

## 2007 - December, 14th

Finally a resting day!!! As we are in a Muslim country the holiday of the week is on Friday. All shops are closed, at least during the morning. We took the opportunity to sleep until a little later than the usual to recover from the little sleeping time along the week. Even being a resting day we have been awake up a few times during the morning: by a lady asking for support, by the laundry man, by the children who slept here.

At lunch hour we had a meeting with the **Imam** (*the head of the Muslim community in the quarter*). The meeting has been relevant due to the presence of important people from the quarter and for the importance of Maria and The Dhaka Project's role to the community, appealing for the comprehension and and help of the Imam as a society privileged spokesman. It was an unique experience, once we were there as invitees to participate in a community meeting.

All this caused us to not having eaten until 4 PM. So we decided to go have lunch in the city, in an occidental food restaurant; in the way, we crossed with a train and as it seems to be usual, there were people traveling in economical class on the roof, even walking standing up from carriage to carriage. At Friday Fast Food, someone had the spontaneous and brilliant thought of taking the 28 children of the preschool to have lunch there on Sunday, and let them enjoy amusement in the children's playground zone of the Fast Food. This idea only could have appeared in Maria's mind! (*She is always having a thousand ideas per minute that are implemented during a 'closing and opening eyes'... not allowing her poor volunteers to have a little rest*). For us, occidental people, to go to a Fast Food with children is the most natural thing in this world! Here it's an end of year gift! There are no Fast Food restaurants and and the poorest children don't have opportunities to go there, and much less have they seen the Playground.

Coming back home, we spent the rest of the day in "administration" of all we had bought during our stay, from the food to schools to all tools for the houses. In the middle of this task, Vítor has given some support to Maria on interviewing people for employment; The Dhaka Project is contracting new members for their team/staff at the moment.

One more night going to bed at a half past two AM. We don't have permission to turn in before writing this report. It's a happy moment for remembering us that each day is full of news and joy.

Just remembered, Saturdays are normal school and working days here !!! So, tomorrow we'll have a full day, the fact is that Maria is going back from Dhaka on the day after (*unfortunately her professional duties force her return to Dubai*) and there is a lot of things to do yet!!!

