



TGS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1, SEPTEMBER 2023

SPOTLIGHT

TGS DAY 2023: An unprecedented celebration of the Gregorian brotherhood

Saluting our
unsung heroes

What makes
a good teacher?

- Grn. Prof. Ahrar Ahmad

Conversation with
Grn. Mahfuz Anam



Gregorians

THE GREGORIAN SOCIETY

In Memoriam

Remembering those courageous "soldiers of peace" who selflessly sacrificed their lives defending the honour and dignity of our Nation



Mr. Peter D' Costa
Teacher



Mr. N.C. Sutradhar
Teacher



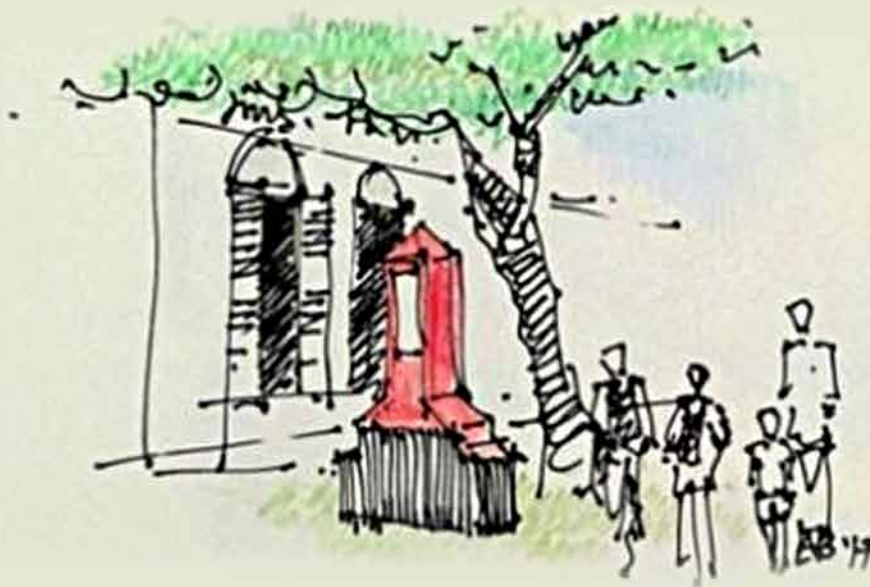
Mr. D.N Pal Chowdhury
Teacher



Shaheed Lt. Ashfaqus Samad
Bir Uttam- ex- Student



Shafi Imam Rumi
Student



TGS SPOTLIGHT



Vision

To build a better world through enlightened and committed Gregorians.

Mission

- * Support Teachers' Training
- * Support Students' Skills Improvement
- * Provide Career Guidance, Mentoring, and Leadership Training
- * Support Extra and Co-curricular Activities
- * Encourage Community Engagement
- * Celebrate Gregorian Fraternity

Values

- * TRUST – Transparent. Share information with others.
- * EMPATHY – Share the pain of others. Care for society and the environment.
- * RESPECT – Value feedback from, and interaction with, others.
- * ETHICAL – Be upstanding even when no one is watching!
- * INTEGRITY – Keep promises. No favoritism. No politics.
- * ACCOUNTABILITY – Take personal responsibility for all actions.

Prepared and presented by:
TGS SPOTLIGHT Team

Design & Layout:
Willing

THE GREGORIAN SOCIETY

Registered Address:
82 Municipal Office Street,
Luxmibazar, Dhaka 1100

TGS Hotline:
+880 130 447 3362

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An unprecedented
celebration
of the Gregorian
brotherhood



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**Page dedicated
to our Teachers**



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**"আবার তাহাৰে
কেন ডেকে আনো?"**



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**সূৰ্যমুখীদের
জন্য**



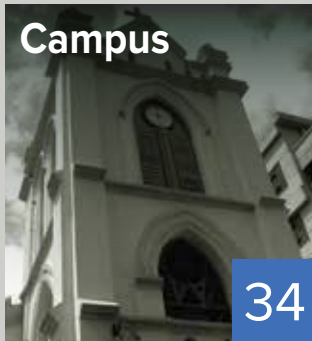
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Message from the TGS SPOTLIGHT Team

“Spotlight” is back again – reincarnated!

A brainchild of the late Brother Hobart of hallowed memory, *Spotlight* in its first incarnation was a mimeographed newsletter of the Gregorians, by the Gregorians, for the Gregorians. A few enthusiastic and imaginative Gregorians stole our hearts with the launch of the *Spotlight* in 1967. The mimeograph is dated technology but *Spotlight* remains a bright symbol of Gregorian creativity, and so it is fitting that it has been reincarnated as the newsletter of The Gregorian Society.

In its new avatar, the *Spotlight* will attempt to keep the Gregorian alumni, dispersed all over the world, aptly informed about The Gregorian Society (TGS) and its creative activities.

The *Spotlight*'s rebirth under the aegis of TGS reflects how Gregorians have nurtured their attachment to and affection for the Alma Mater.

Through the *Spotlight*, the TGS mouthpiece, our desire is to revive the feelings of brotherhood and rebuild the Gregorian ties that stand for unity and strength. This fraternity is expected to bond further through articles and stories contributed to the *Spotlight* as we learn more about school programs, the amazing work of our alumni, and stories of mirth and camaraderie.

As a common umbrella, unfolded for Gregorians past and present, the TGS-Spotlight will follow matters that concern and benefit the School, especially the current students and faculty. We will also cover progress in academic and co-curricular activities that are envisaged by TGS: career development, teacher training, multimedia centers, excellence in sports, community projects, etc.

Communicating the status of various projects in TGS's mission will be a very important aspect of our work. New leadership will also be needed down the road to strengthen the nexus between the Gregorian alumni and the School authorities to continue the work of TGS-Spotlight.

Readers too can help us grow by sharing their ideas and creative ventures. We welcome contributions under three broad heads: News, Views, and Forthcoming Events. Submissions, which may be accompanied by photographs, should aim at brevity and wit.

Cooperation is thus sought earnestly from all Gregorians to bring inspiration and excitement to the TGS-Spotlight and make it come alive.

Inviting you to a pleasant reading of this inaugural issue and, hoping that it will inspire you to join us in all our endeavors.

Words from the President



Grn. Yousuf Rahman Babu (1967)
President Ad-Hoc
The Gregorian Society

“Spotlight” is a phenomenon with a long history that is closely tied to students of St. Gregory’s High School. It is a semblance of our unity, our strength, and our vision. Mentored by late Bro. Hobart Pieper, this newsletter was conceived by a group of friends of the Class of 1967 that got infected by the bug of journalism.

The first edition of Spotlight came out on February 7, 1966. The first Editorial Board comprised of Nisar Ahmed, Akhter Matin Chowdhury, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Md. Abdul Ali Rumeel, ASM Faruk, Ajmalul Hossain, Jameel Rahman, Irteza Hasnain, and Kaiser Hamidul Huq (Editor in Chief). It may be mentioned that the entire Board

was from Class 10.

“Alochhota”, the Bengali version, was also published on the same day with the following students forming the Editorial Board: Manzurul Qadir (Editor in Chief), Asem Ansari, Majid Mahmud, Neville D’ Rozario, Md. Ibrahim, and Kenneth D’Rozario. When it was felt that a Newsletter of The Gregorian Society (TGS) had become a necessity, the matter was placed, discussed and unanimously agreed upon in the second Executive Council Meeting. Again, it was easy to pick the name and all of us agreed that “Spotlight” needed to be reincarnated.

It carries a tremendous history and students of yesteryears would be able to reignite their feelings and, reconnect with their days at St. Gregory’s through the Newsletter. Initially planned for a July 2023 release, the deadline to present the first edition of TGS Spotlight was shifted to September 2023.

TGS Spotlight would not have been possible without the active, timely and conscientious contributions from Syed Ahsan Habib (Rana) and Minarul Islam. The scholarly members of the Editorial Review Board - Prof. Ahrar Ahmed, Prof. Shawkat Hossain, Prof. Kaiser H. Huq, Prof. Saad Andaleeb and, Nafees Imtiazuddin must be



thanked for their valuable input in making TGS Spotlight a product of high quality.

We are working on reviving “Alochhota” also, and would like to see this become a reality as soon as possible. TGS Spotlight represents Gregorians globally. The purpose is to keep every Gregorian, regardless of his location, updated on the activities of TGS. It is to bring all Gregorians closer to home, to connect with their Alma Mater, and rediscover their childhood friends. It is to





Message from our Chief Patron

I am honored and delighted to write this message for the maiden issue of 'TGS-Spotlight,' a quarterly Newsletter of TGS (The Gregorian Society). The publication of this first issue of the 'TGS-Spotlight' marks a significant moment for the Alumni of St. Gregory's.

rekindle the sense of Gregorian Brotherhood, and to bring back the Gregorian pride that, at times, seems more like an illusion these days.

TGS has worked diligently to define its Vision, create the roadmap to fulfill its Mission and firmly set its unwavering Core Values. All of these form and strengthen the very foundation of TGS and, we intend to ensure full compliance as the Alumni grows like a grapevine all across the world.

I welcome all Gregorians to be actively involved in TGS Spotlight. Join in by writing to us. If you wish to have an article published, do send it in. But above all, register to be a member of TGS. We are with you and together we shall unite Gregorians worldwide and strengthen the Gregorian Brotherhood reflecting the true Gregorian spirit.

After I was appointed as the principal of this prestigious and historic school, I came across a good number of luminary alumni who came from far and wide across the country. I acknowledge their love and concern for their Alma Mater. The alumni are very ardent and devoted to assisting in the growth of the school together productively and constructively. I appreciate their attitude of gratitude for their Alma Mater as it bonded very well with her children from the very beginning of their schooling.

The name of this quarterly Newsletter is 'TGS-Spotlight.' A Spotlight is used to illuminate a person, object, or group brilliantly on a platform. I believe that this publication will put out the outstanding contribution of our illustrious alumni to national



Br. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC
Principal
St. Gregory's
High School & College

life in Bangladesh and beyond so that the younger Gregorians can inculcate the zeal and imagination of their predecessors to carry on the Gregorian legacy. Moreover, as a voice of hope, this Spotlight will unite the entire alumni under one umbrella based upon integrity and fellow feeling.

I truly appreciate TGS for taking the initiative to publish a Newsletter. May this Newsletter ignite the spirit of all Gregorians.

Message from a Gregorian Teacher



Grn. Richard Gomes (1987)
Teacher & Member
of SGHSC Governing Body

I am very pleased to learn that The Gregorian Society (TGS) is going to publish its 1st issue of "TGS-SPOTLIGHT". I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Society for such a wonderful initiative. And I feel honoured and privileged to write a few words on this occasion.

Being Gregorians, we feel elated when the alumni do something good and productive. We are proud of being aware that The Gregorian Society has a very distinct vision and mission to contribute towards the welfare of St. Gregory's High School & College and the Gregorians at large. In this regard, we know that coordinated efforts are

needed to accomplish such great tasks. We also understand that TGS is working towards that end.

No one can thrive alone in life. We require concerted teamwork and among other things, following skills:

- Communication skills
- Effective team management
- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- Listening skills (must be ready to find out & heed what others are saying about us)
- Focusing on targets
- Continuous learning
- Prepared to let go

I believe that the "TGS-SPOTLIGHT" will be a guiding force towards acquiring the above, and many more good things. Publishing a quarterly newsletter is always challenging. However, we are confident of the capability and zeal of our fellow Gregorians. Nothing is impossible for the Gregorians in unity. I extend my good wishes to the Committee and all others associated with the publication of the "TGS-SPOTLIGHT".

May God guide and bless us.





সূর্যমুখীদের জন্ম

গ্রেগরীয়ান জন মার্টিন (ব্যাচ ১৯৭৭)
মনোবিজ্ঞানী

হচ্ছেটা কি বলেন দেখি?

এই ডিজিটাল যুগে কি আর সেই পুরানো দিনের কাসুন্দি দিয়ে কাজ হবে?

ব্যাপারটা বুঝলেন না?

তাহলে খুলে বলি। টিজিএস সেই পুরানো দিনের কাসুন্দি ঘাঁটছে। মানে পুরানো দিনের এক পত্রিকা নতুন করে আবার ছাপাতে চাচ্ছে। এক সময় আমাদের স্কুল থেকে একটি পত্রিকা বের হতো। নাম ছিল - 'আলোচ্ছটা'। আর ইংরেজিতে বলতো

Spotlight এই পত্রিকা কবে প্রথম শুরু হয়েছিল আমার জানা নেই। তবে আমার স্কুল সময়ে এই পত্রিকা আমি দেখেছি।

আমার সব ভাই এই স্কুলে পড়েছে। আর নেভেল দা এই পত্রিকার সাথে জড়িত ছিলেন। নেভেলদার কাছে প্রথম শিখেছি সাইক্লোস্টাইল মেশিন দিয়ে কি ভাবে পত্রিকা ছাপাতে হয়। এখনকার ছেলেদের মনে হবে - 'ডাইনোসর এই পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করিত'।

হয়ত তাই। তবে ডাইনোসরের পাশাপাশি আমাদের স্কুলেও এই পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করে - স্কুলে কি হচ্ছে তা জানা যেত। তার মানে - এই পত্রিকাটি ছিল - আমাদের ফেসবুক। এখানে টোকা মারা যেত না, লাইক বা কमेंট দেয়া যেত না। কিন্তু সব খবর জানা যেত।

কিন্তু এই পত্রিকা আবার নতুন করে প্রকাশ করতে হবে কেন? এখন তো আমাদের ফেসবুক আছে, ইন্সটাগ্রাম আছে, ভাইবার আছে। ওখানে আলোচ্ছটা নামের একটি পেইজ খুললেই তো হয়। তাহলে তো আর কোন ঝামেলা পোহাতে হবে না।

কিন্তু সমস্যা হচ্ছে - ফেসবুক জুকার সাহেব চালান। আর আলোচ্ছটা - চালাতেন গ্রেগরীয়ানরা। জুকার সাহেব ফেসবুক চালিয়ে

বিলিয়ন ডলার কামাচ্ছেন। আর গ্রেগরীয়ানরা এই আলোচ্ছটা ছাপিয়ে - বিলিয়ন মেমোরি ছড়িয়ে দিয়েছেন গ্রেগরীয়ানদের কাছে। এই স্মৃতিগুলোর কি কোন দরকার ছিল?

আমি তো মনে করি - এগুলো ভীষণ দরকার। আমাদের জীবন হচ্ছে স্মৃতির এ্যালবাম। আমরা প্রতিদিন আমাদের স্মৃতি নিয়ে বেড়ে উঠি। সবার স্মৃতি এক নয়। কিন্তু স্কুলের স্মৃতিগুলো এক জাদুর স্পর্শে আমাদের কাছে জীবন্ত হয়ে উঠে। তাই কে কবে স্কুলে ভর্তি হয়েছে, স্কুল ছেড়েছে - সেই হিসাব আমাদের কাছে গুরুত্ব পায় না। স্কুলের পানির কল, দার্জিলিং বিল্ডিং, টেবিল টেনিস কোর্ট, হ্যান্ডবল কোর্ট আর বাস্কেটবল - মুহূর্তেই সবাইকে এক সুতোয় বেঁধে ফেলে। এগুলো কিন্তু ফেসবুক তৈরি করেনি। এগুলো আমরা তৈরি করেছি। আমাদের শৈশব এর স্মৃতি মাথা দিনগুলো আটকে রেখেছি স্কুলের সাথে।

এখন এক ক্লিকে মিলিয়ন ছবি ইন্টারনেটে পাওয়া যায়। সব ছবি কি আপনার মন ছুঁয়ে যায়? কিন্তু যে মুহূর্তে স্কুলের ছবি চোখে পড়ে - তখন আপনার কি মনে হয়? আপনি কোন স্মৃতির সাগরে ডুব দেন? কেন? কেন আপনাকে ডুব দিতে হবে? কেউ আমাদের জোড় করে স্কুলের কথা মনে করতে বলছে না। স্কুলের কথা মনে না করলে - কোন ডিটেনশন নেই। তারপরও দেখুন - স্কুলের কথা ভেবে আমাদের কত আকৃতি। কারণ এই স্কুলকে ঘিরে আমাদের অনেক স্মৃতি। আর ঐ যে বললাম যে জীবন হচ্ছে একটা এ্যালবাম।

কিন্তু মনে প্রশ্ন জাগে যে এতদিন পর সেই পুরানো দিনের আলোচ্ছটা বের করার দরকার কি? নতুন একটি ফেসবুক পেইজ খুললে কেমন হয়? যেমন - Greg Rocks, Greg Rulz অথবা Greg the

Champ.... যে নামে আপনি এই গ্রুপ খুলুন না কেন - আপনার একমাত্র ভরসা হচ্ছে স্কুল কে নিয়ে আপনার স্মৃতি। সেই সব দিনে কবে ডিটেনশন খেয়েছিলেন, কবে ক্যান্টিনে খাবার খেয়ে পয়সা দেননি, অথবা কবে স্কুল ফাঁকি দিয়ে সেন্ট ফ্রান্সিস স্কুলের গেটের সামনে দাড়িয়ে ছিলেন এগুলো জুকার সাহেব তৈরি করে দিবে না। কারণ এগুলো আপনার সম্পদ।

তাহলে বিষয়টি কি দাঁড়াচ্ছে? আপনি যাই করুন না কেন - স্কুল এর স্মৃতি নতুন করে তৈরি করতে পারছেন না। আপনাকে বার বার ফিরে যেতে হবে সেই পুরানো দিনগুলোতে। এতে অসুবিধা নেই। বরং এই স্মৃতিগুলো আপনাকে বার বার মনে করিয়ে দিবে - আপনার বন্ধুদের কথা, শিক্ষকদের কথা আর না বলা অনেক মধুর স্মৃতির কথা।

এই গল্পগুলো মনে করার জন্য দরকার কিছু কথা, ছবি আর উষ্ণ ভালবাসা। আলোচ্ছটা হচ্ছে সেই ভালবাসা। এখনকার ডিজিটাল গ্রেগরীয়ানদের মনে হবে - এটা সেকালের। মাক্কাতা আমলের। কিন্তু একবার ভাবুন এই পত্রিকা কত গ্রেগরীয়ানদের এক মুহুর্তে জাদুর ছোঁয়ায় নিয়ে যাবে সেই সব দিনগুলোতে।

আমরা নতুন করে আমাদের স্মৃতি তৈরি করতে পারি। এখনকার স্মৃতি আর সেই ফেলে আসা স্মৃতির অনেক তফাৎ। কিন্তু এই স্মৃতিগুলো আমাদের বার বার মনে করিয়ে দিবে এই যে আমরা আজকে যার যার জায়গায় দাড়িয়ে আছি এটা একদিনে হয়নি। আমাদের আজকে দাড়িয়ে থাকার পিছনে অনেক শিক্ষকের ভালবাসার ছোঁয়া আছে। নতুবা আমার পায়ের তলার মাটি এখনও এতো শক্ত কেন? কারণ কেউ আমাদের ভালবেসে আমাদের পথটা তৈরি করে দিয়েছে। আমরা সেই পথে এখন হাঁটছি।

ভাবুন দেখি আপনি গ্রেগরীয়ান নন। এই স্কুলে আপনি পড়েননি, খেলেননি। আপনি কি আজকে ঠিক এই মানুষটি হয়ে উঠতেন? এটা ঠিক যে আমাদের স্কুলই ঢাকা শহরে একমাত্র স্কুল নয়। কিন্তু আমাদের সাথে অন্য স্কুলের মন মানসিকতার ভিন্নতা টের পান? আমি পাই। এখনো বুঝি আমাদের সাথে অন্যদের তফাৎ কোথায়? আমি কি এতে আনন্দিত? গর্বিত? এই যে একটি স্কুল নিজেকে আবিষ্কার করার সুযোগ করে দিল আমি কি সেটা মনে রেখেছি? এই মনে রাখার কাজটি করার জন্য প্রয়োজন আমাদের পুরানো দিনের স্মৃতিগুলোর সাথে কথা বলা।

আচ্ছা ধরুন ব্রাদার হোবার্ট কে তো এই প্রজন্মের অনেকই জানে না। তারমানে কি আমরা সেই মানুষটির কথা বলব না? আমরা কি সিরাজুল হক স্যারের কথা বলব না? নলিনী স্যার, গাজুলী স্যার, মৃণাল স্যার, রবিন স্যার এমন অনেক অনেক নাম আছে এই প্রজন্মের গ্রেগরীয়ানরা যাদের দেখে নি। তার মানে তো এই নয় যে এই মানুষগুলো একদা এই স্কুলে ছিলেন না।

আমাদের ইতিহাস শেখান হয় ভীষণ বাজে ভাবে। আমরা না বুঝি ঘটনার প্রেক্ষাপট অথবা চরিত্রগুলো। কেবল মুখস্থ করে পাস করতাম। কিন্তু ইতিহাসও অনেক আনন্দের হতে পারে। ইতিহাস জানলে আমরা আরো বেশি সংযুক্ত হই। বিষয়টিকে নিজের ভাবা গুরুকরি। এই কারণেই তো গ্রেগরীয়ানদের যে ওয়েব সাইট আছে ওটা ঘুরে দেখতে হবে। তাহলেই বুঝা যাবে এই স্মৃতিচারণের কত প্রয়োজন।

আমরা হঠাৎ করে তো আকাশ থেকে এই দেশটি পাইনি। এই দেশের অনেক লম্বা ইতিহাস আছে। হঠাৎ করে এই শহরে বাস করা শুরু করিনি। এই পুরানো ঢাকা হঠাৎ করে এমন জমজমাট হয়ে ওঠেনি। এই সব

কিছুর পিছনে আছে লম্বা স্মৃতির মিছিল। আমি এখনো পুরানো ঢাকার ছবি দেখলে আমার দেখা ঢাকার স্মৃতির সাথে মিলিয়ে নেই। মনে মনে বলি, 'আরে আমি তো এটা জানতাম না?'

এই যে ভিক্টোরিয়া পার্কে গিয়ে কতদিন লুকিয়ে লুকিয়ে সিগারেট খেয়েছি। তখন এই পার্কের ইতিহাস জানতাম না। আর এখন যখন ইতিহাস জানি শ্রদ্ধায় আমার মাথা নুয়ে আসে। পুরানো গল্পগুলো 'বোরিং' কিছু নয়। ওগুলো আমাদের শেকড়। সেই শেকড়ে পানি ঢালতে হয়। তাহলেই আমাদের গাছের গোঁড়া শক্ত হয়। আমাদের ভালবাসা পূর্ণতা পায়। আমরা জানি ছুট করে আকাশ থেকে আমরা পড়িনি। আমাদের ভীতটা ভীষণ শক্ত। সূর্যের মত আলো নিয়ে গ্রেগরীয়ানরা যখন দেশের কিংবা পৃথিবীর জন্য কিছু করে আমাদের বুকটা বড় হয়ে উঠে। আমরা তখন সূর্যমুখী হয়ে থাকিয়ে থাকি। মানুষের জীবনে তো এমন সূর্যের দরকার আছে। নতুবা আমরা বেড়ে উঠবো কেমন করে?

TGS SPOTLIGHT সেই রকম একটি প্রচেষ্টা। আমরা বড় হবো। বুড়া হব কিন্তু স্কুলের সাথে আমাদের যে ভালবাসা তার কমতি হবে না। হয়ত SPOTLIGHT সেই পুরানো আদলে প্রকাশ হবে না। কিন্তু যারা এই কাজটি করবে, তাঁদের চোখ, মুখ - সারাক্ষণ এই গল্পগুলো নিয়ে ডুবে থাকবে। বাড়িতে গিন্গি বকা দিবে, সন্তানেরা অভিমান করবে। কিন্তু কেউ জানবে না অনেক সুখ, সুবিধা বাদ দিয়ে কেউ কেউ এখনও স্কুলের সেইসব স্মৃতি আগলে রাখে আর ভাবে আমরা এই ভাবে বেড়ে উঠেছি। আমরা এই ভাবে নিজেদের গড়েছি। আমাদের গর্ব করার অনেক গল্প আছে। এই গল্পগুলো আরো আলো ছড়াক। সূর্যমুখীরা এই আলোয় বেড়ে উঠুক।

Page dedicated to our Teachers

“So much owed, by so many, to so few...”

This page is dedicated to our teachers who have selflessly, and tirelessly worked to set our pathway to a successful life. As Bro. Hobart has said, all of you have been our “gardeners” catching us young, nursing, and protecting us throughout our journey to ensure our foundation was strong and resolute.

We are indebted forever.

The title quote is an excerpt from Sir. Winston Churchill’s speech in the House of Commons in August 1940 after the Battle of Britain. It was a tribute to the fighter pilots of the Royal Air Force for their game changing victory against the German Luftwaffe.



Bro. Fulgence Dougherty CSC



Bro. Thomas More csc



Bro. Donald Becker csc.



Peter D' Costa



Madan Mohan Ganguly



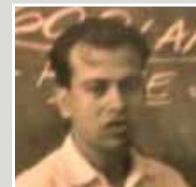
P.C. Sarker



Nicholas Rozario (1) Sir



Nalini Kumar Sarkar



Ashrafal Haque



Syed Serajul Huq



Philip D_ Rozario



Bro. Hobart Pieper csc



Bro. Gerald Kraeger csc



Bro. Ronald Drahozal csc



Bro. Robi Purification csc

This dedicated page for our Teachers shall be continued in the subsequent issues of TGS Spotlight.

OPINION

What makes a good teacher?



Grn. Ahrar Ahmad (1965)
Professor Emeritus
Black Hills State University
in the US and Director
General of Gyantapas Abdur
Razzaq Foundation in Dhaka

For a person who, even as a child, has always wanted to be an educator, and has been one for all his professional career, being a good teacher has remained a dream, entailed a struggle, and encouraged an (elusive) quest. It is understood that a “good teacher” is not a finished product or a final condition, but a constant process of discovery and change. I am still taking notes.

Previously, we sought to explore, and learn from, the great “masters” and icons of education – Socrates, Confucius, Chanakya, Jean Piaget, Anne Sullivan, Paolo Freire, Ralph

Waldo Emerson, Maria Montessori and others. We were inspired by educators we experienced in our own lives who left their imprint on us through their example of excellence and dedication. We searched for the philosophical foundations, approaches, insights and clues that would enlighten and guide us in our journey as educators.

Today the question of being a “good teacher” generates a new vernacular (jargon), and a profusion of techniques, strategies and “mechanistic” pedagogical skills, that center on new testing regimes that are standardized, information based and memory dependent. The “goodness” of teachers is measured and rewarded by their ability to get their students to pass these exams. As it has been wisely pointed out, “education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire”. Sadly, current educational practices defy that wisdom, and contribute to squelching creativity and discouraging inspiration.

The attributes of a good teacher are universal. They must have expertise and enthusiasm about subject matter; be prepared and organized for every class; be willing to admit mistakes, consider different points of view and be flexible; and must recognize the autonomy

and agency of each student in an environment where their safety, equality and sense of belongingness are guaranteed.

Teachers must also be role models in terms of maintaining personal dignity, patience, professionalism, compassion, moral authority and fairness in all matters. They must remember that they are preparing students for a meaningful life not merely teaching them to jump through hoops and find suitable employment. In achieving this purpose, inculcating a civic consciousness and social graces, facilitating an inclusive and cosmopolitan world-view, and encouraging them to ask questions and become critical thinkers, remain their most urgent challenges. As Socrates had indicated, “I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think”. If one can do that, one is well on the way to achieving greatness as a teacher.

If there is one quality that defines great teachers, it would be “caring” – they care about what they teach, who they teach and why they teach. The first would imply their humility and willingness to enhance their knowledge through research and scholarship; the second their commitment to the intellectual growth and betterment of their students; and third their belief in the transformational and moral power of education itself. How they teach would only form a sub-text in the context of the first three conditions.

Conversation with Grn. Mahfuz Anam



Grn. Mahfuz Anam
Class of 1965
Editor & Publisher of
The Daily Star

TGS: "I am proud to be a Gregorian" - a very common saying among the St. Gregory's alumni. Do you feel the same way?

MA: Unquestionably I feel very proud of being a Gregorian. It was a school that taught values, discipline and compassion in addition to the high quality of education that we were all privileged to receive. In the first half of the sixties of the last century – 1960 to 1965 - when I studied there, from class VI up to Matriculation, our school was by far the best among the schools in Dhaka.

The administration was strict and just, the teachers were devoted and the students were eager and spirited. The combination of expatriate and highly qualified local teachers made for an extraordinary combination of inflow of knowledge, experience and diverse cultural reference points that tremendously enriched our learning experience.

TGS: Do you believe that studying at St. Gregory's has anyway contributed to the success of your career?

MA: Those five years contributed immensely towards my growth in later years. It inculcated in me a thirst for learning, made me understand the importance of discipline and gave me a sense of dignity that proved invaluable for my future. St. Gregory School taught me, in retrospect, the crucial importance of early quality education that only a school like ours could provide.

TGS: Which teacher had the most impact on you and what were the teachings or values that St. Gregory's had instilled in you that you might not have

received if you had studied in any other educational institution in Bangladesh?

MA: There were several. Bro. Fulgence Dougherty CSC, as the headmaster, showed how to be strict and yet be compassionate. Mr. N.K. Sarkar had an extraordinary capacity to nurture curiosity and sow the seed of thirst for knowledge in young minds. Bro. Hobert had the capacity to combine the art of humour and teaching that made learning so much fun. There were several other extraordinary teachers who contributed to my growth in life. Above everything else all the teachers and the school administration were solely and sincerely devoted to the welfare and knowledge expansion of the students. St. Gregory School remains a most loved and revered memory in my life.

TGS: As a Gregorian, what values/teachings do you want to instill in others when you get the chance?

MA: I think I have led a life of dignity and integrity. Both these values came from, first my family and then my school.

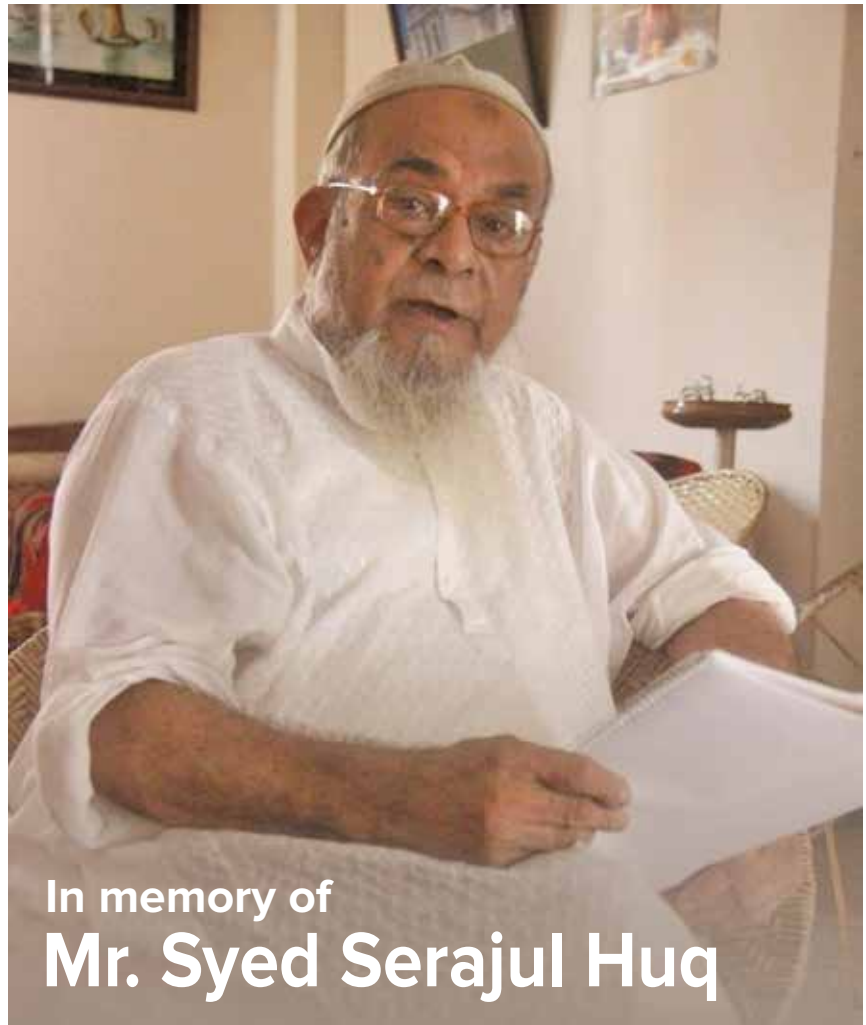
TGS: Is it enough for us to be proud of and boast about being Gregorians? In other countries, we see alumni working directly or indirectly for the betterment of their respective alma maters which, unfortunately, we do not see here. What's your take?

MA: I strongly feel that the alumni community should actively contribute to the school's welfare. There are some efforts going on now. We should work together and not in different groups.

TGS: Gregorians around the world are doing great in their respective fields, but collectively, can't they play at least a catalyst, if not leading, role in rebuilding the collapsed education system of the country?

MA: We can initiate some discussion among ourselves in this matter. It is much easier said than done. However, we should try and set an example of how the alumni community can help the growth of their old school.

Interviewer:
Grn. Syed A Habib



In memory of Mr. Syed Serajul Huq

"If you have to put someone on a pedestal, put teachers. They are society's heroes."
- Guy Kawaski

The mark that a good teacher leaves on a student is indelible. It may be decades since we left school but we will never forget teachers who understood us, cared for us, and helped us.

An iconic teacher and a model to many, our beloved Sirajul

Huq Sir will live within us forever.

Thank you for being an exceptional teacher who made a difference in our lives. Your guidance and support have shaped our future, and we are forever grateful. We will always cherish the knowledge and wisdom you imparted upon us.

Our thoughts and prayers for his family and may his soul Rest in Peace in Jannat-ul-Firdous.



**TGS
DAY
2023**

“St Gregory’s boys are brothers one.”

Cover Story

TGS DAY 2023

An unprecedented celebration of the Gregorian brotherhood



Syed A Habib (1979)

General Secretary, Ad-hoc
The Gregorian Society

“St. Gregory’s not only taught its students to be proficient in science, arts and culture, it also taught them to be good humans. Today, we are trying to make a radical transformation in the country’s education system that will make students more creative, and teach them humanity, empathy, tolerance and honesty. St. Gregory’s has been doing all of this for centuries.

“The institution has produced the first Prime Minister of the country, a President, a Nobel Laureate, the framer of the constitution, leading academics, writers, politicians, journalists

and world-class players. We want more from her and her alumni to spread this light across the country. So, I not only welcome TGS’s efforts to fulfill its purpose – giving back to the alma mater and in turn to our Motherland – but also pledge to stand by it with all my capacity.”

The above excerpts from her speech said it all. The Chief Guest Dr. Dipu Moni MP, the Hon’ble Minister of Education, was lavish in her praise of St. Gregory’s and, categorically claimed her personal bond with the School through her husband Tawfiq Nawaz (class of 1966) and her three brothers in law who are all Gregorians.

And so, it all began, the lovely winter day of January 20, 2023 saw the Gregorian brotherhood come together. Nearly 1600 Gregorians gathered for the daylong event that ran into the night with a feverish enthusiasm that has not been experienced for many years. Young and old gathered in a festive mood,



bringing nostalgic memories to the seniors, while establishing the missing link between the juniors and the seniors. For the first time, TGS brought in the current students to be a part of the celebration with the sole intent of providing them with an insight into the Alumni and, what it stood for. For the current students, the experience was a revelation. They experienced first-hand the deep love for the Alma Mater that binds the Gregorian alumni together and the value it added through a strong and supportive alumni association.



The gathering was enriched by the participation of students covering six decades.

Over 40 teachers participated in the festivities on invitation. School principal Bro. Ujjal Placid Periera, the chief patron of TGS, lived up to his commitment as he worked with TGS exemplifying extraordinary warmth and enthusiasm.

Our collective chests swelled with pride as a smart contingent

of scouts provided the guard of honor to the Chief Guest, which kicked off the day's proceedings. As a mark of respect, Dr. Moni placed a wreath at the Shahid Minar, a memorial to SGHS teachers martyred during the 1971 war of independence.

Grn. Shakil Kasem (1969) was the Master of Ceremony and was impeccable as he eloquently performed his role.

TGS President Grn. Yousuf Rahman (Babu) began the inaugural session with a welcome speech. I crave the reader's indulgence for a brief walk down memory lane. Yousuf Rahman, who needs no introduction, is a significant name in the annals of Bangladesh's cricketing history. His game changing performance in the match against the visiting MCC in 1977, which was Bangladesh's litmus test, laid the path and the foundation of Bangladesh's cricketing accomplishments. The Associate Membership of the ICC for Bangladesh followed thereafter and was granted in June 1977.



“Gregorians lead the nation in their love for their alma mater”

He outlined the main objectives of TGS and his main area of focus, and thanked everyone for putting together a great show. He parted with a word of advice, paraphrasing US President John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what the school can do for you, ask what you can do for your alma mater."



Guest of Honor Bro. Ujjal Placid Pereira, the Principal of SGHS&C and the Chief Patron of TGS expressed his delight to see senior and junior Gregorians mingle. "It is very important to tell and listen to stories to build the nation," he pointed out in his speech. He referred to the hon'ble prime minister's directives as he emphasized the need for a strong relationship between the school and its alumni body. Bro. Ujjal said that from his own experience in academic institutions in the country, Gregorians lead the nation in their love for their alma mater. He wanted this love to blossom in TGS by bringing all Gregorians from home and abroad under one umbrella.



St. Gregory's distinguished past boasts of alumni like Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and Bangladesh's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed. So it is only fitting that a couple of renowned senior Gregorians were on hand at the inaugural session. Grn. Prof. Ikhtyar Omar (1964) is a distinguished academic who taught in BUET and a university for years in Canada. Grn. Mujahidul Islam Selim (1965) is a freedom fighter and President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.



As he took a walk down memory lane, Ikhtyar Omar quipped that he chose St. Gregory's over St. Joseph's at Narinda in 1956 because of its large playing field, a fact that he discovered as a student at neighboring St. Francis Xavier's. He has been an integral part of the Alumni organization from the Centennial Celebrations in 1982 onwards that includes the formative years of the original TGA and its successive committees. It was great to have him back in our fold. Our events were never complete without his rendition of Tagore songs, along with his wife Nadira Omar, a well-known artist.





Mujahidul Islam Selim spoke about the wisdom that St. Gregory's imparts to its students. "Knowledge and wisdom are two different things; wisdom supersedes the limit of knowledge," he said. "St. Gregory's taught us patriotism. We fought for the country, we gave our lives, we produced a Prime Minister, and we produced a President.

"The Gregorians are a family. No matter how I'm introduced, the identity of being a Gregorian is my pride. We need to enrich this Gregorian fraternity with that proud tradition."



Lunch break was unexpected fun, thanks to an innovative twist, which was hugely appreciated by all. The conventional practice of serving a preset meal like kachhi biriyani for a fixed price was dropped. Instead, we offered a choice to patrons by bringing together a heady mix of perennial favorites like Beauty lassi, Jhunur polao with new kids on the block like North End and Cha-chai. Gregorians, old and new, flocked around the food stalls throughout the day, which is a testament to its popularity and success.



A superb folk music performance by some extraordinarily talented students ably supervised by their teachers added class and diversity to the event. A welcome light hearted dash of humor followed thereafter when the junior and senior alumni debated on the topic of "Who Was Naughtier."

Gregorians Zawad (2017), Ebtida (2018), and Imtiaz (2023) represented the juniors while Minar (1989), Shawkat (1981), and Niaz Ahmed (1973) represented the seniors. The juniors gave the seniors a run for their money until lo and behold; our President Yousuf Rahman couldn't resist the temptation and came onstage to rescue the seniors. I overheard current teachers telling each other how lucky they were not to have to deal with the pranks of the mischievous older students.



As the day moved into the afternoon, an innovative and entertaining segment was presented much to the liking of the gathering. For the first time, an All-Boys school invited a female contingent from our neighboring All-Girls School. Based upon all the tales of how we tried to hit the cricket ball over the wall, which was the reason for the wall to be raised higher and higher as we grew stronger over time, the topic was set. "HAVING ST.

GREGORYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL – WAS IT A CURSE OR A BLESSING FOR THE XAVIERIANS?"

Ayman Nuhash (2011) and Dr. Nahreen Khan (1995) led their respective teams. Despite being a Gregorian myself, I have no hesitation in conceding victory to Xavierians. Dr. Nahreen was fluent and articulated her presentation wonderfully well. A barrier was removed with their participation.



“HAVING ST. GREGORYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL – WAS IT A CURSE OR A BLESSING FOR THE XAVIERIANS?”



ডঃ নাহরীন আই খান

অধ্যাপক, জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সেইন্ট ফ্রান্সিস জেভিয়ার্স স্কুল (১৯৯৫)

“আবার তাহাৰে কেন ডেকে আনো?”

সময়টা ঠিক মনে নেই। হতে পারে ২০২২ এর ডিসেম্বরের শেষে অথবা ২০২৩ এর জানুয়ারির প্রথম সপ্তাহে। আমি তখন জার্মানিতে। গ্রেগরীয়ান জিয়া ভাই আমাকে ফোন দিয়ে বললেন উনাদের স্কুলে গ্রেগরীয়ানদের একটা রিউনিয়ন হচ্ছে। দিনব্যাপী এই আয়োজনকে একটু ব্যতিক্রমী করার জন্য তাদের “আমৃত্ত্ব” সুখ-দুঃখের সঙ্গী “চিরদিনই তুমি যে আমার” জেভেরিয়ানদেরও আমন্ত্রণ জানাবেন বলে ভাবছেন। হঠাৎ কৈশোরের চাঞ্চল্য পেয়ে বসল। আমার হাজার প্রশ্নের উত্তর দেবার জন্য উনি রিউনিয়নের প্রধান সমন্বয়কারী দ্য

গ্রেগরীয়ান সোসাইটির জেনারেল সেক্রেটারী রানা হাবীব ভাইকে মাঝরাতে হোয়াটস্যাপে সংযুক্ত করলেন। রানা ভাই বললেন যে একটা প্রীতি-বিতর্ক হবে। বিষয়টা দেয়ালের এপার-ওপারঃ আশীর্বাদ না অভিশাপ? ভিন্ন মহাদেশে, ভিন্ন টাইমজোনে বসে কৈশোরের হাজার আশীর্বাদ অথবা অভিশাপের হিসেব কষতে কষতে, ব্যস্ত যাপিত জীবনের কথা না ভেবেই ‘হ্যাঁ’ বলে দিলাম।

ঢাকায় ফিরে এলাম অনুষ্ঠানের দুদিন আগে। ‘অজানা-অচেনা’ প্রায় আমার অর্ধেক বয়সী জেভেরিয়ানদের নিয়ে ঢাল তলোয়ারে প্রস্তুত আমাদের ডিবেট টিম। ১৯৯২-৯৩-৯৪ এর সেই টিম। যাদের কাছে গ্রেগরীয়ানরা ছিল একেবারেই নসি। ত্রিশ বছর আগের সেই - পরাজয়ে ডরে না বীর পুরুষেরা।

২০ শে জানুয়ারি ২০২৩। সেই চেনা পথ পুরানো চোখ দিয়ে পুরানো কিছু খুঁজে ফেরা - সে হলরুম - হলভর্তি গ্রেগরীয়ানদের দুইমি ভরা কৌতুহলী চোখ - একটা খুব বড় মাঠ - মাঝে ভারত-বাংলাদেশ সীমান্তের কাঁটাতারের মতন দাঁড়িয়ে থাকা একটা দরজা - হৃদপিণ্ডে ধুক ধুক বাড়ানো হঠাৎ ছিটকে আসা বল। ফ্ল্যাশব্যাকে ফিরে আসা একের পর এক মুহূর্ত। ‘আমাদের গেছে যেদিন একেবারেই কি গেছে - কিছুই কি নেই বাকি?’ হয়তো অবয়বটা তেমন নেই - বদলে গেছে - আধুনিক হয়েছে, সাদা দেয়ালটা লাল সিরামিক ইটের আকাশ ছোয়া গাঁথুনি হয়েছে। তবুও আমার কাছে “রাতের সব তারাই আছে দিনের আলোর গভীরে”।

কৈশোরের অনেক পরিচিত মুখ - কিশোরীর হৃদয়ে যেমন ছিল - তা থেকে বদলেছে - তবুও খুব চেনা চেনা। কেউ এসে জানতে চাইলো - আরে তুমি সুমী না? মঞ্চের উঠে সেই পুরনো তর্ক। বুড়ো কিংবা শিশু গ্রেগরীয়ান - তাদের সমস্ত জীবনের পুঞ্জীভূত স্মৃতিকাতরতায় জেভেরিয়ান। এমন জেভেরিয়ানময় জীবন যে তাদের জীবনের সাফল্য আর খ্যাতির সবচেয়ে উলেখযোগ্য প্রাপ্তি হল কে কত নিখুঁতভাবে ফুটবলের সফল কিকে দেওয়ালের ওপারে ডিঙ্গাতে পেরেছে।

আসলেই দাওয়াতটা/আয়োজনটা অভিনব ছিল। এর আগে এমন করে পাশের বাড়ির মেয়েদের কেউ ডাকেনি। বিস্মৃত মেয়ে অথবা ছেলেগুলো যে নিজের অজান্তেই হৃদয়ের কোথাও গভীর হয়ে আটকে ছিল - তা সেদিনের অনুষ্ঠানে না গেলে অজানাই থেকে যেত।

স্নেহা-ইভা-আর এখনকার জেভেরিয়ান ডিবেট ক্লাবের সবাইকে সাথে করে ঘুরে ঘুরে দেখলাম স্কুলটাকে। ‘কোথায় একটা খাবার পানির কল ছিল, দেখো ঐখানে না ও দাঁড়িয়ে থাকতো তার জন্য’ - ‘তুমি আর নেই সেই তুমি’ - আমাদের উপচে পড়া হাসিতে ২০ জানুয়ারির অভিনব এই আয়োজন মুখরিত হল ‘বিউটি লাচ্ছি’, ‘ঝুনুর পোলাও’ আর ‘চা-চাই’ আর ‘নর্থ-এন্ডের’ উষ্ণতায়।

ফেরার পালা। জেভেরিয়ানদের সাথে বিচ্ছেদ হয়েছিল বহুকাল আগে, যাদের ডিবেট ক্লাবটি আমার হাতেই গড়া, অথবা টেলিভিশন বারোয়ারী বিতর্কে যে স্কুলের নামটি লিখিয়েছিলাম আমিই - তারাও কখনো আমায় এমন করে ডাকেনি - মনে রাখেনি যা সেইন্ট গ্রেগরী স্কুলের মানুষেরা রেখেছে। বহুকালের অভিমানে জমে থাকা মেঘ গলতে শুরু করল - বহুদিন পর আবার তুলোর মতন নরম মেঘ হয়ে।

ফিরে যাচ্ছি সেই কিশোরী আমি - ভেতরে জীবনানন্দ তোলপাড় করছে “আবার তাহাৰে কেন ডেকে আনো? কে হায় হৃদয় খুঁড়ে বেদনা জাগাতে ভালোবাসে?”

জেগে ওঠা বেদনা - কিছু হারাবার - কিছু ফিরে পাবার বেদনায় দ্রুত গতিতে গাড়ী এগুচ্ছে পেরিয়ে যাচ্ছি ভিক্টোরিয়া পার্ক, কোর্ট আছ স্মৃতির ওলিগলি - রাস্তার নাম গুলো ঝাপসা নাকি ডাউন মেমোরী লেন!?

বিঃ দ্রঃ রানা হাবীব ভাই এত চা কফি থাকতেও কিছুই অফার করলেন না, আগামীতে ভুড়িভোজনের কথা কন্ট্রাস্ট পেপারে লেখা থাকবে কিন্তু!



At a panel discussion on career guidance, we were honored to have leading representatives from different professions—Shahid Azim from BGMEA (1973), Dr. Tahmid Ahmed from IDDRB (1974), Prof Hasib Ahsan from BUET (1979), Prof. Shafiqul Islam from Dhaka Medical College (1981), Masihul Haque Chowdhury from Community Bank (1981), Advocate Mahbubur Rahman from Dhaka Bar Association (1981), and Asif Ashraf from Urmee Group (1982). The panel members laid out a sense of direction to the current students towards the pursuit of relevant careers in their respective sector and also responded to their questions. The discussion was moderated

by Syed Ahsan Habib.

The concert in the evening, designed for the younger Gregorians, electrified the entire crowd. Before the band,

Avoid Rafa, took the floor, members of GMBA mesmerized the audience as they belted out evergreen popular numbers, picking one from each decade of the last sixty years.





The entire musical segment was superbly designed and conducted by Grn. Ehsanur Rahman Zia (1992). Light and sound was managed by none other than Gregorian, Fuad Shihab (1980), one of the legendary sound engineers of the country. The whole premises were meticulously decorated by a professional event management company, A for Action.



An elegant souvenir commemorating the event was made available to the participants, which was a product of great team work of several key members of the Executive Council. Generous contributions were made by sponsors and advertisers without whom this event would not have seen the light of day. Special mention has to be made of Grn. Rume Ali (1967) who shouldered the major responsibility of ensuring the

availability of adequate funds. On the ground, we also got excellent support from Richard, Proshanto, Arup, Saboor, Faisal, Zia, Minar, Sayem, Fahim, Hafiz, Mira, Tanzir, and many volunteers from the student body of the school.

TGS Day 2023 is one event that will be remembered for a long time. It falls in the same stature as the 1982 Centenary Celebration for its purpose, its expressive show of Gregorian brotherhood

and, the freedom of participation by all. We can now look forward with confidence to TGS DAY 2024.

At the end of the day, we all got a little sentimental, to be honest, as we saw the event embody the spirit of the school song we sang in our youthful days:

"St Gregory's boys are brothers one."

Saluting our Unsung Heroes



Ajay Kumar Sarkar

Mr. Sarkar belongs to an illustrious family that is closely connected to St. Gregory's High School over decades. Son of one of our most respected teachers, brother to several basketball stars of the school, he too followed the game with keen fervor. In March 1966, he joined the school as a teacher and coached the school basketball team to many titles. A quiet man of excellent individual brilliance, Mr. Sarkar carried with him a sense of calmness throughout his selfless career until his retirement in 2021.

Our very own Ajay Kumar Sarkar, has served St. Gregory's High School with dignity and honor and we strongly feel that

he is one of our unsung heroes and hence take great pride in presenting this award to him.



Mohammed Abdus Shukkur

Shukkur was always around ensuring that things never got out of hand. A happy go lucky individual who took great pride in his work, he never flinched from responsibility. He loved the basketball court, kept discipline around it and at times, played the game too with utmost enthusiasm. He is someone who never shied from anything or anyone. He knew what he had to do and how to do it. The school cannot be the same without Shukkur around.

As the "Prefect of Campus Activities" our own Mohammed Shukkur has performed his duties with pride and responsibility and is definitely one of our unsung heroes and we thank him for his continued service to the school and the Gregorian community.



Iqbal Hossain Amy

Batch of 1982, Amy was an all-round sports man, but he was a very special player of our St. Gregory's flagship sport, Basketball.

Captained school team and became Bangladesh Champion in 1982 and received the honorable Gregorian Blue in the same year; later he joined Bangladesh Navy and played Basketball for them for 10 years. In between, he became the Basketball Coach of St. Gregory's team and saw the School team through several national championships till 1991.

Under his mentorship, St. Gregory's produced a good number of amazing basketball players who reached up to national level. He was also an accomplished Scout and became the best scout of the year in 1982. Always standing in the background but relentlessly working for the betterment of

SGHS Sports, he is long due this recognition.



Alam Miah

When our children come to school, we take security for granted. None of us actually go that route and think about it since the school provides the necessary security that is so needed.


However, the person that takes this huge responsibility is never talked about. Alam Miah is such a person. He joined the school in 1982 and, since then, has been ensuring the security of the students, the teachers etc. by fulfilling his responsibilities with utmost care and sincerity.

Alam Miah is one of our unsung heroes that we want to salute.

Grn. Abdus Saboor
Joint Secretary, Ad-Hoc
The Gregorian Society

TGS DAY 2023





One of the core objective of The Gregorian Society is to support the school and alumni base in their extra-curricular and skill development activities.

TGS-IN ACTION

TGS In Action



Round Table discussion on “Giving back to our Alma Mater.”

A meeting of minds took place at the Gregorian Alumni Club Ltd. on August 20, 2022. It was participated by Gregorians of various batches to discuss an agenda captioned ‘Giving back to OUR Alma Mater’.

At the invitation of The Gregorian Society (TGS), the then Acting Principal Bro. Ujjal Placid Pereira CSC and immediate past Acting Principal of SGHS&C Bro. Leo Pereira CSC, along with three of their colleagues were present at this meeting.

Grn. Yusuf Rahman (over Zoom), Grn. Faisal Rahman, Chair of the

GNA, Grn. Ashfaque, President of GACL, and other stalwart Gregorians were also present, and they spoke their minds. They were: Grn. Mahfuz Anam, Grn. Nasser Bakhtiyar, Grn. Md. Ali Rume, Grn. Akhtar Matin Chowdhury, Grn. Syed Saad Andaleeb (over Zoom), Grn. Tanvir A. Khan, Grn. Fazlur Rahman, Grn. Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Grn. Azizur Rashid, Grn. Kamran Rahman, Grn. Shahid Azim, Grn. Rizwan Khair, Grn. Sankar Madhab Banik (over Zoom), and other Gregorians of the younger generation. Grn. Syed A Habib Rana conducted the session with his usual charisma and wit.

The speakers reiterated that a need assessment is necessary to etch out the short-, medium- and long-term projects for the School. Once that is done, all the loose ends will fall into place. Projects like Training of Teachers, Computer Lab, Multimedia Classrooms, Training on Coding, Infrastructure development, new campus of the school in the new town, and many other projects were proposed and discussed. What needs to be done immediately is activating short-term projects to earn the trust of the Gregorians at large and the outside world.

Bro. Leo and Bro. Ujjal were very candid about the projects that they would like to see in collaboration with TGS, GNA, and GACL. They highlighted ‘Apon’, a project initiated by Bro. Ronald Drahozal CSC to rehabilitate the children who got addicted to drugs.

A strong Treasury is necessary for doing projects as the consensus and all the participants pledged to bring it to fruition.

Grn. Ashfaque, on behalf of GACL, handed over 500 books to Bro. Ujjal for the library.

The Vote of Thanks was offered by Grn. Muhammad Rume Ali.



Listening to others

On October 21, 2022, The Gregorian Society hosted a meet and greet session with the representatives from different batches from 80s and 90s. Various ideas, views and opinions were exchanged among the attendees of the session.



National English Carnival 2022

The Gregorian Society joined force with St. Gregory's High School & College to organize "SGHSC National English Carnival 2022" on October 14th and 15th, 2022. More than two thousand students from various schools and colleges participated in the event.

One of the core objective of The Gregorian Society is to support the school and alumni base in their extra-curricular and skill development activities. This initiative marks the start of the numerous projects that TGS aims to pursue in the coming days.



Teacher's Memorial Basketball

St. Gregory's High School is the pioneer of Basketball in Bangladesh. The sports was first played in the school campus in 1923, when Brother Anthony, CSC was serving as the headmaster of the school.

The Gregorian Society has been a proud co-sponsor of Teacher's

Memorial Basketball Tournament 2022, St. Gregory's flagship annual basketball event for its students and alumni. The event was graced by the honorable executive panel members, including the President and the General Secretary.



Winter Drive

The Gregorian Society (TGS) successfully organized and distributed blankets and warm clothing to the impoverished adults and children in remote areas of Dinajpur and in the Char areas of Sirajganj, Pabna in December. In addition, blankets were distributed in an orphanage in Tetulia, Panchogor, which happens to be one of the coldest places in Bangladesh.

The initiative was taken by Gregorian Aka Newaz (Batch of 1972), who discussed the plan with TGS President Yousuf Rahman. An appeal was made to the Gregorian alumni that eventually resulted in the collection of more than 1000 blankets and 2000 sweaters (generously donated by Southern Clothings Ltd.). The entire shipment was handled by Aka's Health Care Center located in Bhatarra, Dhaka.

TGS takes this opportunity to thank Gregorian Aka Newaz and all those that supported this initiative through their donations.



Appreciation dinner for the volunteers

The Gregorian Society hosted an appreciation dinner event on 17 Feb 2023 at the Gregorian Club to recognize the contributions of the volunteers of TGS Day 2023. TGS thanks the volunteers for their positive energy and eagerness that made the event successful and wishes them every success in their future endeavors.



Gregorian 69ers' meritorious awards

For the first time, the funds collected by the Class of 1969 earmarked for providing financial assistance to the deserving students of our Alma Mater has been organized through a well planned program and presented to the SGHS&C Administration by The Gregorian Society.

It all started with Tawhid Nawaz and Abul Matlub Ahmad, both Gregorians of 1969 batch, approaching Yousuf Rahman, President of TGS seeking his assistance in planning and facilitating the Scholarship Fund so that deserving students may be recognized



for their performances. TGS President took the initiative and after discussions with the Principal of SGHS&C, awards were presented in the following categories:

(1) All Round Student of the Year Award in 3 groups -Junior, Intermediate and Senior, (2) Most improved student of the year award (From class 1 through 10), and (3) Special Assistance Award to students that required financial assistance (Grades 5 through 12).



Along with cash awards, meaningful Certificates were

also presented to the recipients in a well attended colorful event held on March 17 at the school premises. Grn. Mohammed Ali Rumea (Class of 1967), former Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank who is recognized as one of the most respected bankers of the country, was the Chief Guest. Grn. Asif Ashraf, Managing Director of Urmi Group and Director of BGMEA also attended as Special Guest. It may be mentioned that both Rumea Ali and Asif Ashraf are actively involved in the various activities of The Gregorian Society. Grn. Tanvir Khan (1968 batch), Vice President of TGS also attended the event.



Mission & Vision

A strategic planning meeting was held at the BRAC CDM in Savar on April 26, 2023. A thoughtfully selected handful of Gregorians that included some members of the EC were invited to participate in the meeting for a brainstorming session. Apart from the President and General Secretary of TGS, Mohammed Ali



Rumea, Akhter Matin Chaudhury (Bobby), Tanvir Ahmed Khan, Osman Ali Khan, Kamran Rahman, Rizwan Khair, Mumtaz Ahmed, Asif Ashraf, Shamsuddin Mahmood (Nehal) attended the group discussion where Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Shahid Azim, Tahmeed Ahmed, Matlub Ahmad, Masihul Chowdhury, Ashfaque Ahmed, and Abdul Hafiz could not attend due to prior commitments. However, several of them sent their thoughts in writing.

The meeting was moderated very professionally by Grn. Akhter Matin Chaudhury (Bobby). The discussion was vibrant and extremely productive. It is amazing when you have a group of positive-thinking individuals that consider the Alumni above and beyond anything else. The day-long event resulted in the establishment of the following: The Vision of TGS, The Missions of TGS, The Core Values of TGS, Short-term and Long-term goals of TGS.



Teacher's Workshop

Under the leadership and guidance of Prof. Saad Andaleeb (batch of 1968) TGS has started to work on designing a series of Workshops for SGHS teachers. The preliminary meeting was held on July 30 so the needs could be assessed. More than 30 teachers from the Primary and Secondary levels attended the meeting ably endorsed by Bro. Ujjal Pareira, Principal of SGHS.



TGS DAY 2023



Gregorian brothers
overseas,
Please send us
information
including images
about your
activities and
accomplishments
to the following
email address
-info@tgs.org.bd

GLOBAL
GREGORIAN
OVERSEAS



OUR GLOBAL GREGORIANS



Gregorians of 1965 having a bigger reunion in Mt. Tremblant, Quebec, Canada in August 2023.

“Wherever you go and whatever you do, always remember that you are a Gregorian”



Gregorians at the First GNA Meet in Washington DC in July 2022.



From Left: Grn. Wahid Shams, Secretary of GNA, Grn. Syed A Habib, General Secretary of TGS, Grn. Faisal Rahman, Chair of GNA, and Grn. Yousuf Rahman, President of TGS at the first GNA Meet in Washington DC in July 2022.



79ers partying in Dallas in May, 2023



Three young Gregorians from 2001 Batch got together in NY, USA in December 2022



Grn. ABM Farukh, Class of 1966, organized a get-together of his batchmates in Dhaka recently at the Gregorian Club premises.



In November 2022, a great get-together in Karachi was hosted by four Gregorian brothers - Asif Ali Rashid (1963), Mushtaque Ali Rashid (1966), Arfan Ali Rashid (1968), and Shahzad Ali Rashid (1971) where Gregorians from Batch 1954 to 1971 attended.



Gregorians of 1965 having a reunion in Toronto in November 2022.



A mini get-together of Grn. Saleh Uddin and Grn. Premu Rozario of Class of 1964 and Grn. Niamat Elahee, Class of 1982 in Connecticut, USA held in Oct 2022.



Gregorian 80 batch mini reunion in NYC July 2023



While visiting USA in August 2023, Grn. Tanvir Khan meets Grn. Tawhid Nawaz, Class of 1966 and Grn. Naquibuddin Ahmed, Class of 1978.



Grn. Yousuf Babu meets 80s and 81s boys in Toronto in July 2023



Grn. Leonard, Class of 1983 meets his classmate Rezwan in Miami Florida recently after 40 years.



Grn. Wahid Shams, Class of 1988, hosting visiting Gregorians from Dhaka and the other States of NA in New Jersey, USA in Aug 2023.



A casual meet of the Gregorians in NJ, USA in June 2023.



Gregorians keep
rocking...

S S CAMPUS CAMPUS

CAMPUS



► At the hallowed ground of St. Gregory's High School & College, a footballing extravaganza took place, as the Gregorian Football Championship 2023 kicked off from the 16th of June. This championship united Gregorians from the 90s to the 2020s, igniting a fiery tournament that redefined the meaning of footballing excellence. 19 teams, representing the spirit of their respective eras, battled it out in a vehement league system. The final took place on 14 July, 2023 between Gregorian Ace's and Illudators and the Aces emerged as Champions.



► Intra Math Festival: Mathematics 2023 was held on 15th July 2023.



► Interclass Rugby Championship took place in the school grounds and S-2 became the champions.



► The Scout team of St. Gregory's High School and College celebrated its 100 years on July 2023. It was a day of festivity.



► Gregorian Debating Club organized an 13th GDC Debate Fest National 2023, and it was participated by a number of schools and colleges. The Chief Guest of the closing ceremony was Dr. Shamsul Alam.



▶ Annual Sports Day of SGHSC was observed in a festive mood on 29 January, 2023. Legendary Basketball player Grn. Shemim Aka Nawaz was the Chief Guest of the event while Ms. Farhana Shaheen was the Special Guest. Apart from the sports activities young kids participated in a colorful “Dress As You Like” event.



▶ Science Fair: Following the tradition over the ages, SGHSC organized the Science fair. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Bro. Prodip Louis Rozario, CSC on 9th March, 2023, while the closing ceremony was honored by the presence of Prof. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal as the Chief Guest on 11th March, 2023. Grn. Prof. Syed Saad Andaleeb was also present on the Closing day as the Special Guest.




▶ National Independence Day - SGHSC organized a week long program for this occasion from 17th March to 25 March, 2023. Programs included celebration of Childrens’ Day and paying homage to the Martyrs.



▶ The Annual Prize Giving Ceremony was held on 17th March, 2023. The Chief Guest of the event was Grn Muhammad A. Rumeel Ali, while Grn. Asif Ashraf was the Special Guest.



▶ Annual Sports Day of SGHSC was observed in a festive mood on 29 January, 2023. Legendary basketball player Grn. Shemim Aka Nawaz was the Chief Guest of the event while Ms. Farhana Shaheen was the Special Guest.

A photograph of a modern interior space, likely a library or study area. The room features large windows on the right side, allowing natural light to illuminate the space. In the foreground, there is a wooden table with a red bag or folder resting on it. The floor is made of light-colored wood. The overall atmosphere is bright and airy.

I am proud
to be a
Gregorian

GREGG GREGG PRIDE

GREGORIAN PRIDE

National recognition for excellence in sports was given to Grn Roquibul Hasan (Class of 1968) for his services to national cricket when he was presented with the Independence Award for 2023 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



The Gregorian Club felicitated the recent recognition of Grn. Tanveer Muzhar Islam (Tanna), Grn. Abhijit Sarker Vaya, and Grn. Wasif Ali as a National Sports Award winners for their services to the sports arena of Bangladesh.

The crest from GACL is being presented by Grn. Nurul Majid Humayun MP, the hon'ble Minister of Industries (also a Gregorian of 1967). Also seen are Grn Rume Ali (1967), Grn. Shahid Azim (1973), and Grn. Ashfaque Ahmed (1978).



How do you become a proud member of TGS?

There are three types of membership that one can apply for:

Life Member* – One-time payment of BDT 20,000/- only for life

General Member – Yearly subscription of BDT 1500/- only

Provisional Member** – Alumni aged less than 18 years old for BDT 200/- only

* Life Members of former TGA will automatically become Life Members of TGS. They however need to fill in the new Membership Form for updating the database.

** Becomes General Member as soon as they turn 18 and the regular yearly subscription will become due. They will also have the option for becoming Life Members if they so desire.

With the Membership Application Form, the Applicants must attach the following:

- Proof of studying in SGHS&C (Any of the following)
 - Copy of SSC/HSC Certificate
 - Copy of SGHS&C Report Cards (of any year)
 - Reference from the Year Book
 - Written confirmation from the Principal of SGHS&C
- Copy of Passport or NID
- A recent passport size color photo
- Proof of Payment, if applicable

The payment can be made through any branch of the Eastern Bank Limited (Account Name: **The Gregorian Society**, A/c No. **127 135 000 0051**) or by TGS bKash Merchant Account No. **01304496682**.

You may send scanned copy of the duly filled-in Membership Form along with other required documents including the proof of payment (Bank Deposit Slip or bKash Transaction Number) by email to info@tgs.org.bd

Grn. Yousuf R Rahman
PRESIDENT
The Gregorian Society,



No More! Hassle!

Get your Membership

Online!

www.tgs.org.bd

You can also make payment by debit or credit cards or mobile banking

LIVE LIMITLESS

turaag
active

Embrace an active lifestyle with
the Gregorian Spirit



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/turaagactive f

+8801404000777 j

support@turaag.com e