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## A school with a difference

### Children of poor families getting int'l standard of education for free

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

An English medium school founded by a lady social worker six years ago is now spreading the light of education to poor and deprived children in Saidpur upazila town.

Being a corporate member of Young Learners' Centre of British Council, Dhaka, the institution named Marigold Tutorial already won many national and international awards by providing global standard of education to them.

Founder principal of the school, Rukhsana Zaman Shanu, believes that education can change the attitude of children of poor people towards life.

Situated at old Babu Para in Saidpur town, the school follows the curriculum of Cambridge University. At present, there are 107 students. Of them, 67 are either orphans or came from distressed families. Rest 40 others came from well-established families.

Poor students are being educated for free. Only the children of solvent families have to pay necessary fees. On contact, Rukhsana Zaman said that poor students are provided with uniform, shoes, pens, books and school bags by the school authorities. All students get the equal opportunity of study in the school without any discrimination.

Following discovery method of teaching, teachers impart education to their students inside the school. Students are not burdened with home work.

Computer class is mandatory from Standard-One to Junior Cambridge. A science laboratory is well-equipped with all necessary apparatus. Vocational training like seat metal, tailoring, textile embroidery and others are also provided to students. Now, efforts are being made to complete 'O' level from the school.

The school is being run by a nine-member managing committee. Dr Nazibur Rahman, a member of the committee said the school is completely a non-profitable one. The founder's family gives subsidy to the school every month.

British Council, Dhaka organises special training courses for teachers of the school. Asia foundation and British Council donated many books to the school library.

Students of the school secured second position at a science pro-

ject competition organised by the British Council in December, 2005. Students regularly participate in all national and international competitions every year.

Earlier, students of the school took part at a competition titled, 'The Golden Tapestry Wide Art Project' jointly organised by British Council and Glaxo-Smith-Kline in

Dhaka in November, 2004. They secured top position by beating students of renowned schools of the capital. They were asked to do embroidery work on canvas focusing our culture, heritage, festivals, history, legend, music and others. Their embroidery was displayed at Melbourne in Australia during Commonwealth Games of 2006.



PHOTO: STAR

British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury watching an artwork of a student of Marigold Tutorial at a function held at British Council, Dhaka last year.