

NEWSLETTER



WE ARE
INDIA'S
NO. 1

Page 4



Stephen
Hawking:
'Mind
over
Matter'

Page 18



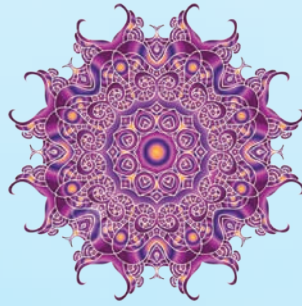
Conquering the Summit

Abdul Malek Khan and
Kazi Dilruba Khanam
have done fantastic
results in Secondary &
Higher Secondary 2017.
Both of them have
ranked 10th.

Page 7

“Indeed whosoever purifies himself shall achieve success,
And remembers the name of his Lord, and prays.
But you prefer the life of this world,
Although the Hereafter is better and more lasting.
Verily, this is in the former Scriptures-
The Scriptures of Ibrahim and Musa.”

(Al-A’la, 87: 14-19)



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CONTENTS

ACHIEVEMENT

We Are India’s No. 1	4
Making Mission Proud	6
Glorious Moment	6

ASCENT

Conquering the Summit	7
-----------------------	---

SPECIAL EVENT

Al-Ameen at Doha Summit	10
-------------------------	----

MISSION SAMACHAR

	13
--	----

TRIBUTE

Stephen Hawking: ‘Mind over Matter’	18
-------------------------------------	----

SUCCESS STORY

Touching the Sky	20
------------------	----

FEATURE STORY

Language: The Code of Communication	23
-------------------------------------	----



Editorial

THE LATEST ANNUAL STATUS of Education Report (ASER) has painted a very gloomy picture for rural India. The survey was done in 28 districts across 24 states of the country. It was focussed on 14-18 year old students. These students were the first batch who passed the class VIII after the implementation of the Right to Education Act. According to the report, 27% children are unable to read a Standard II level text and 57% are unable to do simple division that is taught in Standard IV. Also, 14% of the students couldn't identify the map of our country while 36% couldn't name its capital.

The report points out to a very serious gap in the system. As the 14-18 year-old age group is very close to the income earning age, the findings are worrisome. At the turn of the century the term 'demographic dividend' became a popular term owing to the encouragement of the possibilities of rapid economic growth of India. Now, more than a decade and half later people are hardly talking about it. The optimism is simply vanishing away because the country is failing to sufficiently educate and skill our younger generation who are the human capital.

Enrollment rates in schools have gone up significantly but learning outcomes appear to have stagnated. This is having a serious repercussion for the country's economy and society. Every month, more than a million youth are joining the workforce. But, in the long run, poor education standards would make many of them unemployable. That means, unemployment would rise and many of those unemployed would end up doing destructive things. The demographic dividend would fast turn into demographic time bomb. The solution is to focus on quality education which needs considerable improvement. For that, it will be better to open doors wide and create new institutional mechanisms that will ensure low costs and better quality.

The digital age is shaping our everyday life. Unlike linear functioning, which was the norm of the last century; we are now moving into non-linear functioning. Our syllabi, our sitting arrangement in the classroom, our system of passing and failing of students are all reflections of a linear mode of functioning. The advent of information technology in a large scale has changed everything. Computing and communication devices in our hands are changing the way we think. But so much knowledge that can be made available at our fingertips would remain untapped unless the barriers to access this knowledge is not lowered as well as the passage to use it is not opened up. While our neighbouring country China is equipping its younger generation with robotics and artificial intelligence, we are yet to get our basics right. To create jobs, we must improve the education quality. That should be the topmost priority now.

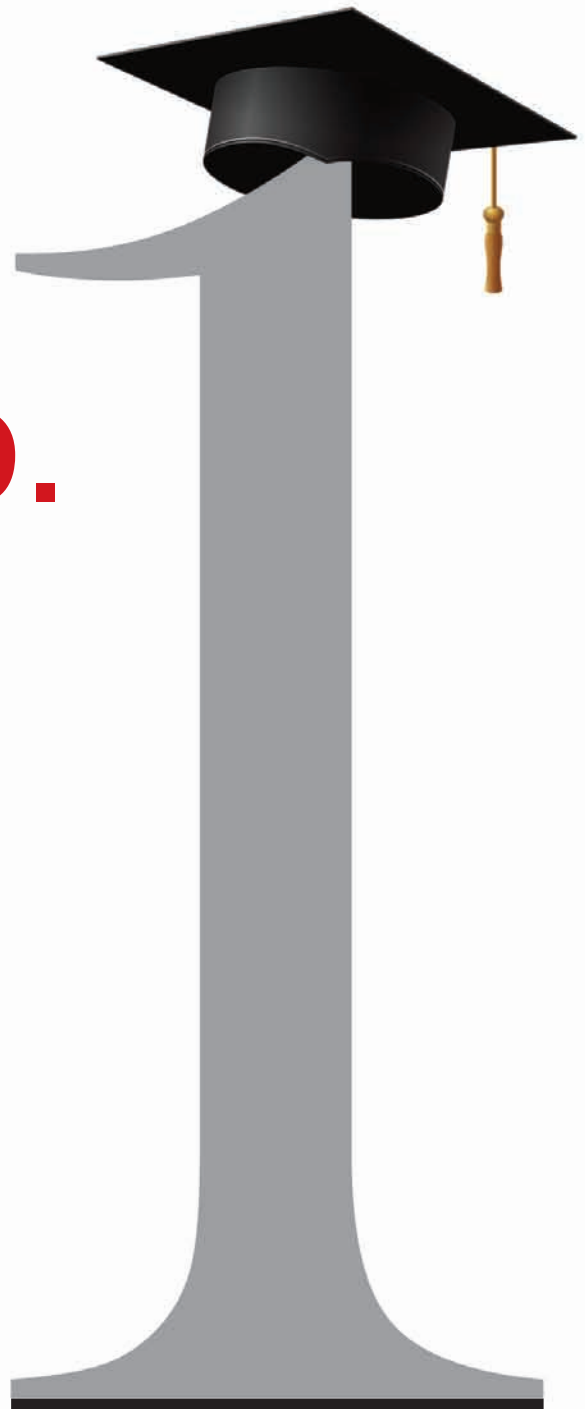
M Nurul Islam
(Editor-in-Chief)

We Are India's No.



Double glories and the entire Mission family are in cloud nine now.

Two of the alumni of Al-Ameen Mission have achieved glorious feat in the same year which rarely occurs.



DR MD SAMIM MONDAL and Dr Altaf Hossain are alumni of Al-Ameen Mission who has done outstanding results this year. Coincidentally, both the results happened from a premier medical institute of India, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuroscience (NIMHANS), Bengaluru.

Altaf Hossain comes from Dihibhursut, Howrah. This year, he has stood first in the admission test to NIMHANS for the course, 'Post Doctoral Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry'. There was only one unreserved seat for the course and the competition was tough. All total 110 MD/DNB Indian doctors sat for the test. But Altaf beat them all coming out with flying colours. He had been a meritorious student throughout his school life.

He passed his Madhyamik (10th) examination from

Asanda Adarsha Sikhsa Sadan and from class XI, he moved into Al-Ameen Mission Khalatpur campus. That was the beginning of a successful journey. He passed Higher Secondary examination brilliantly and after taking coaching from the Mission, he cracked the JEE Medical ranking 570. From North Bengal Medical College, he passed the MBBS in 2008. From SSKM Hospital and Medical College Hospital, he did diploma in Psychological Medicine (DPM). In 2015, he did MD in Psychiatry from NIMHANS. At present he is the Senior Resident of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi.

Altaf was born in a middle class family. His father is a rural doctor and they have medical store too. His mother is a homemaker while his wife Nilofar Islam and sister Firdousi Khatun are both doctors. Firdousi too studied in Al-

Ameen Mission and passed the Higher Secondary examination. She also became a doctor by taking coaching from there. While Altaf gave credit for his outstanding achievement to his parents, he nonetheless paid his respect and gratitude to Al-Ameen Mission. The general secretary,



Altaf thinks that education is only way by which a community or a society could lift itself up and Al-Ameen Mission is doing that nicely.

teachers and above all the fantastic atmosphere of the residential campus laid the foundation for his success, he commented. The effort of the skillful and dedicated teachers of the Mission has produced quality education in all the campuses that has immensely helped the minority Muslim students. Also the coaching and mental booster from the Mission has helped the students in a big way.



Dr Md Samim Mondal.



Dr Altaf Hossain.

Altaf thinks that education is only way by which a community or a society could lift itself up and Al-Ameen Mission is doing that nicely. The government should invest more funds for modern education. Time is changing and with that change the policy and approach towards education should change, he opined. The Muslim girls should come forward more and more for learning provided by the Mission. The younger generation should be positive in their outlook and give genuine efforts to succeed in life. One should remember that there is no age limit to success. Altaf wants to be a sensitive and good psychiatrist by which he could lead a meaningful life.

Md Samim Mondal is also a lad from Howrah. He lives in Dhulagarh. Son of a zari worker, he has struggled a lot and trudged along the glorious path of success. Dr Mondal ranked first in the course for Doctorate of Medicine (DM) in NIMHANS. It had only four seats in total. He also secured eighth rank in MCH.

In 2009, Samim was admitted to class XI in the Khalatpur campus of Al-Ameen Mission and secured 90 per cent marks in HS examination in 2011. He ranked 701 in JEE Medical on the same year and got admitted in Burdwan Medical College. In 2016, in his final year in MBBS course, he got the gold medal by scoring highest marks. He dedicated his success to his family as well as to Al-Ameen Mission.

We would carry stories about the success of these two doctors in detail in future issues of the Newsletter. ■

Making Mission Proud

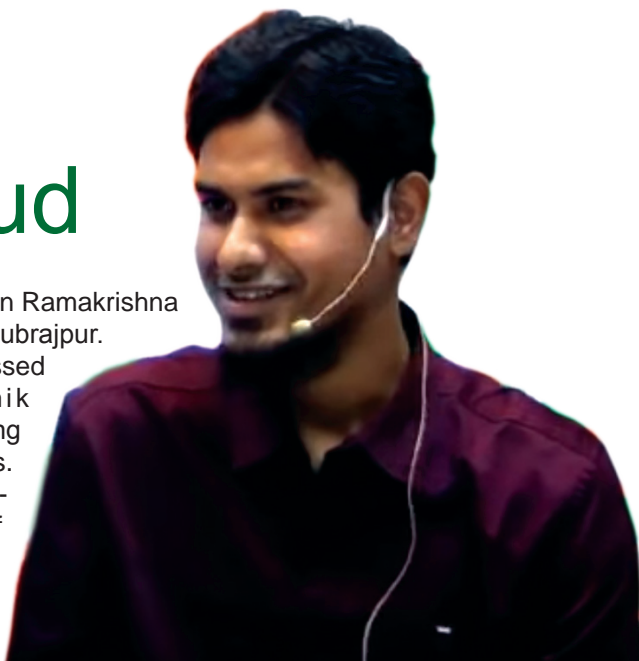
AN ALUMNUS OF AL-AMEEN has added another feather in the Mission's cap. Sk Azharuddin has ranked 18th in the prestigious Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER). He comes from Dubshanka village under Parui police station of Birbhum. He has just passed MBBS last month. He will set off for Puducherry, where JIPMER is located. So far as medical education in India is concerned, there are four medical institutes which are termed as the best. They are AIIMS in Delhi, PGI in Chandigarh, NIMHANS in Bengaluru and JIPMER in Puducherry. All these four medical institutes take separate entrance examination for admission. Only the exceptionally meritorious students of the country can crack the examination. Azharuddin has been able to place himself into the coveted list of 20 by ranking 18. He has, undoubtedly, made Bengal proud. In the published merit list, there are about 18 thousand names. There are four names from West Bengal in the first 20 name list. Azharuddin is the only Muslim name there. His parents, Sk Sorman Ali and Sahana Bibi, have studied till Madhyamik. His father had been doing some business but lately he does nothing for living. Sahana Bibi is a homemaker. Azhar's elder brother, who has studied till Higher Secondary, looks after a contractual business of a relative. He has also a sister, who is married. Azhar studied in Al-Ameen Mission from class IX. Before that,

he studied in Ramakrishna Mission, Dubrajpur.

He had passed Madhyamik by scoring 88% marks.

To take advantage of the JEE coaching he moved to Al-Ameen

Mission and in 2011 he passed the HS examination by securing 83.6% marks. He also cracked the JEE on the same year by ranking 604 in the Medical and went to study MBBS in the National Medical College in Kolkata. He has just passed out and got the opportunity to study from such a renowned Medical Institute. Azharuddin said that although he studied in the Mission and got financial relief in a considerable way, but he got something bigger studying there. He learned time management and a disciplined life style. These two qualities are very important to lead a successful life. After studying surgery in JIPMER, Azharuddin would like to come back to West Bengal and work in the health sector of the state. ■



Glorious Moment



ALMINA KHATUN IS AN alumna of Al-Ameen Mission. Recently, she has topped in the MBBS final examination among students of National Medical College, Kolkata. This is, indeed, an outstanding performance from a girl who comes from a remote village. The village, Ayodhya, falls under Jangipara area of Hooghly. Most of the inhabitants of the village are engaged in agricultural works. She did outstanding results in the Madhyamik and HS examinations and then began studying medicine after cracking the JEE in 2012. Throughout her studies, she continuously made good results and in the final too she was



up to the mark. In the 67th reunion of National Medical College, she was felicitated for her superb performance. In the future she wants to be a pediatrician.

Almina's father who wants her to be a doctor has passed away. She has dedicated her outstanding performance to her father. Almina got 88 per cent in the Madhyamik and 90 per cent in the HS. She was a student of Al-Ameen Mission. She admitted that for this performance the Mission also played a big role. She thanked the Mission profusely.

After finishing the study, she wants to serve the rural people of Bengal because they are neglected from modern health facility. She said, if someone is willing to study medicine, she/he should sustain it for a pretty long time because this is, for the most part, an arduous journey. Also the Muslim girls should come forward to play a vital role in building the society, she opined. Besides study, discipline is also an important factor. Showing respect to the elders and love to the younger could facilitate us to move ahead. Spirituality too can help a student to increase concentration in study, Almina concluded. ■

up to the mark. In the 67th reunion of National Medical College, she was felicitated for her superb performance. In the future she wants to be a pediatrician.

Conquering The Summit



Producing outstanding results have become a norm of Al-Ameen Mission. But that too sometimes reach a level which is seldom seen. 2017 gave such a glimpse. Here is that story.



**Abdul Malek Khan 681 (97.3%)
Rank 10th in Madhyamik Exam 2017.**

Najib Anwar

ABDUL MALEK KHAN AND Kazi Dilruba Khanam—both of them have done fantastic results in 2017. Both of them have ranked 10th in the state merit list. The former in Higher Secondary (10+2) and the latter in Madhyamik (10th) examination.

In 2017 Madhyamik examination, all total 1068 students appeared from the Mission and 227 students scored more than 90 per cent marks. Malek scored 97.3 per cent marks and came under the state merit list. He comes from the Sundarbans area. Kachiamara is a remote place, far off from the nearest town Canning. Son of an auto rickshaw driver, his father Abdul Kalam Khan had studied till Madhyamik. His mother Marufa Khatun too studied till Madhyamik and is a home maker. Malek has two siblings- a brother and a sister. His brother is a Madrasa student while his sister studies in the Joynagar branch of Al-Ameen Mission.

Malek's family is streaked of poverty. Presently his father is an auto rickshaw driver but initially he used to do embroidery works. He has two bigha land where some paddy is produced during rainy season. But it is very difficult to make both ends meet, Malek confessed to us in an interview.

Kachiamara is not a large village but has a mixed population of Hindu and Muslim. Education has not yet penetrated among the Muslims in a big way here. Most of them dropped out of school after Madhyamik. Because of poor economic condition, they usually get themselves involved into manual labour. Although most people culti-



Abdul feels that coming to Al-Ameen Mission has changed his life. He wants to become a doctor. It is also his father's dream.

vate their lands but there are some who do sundry businesses based on the village. Few of them also do jobs.

Malek told us that there is a primary as well as a high school in the village. His education started from the non-governmental primary school Pranabananda Vidyayan. From class V, he studied in Al-Ameen Foundation in Sundarbans Battala. He studied there for couple of years and from class VII, he has been in Al-Ameen Mission, Paikpari branch. Because of his financial hardship, the Mission initially slashed his tuition fee into one fourth and now he pays one third of the fee.

Paikpari branch started its journey from 2011. This branch is producing good results continually. This year 28 students appeared for Madhyamik examination. Besides Malek who scored 681, Aftab Ahmad scored 680 and Sabir Mondal scored 678 marks. There are students who have scored 669, 666 and 660 marks. A phenomenal achievement indeed.

According to Malek, the credit for this achievement must go to Nurul Anwar. He was the person who was instrumental in opening this branch. He is a strict person and keeps tab on the activities of the students as well as the teachers of that branch. Last year, there were low score in English and Geography. This year Nurul Saheb put extra importance on these two subjects by providing good teachers. The score in both the subjects have automatically gone up.

Malek's score in the examination are as follows: Bengali-90, English-99, Mathematics-99, Life Science-98, Physical Science-98, Geography-99 and History- 98. Still, he thinks that there was a scope for improvement. Had he practiced answers by writing more and more, his score could have increased. But, overall he is satisfied. Malek also feels that coming to Al-Ameen Mission has changed his life. He has improved his study immensely. Earlier, he was weak in English. His classmate Aftab was good at it. By practicing English with him, Malek has considerably improved in that subject.

Apart from the study, he loves playing football and is also fond of reading story books. Malek wants to become a doctor. It is also his father's dream. Abdul Kalam Khan has been working hard throughout his life to see his son become a real man. Now, it is the time for the son to see his father's dream come true.

While Abdul Malek Khan comes from the southern-

most part of West Bengal, Kazi Dilruba Khanam comes from the north of the state. Unlike Malek, her family has a middle class background. Dilruba's father Kazi Nurun Nabi is a clerk in the Khairbari High Madrasa. Her mother Tanjima Khatun is a teacher in the Shishu Shiksha Kendra (Child Learning Centre). Dilruba's ancestral home is also in Dakshin Khairbari under Madarihat Police Station of Alipurduar district. She has three elder sisters. All of them are married.

Dilruba grew up in rural surroundings. Most of the local inhabitants are either connected to agriculture or do small businesses. Paddy, jute, potato are crops produced here. This is a mixed area- Hindu, Muslim, Nepali and Non-Bengali live here side by side. Dilruba said, Muslims have a good population here. But most of them don't go for higher studies. After Madhyamik, they usually drop out. After dropping out, the boys usually go to Bhutan or any other places for work, Dilruba informs us.



**Kazi Dilruba Khanam 480 (96%)
Rank 10th in Higher Secondary Exam 2017.**



Dilruba pointed out that because of her good foundation in Madrasa, she could score so well in the HS examination. If one studies well, good result is inevitable. School is not a factor.

she is preparing for the Medical JEE.

She candidly admits that because of the Mission she could score such a good result. Actually, there was less distraction in the Mission. According to Dilruba, one can score well staying at home too provided there is a good school and a good atmosphere at home. But, it usually do not happen because too much distraction. These days, students are getting too much addicted to mobile phone, which according

Dilruba started her primary education from Kajipara Primary school, which is a government school. From class V to X, she studied in the Khairbari High Madrasa. One reason to study there was that her father is a clerk there. Another reason was that her grandfather was one of the founders of that Madrasa. In fact, he provided the land for the Madrasa. She was good at study throughout her school life. The teachers of the Madrasa thought that if she could score well, the name of the Madrasa would become known to everyone. Dilruba stood first in every class. Whatever she studied, she studied diligently. Also, she was involved in extra-curricular activities. She used to sing, recite and draw. She sang well and had a family tradition in this regard. Her other sisters too learned singing.

In the High Madrasa examination in 2015, she scored 732 marks (92%) and came third in the state ranking. Her marks were as follows: Bengali- 88, English-84, Mathematics-86, Life Science-99, Physical Science-98, Geography-95, History-95 and Introduction to Islam-91. She had three private tutors at that time. In the HS, she came to study in Al-Ameen Mission. She sat for the admission test from Dinhata and came down to Khalatpur for the interview. Although she wanted to study in the main campus, she preferred to study in Siliguri which is nearer to her home. The Siliguri branch was good. She used to come first and scored 93 per cent marks in class XI.

Dilruba told us that the name Al-Ameen Mission is not much known in her area. Many were skeptical when she got admitted there. Now the perception has changed because of her outstanding result. She has scored 480 marks (96%). Her scores are as follows: Bengali-91, English-97, Mathematics-99, Biology-99, Physics-92, and Chemistry-92. She loves Mathematics but at present

ing to her is a menace for studying well.

Dilruba also does not think that Madrasa education is worse than school education. If that was true, she could not have come third. She also pointed out that because of her good foundation in Madrasa, she could score so well in the HS examination. Her clear opinion is, if one studies well, he/she would do good results. School is not a factor.

She had some advice for the fellow students too. The students in the science section should give due importance to English and Bengali. Negligence in those subjects could hamper good results. One should try to study every subject on a daily basis. After the class in the Mission, one should go back to the same lesson within 12 hours or so. This can serve well for remembering what was taught. It is good to practice Mathematics every day. One should not try to study

too many books at a time. Rather one should read a single book for a long time. Sometimes, though, other books should be consulted. Students should practice Physics by writing. They should be precise while answering and keep side notes.

Dilruba also answered some other questions. She is not addicted to TV. She also watches cinema. She has no facebook account yet and is far off from social media.

She said that there should be a control on using mobile phone at least until class XII. Good result is not simply possible if one continuously uses mobile phone and watches TV. Addiction to these devices is bad for a student.

The result has brought wave of joy in her house. Dilruba is happy because her parents are overjoyed with her result. She has been felicitated from many quarters. She is now preparing to clear the JEE. Her aim is to become a doctor and a specialist in Gynecology. ■



Showing the path to success.



Al-Ameen at Doha Summit

wise

world innovation summit for education
مؤتمر القمة العالمي للابتكار في التعليم

For the first time in its history, Al-Ameen Mission participated in an International Education Summit. The General Secretary, M Nurul Islam led a two member delegation to Doha (Qatar). A report.



Sheikha Moza bint Nasser
(Chairperson of Qatar Foundation).

THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF Al-Ameen Mission, M Nurul Islam participated in the eighth World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) held from November 14-16 in Doha, Qatar. He was accompanied by Dildar Hosain, the director of Al-Ameen Mission Study Circle. The summit was convened by Qatar Foundation. The theme of this year, Co-Exist, Co-Create: Learning to Live and Work Together- reflected the commitment to address important education challenges in times of disruption and

economic uncertainty stemming from conflict, mass migration, growing inequality, on- going rapid technological change and other forces.

In her inaugural address, the chairperson of Qatar Foundation, Sheikha Moza bint Nasser said, "...Education is a treasury for all solutions." But she also regretted that this treasury will face bankruptcy and will not be able to confront global challenges if the flaws are not addressed. She urged everyone to examine the rising

phenomena and changes happening around.

“Social media has become cluttered with organized activities that spread propaganda. Rumours and lies divert people’s attention from reality and truth. The internet has created a virtual world that deals with reality selectively, validating only its credibility.” Having said this, Sheikha Moza opined that “when these practices become commonplace in our world, the outcome certainly be fake facts presented as alternative truths, which we accept in this so-called post-truth world. In this world the objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.” In this context she highlighted the plights of Iraq and Yemen.

“Iraq was besieged for 13 years using tools of deception, and excuses were fabricated to justify invasion in 2003. It was so strange that the invasion was dubbed as liberation. Iraq’s education system, one of the best in the region in 1990, was in complete ruins. A country on the verge of eradicating illiteracy was caught in the midst of wars and conflicts that dragged progress back to the unfortunate conditions of the past.”

“With those same tools, Yemen is besieged today, so that it may not know prosperity or stability.” The country is

drowned “in a dreaded triangle of ignorance, disease and illiteracy.” Sheikha Moza also said, “A blockade has been imposed on Qatar since June 5. Some wanted to make matters difficult for us, yet it was only difficult for them. They wanted us to change, yet we remain unchanged.”

She said, “We must keep faith that an education grounded in values will instill the importance for truth to take precedence over personal beliefs in educational contexts.” She urged upon pushing for a comprehensive reforms in education where “curricula and pedagogies that develop students’ critical mind and their skills in examining various issues, away from stereotypical thinking” should be included. Sheikha Moza opined that through media and information literacy in school curricula, students will be empowered to observe media discourse and examine political rhetoric from a critical perspective. This is the only way which can “save the world from getting lost in the post-truth maze,” she concluded.

Speaking on education in a post-truth world, CNN host Fareed Zakaria said, “In this new world, technology is playing a pernicious role. The only thing that can stop the decline of civilisation is facts and education. Facts are becoming a victim and boring truth. We cannot live

Sheikha Moza bint Nasser said, “... Education is a treasury for all solutions.”



M Nurul Islam with other participants in one of the sessions of the summit.



Patrick Awuah, recipient of the WISE prize for education 2017. He is the founder of Ashesi University, Accra, Ghana.

in a world where black is white and white is black.”

This year the WISE Prize for Education was presented to Dr Patrick Awuah, the Founder and President of Ashesi University situated in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. It should be noted that Dr Awuah is striving to educate a new generation of ethical and entrepreneurial leaders in Africa. The prize is comprised of a gold medal and \$ 500,000. In 2011, the first WISE Prize for Education was received by noted social entrepreneur from Bangladesh, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed who is the Founder and Chairman of BRAC. Next year, the prize went to Madhav Chavan, the co-founder and CEO of Pratham, India.



Madhav Chavan (co-founder of Pratham, India) received WISE prize in 2012.

In the inaugural ceremony, the First Lady of Turkey, Emine Erdogan was the guest of honour. It was moderated by BBC anchor and International Broadcast Journalist, Yalda Hakim. The three day summit was attended by 2,000 delegates from more than 100 countries. The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) was established in 2009 and has become a premier international gathering deliberating on the future of education.

Meeting Bengali Diaspora

Besides attending the three day summit in Doha, the general secretary of Al-Ameen Mission M Nurul Islam also met the Bengali Diaspora. At present, the Mission has at least 18 thousand alumni. Many of them are working in different parts of the globe and some have landed in Qatar too. When the news arrived that the general secretary will be visiting Doha, they were eager to meet him. One of them was Afazuddin Ahmed. He is from Sau-tapara, a village in the Gokorno Block of Murshidabad. He had studied in the Khalatpur campus of the Mission. Afterwards, he got his engineering degree from Shibpur Engineering College. Now, Afazuddin is working in Doha as an electrical engineer. His wife Ambia Nasrin too is a structural engineer. Apart from Afazuddin and Ambia, many ex students as well as persons from West Bengal met Nurul Islam. Among them were Technical Operational Manager M N Basir, Project Engineer Md Mustafa Zaman, Senior Officer in Qatar Airways Kazi Omar Tariq, Mechanical Engineer Md Hasibur Rahman, Geologist Samim Ahmed, CA Arsha Ali and Computer Engineer Md Mohiuddin. There were several deliberations where thoughts and ideas were exchanged regarding Al-Ameen Mission. Everyone was curious to know about the present activities of the Mission. The general secretary expressed his thought on the education scenario of Bengal. The higher education of the minorities was deliberated in detail. He also touched upon the future planning of the Mission. The participants in these meetings expressed their desires to associate themselves with the Mission's journey. M Nurul Islam, besides attending the WISE conference, enjoyed these meetings with the Bengali Diaspora. It is worthy to note that this is for the first time Al-Ameen Mission participated in an international education summit.

After returning from Doha, while sharing his experience, M Nurul Islam profusely thanked the Qatar Foundation. He said that numerous innovative experiments



General Secretary among Bengali diaspora in Doha.

are going on world over. It had been a great opportunity to know about these experiments. Also to watch the latest technological revolution sweeping across the education arena had been very enriching. We will try our best to grasp these experiences and apply it in our future activities. ■

Our First Publication

Prithvipurush



LAST OCTOBER, AL-AMEEN Mission released its first ever book. The book 'Prithvipurush' is a compilation of articles in tribute to the late President of India, APJ Abdul Kalam. The articles were published in two issues of 'Al-Ameen Barta', the Bengali magazine of the Mission. There are eight articles, which covered various aspects of Kalam's life.

The book has been edited by the general secretary of the Mission, M Nurul Islam. In his editorial he wrote, Kalam's dream-like ascent taught us that if one is determined enough, has the zeal for work and not shy away from hard task, no amount of hurdles- poverty, backward society and poor statistics- could thwart her/ his progress. This initiative to release a book has been taken to revive the spirit of learning, scientific endeavour, youthfulness and success among the students in particular. On 8 October, the book was distributed to 17 thousand examinees appearing for the Mission's admission test. Subsequently, it was given to 13 thousand resident students of the Mission. The price of the book is Rs 100 only.

TET Coaching

Nowadays, qualitative coaching plays a vital role in any type of competitive examination. In view of this, the West Bengal Minorities Development and Finance Corporation have arranged free coaching for the ensuing Primary Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) for the Minority communities such as Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and Parsis. Al-Ameen Mission Trust got the opportunity to conduct the coaching programme. It conducted the programme in District and Sub-divisional towns of North and South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Nadia, Malda, North and South Dinajpur, Cooch Behar, Purba and Paschim Medinipur, West Burdwan and Birbhum. The programme was also carried out in Kolkata. The District Officer of Minority Affairs (DOMA) of the concerned districts had been in charge to look after the overall affairs. In almost all districts the coaching programme started on 9 December. The main function took place at the Naya-baz campus near Santragachi. Here, the Managing Director of WBMDFC, Mriganka Biswas said that they have taken number of initiatives to ameliorate the status of education and economic condition of the minorities. The Corporation is giving emphasis on job oriented education and training, he pointed out. The general secretary of the Mission, M Nurul Islam said that we want the minority students to get proper training, so that they might be successful in the competitive examinations in a huge way. In the past, we have always responded to the call of WBMDFC. Our work has satisfied them and this year they have given us the responsibility of conducting the coaching programme almost throughout the state. More



than three thousand students are being trained from 21 centres. Member of Parliament (RS), Ahmad Hasan Imran expressed hope that the TET examinees would be benefitted from the coaching of Al-Ameen Mission. On the same day, the coaching programme was inaugurated in Cooch Behar by North Bengal Development Minister, Rabindranath Ghosh. The District Magistrate Kaushik Saha and other dignitaries were present in the function.



Al-Ameen Utsav

On 3rd and 4th February, Al-Ameen Utsav 2018 was observed in the Khalatpur campus of the Mission. The festival kicked off after the recitation from the Holy Qur'an. In his inaugural address the general secretary M Nurul Islam reminiscences all the founders who initiated the Al-Ameen movement. He also expressed gratitude to the inhabitants of Khalatpur. He also thanked the Pataka

Group of Industries, whose funding helped the Mission prosper initially. He also commented that the journey of Al-Ameen started taking inspiration from Ramakrishna Mission. He also said that they wanted to build a nest for the marginalised Muslim community who for various historical reasons remained backward for many years. The Mission has spread its wings to almost all parts of

West Bengal and also to the neighbouring states now. It has turned into a big family comprising of 18 thousand alumni, 14 thousand current students, 2 thousand teachers and staffs. Presently, it has 68 branches. Islam also said that there was a dearth in Muslim doctors and engineers in the state until recently. But now there are doctors and engineers aplenty owing to Mission's efforts. The focus is now on civil service as there are not many Muslims from the state.

Dr P B Salim, Secretary of the Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department of West Bengal while dwelling on the issue said that lack of confidence might be the reason of not having many IAS officers from the community. Lack of knowledge and lack of learning act as counter-productive, he opined. Students must overcome these problems to be able to succeed in the civil service examination, he commented.

The Joint Secretary of the Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department, Shakil Ahmed, Entrepreneur Sheikh Arif



Hussain, Members of Parliament Ahmad Hasan Imran and Idris Ali, the former Chairman of Public Service Commission Md Sahidul Islam, the Commissioner of Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department G H Obaidur Rahman, the Secretary of West Bengal Haj Committee Rakibur Rahman along with many other dignitaries were present in this two-day programme. One of the alumni of the Mission and a budding entrepreneur Morshed Ali Molla presented an ambulance and a school van. Every year, he donates an ambulance to the Mission. The successful candidates in the Madhyamik, Higher Secondary as well as in the Medical, Engineering and Nursing were felicitated. A free health checkup & blood donation camp was also organised in the premise of the Mission where ninety five persons donated their blood. The general secretary of the Mission M Nurul Islam donated a land, which he had inherited, for the welfare of the orphan students.

Annual Function at Nayabaz



On 20-21 January 2018, the annual function as well as reunion was held in the Nayabaz campus of the Al-Ameen Mission Academy. Sports and cultural events dominated the entire spectacle. Also the successful students of Medical, Engineering and Higher Secondary examinations were felicitated. Professor Dr Rafikul Islam of International Islamic University, Malaysia was one of the guests of honour. In a long speech he eloquently described the struggle of his life and the present situation of the Muslims throughout the world. He lamented that in today's world there is a dearth of love and compassion for each other. We love to talk but are lazy to implement it. For that reason, we are lagging behind. Professor Islam urged the students to broaden their vision. A student should not aim to become only a doctor and an engineer. Rather he/she should move into other fields of science. Also one should look forward to go to other parts of the world. He emphasized on spiritual upliftment too. One should lead a balanced life- this is the kernel of Islam and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), he pointed out. The general Secretary of Al-Ameen Mission, M Nurul Islam

thanked him and said that despite coming from a remote area of Nadia, Professor Islam has become a teacher in one of the best Universities of the world. Not only that, he is an untiring fighter for the upliftment of the Muslim community. He has become one of the members of Al-Ameen Parivar- a big accomplishment for us. Citing example from a football field he told the students that one has become a player among the 22 players in the field, not a mere spectator in the gallery or in front of a TV set. The general secretary made a remarkable speech by lucidly discussing cabinet, kitchen cabinet, parliament, administration and judiciary. The director of the Al-Ameen Mission Study Circle, Dildar Hossain emphasized on the importance of studying Physics and Mathematics. He said, this campus is not a large one but its result carries an undeniable impact. The Mission wants to move forward by taking everyone on its fold because it is the name of an education movement and a concept as well. Noted entrepreneur and an alumnus of the Mission, Morsed Ali Molla said that he studied in the third batch of the Mission and he is the no. 74 student. He feels proud to be a student of the Mission. One should be good person before becoming anything else. One of the members of central office of the Mission, Md Mohasin Ali said, success can be derived from positive activity like loving human beings. In the evening a poem of Rabindranath Tagore, Juta Abishkar, which was adapted into a play, was performed. Directed by a teacher of the campus, Md Sarfaraj Molla the play was much appreciated. Among others who were present on the occasion were Md Alamgir Biswas, Rabiul Hossain Khan, Advocate Kazi Sajjad Alam, social activists Haji Giasuddin Mullick and Safiuddin Mullick, local Panchayet member Zarina Khan etc.

Annual function at Babnan

Al-Ameen Academy, Babnan is situated under the Polba police station of Hooghly district and is famous for its 'chikon' handcraft. On 17 and 18 February, on a sepa-



rate function in the boys and girls campus in the Babnan branch, the successful students were felicitated. The annual function was also held simultaneously. On this occasion, the general secretary of the Al-Ameen Mission M Nurul Islam said, this branch is surely but slowly becoming a mini Khalatpur campus because of its superb natural surroundings as well as congregation of many meritorious students. He said that human being has independent will power and thought process. We can either become a Satan or an Angel by virtue of this power. Describing the situation during the partition of Bengal he said that the creamy layer of the Muslim community went to the erstwhile East Pakistan and the remaining members of the community remained guardian-less for a long while. Every child is outstanding, a marvelous gift from Allah. But due to lack of nurturing, there was a dearth in the development of the meritocracy. Al-Ameen's primary target was to give a proper guardianship to the children. The outcome has been seen by everyone through the media. The alumni of the Mission are now Doctors, Engineers, Civil Service Officers, Professors and are spread across the world. The number is increasing each year. We have to ponder on the plight of the underprivileged and we are determined to uplift the condition of the poorest of the poor. About four hundred orphans sat for the admission test this year and we were able to take only one hundred of them. Feeling the pain, we have decided that from 2019 onwards, we will keep orphans from the age of 3. We are developing a separate place for them in Khalatpur. It will be called 'Shanti Nir' (Abode of Peace). Like Khalatpur, there would be health care units in every branch of the Mission including Babnan, Islam said. A renowned teacher of the locality Subhas Ghora also spoke on the occasion. For two days, the premise of the branch was agog with various cultural, sports and other activities. The successful students who passed the Madhyamik examination from here were felicitated for the first time.

Now in Purba Medinipur

Purba Medinipur was the only district in South Bengal where Al-Ameen Mission did not have a branch till recently. At last, it could establish a branch in the Kotbar village, which is 35 km away from the district headquarter Tamluk. On 19 January the branch was opened by the general secretary of the Mission, M Nurul Islam. After the inauguration, he said that the journey of the Mission began from Khalatpur with only eleven students. The number would touch 14 thousand very soon. This is the first branch in this district where 50 students will study from class V to IX. The number will increase in future. He also informed the villagers that there would be a health care unit in this branch to give free treatment to the poor and underprivileged. The alumni of the Mission who have become doctors would visit this unit. The main patron of this branch Haji Sk Safiruddin urged



the Mission to open a girls branch too. He is prepared to help in this regard, he said. If the campus is arranged for the orphans only, he is willing to carry the financial responsibilities, he declared. One of the well wishers of the Mission, Khairuddin Khan briefed the circumstance of establishing the branch in Kotbar. Social activist Dr Abdul Kader, Qari Mufizul Islam Khan, Hamid Khan was present on this occasion.

There was another branch opened on 13 January in Lohapur village under Nalhati Block in Birbhum. This is a boys' branch, where 90 students from class VI to IX would study. Apart from the general secretary M Nurul Islam, Abu Taher Khan MLA (Nowda), Social activist Abdur Rahaman, head masters of three local High Schools Abdul Hamid, Abdul Kuddus and Zakir Hossain were present. Next day on 14 January, M Nurul Islam inaugurated a boys' branch in Sujapur under Goyesbari of Malda district. Here 66 students from classes V to IX have been enrolled on the first day. Among others, the superintendent of the Mission's Belpukur campus Mainuddin Ahmad, Social activist Haji Abdur Rouf attended the inaugural function.

Hostel in Siliguri

On 11 February, 2018 a new hostel was inaugurated in the Milon More branch of Siliguri. This is an English medium branch of the Mission. It was inaugurated by the general secretary of the Mission, M Nurul Islam. On this occasion he recalled the contribution of late Molla Azizul Haque who dreamt that students of marginalised society would study through English medium along with moral lessons. His dream is being fulfilled now, he commented. The construction of this three storied building would provide accommodation to two hundred students. In this inaugural ceremony chief guest Rafikul Islam Mondal, MLA said, Al-Ameen has brought a transformative change in the education sector. The Mission is providing quality education to the students, who are establishing themselves in different sectors. It should be mentioned that his son is also a student of this branch. Among dignitaries present in the function were alumnus of the Mission Ramzan Ali,



ADSR and Jibankrishna Das, ADSR the principal of this branch Mehbooba Ali.

In another function, a new branch for boys was also inaugurated near the Jalpaiguri Station Road. It was inaugurated by the general secretary M Nurul Islam. He told that this branch is being built on 7 and a half bigha of land. Initially, students of class V and VI will get chance here but in future about 350 boys as well as girls will be accommodated. He also said that residential schools of the Mission in North Bengal will be increased in future.

the Suryapur branch of Al-Ameen Mission Academy. The star attraction of the event was the presence of Dr Rafikul Islam. He is the professor of Islamic International University, Malaysia. His imitable life struggle and captivating speech enriched the students. He discussed many fault lines of the society and also gave ideas how to surmount these faults. He stressed on self introspection because according to him a person survives on the work she/he does in life. The general secretary of the Mission M Nurul Islam thanked him and said, there is wonderful blend of knowledge and social commitment in Dr Islam's work. He also said that one should take lessons from neighbouring community too. In this regard he discussed Swami Vivekananda and Ramakrishna's life and activities and urged the students to draw lessons from it. He also inaugurated the wall magazine 'Karubaki'. In the evening, the drama 'Narak Guljar', was staged. The president of the local Panchayet Samity Shyamsundar Chakraborty, Yunus Sardar, Ajoy Maity, Social activist Haji Mahiuddin Sarkar, Haji Nasiruddin Mondal graced the occasion.

On 23 January, the Baruipur branch of the Mission for girls was inaugurated by the general secretary M Nurul Islam. In his speech he said that the Mission from the beginning was committed to provide modern education to a backward community. After a tireless work for three decades, we are pleased to note that there is an eagerness among the parents to get their children admitted in the Mission. But we also think that there is a long way to go. Our ambition is big but our capacity is limited. But amidst this we are increasing our residen-



The superintendent of the Belpukur campus Mainuddin Ahmad, Social activist Sk Sahajahan, Anwar Hossain, Anisuddin Miah were present in the function.

Annual function at Suryapur

On 22 and 23 January, annual function was held in

tial schools throughout the state with the help of numerous benevolent and education loving people. Members of the Mission Parivar Alamgir Biswas, Md Ashraf Hossain, Social activists Abdul Hannan Sardar, Anjana Begum, and Dr Jahangir along with in-charges of different branches Rajib Hasan, Azizul Islam, Mansur Alam were present. ■

Stephen Hawking

'Mind over Matter'

He was a defining force in the world of science inspiring generations to look beyond our own blue planet and expanding our understanding of the universe. This is a tribute to a 'colossal mind and a wonderful spirit'.

(Stephen William Hawking, physicist, born 8 January 1942; died 14 March 2018)

Dan Falk



have been like to catch sight of Elvis. Sure, you've seen hundreds of photos — but there he is in the flesh. The first thing that struck me was how small that flesh actually was. Diagnosed at the age of 21 with ALS, a motor neuron disease, Hawking required round-the-clock care. In Chicago — and at each conference I would see him at in later years — at least one attendant (often more) was always by his side. But then, it's not his body that reached out to grasp the farthest reaches of the cosmos — it was his mind that did.

I FIRST ENCOUNTERED STEPHEN Hawking in Ida Noyes Hall, an imposing neo-Gothic building on the south edge of the University of Chicago's sprawling campus. It was the winter of 1996, and I was attending the Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics (which, in spite of the name, is not always held in Texas). I was still pretty new to the world of science journalism. But I was already a longtime science nerd with a keen interest in physics and the universe. And of course, I knew who Stephen Hawking was. (Everyone did, his runaway best-seller "A Brief History of Time" being almost a decade old by this time.) But I had never seen him with my own eyes until that evening, at a reception in one of the hall's banquet rooms.

The only analogy that comes to mind is what it might

And what a mind it was. The origin of the universe, the physics of black holes, the ultimate nature of space and time — these were his passions. He tackled the big questions head-on. "My goal is simple," he wrote early in his career. "It is complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all."

One can speculate — idly, I think — about whether he was "the new Einstein," or the greatest living physicist, or merely one of the top 10, or wherever one imagines he fits into the pantheon of great thinkers. I often asked physicists, privately, what they thought about this. As long as they were sure we were off the record, they'd take their evaluation down slightly. Not far, just a notch. Hawking was brilliant, obviously, but the comparisons to Einstein, I was told, were a bit of a stretch. (For the op-

posite perspective — that Hawking was underrated — see Amanda Geffer’s insightful essay in *The Atlantic*.) One physicist told me that Hawking’s work was of “Nobel caliber.” That’s already high praise. Of course, he never received the Nobel; the prize committee likes ideas that have been successfully tested, and his work was highly theoretical, almost impossible to put to the test.

Space and time were Hawking’s playthings. His best-known work involved black holes. In the mid-1970s, Hawking argued that black holes must radiate energy; eventually, they may evaporate into nothingness.

Does that matter? To physicists, it very much does. They worry quite a lot about “information,” and they’re pretty sure that information can neither be created nor destroyed. But what if that information somehow found its way into a black hole? Although we could no longer access it, as long as the black hole persisted, we could imagine that the information was “safe.” But if the black hole itself disappears in a puff of Hawking radiation, the information seems to be gone for good. Something doesn’t seem right. Physicists have been arguing about the “information loss paradox” since Hawking first wrote about it, and it continues to stir fierce debate.

Young science buffs, in particular, were hooked. Natalie Wolchover, now a senior writer at *Quanta Magazine*, remembers reading the book as a wide-eyed 13-year-old. “A Brief History” was “this incredible book [that] introduced me to physics, and made me decide to devote my life to it,” she tweeted. Emily Conover, who now covers physics for *Science News*, was similarly mesmerized by the book as a teenager. “Thinking about ‘A Brief History of Time’ takes me back to cozy winter evenings spent by the fireplace in my parents’ house, pondering mysteries of the universe,” she tweeted. She thanked Hawking for introducing her to “the beauty of physics.”

After “A Brief History” came the deluge: suddenly, physicists everywhere were writing would-be popular books, with varying levels of success. Some, like Brian Greene and Roger Penrose, cranked the science up a notch, adding rigorous technical details where Hawking had provided only broad brushstrokes; others, like Neil deGrasse Tyson and Janna Levin, strove to make the science as digestible as possible for a lay audience. Many more steered a middle ground, hoping beyond hope to duplicate Hawking’s success. (Somehow, scientists, as a group, developed a reputation for being poor



There are, and will be, other great minds. But Hawking, who was born 300 years to the day after the death of Galileo, was special.

That was Hawking the physicist, but the Hawking who connected with a worldwide audience — the one who appeared on “The Simpsons,” “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” “The Big Bang Theory,” and beyond — was Hawking the promoter of science. And make no mistake; he enjoyed these forays into pop culture. When delivering public lectures, he would always include a clip from one of his TV appearances; often, it was the iconic scene from “Next Gen” in which he plays poker with Newton, Einstein, and Data. And it always drew thunderous applause. Even when Hawking wasn’t on TV, you never knew when his name would come up. In the “Simpsons” episode where Homer accidentally disappears into the “third dimension,” he laments, “I wish I’d read that book by that wheelchair guy.” There was never any doubt who he meant.

And we knew the book, too. Not everyone read it, but millions bought it. Published in the spring of 1988, “A Brief History” surprised everyone, including its author, with its success. It has since been translated into 35 languages and has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide. Hawking liked to joke that he had sold more books on physics than anyone had. The book included the just one equation— $E=mc^2$ —but plenty of references to God (metaphorical as they were).

communicators. I don’t know how this notion took root. Many, though perhaps not most, are brilliant writers, and few have managed to duplicate Hawking’s mixture of easygoing style, engaging ideas, and humor.)

My own attempt to interview Hawking did not go well. As we happened to share an elevator on one occasion, I asked him to what extent string theory was likely to prove a steppingstone toward a ‘theory of everything.’ Bad move. As soon as the words had left my lips, I regretted not asking a question that more readily lent itself to a yes-or-no reply. He said “yes.”

The death of Stephen Hawking leaves a hole in the world of physics. There are and will be other great minds. But Hawking, who was born 300 years to the day after the death of Galileo, and who happened to leave this world on Einstein’s 139th birthday, was, and will remain, special. Conover says she cried as she wrote of Hawking as the “black hole whisperer” earlier today. He whispered not only to the black holes, but to us. We were lucky to be within earshot. ■

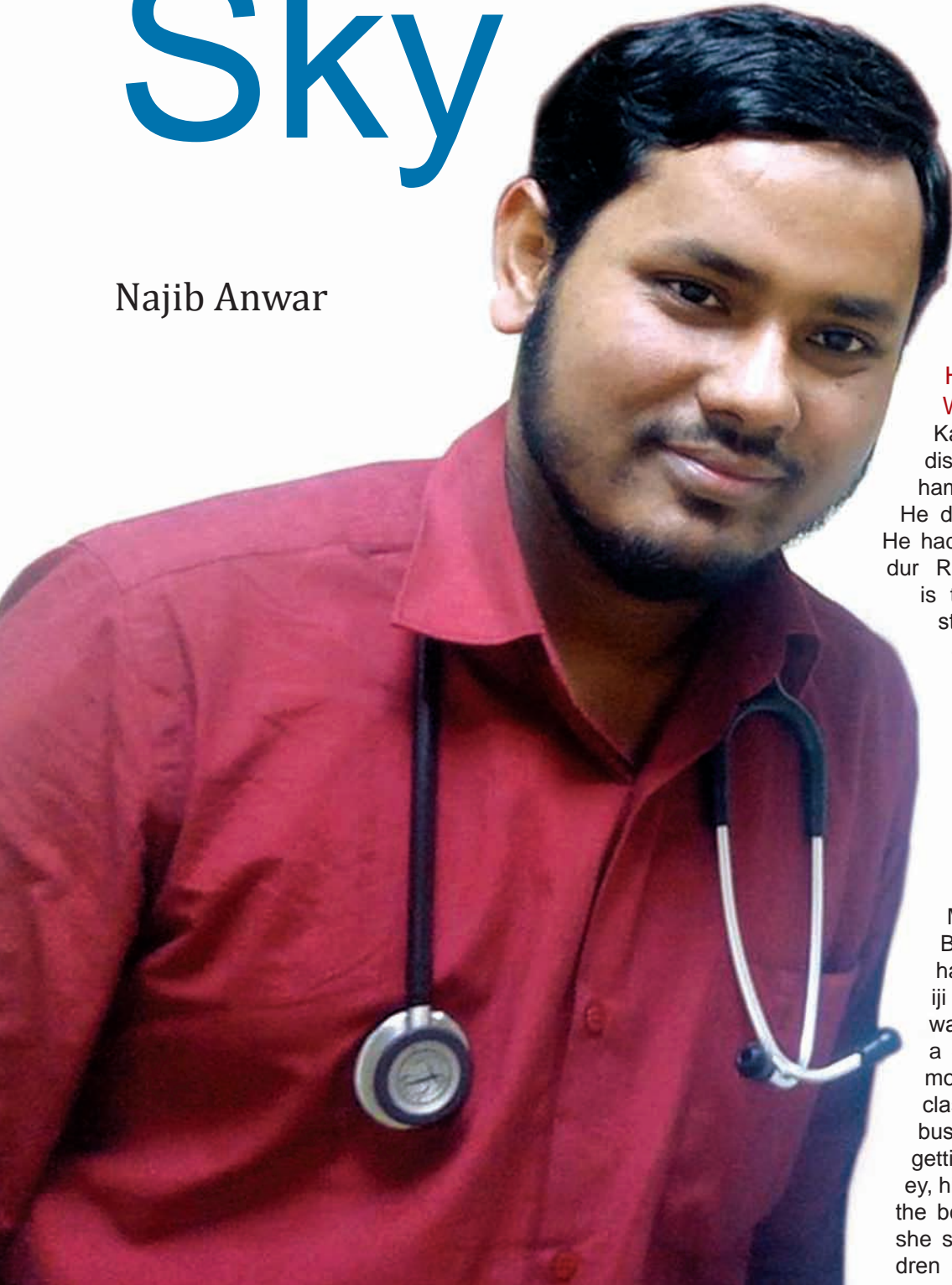
About the author

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Courtesy: <https://undark.org>

Touching the Sky

Najib Anwar



HAMMADUR RAHAMAN WAS BORN in Kaithan under Katwa Police Station of Burdwan district. His grandfather Jillur Rahaman was an illiterate person. He did agricultural work for living. He had three sons. The eldest, Saidur Rahaman, was educated. He is the father of Hammadur. He studied till class VI in a school and then left for the renowned religious school Darul Uloom Deoband in Uttar Pradesh to achieve the degree of Mufti. To be taught in a religious school had only two options—to become an Imam or to be teacher in a Khariji Madrasa. As a matter of happenstance, he might get a teaching job in a Madrasa under State Madrasa Board. Expectedly, Saidur Rahaman too had taught in a Khariji Madrasa for a long time. Afterwards, he became a teacher in a Senior Madrasa. Hammadur's mother Sakia Bibi has studied till class V. While Saidur Sahab was busy teaching in a Khariji Madrasa getting a meagre amount of money, his wife used to struggle to keep the both ends meet. Not only that, she singlehandedly raised her children as her husband stayed away

from home. With the dream to survive in a dignified way, Sakia Bibi with dogged determination helped her two daughters and two sons to go for higher studies. Before describing Hammadur's achievement, let us see what the other three have done. The elder brother Sajjadur Rahaman has passed BA. His elder sister Nasima was a student of Al-Ameen. She passed the Madhyamik with 74% marks and HS with about 65% marks. While she was studying BA with English Honours, she was married off. Hammadur's younger sister Naima had studied in Al-Ameen Mission from class V to XII. She secured star marks in Madhyamik and had 70% marks in HS.

Hammadur was brought up in the village. His village Kaithan is about hundred and seventy kilometers away from the Kolkata. Travelling by train one can reach Katwa via Kalna and Nabadwip. The distance between Katwa and the village is 14 kilometers. One can also travel to the village by road from Burdwan via Katwa. Kaithan is a big village with a population of 12 thousand people. About 70% of them are Muslim. It is an agriculture based village and paddy is the main crop. It is produced thrice a year. But the economic condition of the villagers was not good. So, at one time the literacy was steadily going down. Some of them left the village and went to Kerala for masonry work.

As their earning increased, the economic condition too improved. But this extra income of theirs attracted others. Most of them are leaving just after passing the Madhyamik. Some are leaving while in school. The situation is indeed pathetic. There is a primary school and also a High School in Kaithan. When Hammadur was a student this High School was a Junior High School. At that time, after passing the upper primary, the children of Kaithan had to travel to Kurumba village for High School. Hammadur attended all these schools. But, from this nondescript village how a son of a Mufti reached AIIMS, one of the top medical institutes of the country, is a fascinating story. Let us unfold it.

Sakia Bibi admitted her children to school but not to a Madrasa. But right from the childhood, all the four children were diligently taught religious scriptures. Hammadur and his siblings got Arabic lesson from their parents. Also they read it by attending the village Maktab. Now, they all can read the Qur'an proficiently.

When Hammadur was reading in class VIII, his father was still in Khariji Madrasa. So, it is easy to understand that the entire boyhood of Hammadur was spent in economic scarcity. The family had some agricultural land hardly one and a half bigha. In that land his other uncles used to grow paddy because their economic condition was worse than Hammadur's family. Their village is now electrified but at that time, Hammadur had to study in hurricane lamp. He used to take tuition mainly in English and on science subjects. Till class VIII, he had only one private tutor. But due to poor financial condition, sometimes he could not pay the tuition fee.

It might surprise many but the fact is he was more

When Hammadur was reading in class VIII, his father was still in Khariji Madrasa. The entire boyhood of Hammadur was spent in economic scarcity. The family had some agricultural land hardly one and a half bigha.



and less a mediocre student in school. In the primary section, he stood first only once. Asaduzzaman, son of a high school used to come first. Afterwards, he too studied in Al-Ameen Mission and currently he is a high school teacher. In high school too, Hammadur's result was average by any standard. In class V he stood third; in class VI he stood fourth; in class VII he again stood fourth and in class VIII he stood fourth yet again. No one had any inkling that in future this boy would dazzle everybody with brilliant result. In class IX and X, he studied in Gopalpur SMP Vidyapith and for the first time a hint of change was noticed. He stood second in class IX. The difference of marks with first boy was very thin and in next year, he toppled the first boy handsomely. To prove that this was not a flash in the pan, Hammadur scored brilliantly in the Madhyamik. He secured 87% marks. The difference between the first and second boy of that school was about 100 marks.

It has been noticed time and again that a student who has scored brilliantly in the Madhyamik cannot keep the tempo in the long run. It is a critical juncture and one needs proper guidance. In the case of Hammadur, that guidance was provided by Al-Ameen Mission. He came to know about the Mission from a student who was one

year senior than him. Basiruddin is also from his village, Kaithan. Coming from a peasant's family, he has become a software engineer and is currently working in London. In 2000, Hammadur got admitted in the Khalatpur campus of the Mission. There were about 60 students in class XI and XII. In the class tests, he used to stand first. But in the HS, which he appeared in 2002, he stood fourth among the students from the Mission with 86.2% marks. Manwar Hossain stood first with 89% marks. But Hammadur achieved something incredible which left everybody stunned. In the same year, he ranked 10th in JEE Medical and 96th rank in the Engineering. Manwar ranked 128 and Mohammad Ali ranked 127 in JEE Medical in the same year. We have already discussed the successful story of Ali on our last issue. Murshed Alam of the same batch is a doctor, Ayatullah Farukh is a professor. About 35 students from that batch have become either doctor or engineer.

Hammadur passed MBBS from Calcutta Medical College in 2008. After passing the MBBS, he went to Delhi to take further coaching. The aim was to get admission to MD course. During his stay in the Mission, his tuition fees had been slashed to half, though that was done after a year. While he was studying MBBS, the Mission arranged GD scholarship for him. He used to get Rs. 1200 per month. After sometime, he also got IDB loan-scholarship, which was interest free. That solved the financial problem to a great extent. While in Delhi, he again faced financial problem. That was in 2008. The Mission again provided about Rs. 3500 per month for nearly six months. He had to take loan too. After getting into MD course, he began to get stipend which mitigated the financial crisis. After taking the coaching he appeared for the All India Medical Entrance Examination and ranked 308 and got admitted to Benaras Hindu University. In 2012, he got first class first and became a gold medalist. But he was unstoppable now. More successful career was beckoning.

"Always dream big" - the sentence uttered by the former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam made a deep impact on him. So in 2013, he got the chance to complete Doctorate of Medicine (DM) in Endocrinology from



to Medica Superspecialty Hospital, Kolkata.

How could Hammadur reach such a pinnacle of success? He said, first of all discipline. Being a Muslim, we pray five times a day, which automatically tuned us to some sort of a routine. It helps to regulate time properly.



How could Hammadur reach such a pinnacle of success? He said, first of all discipline. Being a Muslim, we pray five times a day, which automatically tuned us to some sort of a routine. It helps to regulate time properly.

Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science, Bemina, Srinagar. While studying there, he sat for the entrance examination to study in AIIMS, New Delhi. There was only one seat for Endocrinology. But Hammadur bagged that seat and began his DM course once again. He completed this course in July 2017. Presently, he is attached

By the way, Hammadur is deeply religious.

Secondly, he stressed on confidence. There should be a 'can do' attitude, which ultimately would help surmounting many difficult tasks. And thirdly, one should have relentless effort. Striving to achieve something should be a continuous process, he signs off. ■

Language

The Code of Communication



Md Sohel Rana

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT what a language is in a broader way? Simply, it is a system of sign, symbols, gesture, or rules used in communication. There are roughly 6,500 spoken languages in the world today. However, about 2,000 of those languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers. In Andaman, there exists a certain language spoken by a specific tribal group with only 11 speakers. The interesting thing is that when this language caught the attention of the government, they send a researcher to stay with them and record it but unfortunately those 11 speakers were not ready to speak with him. However, having waited with patience for one long month, the researcher met one small boy who started playing with him. While playing, the boy urinated in his lap, but he didn't mind it. Witnessing the incident, the mother of the baby got very impressed as well as emotional. She became friendly enough to talk to him. These people normally live in parts of South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands, and their present numbers are estimated at between 250–400 individuals.

Most often, we form the idea that English is a global language and so it has the highest number of speakers. But it is not. The most popular language in the world is Mandarin spoken in China. English, as a matter of fact, has the third place. Being a native speaker of Bengali, I feel happy to say that it has 6th position in the world. The data below represents first-language speakers 2017 (Millions*). Chinese-1284; Spanish-437; English-372; Arabic-295; Hindi-260; Bengali-242; Portuguese-219; Russian-150; Japanese-128.

From the above chart, I put 10 languages according

to their positions. Now, one can definitely ask which language one should learn other than one's native language (Bengali). I would definitely go for English because it has become a lingua franca, i.e. a global language now. The funny thing is that English nowadays is not one language but they have become Englishes because many types of dialects are used in spoken English in different parts of the world that include American, Indian, Australian, and African. In some parts of the world, English is spoken as a natural outgrowth of former British colony.

Now I am going to talk about some special kinds of English. If I ask you Car back koro -Is it English, Hindi, Urdu or Bengali? Most of the time, actors of Tollywood, where most of the Bengali films are produced, speak like I don't know Tomar Ki Hoechhe but let me tell you Kal Ami Aschhi Na. What type of English or Bengali is this? It is Half Bengali + Half English, so it becomes Benglish and it is called the language of the Tollywood.

Similarly, in Bollywood, the hub of Hindi film industry, they speak like I don't know Tumko Kya Ho Gaya but let me tell you Mai Tumko Pasand Karta Hu. Here we find Half Hindi + Half English that makes Hinglish, the language of Bollywood.

In Arabic like Hinglish above, Ana Mafi Maloom what about you Lekin Ana Kallambokraanamafi present. This is Half Arabic + Half English that makes Arablish. Nowadays, this type of language is used to show off one's status. Recently, while travelling to Saudi Arabia via Dubai International Airport, a Bengali lady was talking to her baby like this- Ooooo Maaaaa you shouldn't do this-because the baby was trying to leave her hand in a crowded area. This is the best Benglish I found in my personal experience.

Sometimes you might have seen that some people



while speaking with other people they missed the 'R' sound for example: who is you..fathe..? who is you..mothe..? Who you? This fashion of talking started from white-skinned people or native speakers of English like American and British because they decided that English should be the common language of the world to make them superior to others. Unfortunately now, most of the educated people, having high status in society, have adopted English and they can speak much better than the native speaker. The result is that native speakers have started to feel ashamed and jealous of a non native speaker because the non native can speak far better than them. The logic is that when non native speakers are speaking English, they always follow the grammar (the rules of a language), but the native speakers sometimes don't follow grammar. That's why a famous professor once said, "Indians are much better in English than British".

Now, I am trying to focus on communication. When our focus is only communication with others-do you think that we need grammar? No, absolutely no need of it. In Arab countries where English is not up to the level, most students talk like- teacher you go, teacher you come, teacher I sit? Teacher good-bye with the movement of his hand to me. Now, tell me don't you think this is the best way to communicate when you are in a primary level? These students after one or two years, while talking, become very fluent. So, it is important to speak or practice with your nearby people. You have to speak English either it is correct or incorrect; your purpose should be to communicate.

I hope you have seen the traffic signal- Red, Green, Yellow colours. This is also one kind of language to communicate. It has a clear message that Red means you have to stop, by Green you can go and Yellow means you have to slow down. But instead of slowing down, some people accelerate their vehicles rather faster.

Don't you think that animals also use language? Yes, of course they do. A cat is talking to another cat Meuuuuuu Meuuuu. A dog is talking to another dog Gheuuuu Gheuuu. Have you ever tried to understand what they are speaking to each other? Of course no, I myself never tried. Do you know why? Because we can't understand their language as their language has no grammar at all. If someone who does not follow the grammar, it will be very difficult to understand, even for a native speaker of that language. Here in this discussion one question definitely may arise that

we human beings are following a language and it has a grammar. So, can animals understand our language? The answer is yes of course they can. If we ask Tommy (pet dog) go... Tommy come... Tommy bring the ball...I am sure Tommy will follow whatever your command to him. This is the logic for it.

In some developed countries old men are always talking much with their pet dogs rather than talking to their kids because if you order 100 times Tommy go and take the ball ...without any question Tommy will do that. But in case if you ask your kids more than 2 times, the result will be disappointing, or maybe he will escape or may get angry. In a recent discovery, the researchers found that bees are also communicating with other bees by their Zig Zag dancing to tell the exact distance and location of the nectar of the flowers.

Now just imagine for a while that you are a Bengali speaker with little fluency of English and the other person with no fluency of English and they are having different languages, then how will you communicate? In this case we have to follow our body language, called gesture. In a recent research it has been found that 90% of body languages are same all over the world. What about that other 10%? Let me tell you by my personal experience while I was at Bangkok Airport to attend an International Conference. I asked the Taxi driver....Royal River Hotel...10 Baht (Thai Currency). The driver replied by moving his head same as 'Yes' for me and I sat. Immediately he asked me, Hey, "Out, Out"...Another Taxi came and I used the same words - Royal River Hotel...10 Baht then he moved his head in the same way as 'No' for us. So, I didn't sit and very soon he asked me, Sir...Plz. Come. Then I discovered the body language 'Yes' is 'No' for them. This kind of negativity is also found in the southern part of India. I found both 'Yes' and 'No' as same movement of their head like left and right.

Once a Professor from Aligarh Muslim University visited Gujarat and according to Gujarati language they don't use 'K' sound and he knew it. He called one girl (Student) to ask something.

Conversation between the Professor and the Girl were as follows:

Prof: Say Kamar

Girl: Khamar

Prof: No, say Kamar

Girl: Khamar

Prof: Listen carefully and say Kamar

Girl: Sir, Khamari To Bol Ra hi hu...

Similarly, in Arabic, there is no 'P' sound. They always pronounce Baber for paper and Labtob for laptop. In Thai, they don't have 'R' sound. When I asked the driver, "Royal River Hotel? And he said, "Loyal Lival Hotel."

Language is interesting, isn't it? ■

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