

Dhaka Day by Day

The Fever and the Fret

by Fayza Haq

There is nothing more painful for the parents than to see a sick child restless and in agony, writhing and moaning, and perhaps even wailing to high heavens because of unbearable pain and cramps of the illness that might be too much to endure. If this happens in the hospital there are monstrous mosquitoes and annoying flies at all seasons to add to the insufferable experience.

Should death ensue in the adjoining rooms in the hospital or clinic where the child lies helpless and tormented the anxiety and tremor factor is even more. The loud tattle and gossip about the political situations from adjoining cabins are another sense of torment and irritation.

One of the most common forms of illness for our children in Dhaka is diarrhoea and dysentery, despite all the TV and Radio ads to control the affliction, the stomach ailments in the form of a "runny tummy" is as common as June bug in the city. Yet it is here in Dhaka that we have one of the most successful research centre to check diarrhoea and cholera.

So effective are the experts at the centre that when an attack of cholera broke out a few years ago in the Maldive islands, cholera being a dreaded disease in the archipelago, and a hush hush matter for years, it was the doctors from Dhaka who helped fight the bout of the frightening illness along with specialists from the Subcontinent.

With poverty, overcrowding and poor access to health services, Bangladesh remains open to onslaughts of infectious diseases such as diarrhoea. Under the unavoidable circumstances of overcrowding and sanitation, which only spreads the disease in the recent decades, the discovery of oral rehydration therapy (ORT) has had tremendous impact on the preventions of deaths due to acute watery diarrhoea and has arrested the deaths of thousands of children.

The ICDDR,B which is the Cholera Research Centre at Mohakhali, was established in 1960, informs Dr. Demissie Habte, the director of the project. An Ethiopian by birth, he informs: "Since then 70,000 patients have been treated in Dhaka and Matlab annually. In the last 25 years two million people might have died of cholera and diarrhoea if they had not been properly treated. At least 2,00,000 registered cases have been saved."

In Dhaka alone 100,000 people have been treated. This has led to natural increase of the poorer class of the slum population. The curative programmes have since then sped up. Meanwhile the quality of the lives of the slum dwellers have improved.

The centre has played a major role in comprehending other diarrhoea causing microorganism such as rotavirus, pathogenic strains of Escherichia coli, Campylobacteria and Shigella. Studies based on the Demographic System (DSS) at Matlab has also provided valuable data on the determinants of child mortality such as nutrition, maternal education, birth spacing and infectious diseases.

Illness and deaths due to acute watery diarrhoea take place largely because of the loss from the body of water and salts in the stools. For example Vibrio cholera, as Dr. Habte explains, and some strains of Escherichia coli produce toxins, which make the cell linings of the intestines secrete water and salts into the gut lumen. If the losses of water and electrolytes can be replaced and if a balance between intake and losses can be maintained a large major portion of the battle is won.

Using simple solutions of salts and sugar, it is possible to rehydrate by mouth about 90% of patients with diarrhoea. However, existing problems persist. The standard treatment for watery diarrhoea, recommended by the World Health Organisation is 3.5g sodium chloride, 2.9g tri-sodium citrate, 1.5g of potassium chloride and 20.0g of glucose dissolved in a litre of water.

At the ICDDR,B the glucose is replaced by 50g of rice powder which is cooked with a little more than a litre of water, and then the salts are added after it has been cooled. This rice ORS is culturally ideal for Bangladesh.

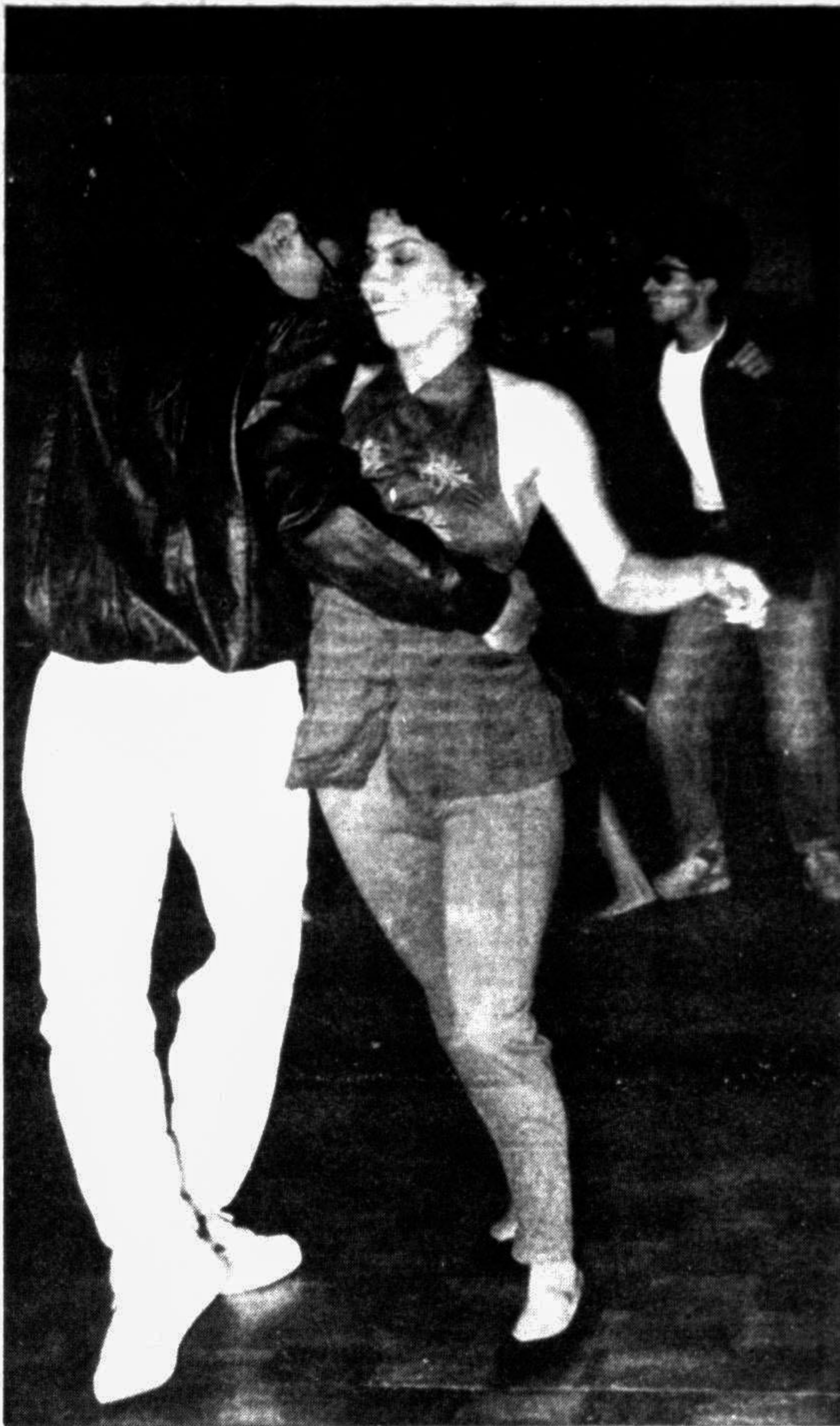
With experts from abroad coming and training at the ICDDR,B, the Mohakhali and Matlab centres are providing a boon for "runny tummy" sufferers. With a shortage of doctors and hospitals in the country, this centre has answered many problems of the people in and around Dhaka. As for the Matlab hospital, where there are further services of child immunisation and family planning, an ideal atmosphere for the ailing and not so well off is constantly being maintained.

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An afflicted child being given ORS. — Star photo.



LATEST FASHION IN DHAKA— Alas the "Aarong" of our good old days used to connote a rural exhibition in natural environs. The word should naturally be used to reflect the unalloyed Bengali culture that lives in rural hamlets. But what was it in the national capital yesterday? The "Aarong", known for its exquisite finesse in giving currency to latest fashions, in tune with refined tastes of Bangladesh, possibly went out of its domain to present a fashion that was alien indeed. The Star photo taken by Mohsin above does belie the expectations of those who are keen to see a truly Bengali fashion in vogue in Dhaka and elsewhere.

Dialogue among 3 alliances stressed

Suranjit Sengupta, a presidential member of the Ganatantri Party and MP-elect, on Tuesday urged the Bangladesh Nationalist Party to take the initiative to evolve a national consensus for transfer of power reflecting the pledges of the three alliances in their November 19 political framework, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club in Dhaka Sengupta also said that present controversy over the modality of transfer of power was unnecessary but the November 19 declaration was enough to carry out this task through the common understanding of the three alliances.

As BNP has emerged as the single party majority in the February 27 parliamentary elections, he said, it has the greater responsibility to arrange a dialogue among the alliances for the national consensus.

"If they come to common understanding, transfer of power to a sovereign parliament will be ensured as envisaged in the November 19 declaration," Sengupta said adding that his party would extend support to BNP on the basis of this understanding.

Envoys of France, Germany, Malaysia meet Khaleda

The Ambassadors of France and Germany and High Commissioner of Malaysia Wednesday called on Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence, reports BSS.

The envoys, Serge Degallax of France, Dr Karl Heing Schollysek of Germany and Ms Tunku Nazihah Mohammed Rus of Malaysia during their separate meetings with Begum Zia congratulated her on her party's victory in the fifth parliamentary elections.

They discussed matters of common interests, mutual co-operation and different international issues and hoped that Bangladesh would develop in coming days under the able leadership of BNP government.

The envoys also hoped that the existing friendship between Bangladesh and their countries would further be strengthened.

Begum Zia thanked the envoys reciprocating their good wishes.

Bangla Academy condoles Kashem's death

Bangla Academy on Wednesday held a meeting to condole the death of Principal Abul Kashem, reports BSS.

Presided over by Director-General of the Academy, Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid, the meeting was addressed Mr Abdul Majid Matbar, Mr Muhammad Nurul Huda and Bashir Al Helal.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Night sound
- Embrace
- Supplies of provisions
- Midnight
- Tantalum symbol
- Trail
- Claude Akins TV role
- Choose
- Smallest number
- Recode
- Entreaty
- Languish
- French article
- Fastens lightly
- Long steps
- Identical
- Department store

DOWN

- Fastener
- Bond nemesis
- Morsel
- Virginia —
- Ancient chariot
- Calloway ID
- Law
- Everyone
- Wild plum
- Small stone
- Halls
- Loose garments
- Sailors' colloq.
- Plague
- Drunkards
- The Pentateuch
- Winged
- Heaps
- Besmirch
- Amount owed
- Grafted: heraldry
- Real estate maps
- Scurrious
- Amount owed
- Shred
- Jiboner Alo: Religious programme
- Rustic
- Genus of maples
- Carry
- Hyson
- "The Big"
- Greek letter
- Tin symbol
- Neon symbol

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	P	S	E	A	D	D	S	L	U	G
I	R	O	N	D	E	L	L	A	V	E
M	E	D	R	I	P	Y	A	M		
D	O	A	T	E	S	T	A	R	T	
W	I	D	E	S	N	O	B	S	E	R
A	C	O	R	N	D	R	A	B	M	A
S	T	R	A	I	N	E	R	O	D	E
T	I	S	N	O	W	B	L	A	M	E
E	O	N	E	T	O	R	O	R	B	S
S	N	A	G	E	R	O	S	T	E	
L	E	I	A	P	E	S	A	N	E	W
E	A	R	P	I	N	E	B	O	D	E

TV Programme Thursday

5.00	Opening and recitation from Al Quran
5.20	News in Bengali
5.30	Sports world
6.20	Parichaya
7.20	Jiboner Alo: Religious programme
8.00	News in Bengali
8.30	Programme on Fire Service and Civil Defence Week
8.50	Weekly Drama
10.00	News in English
10.30	Drama Serial: On the Fench
11.30	Khabar/The news
11.45	Closing

An Aarong extravaganza

It was not a Dior or Chanel production nor a creation from New York or Tokyo. Yet the hubbub among the women viewers at the Sonargaon Hotel on Wednesday where the Aarong Eid fashion show was being held was intense. The visitors themselves were strutting peacocks and fashion plates on their own.

The entree price was prohibitive in a country where individuals do not earn the required Tk 800, but undoubtedly the evening was for the delight of the elite and the exclusive of the city. One has seen quite a few of the Aarong fashion often enough on many occasions in the city. It was the catwalk presentation with the lights, smoke and the accompanying music that made the clothes appear different, and perhaps more attractive than when normally seen at the display centres. The dinner and dance that followed perhaps made up for any disappointments and proved the event a social do of the week.

Weather Rain in some areas

By Staff Correspondent

Rain and thunder showers occurred on Wednesday at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna divisions. The rainfall recorded at Dhaka, Sylhet, Comilla, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Ishwardi was 19mm, 11mm, 09mm, 03mm, 11mm, and 08mm respectively, according to Meteorological Department.

Light to moderate rain/showers accompanied by temporary gusty squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Chittagong divisions till Friday morning.

The day temperature remained nearly unchanged on Wednesday over the country except Mymensingh, Tangail, Sylhet where the temperature rose by two degree Celsius. But in Cox's Bazar temperature falls by two degree Celsius.

Till Friday the day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged, Met office said.

The highest temperature of 36.7 degree Celsius was reported from Chuandanga while the maximum temperature in Dhaka was 31.6 degree Celsius.

Outlook for subsequent two days: little change.

Extended outlook for another five days: no appreciable change.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.07 pm and rises on Friday at 6.08 am.

Temperature and humidity of some cities of the country recorded on Wednesday was:

Cities/towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	maximum	minimum	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.6	20	70	77
Chittagong	31.3	20.2	74	67
Rajshahi	33.4	20.6	72	50
Khulna	35	22.6	85	49
Bogra	31.5	19.5	75	63
Rangpur	31.5	17.1	78	24
Jessore	36.3	21.5	85	NA
Barisal	33.2	21	90	83
Cox's Bazar	32	22.5	77	77
Mymensingh	31	17	71	80
Dinajpur	32.8	17.5	73	59

Maximum temperature of two international cities of Asian region on Wednesday:

Beijing	05 degree Celsius
Hongkong	21 degree Celsius

Spurious soyabean causes diseases

By Enamul Haq

Much of soyabean oil sold in the country is below standard. Many of the companies do not control quality of their commodity. Unrefined, crude oil is supplied for human consumption.

The country's annual requirement of soyabean oil is about 3.5 lakh ton. Dhaka Vegetable Oil Industries Limited, an organisation of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, which is the only public sector unit marketing soyabean oil, supplies only 30,000 tons per year which meet nearly 10 per cent of the country's total requirement.

More than 90 per cent of the total requirement is supplied by the private enterprises most of which do not bother to refine the crude import. Moreover, in many cases, soyabean oil is transported in the same tankers which carry diesel, petrol etc. As a result, soyabean oil gets easily adulterated.

Soyabean is recently the main edible oil in the country as the supply of mustard oil is inadequate.

Experts say jaundice, liver-related diseases and many other diseases are on the rise due to consumption of spurious soyabean oil.

ADHUNIK PROGRAMME

The Third National Convention of ADHUNIK (Amra Dhupan Nibarun Kor) will be held on Friday at a local hotel in the city, reports UNB. Adviser to the Acting President, in charge of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women Affairs, Youth and Sports, Alamgir M.A.Kabir will inaugurate the convention.

Professor M. Shamsul Haque, Chairman, University Grants Commission and Reazuddin Ahmed, President, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, will be special guests.

The day-long programme also includes a seminar on the 'Effect of Smoking on Pregnant Mothers and Children'.

Discussion at Bangla Academy

Bangla Academy has arranged a discussion meeting to mark the death anniversary of Poet Jasimuddin at 5 p.m. today at its Seminar Room, says a Press release.

Prof Wakil Ahmed will present his key-note paper while Naren Biswas, Selina Bahar Zaman and Abu Bakar Siddique will be discussants.

Seminar on drug awareness

Lions district-315B, Bangladesh will organise a seminar on 'Drug awareness and anti-smoking' tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Hotel Sonargaon, in the city, says a Press release.

Biomedical Society

The adjourned annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Biochemical Society will be held in the lecture Theatre of the Department of Biochemistry on Saturday, at 3 p.m. All the members have been requested to attend the meeting.

Dinajpur Dist Assoc

A meeting of the Executive Committee of Dinajpur District Association, Dhaka, will be held today at 6-15 pm at Dhanmondi Government Boys High School.

All the members of the Executive Committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

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