

LEST WE FORGET

Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan — A Fighter for Constitution

by Razia Khan

Today is the 28th death anniversary of Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan who made his mark in the politics in Pakistan as a staunch fighter of constitutional authority against the dissolution of the short-lived Constituent Assembly of which he was the Speaker, by the Army. A tribute to the late Mr Khan, published below, has been written by his daughter Razia Khan, a noted journalist and writer.

Hagiographical notices about one's near ones are not rare. Conferring on dead people honours that they themselves never dreamt of in their life-times is also a favourite practice. But I am about to write about a retiring, self-effacing, humble person whose passion for self-protection was nil. His tolerance and suavity made it possible for me to become the independent, outspoken person that I am.

While my father Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan was alive, I acted on the stage, wrote outrageous poems, enjoyed a measure of freedom, which even male children do not have in conservative homes — in spite of his being an orthodox Muslim.

Leading a parliamentary delegation to Britain, he attended the Queen's Coronation and Buckingham Palace banquet. At the Savoy, the hotel bearers knew his habits and served him fish and vegetables. I could not ask him what he did to skip the 'Haram' meat at Buckingham Palace — because he sat at the dinner table munching his victual listlessly as was his habit — clad in his lungi and kurta breathing not a word about these grand visits. It seemed he had come from his ancestral village, Khankhanpur, rather than from England. Every time he moved into his official quarters we were told explicitly never to use his stationery and to consider the carpets, furniture, as things which never belonged to us. Nor did he say a word about himself, how he came to be what he was. From his Private Secretary I learnt that the visit to Britain had been fruitful. He had met Lord Atlee, Viscount Astor at Chateau House — where father's speech had been appreciated. Because he knew how to avoid lengthy, verbose sentences and returned the toast in a light-hearted humorous vein.

His love-hate relationship with the English is typical of the trail left by colonists who had, among them, real gentlemen as well as knaves. Hogg the jailor insulted him, Simpson the jailor cured his gastritis by giving him milk — when he was imprisoned by the British for organizing Congress volunteers at Faridpur. Forced by Hogg to stand handcuffed for two days and two nights while he was chained to a column — he was later invited to Princess Alexandra's wedding. The then High Commissioner for Britain Mr Adair, visited him at the Dhaka Civil and Military Hospital and left him books and bottles of Ribena. Needless to say the books and bottles survived him as he died a few days later.

Father had renounced the title of Khan Bahadur which had been conferred upon him after he had won the Legislative Assembly seat. In elections he had beaten Lal Miah, Sir A H Ohaznovi and the renowned Humayon Kabir — several times giving up his own constituency for less popular candidates.

When father came out of jail he was penniless. He had worked for Non-cooperation on the instruction of C R Das who was then Mayor of Calcutta. But approaching him for a job or for funds went against his nature. He resumed

practice, contested elections and rose to be members of the Indian/Pakistan Constituent Assemblies, Cabinet Minister, Speaker and Acting President of Pakistan. He had also taught at the National College of Calcutta, where Subhas Bose was Principal.

Meek and quiet, his firmness and courage lay hidden within him. They came to surface during exigencies. When the Constituent Assembly was cursorily dissolved by Ghulam Mohammed with the help of the army, he issued a warrant against the then C-In-C Ayub Khan and challenged the illegal dissolution in court with the help of D N Pritt.

Just before his death he visited the United States on that country's invitation. He met President Kennedy at the White House and was given the keys of the city of Washington by the Lord Mayor. He also met Earl Warren, the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. This is how the New York Times reported his death:

"M Tamizuddin Khan, Speaker of the National Assembly led a successful campaign to overturn a decision by a former Governor General who had dissolved the Constituent Assembly of which Mr Khan was the President..... He was an ardent fighter in India's Independence Movement..... He had given up a lucrative practice to join the Non-cooperation Movement. In a recent article he poked fun at his British jailor. He wrote several works of fiction and was twice a minister of undivided Bengal."

The obituary in the London Times was equally glowing. In Pakistan roads have been named after him. Here he lies buried in the Jattya Sangsad premises. He had requested the then President Ayub Khan to send him

to his own land where he caught pneumonia at Islamabad while conducting the Assembly proceedings as Speaker. His incomplete autobiography reveals the idealism, uncompromising integrity of a man who rose his early poverty and later success with equal grace.

An English honours graduate from Presidency College Calcutta he took his MA and LLB degrees from the University of Calcutta. He used to publish a weekly named Madira, from his own press in Calcutta. He published two novels in Bengal. Immersed in his own work, one day he suddenly stood at my door — I was playing Tagore's Sonar Bangla — I saw his eyes glistening with moisture. The song which was to be our national cry — was a reprieve from harrowing work at the Assembly.

A Calcutta lawyer once told me that he had seen my father on the verandah of Tagore's Jorashanko House the day the poet died. Father was then Education Minister in Bengal. He also chaired the Nazrul-Aid-Committee when the rebel poet fell ill.

As Health Minister of Bengal he had X-ray machines installed in Faridpur Zilla Hospital. He had been a relentless fighter for the peasants in his in his young days and was the District Secretary of the Swaraj Party of C R Das. After the death of C R Das, he lost faith in the Congress and joined the Muslim League. He fought the last elections with great reluctance on my request — as he did not want to work with Ayub. I argued that the withdrawal of people like him from politics would mean the entry of half-baked unscrupulous persons in spheres where good people are required.

(Dhaka Day by Day — our regular column on this page will reappear tomorrow.)



Late Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan

'Noori, Joinul President, Secy of Editors' Council

Sanaullah Noori, Editor of the Daily Janata was elected President of the Bangladesh Council of Editors here on Sunday, reports UNB.

AQM Joinul Abedin, Editor of Daily Shakti, was elected uncontested the Secretary General of the Council for the second consecutive term.

Chowdhury Mohammad Farook, Editor of Daily Millat, was elected Vice President (City).

Four Vice-presidents who were elected uncontested from four divisions are: Prof Abdul Wahab, Editor, Daily Rupashai Bangla (Chittagong), Liaquat Ali, Editor of Daily Purbanchal (Khulna), Mozammel Hoque (Rajshahi) and Habibur Rahman Shetkh, Editor of Daily Jahan (Dhaka).

Lions Club plan for homeless

Lions Club of Dhaka Karnaphuli will build 40 houses for the shelterless in Bhola district, says a press release.

The construction cost of these houses will be borne by Lions Club International Foundation and Nizam Uddin Ahmed, President, Dhaka Karnaphuli Lions Club and General Secretary of Bhola Samity.

The decision was taken at a meeting held recently in Dhaka which was presided over by Lion International District 315 B Governor Lion Jalal Ahmed. The proposed houses will be distributed among the shelterless people.

Report on leakage of questions of Comilla Board today

The inquiry committee headed by a judge formed to probe the leakage of question papers of the Comilla Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board would submit its report to the government today (Monday), reports BSS.

This was disclosed by the Education and Cultural Affairs Minister, Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, while addressing a press conference. Prof Chowdhury said findings of the report would be made public in due course.

Rubber Industries Owners' Assoc formed

A 25-member managing committee of Bangladesh Rubber Industries Owners' Association has been formed recently with Shaifur Rahman as its President, reports BSS.

The committee was formed at the general meeting of the association here on August 16. The meeting thanked the Prime Minister and Finance Minister for withdrawing the Value Added Tax (VAT) on rubber chappal.

Monday

- 5-00 Opening an announcement, AL-Quran, Programme summary.
- 5-15 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5-20 News in Bangla
- 5-30 Cartoon: The Yarlting
- 5-55 Sports programme
- 7-05 TV debate competition
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 9-00 Geetanjali
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Film: The man from UNCLE
- 11-30 Khabar/The news
- 11-40 a) Programme for Tuesday, verses from Al-Quran, National Anthem and National Flag
- 11-45 Close Down

Weather

Day temperature to rise

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain/shower with temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi division. Day temperature is likely to rise by 1-3 degrees Celsius over the country.

The sun sets on Monday at 6-29 pm and rises on Tuesday at 5-36 am. The highest temperature of 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded on Sunday in Khulna while the lowest 23 degree was reported from Sylhet.

Outlook for subsequent two day: rainfall activity likely to increase. Extended outlook for another five days: little change.

The temperature and humidity of some towns and cities on Sunday were:

Town/city	temperature in Celsius		humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.0	26.5	80	73
Chittagong	32.3	25.8	78	85
Rajshahi	33.0	25.0	88	82
Khulna	33.7	26.5	86	74
Cox's Bazar	30.6	25.5	77	82
Sylhet	32.5	26.5	83	70
Barisal	31.0	25.0	88	84
Rangpur	32.2	26.5	73	71
Srimangal	33.0	23.0	89	78

No end to dwellers' miseries in sight
Flash flood grips Dhaka city in times of rain

By Shahzad Monju

Large areas of Dhaka city, the national capital, look like victims of flash flood in times of heavy rains. A pedestrian has to wade through knee-deep water to move round the city.

Inadequate number of canals and drainage system are the main causes of water logging in the city, Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) sources said.

The situation aggravates when flood water enters the city flood protection embankment, which has no outlet, the sources added.

Dhaka city protection embankment project, which was taken up in 1989 to protect the metropolis from intrusion of flood water and to drain out excess rain water during monsoon by sluices fails to do the needful, reliable sources said.

The first of two-phase embankment project has not been completed yet and drainage system in the phase has totally been neglected, according to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

Water logging in the city has been a serious problem during the last few years but the embankment itself has made the problem more serious, the WASA sources confirmed.

Referring to the inadequate number of canals the sources said about 32 canals were located in Dhaka city during the erstwhile Pakistan period but at present the canals' number

stands at about 13. They said most of the canals were fully or partially filled due to density of the population and growth of business centres in the city.

If the existing canals could get proper maintenance facilities such as yearly cleaning and earthworks, then, water logging in the city would not have occurred some city dwellers felt.

After a moderately heavy rain fall, most of the roads in old and new Dhaka city become unsuitable for trafficking. Roads in Azimpur, New Market, Dhaka University, Plasey, Purana Pallan, Motjheel, Dilkusha, Nimali, Basabo, Shantinagar, Tejgaon, Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Pallabi and other different roads in the old and new towns go under water. Then rickshaw becomes the only main mode of transport for city-dwellers.

"After a little rainfall, it seems to me that Dhaka city becomes captive of water logging", says a middle-aged man Kazi Shahidul Haq, an official of Dhaka University. He has been living in the city for about two decades.

Because of neglected drainage system, the sufferings of the people are gradually increasing with the passage of time, a WASA engineer said.

Referring to the water rise in the river Buriganga, one engineer of Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) told The Daily Star that Dhaka city protection embankment may protect the city from flood but water logging from downpour will cause flood in the city.

After a moderately heavy fall at Nimali in the city, pedestrians use boats to cross the road from one place to another. Almost same is the case in other few city roads also.

The slum kids are seen swimming on the roads.

When told that WASA is mostly responsible for water logging in city, a source placed in a high position of the organisation said Dhaka City

Corporation too is responsible for the drainage system of the city.

He claimed that WASA has been maintaining yearly cleaning operation in its about 125 kilometre storm drainage line and alleged that the City Corporation was not maintaining the drainage lines properly.

After repeated attempts, this correspondent failed to meet the Mayor of Dhaka City to discuss the programmes of the corporation regarding drainage system in the city and allegations on the Corporations inefficiency.

The Corporation, however, maintains about 112 kilometres of storm drainage line.

The WASA sources also held Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK) and Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka as responsible for faulty drainage system.

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Olympia tower

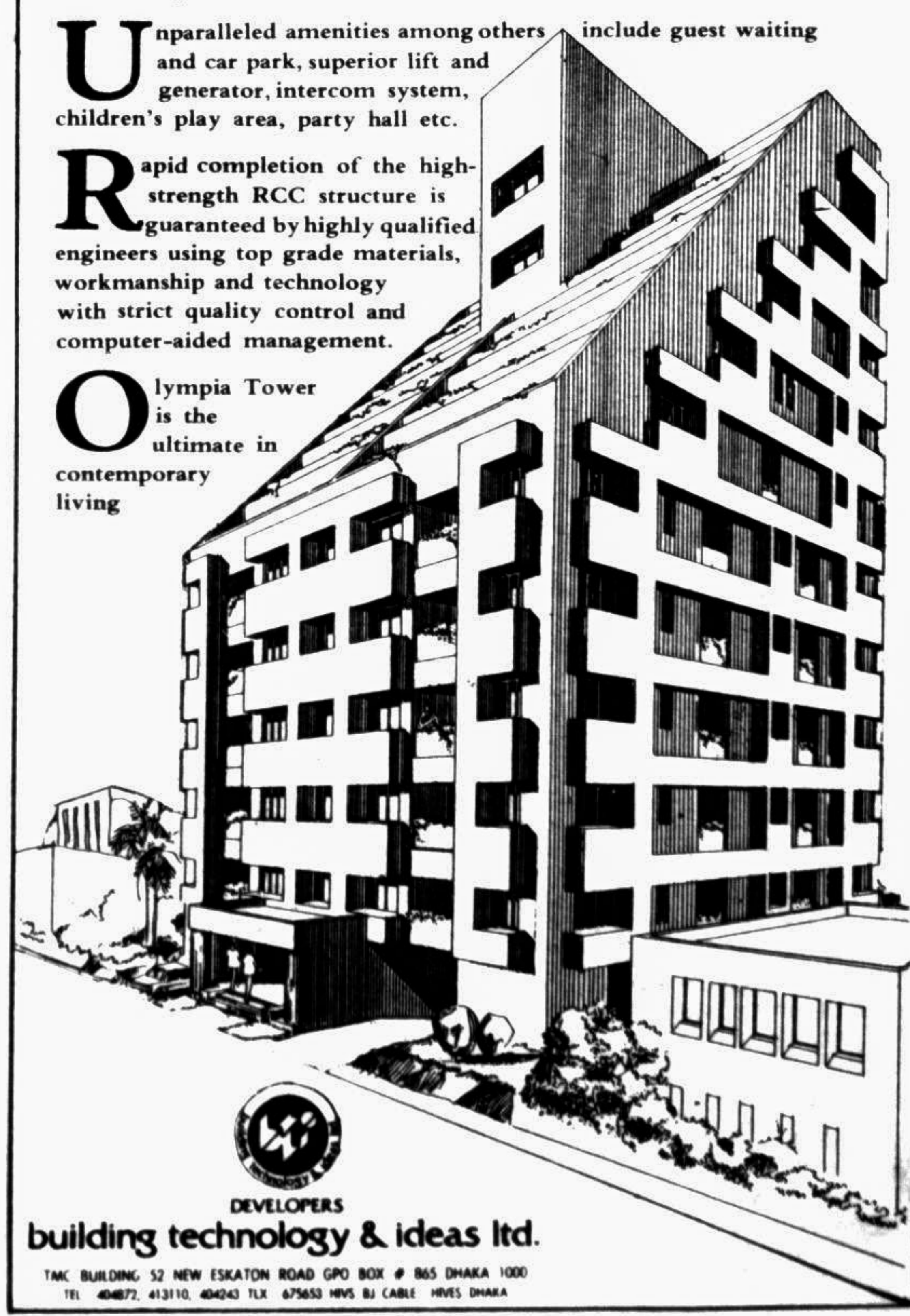
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