

## INSPIRATION AND WONDERFUL EXPERINECE ... ..

By Iftekhar Abdullah

After coming back from Bangladesh, I am haunted by my thoughts about my inspiration and experiences I had, to share with some one.

It is all about meeting Mr. Fred Hyde the legendary Australian. We all know what a phenomenon work this 92 years old man is doing for the underprivileged people in remote Bangladesh-Bhola! About 20 years he is basically working alone. His all programs are running without any contribution and reasonable help from any government. There are number of Bangladeshi even from Australia and abroad is contributing so much time and energy for this kind of projects in Bangladesh. It is also good to see how our younger generation are getting inspired and coming forward.

It is about meeting a non resident Bangladeshi (NRB) Mr. Lutfy Siddiqui's excellent contribution to Mr Hyde's program. This young man in his early 30's, educated in London School of Economics, presently Managing Director of Barclays Bank residing in Singapore. Although he is a busy banker, but he tries to use some of his own time in teaching in National University of Singapore last few years. The interesting thing is that, he decided to donate his earning from teaching to an educational program. He was looking for appropriate field, and he found the one he was looking for – Mr. Hyde's educational program. When Barclays Bank came to know about Lutfy's personal contribution, the management also enthusiastically came forward with a significant donation to this program.

Australian High Commissioner Dr. Justin Lee, a fine diplomat who has organized this wonderful program in Australian High Commission's back yard at Dhaka in December. I was honoured to meet those few big hearted distinguished people in this small, simple but memorable program. Good on you guys!

Other part of the trip is about my three presentations organized by Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), North South University and Ahsanullah University. The presentation was mainly on my experience in Australian Architecture specifically on "disable accessibility". I was really confused when I found it is hard for "Able people" to walk around the city, then who is going to care about disable people. But I found there are people who also think about it. These presentations gave me an excellent opportunity to meet a large number of senior, young, student architects and Government officials. Few young architects are doing wonderful work not only in Bangladesh but also in international arena. Being an architect I know how an architect can contribute and bring changes to our environment and they are trying to do that with all the limitations. It is encouraging to see more people are coming forward and working together to improve our environment. I really want to thank those excellent architects and people, who are working together and trying hard to change our environment. I believe that, Bangladeshi living overseas has tremendous capacity to share their experience and ability to make our Bangladesh more beautiful and better. It is my pleasure to share some photographs with you.