

JUL 31 2000



Students coming out of their classes at Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial Academy, established in the country's one of the remote villages, Nazarpur under Senbagh thana in Noakhali district, in memory of Malaysian national leader.

## Tunku Abdul Rahman School needs Malaysian help

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SENBAGH (Noakhali), July 30: Symbolising brotherhood and friendly ties with Malaysia, people of a remote area in Bangladesh are running a school named after Malaysian national leader Tunku Abdul Rahman to impart education to students in an under developed village.

Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial Academy (Junior High School at the moment), which started its journey through an uneven path in 1992, is located at village Nazarpur under Senbagh thana in Noakhali district, 170 kilometres from capital Dhaka. Founders are desperate to disseminate quality education among the common children and, thereby, create a healthy atmosphere in the area in the days to come.

"This is just a beginning... Who knows this modest step may be far-reaching," President of the 9-member executive committee of the academy Brigadier (Retd) Sadeq Hussain said about the school project. Talking to this correspondent at the school premises, he echoed local people's aspiration to set an example by bringing talents together at this rural institution which has significance that extends much beyond the state boundary.

The name of the school is yet to reach administrative circle in Kuala Lumpur, where many Bangladeshi expatriates serve in the development programmes of modern Malaysia led by Premier Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad.

School authorities said that they forwarded letters enclosing 'lesson-imparting permission' through the High Commission in Dhaka to apprise Malaysia's Education Ministry of the academy for the latter's approval. "This will be another milestone in the already prevailing close relations between the two Muslim countries," a patron of the academy noted.

A similar institution after the name of the hero of Turkish revolution

Kemal Ataturk was established way back in 1939 at Dagonbhuiyan under the then Feni subdivision which is now a district. Kemal Ataturk High School drew international attention at a later stage when the President of Turkey visited Bangladesh.

The grand initiative, Tunku Abdul Rahman Academy is now facing a critical financial scarcity although locals, through their all out efforts, managed to secure initial investment including a 4-acre school complex and other infrastructural facilities. "On completion, we hope, boys and girls from 10 adjacent villages will surge into the school," said Abdur Rezzak, one of the teachers of the academy which has a capacity of accommodating 600 students.

Patrons and well-wishers also think it is easily possible to introduce technical and vocational training in this school if fund is made available. The academy will soon come under Bangladesh government's Monthly Payment Order (MPO) and the process is on to open Class IX and Class X to add to the existing Class VI, VII and VIII. Having a new approach in management, the academy's advisory committee, led by a former secretary to the government, includes renowned personalities.

"I am proud of being a student here," a Class VII student, Bibi Morium said expressing her aim in life to be a doctor to serve her locality. Pupils in general are from the same densely populated area, from where hundreds of Bangladeshis went to work in foreign countries including Malaysia.

The local people hope that the school after the name of Malaysian national leader Tunku Abdul Rahman will receive focus in Kuala Lumpur during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasin's official visit to Malaysia on July 31.

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