

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

'Teachers Make the Difference'

by Principal Quazi Faruque Ahmed

"Authorities in Bangladesh should recognize that improvement in the social and economic status of teachers, their living and working conditions, their terms of employment and their career prospects are the best means of overcoming any existing shortage of competent and experienced teachers, and attracting to and retaining in the teaching profession substantial number of fully qualified persons."

WORLD Teachers' Day is being observed today, October 5, throughout the world including Bangladesh where UNESCO Commission in collaboration with different Teachers' Associations has drawn up a token programme to observe the day. A week-long programme has also been drawn up by Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA) representing both the government and non-government school and college teachers.

Education International (E.I.) representing 272 National Trade Unions with a membership of some 23 million teachers and employees in education in 146 countries this year has selected the message of the Day as: TEACHERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. The President of Education International (E.I.) Mary Hatwood Futrell has said, "When the uncapped potential of a student meets the liberating art of a teacher, a miracle unfolds. In elaborating the message of the Day it has aptly been said, "Teachers are at the heart of the educational process, working today for better schools and a better world tomorrow. Teachers make a difference because they shape the future."

October 5, is dedicated to those who devote their lives to their belief that learning gives rise to liberty, that education is the life-blood of democracy. The vision of a future where people will live together in harmony, tolerance and mutual respects is not something to dream about, but something to work and struggle for. Teachers are in the forefront of this battle.

As a matter of fact education is an investment in the future of individual and of societies. On the eve of the 21st century, the right to education is nothing more than the right to participate in the life of the modern world. Yet, while the importance of education is more widely recognized today than ever before, those who play the central role in providing it — the 50 million teachers of the world are — often overlooked or taken for granted. World Teachers' Day is dedicated to correcting this situation and recognizing the devoted women and men on whom the education of our children depends.

Why October 5th was chosen as the World Teachers' Day? To have a proper answer to this query, it is necessary to trace the origin and background of the events which led to the adoption of UNESCO/ILO recommendation concerning the 'Status of Teachers'. Adopted on 5th October 1966 at a Special Inter-Governmental Conference held in Paris, the Recommendation was the first such international declaration on the status of teachers in history and it represented a giant step in defining the responsibilities and asserting the rights of members of the teaching profession throughout the world. The adoption came after two

decades of exploratory meetings, proposals and worldwide consultations with teachers and inter-governmental organisations. The origin of the Recommendation can be traced to as early as 1946 with a request by the delegate of China at the First Session of the UNESCO General Conference to "draft and promulgate a World Teachers' Charter which would tend to (1) ensure the material conditions of the teacher, (2) raise his moral condition, (3) protect freedom of teaching."

As regards the content of the Declaration the Recommendation is still one of the most important international tools for bringing about improvements in teaching profession, as well as development of education. The 145-paragraph document is virtually mandatory reading for any one interested in education.

The recommendation states, among other things: i) Since education is a service of fundamental importance in the general public interest, it should be recognised as a responsibility of state... ii) "Since education is an essential factor in economic growth, educational planning should form an integral part of total economic and social planning undertaken to improve living conditions."

In adopting this Recommendation, government's unanimously recognized the importance for every society of having competent, qualified and motivated teachers. Yet, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the situation of teachers some thirty years later has reached "an intolerably low point." The ILO draws attention to the drastic decline in teachers' working conditions worldwide and the exodus of qualified and experienced teachers to better-paid jobs. Colin N. Power, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for education has said, Teachers not only feel they are excluded and disempowered; they often are". The situation of teachers is most pressing in developing countries where two-thirds of the world's teachers live.

Education International this year has placed 10 point demands for teachers throughout the world:

- 1) receive the moral and material recognition appropriate to their level of qualifications and responsibilities; 2) have adequate working conditions, including at least basic equipment for their task such as books, paper and pencils; 3) have a salary comparable to other professions with the same level of qualifications and responsibilities, so as to make it possible for them to live with dignity on the salary from their work; 4) have the right to form and control their own representative organisations; 5) have the right through their organizations, to un-

dertake collective bargaining and where necessary take industrial actions; 6) have the right to be consulted and to participate in the formulation of educational policies; 7) receive a good initial teacher education at university level to prepare them for their work as teachers; 8) receive in-service training and professional development in order to keep in touch with new findings in their subjects and to receive continuous support for the improvement of their teaching methods; 9) be given professional and academic freedom to find the methods and classroom approaches that best meet the democratically decided objectives of the education system, and 10) have the right to receive a reasonable pension after retirement, which will make it possible for retired teachers to live in security and dignity.

When we look into the arena of education in Bangladesh we find that three systems of education are prevailing here: (1) purely government institutions, (2) Government-aided non-Governmental institutions, (3) purely private educational institutions run on less and profit basis (some of them with international affiliation).

As regards formulation of an Education Policy is concerned, chronically and most interestingly teachers at the helm of affairs have not yet been consulted, leave aside the question of their participation. Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA) in this regard has taken a positive stand that beginning from Dr. Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission report, recommendations and decisions taken in the field of education during all the regimes — Mujib, Zia, Ershad, Khaleda and Hasina must be taken into proper consideration and evaluated in the adoption of a new policy on education along with ensuring the due participation of representatives of teachers of all phases and on the basis of national consensus irrespective of party affiliation in greater national interest.

American Historian Henry Brooks Adams has said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence steps." In the light of these words: "Authorities in Bangladesh should recognize that improvement in the social and economic status of teachers, their living and working conditions, their terms of employment and their career prospects are the best means of overcoming any existing shortage of competent and experienced teachers, and attracting to and retaining in the teaching profession substantial number of fully qualified persons."

If we really believe that education is an investment in the future of individuals and of societies, it is imperative that the existing glaring disparity and

discrimination in education must end forthwith. It is found that Bangladesh Government spends, on an average, 34 lac 20 thousand Taka per Government institution whereas the figure is only 3 lac 17 thousand Taka per non-government institution, although only 9.94 per cent students are enrolled in Government institutions. On the other hand 90.06 per cent students have their education in non-government educational institution. Again teachers serving in Government and non-government institutions are paid inequally. Non-government teachers are paid much less, despite the fact that they have the same educational qualification and experience and follow the same curriculum. So a heart-searching is required before we take any step in regard to education policy in this spirit of democracy and adhere to the provisions and principles of our constitution which unequivocally speak in favour of the greatest good of the greatest number.

The writer is Secretary General, Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA) & Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA).

Drugs, Guns and Youngsters

by Md Asadullah Khan

Once they are hooked up, they have to filch money from the wallets of their parents, in some cases they are taking away the ornaments from the house and selling these out to meet their "demand of drug". When situation around them is extremely desperate and the need for money is unrelenting, they jump on the streets and shops to have their 'share' through extortion and hijacking.

REPORTS carried by the newspapers in recent times about kidnapping, assault and brutal killing of kids mostly in their teens by rival groups have captured the minds of the sensible citizens. With one recent incident of gruesome killing of a charismatic young man at the Nakhapara market in the city for the resistance he had put to foil the attempt of extortion by a group of hoodlums and more others of the like that fill the pages of the dailies with searing images, the country, it appears, is shuddering at the revelations of murder and cannibalism. In cases, it also so happens that a gang member, because he tries to leave the group, perhaps tired of the grisly nature of the trade, incurs the wrath of his former accomplices and eventually meets a tragic end. People were horrified at the ineptitude of the law enforcement personnel, the senseless killing of innocent and helpless citizens and the realization of how much damage these brutalities, hostilities and extortion spree were doing to the country. Without a shadow of doubt, Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong have become dangerous cities in recent time. Almost awash in guns, plagued by extortionists and addicts and most notably torn by political hatred and animosities, these cities are

struggling to cope with a wave of violence. Reports have it that the country bristles with guns, some of them most sophisticated which even the police personnel do not have. Part of the problem can be traced to indiscriminate issuance of licenses of fire-arms, by the previous government and smuggling of arms by Mafia gangs from outside the country. After a thorough analysis of such violent nature of the youngsters, one is led to believe that a kid's behaviour is largely caused by the environment. In a large measure, it is the responsibility of the parents to step up restoration of the values that seem to be eroding fast. Many of the parents, especially mothers are not giving enough time and attention to raising their children in a proper way. Some of these parents who are affluent beyond measure are given to habits like indulgence to drinks, party and night clubs that definitely transgress the limits traditional social norms, and family values alienating the kids from the family and driving them disillusioned. Without contradiction, when the home life has the sparkle of champagne and disco till late hours in the night, how can the kids turn to a life that radiate morality, ethics, and family virtues? Without being mired in the muck of politics in finding out solutions to these problems, we must fulfill our commitment to our own children. If we can think of ourselves as casting a stone that makes ripples in a pond, then we can make a difference in our stand and that would heal up the wounds in the society.

People throughout the country cry out for stricter penalties, harsher dispositions and better ways to stop youthful terrors. In some cases, as we have heard about the Shantinagar and Nakhapara killings in recent times, these young kids considered as threats to the society are being killed by their peers. This tragic drama does not end here, there are thousands more waiting to happen unless family values are restored. Precisely speaking, it is not these kids who are at fault but it is their parents who need reprimands. If these parents would have devoted the same time, energy, resources and money that they did to confront other crises, things would never have been so bad. In making an analysis of the drug trade that is feared booming up throughout the country and that tends to destroy the societal norms, we see that this trade has become the nation's newest and most frightening job programme. Lured by the easy money that it can fetch, the country's young population are gradually being drawn into this trade. But they have grown up in fatherless homes or impoverished surroundings, watching their mothers struggling hard to eke out a living. With the unemployment rate for the teenagers rising at 60 per cent, little work is available to unskilled, and uneducated youths. The handful of jobs that are available, to these poorest group, as errand boys, packing groceries, and crushing stones for breaking bricks for the construction works pay only minimum wages hardly sufficient to keep them alive. Most cogently, these youngsters turn to the most lucrative option they can find. In rapidly growing numbers, they are becoming the new criminal recruits of the booming trade of drug-sale and drug addiction. Newspapers in recent times have carried reports of Phensedyl syrup, Pathedrine, TGJC injection and other drugs being smuggled into the country pin-pointing a rising trend in drug-related crimes.

In the last few years since these drugs have appeared in the country, this has virtually shredded what was left of the tailored social fabric. Shockingly, in many cases, law enforcement personnel are alleged to be in league with this criminal trade. It is said that recently on the basis of a report published in the newspapers that the drug trade in Aricha ghat

had increased alarmingly, the high officials from Dhaka after an on the spot check in these river ghats could establish link of some law enforcers there with this trade. Reports have it that some police personnel at Doulatdia and Nagarbari ghats have been withdrawn for their alleged involvement in Phensedyl smuggling cases. However, confirmed reports are available that teenagers are also dominating in the drug business. Drug trade was always there in the country. Most worrisome, drug lords are pulling in kids under 16. The possible cause of linking children under 16 is that the thugs who founded the crack trade had recognized that young teens do not run the risk of mandatory jail sentences that courts hand out to older dealers. Juveniles in all countries in a sense provide a uniquely recyclable labour pool almost working like a revolving door. Shockingly true, lured by fast money, little labour and a thrill associated with this trade, youngsters are being drawn in and ending up their lives in this bed of crime.

It is hardly surprising that much of the violence in the country is drug-fueled. They have also access to fire-arms. Gang shootouts causing deaths in different areas are reported quite frequently in the dailies. On many occasions, of course the victims are innocent bystanders. As one study by a social group points out, "You put a gun in kid's hands, and they are more dangerous than adults. They just don't realize the value of life or how easy it is to kill someone." Drugs, guns and youths are an extremely lethal mixture. Administration as well as the conscious citizens have been stunned by the grotesque nature of the crimes. Often torturing rivals goes to such extent that they even pour alcohol or salt on the victim's open wounds. Reports are also that often teenage drug-addict denizens even indulge in videotaping their group sex!

People no longer has any reason to believe that drug related horror in the country is exclusively an under-privileged class problem. There is a terrible symbiosis between the wealthy addicts and under class youngster. True, privileged kids venturing into the under class area spend a lot of money and largely responsible for the booming drug business. Many meritorious students studying in the schools colleges and universities are also becoming drug addicts. Once they are hooked up, they have to filch money from the wallets of their parents, in some cases they are taking away the ornaments from the house and selling these out to meet their "demand of drug". When situation around them is extremely desperate and the need for money is unrelenting, they jump on the streets and shops to have their 'share' through extortion and hijacking.

Unfortunately, while most of the youngsters derailed by this abusive habit are apparently vicious, many of them have first-rate intellects that in a better environment could have been put to healthier use. "What is really frightening," says one social study group, "is that the kids who are drawn into this trade are the bright youngsters, the articulate ones."

But these addicted youngsters, by the time they reach adulthood, have given up on the dream of leading normal lives free from crime and brutality. They don't have any hope. They are unmoved by the sane notion that drug dealing and drug addiction can only send them to prison or grave.

No EXCUSE... YOUR TAXES... Taxes can spur progress toward environmental conservation. Therefore, taxes on toxic waste, production of pesticides, wasteful use of natural resources and conversion of cropland to non-farm use are moving to the forefront. DEPTHnews

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Saturday 5th October (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in group programmes.)
BTB 3:00pm Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary 3:10 Reflections from the Titled 3:15 Movie of the Week 4:00 News in Bangla 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Ban-shori: Folk Songs 6:00pm News in Bangla 6:05 Angkor 6:30 Moner Mukure 7:00 News in English 8:00 News in Bangla 8:30 Mati-o-Manush: Programme based on Agricultural Development 9:00 Ananta Dhara 10:00 News in English 10:30 Shasthattha: Health Programme 10:35 Drama Series: Dynasty 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Tomorrow's programme summary 11:40 Close down
BBC 6:00am BBC World News 6:20 The Last Days of The Wall 7:00 BBC World News 7:10 Newswatch 8:00 BBC World News 8:20 Window On Europe 9:00 BBC World News 9:05 Correspondent 10:00 BBC World News 10:20 Britain in View 11:00 BBC World News 11:20 Window On Europe 12:00noon BBC World News: Headlines 12:05 World Focus: Eyewitness 1:00 BBC World News: Headlines 1:05 World Focus: Earth Report 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: The Travel Show 4:00 BBC World News: Headlines 4:05 World Focus: Horizon 5:00 BBC World News 5:20 The Last Days of The Wall 5:50 Earth Report 6:00pm BBC World News: Headlines 6:05 World Focus: Timewatch 7:00 BBC World News 7:20 This Week 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 Time Out: Film '96 9:00 BBC World News: Headlines 9:05 World Focus: Correspondent 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Floyd's American Pie

11:00 BBC World News 11:20 This Week 12:00noon BBC World News 12:20 Britain in View 1:00 BBC World News: Headlines 1:05 World Focus: Horizon 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Fat Man in France 3:00 BBC World News 3:25 Window On Europe 4:00 BBC World News 4:25 This Week 5:00 BBC World News 5:20 Window On Europe
CHANNEL V 6:00am Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 8:30 Asian Top 20 VJ Trey 10:30 Big Bang Weekend VJ Alessandria 12:30 Billboard US Countdown 2:30 The Ride VJ Trey 3:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 4:30 House Of Noise VJ Luke 5:30 [V] 1's 6:00pm Classic Rock 7:00 Top of the Pops 8:00 BPL Oye! 9:00 The Ticket 9:30 Palmolive Extra 10:00 Time Pass 10:30 Rewind 11:00 V Spot 12:00am Big Bang VJ Alessandria 4:30 V Spot
STAR PLUS 6:30am Voltorn 7:00 Incredible Hulk 7:30 Spider Man 8:00 Captain Critters 8:30 Count Duckula 9:00 Sabar Rider & The Star Sheriff 9:30 Zoolite With Jack Hanna 10:00 Katts & Dog 10:30 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea 11:30 The Wild Wild West 12:30 Movie: 'McMillan and Wife' 2:30 E! TV 3:00 The Wonder Years 3:30 Civil Wars 4:30 Hardcastle and McCormick 5:30 Fantasy Island 6:30pm Charlie's Angels 7:30 The Addams Family 8:30 The Simpsons 9:30 Baywatch 9:30 Sirens 10:30 L.A. Law 11:30 Classic 12:00noon COPS 12:30 Mystery Movie: Inspector Morse Last Bus to Woodstock 2:30 Movie: 'Bye Bye Baby' 4:30 E! TV 5:00 The Sullivans 5:30 Wild Wild West

STAR SPORTS 6:00am Formula Nippon From Suzuka Circuit Japan 7:30 Sports India 8:30 World Wrestling Federation Raw 9:30 NBA-Inside Stuff 10:00 Gillette World Sports Special 10:30 The Asian Football Show 11:00 Wild M/Cycle Champ Rio GP Prev 12:00 Live Heineken Open 1996 Singapore 1st & 2nd Sem Finals 1:00 Inside PGA Tour 4:30 Sports India 5:30 Wild M/Cycle Champ Rio GP Prev 6:00 Futbol Mundial 6:30 Asia Sports Show 7:00 NBA Fantastic 7:30 1996 Asian Under 16 Championships Final From Thailand 9:00 1996 Singer World Series Highlights 1:00 NBA Fantastic 1:30 Asia Sports Show 2:00 Heineken Open 1996 Singapore 1st & 2nd Sem Finals
STAR MOVIES 7:30am Comedy: Best of Friends 9:30 Family: The good-bye bird 11:30 Adventure: Time Trackers PG (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Adventure: Rise The Titanic 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Classic: D-Day The South of June 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Family: Harry and Son 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Adventure: The Skateboard Kid 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:00 20:30 Bol Bollywood

EL TV 00:30 Men Nashe Mein Hoon 01:30 Bacche Man Ke 02:30 Chad Chad 03:30 Devotional 04:30 Tarane 05:30 Mein Nashe Mein Hoon 06:30 Bacche Man Ke 07:30 Chad Chad 08:30 Devotional 09:30 Tarane 10:30 Dear El 11:00 Hakke Bakke 11:30 Karz 12:00 Teen Do Paanch 12:30 Intezar 01:00 Akanksha 02:00 Raajesh Khanna Special 3:00 Praful V3+ 3:30 Ajab 4:30 Nukkard 5:00 Emmai The Real Count Down 5:30 Main Nashe Mein Hoo 06:30 Khushyan 6:00 Brigader Bahwan Bhawan 7:30 Unparyas 8:00 Men Marzi 8:20 Kinetic Hasen Pal 8:30 Hee Hee Ha Ha 9:00 Karm 9:30 Siyaram Kamal Combination 10:00 Suhana Safar 10:30 Stand By 10:40 Liberty Public Demand 11:30 Ten Bhi Chup Mein Bhi Chup 12:00 Kinetic Hasen Pal 12:10 Gambler
PTV 8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Visitors Book 9:10 Phool Khushboo 9:25 Dastarkhwan 9:40 Mehmaan 10:05 Aap Ki Awar Maqsood 10:30 English Film: Tarzan 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Meri Pasand 11:25 Janan 12:55 Quran-E-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Girind 2:05 Lazzali Ep-45 2:55 Husool-E-Insaaf & Sports Coaching 3:20 TV Encyclopedia 3:40 Sports Time 4:05 Daastark 5:05 Medicine 5:25 Computers 6:20 Aou Courses 7:00 English News 7:20 PTV Music Library 7:30 Vrsa Pakistan 7:55 Ghazal Use Naye Saare 8:25 Dentonic World Of Sports 8:45 Anla 9:00 Break For Headlines News 10:00 Khabrain & Commercial News 10:25 TBA 11:55 The Flash Point 1:05 Urdu Feature Film: Khas Khabrain-Close Down
SONY ET 8:30am Kuch Dil Ne Kaha

9:00 Yaadon Ki Baar 9:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 12:30 Chamatkar 1:00 Siddhi 1:30 Kaash 2:00 Sunday Ki Sunday 2:30 The Nirlep Khosla Show 3:00 Khoya Khoya Chand 3:30 Movie Mania 4:30 Humse Barker Gong 5:00
Rangeela Re 5:30 Mere Message Meri Geet 6:00 Aana 6:30 Video CD Premier: 7:00 Good Shot 7:30 Jai Bir Hanuman 8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 Cine Prime-Hindi Feature Film: 11:30 Fortune Hunter 12:30 Humse Barker Gong 1:00 Hospital 1:30 Aa

haat 2:00 Kuch Dil Ne Kaha 2:30 Closed
DD 7 10:30 Jammindan 10:35 Movie Club Film 1:00 Movie Club Film 4:35 Movie Club Film 7:00 Nandanik 7:30 Bangla Sambad
8:00 Dhitang Dhitang Boile 8:30 UJAL: Suresh 9:00 TBA 9:25 Classical Music 10:00 Drama 10:30 News and Bengali Sambad & Closed
ZEE CINEMA 06:30 Songs 08:00 Film: Disco

Dancer 10:45 Off Screen 11:15 Film: Kaun Kaise 02:00 Ikk Pe Ikk 02:30 Film: Chor Ho To Aisa 5:15 Songs 06:00 Film: Tume Se Acha Kaun Hai 08:45 Box Office 09:30 Film: Aanchi Tofan 12:15 Trailers 12:30 Film: Zakhmi Ruh 03:15 Songs 03:45 Film: Haiwan

Garfield® by Jim Davis
TLOK TLOK SMACK SMACK
PSST! OPIE! WANT SOME MORE PEANUT BUTTER?
HOW DID YOU LEARN TO SWIM SO WELL, SPIKE?
MY MASTER THREW STICKS INTO THE WATER AND I FETCHED THEM FOR HIM.
I WONDER WHAT HIS MASTER DID WITH A LOT OF WET STICKS?

Garfield cartoon panels showing the cat and his mouse friend.