

Books For Betterment

What would the history of the world have been, without the publication of books? Men have throughout the ages been inspired by them. The printed word has been the instigator of many a noble and noteworthy action.

Men have always wanted to record their thoughts and impressions as a means of passing on information and enlightenment not only to their own generation, but to generations yet to come. Thought is at best liquid and unless arrested in print or, as it is so often today, on the cinema or television screen, it is likely to get lost in the limbo of unrecorded time.

Books, as an adjunct to learning, may be much more important than all these later modern inventions. You can turn to them time and again, marking the passages that gave you the most pleasure, or proved in some way or another to be most profitable to you. They are a necessary adjunct to acquiring knowledge in any profession to which you may aspire, and are of inestimable value before examinations, or when travelling on a journey when moments that might otherwise have been tedious or uneventful, can be passed in a pleasurable or profitable manner.

It is, therefore with this in view that we hail the suggestion of the National Book Centre of Bangladesh to introduce a system of presenting at least one book to a relative or friend as a New Year

gift on Pahela Baishakh. The advantages of this are obvious. It would help to increase and encourage the publishing trade, give added impetus to our writers, and present a gift that with the passing of the time improves in value.

Thirty-one writers have supported this move on the advent of the new Bangla decade of 1390, and have appealed to the people generally to respond to it. Knowledge will thereby be circulated and culture increased. No man is the poorer for reading or possessing a book which, if well-written, gives pleasure for all time.

Our Children must be encouraged to read more; and the more books that they read, the more they will be published, and the cheaper the cost. It will also help to bring about better produced publications than can be seen on our bookstalls today.

With more people reading good literature character is also being formed. In fact, there may be no better way of improving ourselves generally, and in all senses, than by constant application to the best that books can give us.

The signatories to this appeal are all well-known public figures in the educational and publishing world. We can do no better than support them in this, for the betterment of our society generally, and of our children in particular.