

Dhaka Day by Day

An Oasis of Hope for the Neglected

by Raffat Binte Rashid

The scene is a busy classroom. Students are chatting and discussing the English notes for the test about to begin; the teacher enters and everyone greets her a 'Good afternoon.' Apparently, it might look like an ordinary scene from any English medium school in the city, but actually it's the Telegu Community School in Wari. But do not confuse again, the majority students of this school is from the sweeper's colony and the adjoining slum there. It might be difficult to comprehend the relationship or understand the link between Telegu school, English test and slum children; but it's easy and simple.

Almost 200 years from now, people from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in India came to this part of the sub-continent during a spell of drought. They came in search of food and work. They got petty jobs in tea gardens in Sylhet and as construction labourers or sweepers in the city. At present a municipal survey shows that there are about 90 thousand or more such people working as sweepers all over the country. And Telegu Community School in Wari is basically for their children, even though the children from the nearby slums are also attending this school.

Telegu Community School at Wari.

An interesting feature of this school is that, they follow the regular syllabus of the country's four boards, in spite of the fact that majority students are Telegu speaking. The school is supported by the Food for the Hungry International, an organization that sponsors each child here. Explaining the rule of the school, the school Manager Rabindra Mondol said, this organization funded by US and Japan agencies distribute aids and offers education to slum children. There are three school projects of this particular organization in Dhaka. Help centre in Green Road, Telegu Community School in Wari and another in Sayedabad at Number 14 Outfall.

As the name suggests — Food for the Hungry, this organization's main attraction is to motivate destitute children to educate themselves in exchange of which they would provide at least a day's meal. This worked fine till 1991. But the response was much less than expected. They changed strategies; instead they are now offering an interest-free loan to the most needy family. This refundable loan is of Tk 1500 to maximum Tk 5000, which they can repay at monthly installments. "This is not a gift, they have to refund, and utilize the help till they make their own capital," Mondol said.

With the introduction of loan programme, the response has been very satisfying, it has now become easier to motivate children and their family to come to schools. Economic stability is something the parents of these children always desire, so far 100 such parents in Sayedabad have availed of the opportunity.

"This programme is yet to be developed in Wari, but at the Outfall we introduced the loan around 1992. In our Green Road project which is

Cancer Society team meets Biswas

Biswas, Khaleda greet President, PM of Mali

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday greeted President M Alpha Oumar of the Republic of Mali on the occasion of its National Day of Mali, reports BSS.

In a message to President Konaré, President Biswas wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Mali continued peace, progress and prosperity.

In a separate message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia felicitated Prime Minister Abdoulaye Sekou Sow of the Republic of Mali.

Begum Zia wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Mali peace, progress and prosperity.

Science fair at Udayan School concludes

A three-day science fair concluded at Udayan School here yesterday leaving an impression that the girls and boys have talents to become scientists in future, reports BSS.

The "mini scientists" in their works highlighted the adverse effects of the Farakka barrage, environmental degradation, pollution of atmosphere and health hazards.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Sky will mostly remain cloudy over the country. Light to moderate rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Barisal division and at a few places over Chittagong, Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka divisions.

Met Office forecasts day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded in Sylhet while lowest of 23.0 degree Celsius was recorded in Feni yesterday.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 5.55 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.48 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some major cities and towns of the country recorded yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degrees Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
Dhaka	31.0	26.5
Chittagong	29.0	24.5
Rajshahi	31.7	26.2
Khulna	31.5	26.4
Barisal	30.6	25.5
Dinajpur	32.0	24.0
Sylhet	33.5	25.7
Cox's Bazaar	30.4	26.0

Metropolitan

Grade A pourasavas get Tk 86 lakh each

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday said that the government had given each Grade A (upgrade) Pourasava Tk 86 lakh, Grade-A Tk 66 lakh, Grade-B Tk 56 lakh and Grade-C Tk 36 lakh for the development of 108 Pourasavas of the country in the current financial year, reports BSS.

The Minister was inaugurating an administration orientation course for the newly-elected chairmen of pourasavas, organised by National Institute



New British HC designate arrives

of Local Government (NILO) in its auditorium here. About 40 pourasavas chairmen are participating in this 3-day training course.

The function was addressed, among others, by the Secretary of LG division of LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry Moshfiqur Rahman, the Director General of NILG Md Aftabuddin Khan and Course Director and Director Administrative Kazi Md Afzal Hossain Saki.

The Minister said that the local government institution was the most effective institution to associate the people with administration and development. It played a very vital role in alleviating their poverty.

Over two lakh employed abroad since Jan '90, JS told

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that a total of 2,57,924 persons had been employed abroad from January 1, 1990 to August 31, 1993, reports BSS.

Replies to a question from Awami League member Mansur Ahmed, the Labour Minister said those persons had been employed through various recruiting agencies.

Ph.D. Degree Awarded

Dhaka University has awarded the Ph.D. degree in Education to Prof Saleha Khatun, Senior Specialist of NCTB for her thesis entitled "A Comparative Study of Reliability and Validity of Examinations for the B. Ed Degree Programme of BIDE through Distance Education and the regular B. Ed Degree Programme of Teachers' Training Colleges".

He will succeed Sir Colin Imray KBE, who has retired from the diplomatic service and joined an NGO back in England.

Fowler is a career diplomat who has served in Budapest, Lisbon, Calcutta, East Berlin, Geneva and Bonn. He was appointed as Minister and Deputy High Commissioner at New Delhi in February 1988.

Born on August 26, 1936, Fowler was educated at Nunthorpe Grammar School in York and Trinity College, Oxford. He was in the Army from 1954 to 1956 and joined the Foreign Office in 1962.

He was awarded the rank of Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 1990.

The High Commissioner-designate is accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Audrey June Fowler, is expected to present his credentials within three weeks.

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NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY (NSU)

B-76, Road 21, Banani, Dhaka. Phones: 881495, 606047; Fax: 883030

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ADMISSION NOTICE

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Applications are invited for admission into the **MASTER'S DEGREE** program in **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS**

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Admission Fee: Tk 10,000; Tuition per course: Tk 6,000.

Application Forms may be obtained from NSU.

Administrative Office and should be submitted duly filled in by 31st October, 1993 to Registrar, North South University, House 76 B, Road 21, Banani, Dhaka. Those who have appeared in Hon's Exam. in 1993 may also apply for provisional admission.

NSU offers limited number of Teaching Assistantships to the students in the Master's Program.

For further details, contact the Registrar's Office: 881495, 606047.

REMINDER

Last date for application for admission into undergraduate programs is 5 Oct. Admission test is at 9:30 AM on 8 Oct 1993 at Titumir College.

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