Latin for 'mistakes' or 'errors'. That costs him a lot of money so he likes to employ good proof-readers who check very carefully.

I think that some firms in Dhaka do not have any proof-readers. They do not check! One day, I looked at a little alphabet book that an educational project was giving out hundreds of copies to, to Primary Schools all over Bangladesh and I found 17 mistakes – including 'V is for violin' – and there was a picture of a DRUM! The people who wrote this book were, maybe good at English but they did not check before it went into production so thousands and thousands of copies of this book were printed. Just as the printers of the awful English grammarbooks do not check before the final printing. I want you to think about this. Checking is the boring part of any job – but it is very important. One day, your life may depend on a good mechanic in a garage who checks the brakes on your car and notices something wrong and reports it and repairs it. Learn to take pleasure in trying to do every job you are given to the best of your ability.

God bless you.

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WE ALL NEED HELP TO REMEMBER.

Assembly 26. February 19th 2003

I have been talking this week about accuracy. I hope you are learning at school to enjoy getting things right and realizing that means being organized. There is one very important way in which this school helps you to be organized. You all know what I mean when I say 'school diary' – yes? This school produces a very expensive and very nice diary to help you to organize your work so you bring the right books to school every day and do the right homework every evening. I am discovering that the diaries are wonderful in theory but some of you cannot or do not know how

to use them in practice. Some of you even think that, now that you are in the Senior School, you do not need to have a diary because you are so clever and well-organised that you can remember everything in your head - but you can't. The fact is that the whole diary business is in rather a mess and I am asking you all, both teachers and pupils to sort it out.

I took 3A yesterday and, when I asked them to write their homework in their diary, many of the class could not find February 18th in their diaries. It is quite a skill – you have to know the days of the week in English, the months of the year in English and the numbers in English up to 31. Please may I ask class teachers, Maths teachers and English teachers to combine to help younger children find dates in their diaries?

Also, some of the pupils had done classwork all over the page so that there was no room to write down their homework. Please do not do this. You have exercise books to do classwork in. Some of them had nothing written down for days. Why not? You and your parents should be able to read the diary every evening and know what homework you have and what books you should put in your bag for the following day. When we teachers want work to be done by a certain date, please, everyone, write down in your diary for the evening before, the reminder to bring that work to school the next day. I know that school life is very complicated – like the whole of life. Your education here is education for life. We have to learn to be organized. I have to keep a diary to help me to remember things. We all develop our own ways of helping ourselves to be organized.

There was one very serious thing I forgot, on our Foundation Day Ceremony. Do you remember that awful electricity cut when the dancers were only half way through their dance which they were doing so well, having rehearsed for weeks? We said, "Oh, we will have the dance at the end!" - but we forgot! There was the prize-giving, looking after our Guest of Honour - and, by the end of the session, I had completely forgotten the promise to have the

dance at the end. I am very sorry. I apologise – it was my fault. But can you understand how easy it is for the organizers of the whole programme in a big event, to forget about your particular item? Organizers have the whole thing to think about and it is very easy to miss the individual items that are so important. How awful!

Please understand, that it is OK to remind organizers, if you think we might forget. You can do this quite politely and people should not mind. Maybe you can whisper in someone's ear, "Remember the dancers at the end!" or write a little note and pass it along the table. "May I remind you to ask the audience to stay for the final item which is the dancing!" By the time I remembered, most of the audience had gone. I was very upset. No one had reminded me. So now we have to wait until the Bengali New Year to see the rest of that beautiful dance but we shall give you a very big clap.

We all need help to remember – your diaries are to help you remember – what you should do for homework, what lessons you have the next day, what books you need. We should not be ashamed of needing a system to help us to remember – but we must all work hard to make that system work properly.

God bless you.

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MARTYRS – FOR THE BENGALI LANGUAGE

Assembly 27 – February 23rd 2003

We had a very good time last Thursday, didn't we, with our little Ekushey ceremony in our lovely new space upstairs. I am very glad that you were so happy, but I was not so happy that you were so NOISY. We are all very glad that this is a happy school and SOME of the noise is because you are happy and doing

interesting and creative things in your classes – talking and working together and doing drama and singing etc.

But some noise is because you are just out of control and, out of that noise, there is a small proportion of noise from pupils who are very aggressive. When the class is left alone, we have a few pupils who need to scream rude things at each other and fight! This is not acceptable social behaviour. This is not being happy – this is being a pest.

Please, teachers, go to war on all noise that is a sign of pupils being out of control. This week, I want us to focus on tiffin-time. Please, when you have got your food, either from the canteen, or from your tiffin-box SIT DOWN – and do not get up, until you have finished. When I am half-way through my food, I do not get up and think, "I must walk around now and find someone I can shout at and fight!" That is the way for everyone to get indigestion! Do not get up until you have finished eating. Eat calmly and think nice thoughts – and your food might do you some good.

When you have finished eating and drinking, screw the top on your water-bottle and EITHER put away your tiffin in your bag OR take your plate back to the canteen. THEN – and only then - think about some relaxation and exercise. Because so many of you are walking around during eating, tables are getting bumped and food and water are getting spilt on the ground. Our lady helpers are spending too much time, cleaning up your mess and they and we are getting cross about this unnecessary work. So please, let us try to make our school a place with more controlled behaviour.

Today and tomorrow, I want us to think about martyrs. At this time of year, we are thinking about the men who died at the time of the demonstrations of devotion to the Bengali language. They refused to accept their language being treated as second-class. It had to be the official language of the Bengali people. They died for their pride of language and country and we give them due honour.