

A WONDERFUL EXPERINEECE

Iftekhar Abdullah

After coming back from Bangladesh recently, I have been thinking a lot about the inspirational experiences I had there.

It is about meeting Mr. Fred Hyde, the legendary Australian. We all know what a phenomenal work this 92 years old man is doing for the underprivileged people in remote Bangladesh (Bhola). For about 20 years basically he has been working alone. All his programs are running without any substantial contribution from any government. A number of Bangladeshis from overseas including Australia are contributing



considerable amount of time and energy for his projects in Bangladesh. It is great to see how our younger generation is getting inspired and coming forward to help.



From left: Mr. Lutfy Siddiqui, an official, Australian High Commissioner Dr. Justin Lee, Iftekhar Abdullah & Dr. Nahid Siddiqui.

Mr. Lutfy Siddiqui is one of them. He is making excellent contribution to Mr Hyde's program. A 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, for last few years he is using some of his time teaching at the National University of Singapore. He decided to donate his earnings from teaching to 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 the program.

Australian High Commissioner Dr. Justin Lee, a fine diplomat, has organized a wonderful program in Australian High Commission's backyard at Dhaka in December to honour Mr. Fred Hyde. I was honoured to meet those big hearted people in that small, simple but memorable program.

Other part of my experience is about my three presentations organized by Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), North South University and Ahsanullah University. The presentations were mainly on my experience in Australian Architecture specifically on “disable accessibility”. Even for “Able people” it is hard to walk around Dhaka. I was wondering who is going to care about disable.



Presentation at North South university

architect myself I know how an architect can contribute and bring changes to our environment and they are trying to do that with all their 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 people. I believe that, Bangladeshis living overseas willing to share their experience and ability to make Bangladesh more beautiful and a better place.

But I found there are people who are thinking about it. These presentations gave me an excellent opportunity to meet a large number of young and senior student architects and government officials. Few young architects are doing wonderful work not only in Bangladesh but also in international arena. Being an



Thanks giving and IAB Crest by President IAB

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