People may have mission which, however, may not reach the good end. Despite nice vision, mission may stumble and die away. There are numerous reasons for this. What is most conspicuous is that individual efforts have limitations of all sorts. They are constrained by the existing socio-political settings, having national and international dimensions. If the leadership and bureaucracy of the country are not favourable, the mission, however visionary it may be, cannot make any headway. What is felt at the individual or association level may not be felt through the national pulse. For example, an individual teacher or an association of teachers may feel that particular changes should be brought in the educational policy and national curriculum, but if the government is not convinced with the suggestions no change will take place in the desired direction. This is the obstacle often faced by the teachers, here and elsewhere. Furthermore, a teacher may find his personal vision and mission incompatible, even conflicting, with that of the authority of the institution he/she works for. It leads only to compromise and total suppression, eventually. So teachers may have dream but there is no guarantee that the dream will come true. Dreams are often stuck in the harshness of reality.

But there was the ignition -- I saw it -- the force to surge ahead. Teachers were imbued with the ideal of doing something good for society. They got an urge for vision and mission from the sermons of Pickering, who was conducting a workshop on motivation. In his own witty fashion he was explicating the question: 'How do you motivate yourself and learners?' The point of vision and mission relevantly came up just as a flicker in the middle of his deliberation. He identified vision and mission as two important components of motivation. If anybody has to be strongly motivated, he/she has to ask himself/herself what exactly he/she wants to achieve and why. If he/she gets the answer, vision and mission are kindled from within, giving them power to think and work. After the session, the audience was motivated to their responsibilities -- they felt the potency of impulse, I can tell you. They got ready to be torchbearers for spreading light all around them.

I could not think beforehand that a formal gathering would be rewarding in such a significant way. It was an international conference of teachers, more specifically, English teachers. BELTA (Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association) organised it in Dhaka during September 7-8. People from home and abroad made it a sweet rendezvous for them. It was exciting and stimulating. I heard with amazement the erudite speech of the luminous figures. I learnt a lot from the conference -- from the learned teachers, scholars and researchers who actively participated in workshops, presentations and panel discussion. Above all, I learnt how to motivate myself and others thanks to Pickering. I leant how to get vision and mission and walk down the way of life ablaze with them.

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