kind words and actions.

The Secretary Education Board, Mr Ali Naqi Taqi, while recognizing the performance of the faculty opened the floor for discussion. He encouraged the teachers to share their views and give valuable suggestions for the improvement of the teaching and learning process at FEN.

Teachers expressed their gratitude for providing them with a platform where not only are their efforts are being recognized but their suggestions are also heard.



Syeda Umm-e-Aymon of class X-C won the first prize in the All Karachi Inter-School Speech Competition held by the Dhaka Group of Education.

Animals Day at FS-ECE

Projects at FS-ECE provide a wide range of learning activities for the students. They enhance peer-interaction and cooperation



among the young learners at an early age. A mini Zoo at ECE to celebrate Animals Day flared up the curiosity of the students who enjoyed the day visiting the enclosures of different animals. The purpose was to develop

among the young students a sense of caring for all creatures. Models prepared by different groups depicting the habitat of wild, pet, and farm animals were also displayed on the occasion.

Independence Day

August 14, was celebrated at FEN with great zeal and enthusiasm to inculcate and instill among the students feelings of patriotism



and respect toward their country. Students made speeches to highlight sacrifices made by our forefathers for the independence of our country. Quiz competition and National song competitions were the main events of the day.

Defence Day

Defence Day at FEN was held to pay tributes to the martyrs of the war of 1965. Speeches delivered by the participants at Fatimiyah College, infused the audience with the spirit of patriotism and courage. Students presented a small skit highlighting the importance of 06th September in the history of Pakistan.



Co-Curricular Activities

Eid-e-Gadheer at Fatimiyah College



Students' Week at Fatimiyah Girls School



Session on Effective Leadership



"Whoever wants to be a leader should educate himself, before educating others. Before preaching to others he should first practice himself"

(Hazrat Ali A.S) was the crux of the presentation on "Effective Leadership" conducted by Mrs. Rakshanda Ovais Shareef, Executive Director – FEN. The Unit Heads, PDTs, Lead teachers and Co-ordinators participated in the interactive session that focused on the

role and responsibility of leadership. Participants shared their own experiences of how they faced the challenges in their careers and turned them into opportunities for success. Reflecting on the quote of Hazrat Ali A.S. the participants discussed the characteristics of an effective leader and came to a consensus that an effective leader must possess the following four important qualities:

- Is optimistic and positive
- Believes in people
- Practices professionalism
- Displays excellent character

Fatimiyah Education Network Convocation 2008 & 2009

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Mr. Rafiq Habib, a renowned Business & Industrial tycoon, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest at the Convocation of Fatimiyah Boys School. He emphasized that discipline in life is the key to success;



he added that Islamic values of faith, integrity, humility, hardwork, and charity are its guiding principles.

Mr. Abul Hassan Gokal, President of KP-SIAJ and Chairman Education Board in his welcome address shared that the vision of Fatimiyah Education Network, is to develop and promote an education system that prepares students to become responsible members of the society, with a strong sense of values and morals and a commitment to

Islamic ideology.

Secretary Education Board Mr. Ali Naqi Taqi in his vote of thanks acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Altaf Bhojani, Mr. Abid Lakhani,



Mr. Dilawar Shaban, Mr. Sajjad Ibrahim, Mr. Hussain Alibhai, Mr. Ali Hussain Jessani and Mr. Ali Hussain Rajab Ali for their dedicated care, love, time and precious resources for the benefit of the community.



FAST Corporate Lunch

FAST-National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences (Formerly BCCI-FAST, brain child of Agha Hasan Abedi) organized a corporate lunch at its premises on December 19, 2009. Prominent educational institutions of Pakistan were invited for the program.

Fatimiyah Education Network, Senior Management comprising of Mr. Ali Naqi-Secretary Education Board, Ms. Rakshanda Ovais Shareef- Executive Director, Mr. Sohail Qasim-Principal Fatimiyah College and Mr. Raza Abbas- Head of HR & Careers attended the program. FEN's panel actively participated in the intellectual discussion and provided valuable feedback to the distinguished forum of educationists.

FAST Seminar at FEN

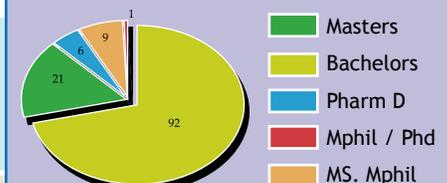
The Careers Department at Fatimiyah Education Network invited FAST- National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences for a career seminar on December 17, 2009 at Bhojani Hall. FAST representatives provided an overview of their institution, orientation of emerging disciplines, admission process, scholarship and financial aid opportunities, placement opportunities for graduates. Students of Fatimiyah College attended



the program with a keen interest and it enabled them to think about careers in the science and engineering field.

Scholarships

The Careers and Scholarship Department of Fatimiyah Education Network is proud to announce that a total of 129 students have been awarded scholarship in public sector colleges and universities, from September 2007 to December 2009. Their break down of academic level is given below as under:



**Thinking students...
... give respect to
gain respect!**



Contributed by: *Hasnain Ali
S. Hassan Raza Dilawar Abbas
Class VIII-B*

Respect means to behave in a courteous manner and display kind gesture to our elders such as parents, teacher, family members and family friends.

In my opinion it is our responsibility to serve all the living beings, especially human beings in the best possible way. It is our responsibility to use kind words in reply no matter how bad we are being treated by anyone because our religion teaches us to forgive others and this attitude is valued by Allah (SWT).

We can show reverence to our elders by being obedient and honest with them, be truthful in every deed and share all our feelings so that they can help us find solutions as they know better than we do.

To encourage the respect of teachers in school, senior students can act as role models and display respectful behavior towards the teachers. This will encourage the younger students to follow in their footsteps. This is very important because if you are humble enough to show respect, you are worthy enough to gain respect.



*Qurat-ul-Ain Abbas
(Head Girl - Fatimiyah Girls College)*

As the Head Girl of Fatimiyah Girls College, I welcome and support the new discipline measures initiated at our college. As the Head of the Student Council I will try my level best to ensure that college rules are followed by all the students. I will initiate new and positive changes for common interest. I hope the student body will support my efforts and we shall work together to make the session 2009 – 2010 a success.

**The most challenging
Examination Paper**

*Yamna Fatima Saleem
Class VIII A*



While entering school the biggest fear I have in my heart is the fear of attending the Mathematics period, the fear of being reprimanded when I haven't done my math homework, the fear of attempting the most challenging paper in the examination i.e. math.

When I receive the time table for the examination the first thing I look for, is the date of the math paper which causes me the most fright. As the days draw close, my fright also increases and at last, the day comes when I have to pass through the most tiresome moments of my life.

Before the bell rings for the beginning of the paper, I confusingly turn the pages of my Math note-book and those seem to be the last breath of my life, it seems that I have forgotten everything. When the final bell rings my eyes seem to stick at the note book till I hear the voice of the invigilator. Before the paper I recite all the duas that I can remember at the moment. When I receive the paper my eyes seem to roll over the paper as it contains all those questions from which I used to run in the class. After taking a very deep breath I start the paper by reciting Bismillah. Slowly and gradually one and a half hour passes and I keep chewing my nails to complete the Arithmetic portion. The time comes to start Algebra. Finally I decide to solve them one by one. Now comes the turn of another tough session when the statement of theorem appears to me as a riddle of life. I feel my mind seems mixed up like a fruit salad. I decide to leave them finally the warning bell rings and my fingers increase their speed and my eyes seemed to revolve between the clock and the paper, sweat begins to drip from my forehead and my pen takes the role of a running horse. The time gets over and my paper gets snatched, as I confusingly begin to see my classmate laughing at my nervousness. I can say that mathematics remains the most challenging paper and it may remain so throughout my life.

Value of Books

*Rida Fatima Hussain Ali
Class VIII-B*



Books are un-paralleled means of providing us amusement and real joys of life. Reading of books provides us with such satisfaction that we do not get from any other activity. Books also protect us from the monotony of everyday life-These refresh our mental horizon and are our never failing friends. Books illuminate us with truth and knowledge; they are our best friends because they provide information and amusement. Reading informative books increases our knowledge which is a key to successful living.

Transition into Teenage

*Farwa Abid
Class- XI (Commerce)*



Teenage is a transition period of one's life, the journey from childhood to young adulthood. It is a time when a person starts thinking independently, it does not have to be a difficult period, lots of confusion, frustrations, despair and battles at home can be avoided if we have good habits and sound advice from our elders. As teenagers we display a lot of emotions that are a little hard to understand. This time is really hard as our parents also have a lot of expectations from us. This creates a sense of binding and difficulty for some of us and believe me it's the most "irritating part of our lives."

During the teen period, our desires, emotions, thinking, ideas and deeds, these all seem to be correct for us in our own way, and I agree that often we are wrong. The only thing adults expect from us is the commitment that our actions would be helpful for every one including our society.

It is important to set values and rules at this point in life. When you are sure about the way you want to go in life and how to do things, it is likely that you will not be distracted on the way by what others are doing or saying. If you know what you want and to what extent you are ready to go and get it – success is bound to be yours. Keeping good company, being honest and keeping an open mind are great ways to approach life. On the other hand, if we relate to those emotions and desires, which may probably seem colourful to us but sometimes unbearable to others, then it would be demerits of our thinking and could cause harm to trusted and important relationships.

**Home Work – Just filling
notebooks?**

Syed M.Mehdi Raza - VII A.
Schools mostly give homework that is based on copying text from the prescribed textbooks, which is disliked by students. I am glad our school is different.



I am in favor of homework that allows me to recall and practice what I have learned in class e.g. subject like mathematics requires a lot of practice and exercises given as homework help me to understand the concepts better.

I love to do background research on topics discussed in class for science and social studies projects as these activities allow me to be creative and apply my previous learning to complete my work.

I think homework is important as long as it serves to enhance our learning. However, our teachers should be careful that they do not over-burden us with assignments.

Heart Day at FGS & FBS

'Heart Day' is observed globally as per WHO directive in the last week of September. The students of FEN actively participated in different activities like Assembly presentations, soft board displays, and short messages on badges and posters to spread awareness through child to child approach.

A balanced low fat, low sugar, high fiber diet,



weight management, physical activity and abstinence from tobacco are the golden rules to prevent heart diseases.

Try following some of these tips in your everyday routine.

- Take the stairs instead of an elevator.
- Fit physical activity into your everyday life. For example, take short walks
- Take a good breakfast everyday.
- Do not skip meals. Skipping meals may cause your metabolism to slow down.
- Select high-fiber foods like whole-grain breads and cereals, fruit, vegetables.
- Milk products are high in calcium and vitamin D and help keep your bones strong
- Limit how often you have high-fat and high-sugar snacks like cake, candy, chips, and fizzy drinks.
- Drink plenty of water or water-based fluids.
- Maintaining a healthy weight may reduce the risk of many chronic diseases.
- Get enough sleep.

Dr. Yasmeen Raza, Medical Officer - FEN

Oral Hygiene Awareness Program

An awareness program to highlight the importance of oral hygiene was held on 5th & 6th November, 2009 for the students of FBS & FGS



of class III – VI. A cartoon movie was shown to demonstrate method of proper brushing of teeth. Students were also provided with oral care kits, and a monthly brushing chart to develop regular brushing habits.

Polio Vaccination at FS-ECE

150 students of ECE I & II (under 5 years of age) were administered OPV and Vitamin A drops from 16th to 18th November, 2009 as part of the Polio Vaccination Program.

Profession in Spotlight

Journalism

Rizwana Naqvi

Ms. Rizwana Naqvi works for the Dawn Groups of Newspapers. She joined Dawn in 1996, and became Editor Incharge of "Young World" in 2000. Currently she is taking care of 'Review' – the social and women oriented pages of Dawn's weekend magazine 'Images'.

Q1. What motivated you to pursue a career in Journalism and especially about children's literature in English?

A1. A deep interest in reading and writing and the aim to highlight various problems in our society brought me to this field.

As Editor In charge of Young World I tried to create awareness among the children of our country regarding the society they live in and the world at large, their rights and responsibilities, the role they are expected to play in the future. At the same time character building has been an important aspect of the magazine with appropriate articles published every now and then.

Q2. What skills should students possess to be successful professionals in Journalism?

A2. You have to have a command over the language in which you want to write/report. At the same time you should develop interest in reading whatever material that is available to you so that you have background knowledge of what is happening in the world. Since no one can read on every subject you can choose a few subjects for yourself like politics, current affairs, science and technology, social issues, entertainment.

Q3. What are some of the challenges professionals especially women face in this career?

A3. Women in our society face a lot of problems when they go out in the work field. They are generally considered incapable of handling difficult tasks and handling pressures, or going on outdoor assignments. The same is true for journalism. Women are often discouraged from active reporting.

One often has to work odd hours and late nights in this field; women find it difficult to stay late at work, especially in our society.

But let's not lose hope; things are improving and more and more women are entering this field.

Q4. What is the future of Journalism in Pakistan and abroad?

A4. We cannot say that journalism does not have a future, though print media is facing threat from electronic media and news websites. Most young people now prefer to go for electronic media as it has more value both in terms of glamour and finances; but at the same time it is very time demanding.

While e-media is gaining popularity, newspapers have their own importance as people can read detailed analysis and reports at their leisure wherever they want.

Q5. What types of career options are available in Journalism and news channels?

A5. Journalism is not just about reporting, editing and writing; with the evolution of e-media the field has expanded and now one can choose from reporter, newscaster, news producer, news editor, documentary producer, script writer, anchor person for talk shows, showbiz programme host, etc.

Q6. What are the minimum qualifications to become a professional in Journalism and which universities offer a degree in Journalism?

A6. Though one can join a newspaper or a channel after obtaining a bachelor's degree as well, it is better to go for a master's degree. The best option is to study Mass Communication.

As far as I am aware all major universities in Pakistan offer a degree in Journalism.

Besides that, as said earlier, Master's degree in English Literature, International Relations and Political science can also help you get into journalism. The basic thing is command over language and in depth knowledge.

Q7. What will be your message for students of Fatimiyah Education Network (FEN)?

A7. Work hard, study well and broaden your horizon, gain knowledge about the world you live in; at the same time maintain a positive attitude towards life.

Don't be disheartened, don't listen to people talking about our country in negative terms and DON'T fall into the trap of sectarian or ethnic organisations.

Take care of yourselves, keep your eyes open and listen to your parents. If they do not want you to go out alone or at odd hours, obey them.