

as we go around this great city, as we look at the airoplanes flying overhead and the buses below, think of all the people who work hard and do their jobs properly so that others can benefit.

And let us hope and pray that our Superintendent Lenin and his new wife, Mita will be very happy and have a long life together.

God bless them – and you.



CRAZY FOR SPORT!

Assembly 46 – Thursday, March 21st 2003

We are having some very exciting handball matches this week, aren't we? We can hear the shouting all over the school! One day we shall have a lift in the lift shaft but, in the lift shaft at the moment, the noise of the games on this floor go all the way up the school!

It is very interesting for those of us who are very old, like me, to hear the noise that is made in sports these days. When I was young, when we watched matches, we shouted to our teams to encourage them but we did not have this chanting! – and never in cricket. Cricket was always a very quiet game – very restrained, as the English were expected to be.

I think it was television that brought the change. People saw crowds watching cricket, in the West Indies and other places, being very noisy and participative and rushing down the pitch to hug each other and clap hands etc and it spread, like an epidemic, all over the world. I cannot remember, even in football, players hugging each other – but now....! We older people could not believe our eyes! There was such a change in behaviour! Because of television, ways of behaving can spread very quickly. It is a kind of culture – but it is television culture. I remember when people began to put flowers in the place where someone had died in an accident or were remembered in a special way. This habit

spread until, by Princess Diana's funeral, it was one of the main ways that people had of expressing grief.

But I ask you to think before you copy everything you see on television. Think hard. Being much more noisy in sports is OK but not if it leads to the wrong attitudes. Let me explain.

There are two sorts of fighting in our lives. One is the fight of good against evil – and it is fine to be very strong about that. When we conquer something that is wrong, in our own lives or in the world, it is good to shout and sing and be triumphant. When a bad criminal is found guilty in court and sentenced, when a government passes a law that helps to bring justice, when a wicked leader is overthrown, when you and I conquer our fears or conquer a bad habit – we should indeed feel that we have stamped something bad into the ground. (Stamp! Stamp! I have won!)

But when we are playing competitive sports and games, we are happy to win but we must not go crazy. This is NOT about the fight between good and evil – this is a game! That is why, after some matches, the people on both sides, shake hands. Have you seen this? This is to express the feeling that we have fought hard – but we are still friends. But when, after a football match, the hospitals are full of people wounded by the fighting in the streets between the fans of the two sides, this is very bad – and the British football supporters are often the worst. In politics, I have to say that, when a political party wins or loses an election, it should behave as though politics is a bit of a game and sometimes you win and sometimes you lose – and, I am proud to say, the British are usually very good at political games. In our Parliament, people can speak very powerfully against one another, but they usually know how to behave themselves. The Government and Opposition supporters do not murder each other. We stopped doing that about 400 years ago.

There is a good expression in English that may help you in your thinking on these things. It is 'being a good sport.' The word 'sport'

is usually used of a thing – a game. But, if you say that a person is a ‘good sport’ it means he or she plays their best but, if they win, they do not go all superior (“I won – you lost! Huh!”) and, if they lose, they do not go all ashamed, sulky and upset. Good sports, whether they win or lose, do their best, enjoy playing the game and smile afterwards. They are good sports. I hope that this school is helping you all to be good sports. God bless you.



CHEAT!

Assembly 47 – March 23rd 2003

It is the time of year when we start using the air-conditioning – and many of you are getting colds. The same thing happens in September and October in British Schools in the UK when the central heating goes on! The air becomes more dry and pupils move from warm classrooms to the cold of the outside. Please try to wear a tea-shirt under your shirt or a little scarf or something that can protect you from the change of temperature. Look after yourselves.

Today, I want us to think about a very serious subject – cheating – *nokol*. In some groups of people in Bangladesh there is a cheating culture. It is taken for granted. Some people think cheating is normal.. They think that, if cheating puts more money in your pocket or is profitable in other ways, then it does not matter. SOME people even think it is a bit clever – even FUNNY – but it isn’t! Cheating happens in every country but it is very serious in Bangladesh so it is very hurtful to the reputation of Bangladesh all over the world. It means that some of the examination results of Bangladeshi examinations are not really believed – which is why so many schools get their question papers from other countries and get people from other countries to mark the papers. It is

something about which I, for one, feel very ashamed. You should feel ashamed also. I invite all of you to decide to do all you can to change this cheating culture so that, by the time you are bringing your children to this school, or maybe your grandchildren, this horrible stage of your development has finished.

We take cheating very seriously in this school. Last Thursday, the Coordinators agreed on the format of a letter that will go to the parents of any child who is found cheating. You will not be given two or three chances. If you cheat ONCE, then your parents will be informed. It is a great evil and we are going to stamp on it – like a cockroach. Your teachers here are far too intelligent for cheating to succeed for very long. They assess your work all the time and if they see a big difference between the marks of the work that you do that is supervised, in the classroom or examination room, and what you do that is unsupervised, then they are immediately suspicious. It is also very *stupid* to copy someone else’s work. In the examinations, you will not be able to do this, because you will be too far away from the next person, so what help is it to you?

In school or at home, if you do not understand something, then it is fine if someone else explains it to you - but that does not mean that your helpers do all your work for you, so that you do not have to think for yourself or practice your new skills! If someone offers to do your homework for you, or offers you their book to copy from, please say, “NO!” If you have a private tutor that comes to your home, do not ask him or her to do your homework for you! You cannot take your tutor into the examinations with you!

I know that schoolwork is often hard and that some of you do not like to get low marks but that is better than cheating! It is OK if you make mistakes when you are learning. That is natural. Learn from your mistakes and develop – improve! Cheating can become a habit – like a drug. It damages your character because cheating goes with lying and is a form of stealing. It will lose you