

not happen to someone else! I have been on buses when the driver has driven very badly and no one has said anything at all. Grown men sit with their wives and children and allow the driver to threaten them all with death and, it seems, that is OK with them! Drivers, especially bus drivers, have great responsibility. If no one complains of bad driving, he does not get warned that he will lose his job if his driving is not better and people could get killed.

Quality control is a big word nowadays and the girls in the Garments Factories and some other manufacturers and shopkeepers understand it very well. If something is not right, it is rejected – it has to be done again. If you are making things for export then people in other countries do not want a tea-shirt with the label with the wrong size in it, or one sleeve longer than the other or the colours in the design the wrong way round. The importer will not pay for such a garment. It is not right. Let us see that attitude in every part of our national life. If everyone just shrugs their shoulders and says, “This is Bangladesh!” and accepts poor quality, then the poor quality will never become good quality. If the label or the box says that this item is this size or this machine does this job – and it doesn’t, then it is not genuine. It is not honest. It is not what it says.

How do you think standards became so much better in other countries? Because people knew how to complain and went on and on and on until things got better. It was, and is, very hard work, keeping standards up. But why should the consumer accept rubbish? Why should the bad business get the same profits as the good one?

It is not only our money and jewelry that must be genuine and not fake, not only people who should be genuine and not dishonest, but all goods and services should be what they claim to be and all businessmen and traders should do a good and fair job and be encouraged by the fact that the good businessmen and traders get more money than the bad ones so that the bad ones go

out of business. In all the ways in which we do business with one another, we must be genuine. God bless you.



**“THAT WILL DO!” “NO IT WON’T!”**  
*Assembly 23 – February 16th 2003*

I hope you have all had a really good holiday and return to school feeling refreshed and ready for the second half of term. On Thursday afternoon, February 20<sup>th</sup>, the last 2 periods of the day, we are going to have our Ekushey February celebration. It is half a day early but it will be a very nice, short programme and, we hope, just the right thing to send you home with, so that, the following day, which is Friday, a free day, you will be free to celebrate Ekushey with your families in any special way you want.

I want to share with you this week, my concern that you should all grow up with a real love of accuracy. You know, getting things correct, right – not half-right, but right. Do you know the English expression, “That will do!” It is usually said, with a shrug of the shoulders, like this, “That’ll do!” It means, “That is good enough. That is all I can be bothered to do.” Very often, if it is used by a pupil in school, the teacher will say – I hope – “No, that will not do. You can do much better than that! Go and do it again!” After all, if someone you love is going into hospital for a serious operation – or even a little operation, you do not want the surgeon to do a half-good job and say, “That’ll do!” If you heard him say that, you would say, “But, that is my mother, my father, my friend, my child. I want you to get the operation absolutely correct. I do not want it to be half-correct!”

I have a new flat. All the windows are fitted with beautiful mosquito screens but the mosquitoes get in because the windows

do not fit properly. Big moths get in and, sometimes, there is a wall lizard – a tiki- tiki in my bedroom. He is very welcome but I ask him, “How did YOU get in? If you can get in then the mosquitoes can get in also!” He has not told me yet..... I have to be careful to avoid mosquito bites. Three years ago, in Dhaka, I had dengue fever and, if I get it again, it could be more serious. I have asked the British School to ask the landlord, please get the builders to come back and repair their bad work. The landlord paid for these very nice windows and paid for the builders to put them in but they have done a bad job. Those builders will go on doing this job badly if those who paid them do not insist on them coming back and doing the job properly! When the builders were putting the windows in, no one was checking for gaps!

It is so important, while you are young, to get into the habit of doing everything you are asked to do, to the very best of your ability – and checking. You may say that it is very boring to do your work, any work, very carefully, with the greatest degree of accuracy, checking all the time, but just think how much we depend on others doing their jobs properly. It is not just the person who builds your house and your doctor and dentist but all the people who serve and help us every day. One day, we shall have a lift in our school. Do you want the people who put in the lift for us to say, “That’ll do! We will not bother to check it for safety!” You and I depend for our safety every day on other people who do their jobs better than they need do. Maybe they could get away with doing a worse job, but they don’t – and we are grateful. So you and I should be careful, even fussy, about the way we do our jobs also. It helps to raise the standards, set a good example and also, this is one of the main ways people encourage one another to live better. If you and I are surrounded by people who keep saying, “That’ll do!” then it can be like an infection and we can get like that. Sometimes, in a school, a whole form can be infected with “That’ll do!” But, when everyone is trying to do

their best, that is like a good infection, like a fresh breeze through the window on a hot day. God bless you!



**CHECK IT!**  
*Assembly 24 - February 17<sup>th</sup> 2003*

Yesterday, I began to speak to you about the importance of loving accuracy, wanting the work we do to be right – as right as possible. What do some people say if they cannot be bothered to do their best? “That’ll do!” But you and I want our doctors and dentists, our builders and drivers, our servants and teachers to do their work to a good standard.- so why not us also?

I want to encourage you all to get into the habit of doing your best and checking for accuracy because there are so many people who do not think it is important.

One day, I am going to buy a big thick red pen and hire a man and a step-ladder and go round Dhaka correcting all the spelling mistakes in English words on signs and advertisements. People invent new words! There is the lovely word ‘genuine’ meaning something that is not forged or fake or false but true and honest and real but there is a shop that has made it into a noun ‘genuinity’!

One day, our Superintendent and I took the school bus because we wanted to visit Gulshan and, in the bus, we had a tour of many parts of Dhaka. We saw many English Medium Schools and some of them did not even spell their own names correctly or had very strange and illiterate names. There was ‘The English Academe’ - with an ‘e’ instead of a ‘y’ at the end and there was a school called ‘The Kid’s and Child’s International School’ which presumably had one kid and one child in it although I am not sure that I know the difference between a kid and a child except that