

Dhaka Day by Day

Death to Life

by Rahat Fahmida

An American family talked about its experience in Bangladesh, during the liberation war of 1971. At this time the McKinley parents were residing at a guest house in Dhaka city, with their four young children. We have heard in many ways the experiences of local families and that of the Mukti Joddhas. This missionary family of Jim McKinley has gone to great lengths to share their experiences with others.

With this in mind Mr. McKinley has written an English book titled 'Death to Life Bangladesh', where he vividly describes his and the family's experience during the war. This book was later translated in Bengali. Both from his conversation and the book it was inevitable that they were touched by the brutal war efforts to destroy the Bengali people and their culture. They were very much a struggling party in the war.

They first came to Bangladesh and 1958 on through the years, on many occasions, often felt that great distances in relationships that separated them from the Bengali people. But 1970-71 erased many of those doubts about relationships. As Mr. McKinley once said, this was because Bengali people turned to them in friendship.

Looking down the memory lane, Mr. McKinley briefly recounted the early days of December 1971. He initially felt that time was running out. As Dhaka was filled with strong ten inch walled buildings, each floor and roofing of

ready to surrender to an army dominated by Indian Hindus. From what I knew of the city, before Indian and the Bengalis could take it, the Pakistan army was in a position to kill two or even three of their opposition before one of their own men died.

"On the early morning of December 16th, I climbed the steps leading to the flat roof of the Guest House. Only one Indian plane was in the sky. The burst of shells could be heard and smoke seen in the distance, but the city was not being attacked. It seemed that this was the calm before the storm. But thanks to God I was wrong. We were sitting in the death trap, but the radio news said, 'General Niazi has been ordered to surrender his forces in East Pakistan.' With that statement, there was no more East Pakistan to anyone.

"Suddenly, we saw — we experienced, the birth of a giant nation — the world's eighth largest in population. Bangladesh, the nation of the Bengalis was born. And we felt like one of them.

"Within an hour's time, hundreds of fully armed Pakistan soldiers came from every direction and moved north up the road by the Guest House toward the army base to surrender to the Indian Army. We had no idea that so many of them had been in hiding near us waiting for the arrival of their would be attackers.

"The Pakistani soldiers' heads drooped low as they dragged their feet. For thirteen days,

they had been under heavy attacks from the air. Most of them had had little sleep. They seemed hardly able to carry their rifles. From this problem, some of them received help as Bengali young men ran out into the streets and pulled at their rifles. Some of them handed the rifles to the Bengalis.

"Within that same hour, the

Bengali and Indian soldiers poured into the city. The first main entrance into the city was from the west down the road by our Guest House. So we were in the welcoming group. The Bengalis went wild. Everywhere we looked, there were people carrying rifles, firing them wildly into the air. Some little boys had to drag theirs, for they were too heavy to carry.

"Some young men ran past the Guest House changing clothes as they ran. We knew they were the Razakars, who had collaborated with the army. They were quickly trying to change their appearance.

"The police vacated the station just south of the Guest House, since some of them had been collaborators. Civilians ransacked the station carrying away pistols, rifles and other weapons as well as boxes of shells.

"Though we sensed a new danger, we too, were caught up in the excitement of freedom. Our children stood by the gate waving wildly to the victorious soldiers as they continued to enter the city. The children, standing by the gate, drew wild applause when the little flag was seen.

"Indian soldiers stopped by the Guest House to inquire who we were and if we were okay. Bangladesh was free. That was all that counted right then."

After staying in Bangladesh for the next twenty years, Mr. McKinley finally went back to America just a few months ago. But his heart lies here with most of his fondest memories. As he assured that he would continuously look out for an opportunity to come back.



Jubilant freedom fighters on the day of victory.

Jim McKinley continued, "With the continuous swearing by General Niazi to fight to the last man, we expected rough days leading up to Christmas and on into the new year. I wondered — were we emotionally and spiritually prepared for such a struggle?"

"We constantly listened to various short-wave radio broadcast. We had heard the news clearly telling of the advance of the Indian and Bengali forces. Each day, we knew their distance from Dhaka. On the morning of December 15th we heard, 'The Indian Army has the city of Dhaka surrounded. Their planes control the air. General Niazi continues to say he will fight to the last man to hold the city.'"

"Such news caused us to tremble. Though thousands had left Dhaka in early December, it was estimated that possibly up to 200,000 people were still in the city with no way out.

"But we were also sure that since we were hearing these short-wave broadcasts, our friends around the world had the same news. Neither we nor these estimated 200,000 Bengalis were forgotten. Though often we were so low we hardly felt like praying, we knew strong friends were praying."

"During the few times of December 15th when the planes were not attacking, there was absolute silence except the bursting of shells on the periphery of the city. There weren't many smiles on our faces. That night it was rather quiet. Only the sounds from planes bombing the army areas north of the airport troubled us.

"We had heard rumors that Pakistan was going to surrender, but I didn't believe the Muslim Army had reached the point when it was



Sangrami Chhatra Samaj brought out a procession in the city in observance of the Ershad Mukti Dibash on Thursday.

What's on today . . .

Italian delegation

A two-member Italian delegation led by Dr. Aldo Scignano will visit Rupsha Bridge site today(Friday).

The delegation is a part of the visiting Italian delegation who are currently visiting Bangladesh to prepare ground work for the forthcoming visit of the Deputy Foreign Minister of Italy to Bangladesh.

Graduation ceremony

The graduation ceremony of the Blooming Buds Preparatory School, Dhanmondi will be held today(Friday) at 3 pm at the school compound.

La Galerie

La Galerie, a promotional art gallery will hold its first annual art auction today(Friday) at 3 pm. The auction first of its kind will have a collection of paintings, drawings and sculptures from a broad range of artists.

Shilpakala Academy

A seminar jointly organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and the Dramatics Department of Dhaka University on the 'dramas of Shakespeare and the west-orient relationship' will be held today(Friday) at 4:15 pm at the auditorium of the academy.

Mr. Clive Berker, trainer of drama of the University of Warwick, Britain will address the seminar.

Lions Club of Dhaka Golden

A board meeting of the Lions Club of Dhaka Golden will be held today(Friday) at 5 pm at the hotel Sonargaon. The regular monthly meeting of the club will also be held at the same venue at 6 p.m.

Biswa Sahitya Kendra

The weekly discussion of the Biswa Sahitya Kendra will be held today(Friday) at 5 pm. Mr. Abdus Shakur will address the meeting.

Art exhibition by Iftikhar

The solo art exhibition of Iftikharuddin Ahmed will begin today(Friday) at 5 pm at the gallery of the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. It will continue up to December 31.

M. Serge Degalliax, ambassador of France in Bangladesh will attend the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition as chief guest while artist Rafiqun-Nabi will be present as the special guest.

Bangladesh Libya Brother Assoc

The monthly meeting of the Bangladesh-Libya Brother Association will be held today(Friday) at 4 pm at the office of the association at New Circular Road in Sidwswari.

Bars Officers Welfare Assoc

The Officers Welfare Association of the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) has organised elaborate programmes to observe the martyred Intellectual Day today(Friday).

The programmes include discussion meeting, art competition for the children and essay competition. Humayan Hamid, Managing Director of the BSRS will attend the programmes as chief guest.

BSD

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) has organised a public meeting today(Friday) at 3 pm at the Mirpur Cooperative Market premises in observance of the Martyred Intellectual Day.

Death Anniversary

The 20th death anniversary of Shaheed Ismail Hossain Chowdhury, a freedom fighter will be observed today(Friday) by the Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad. Sonali Bank unit through discussion, special prayer, milad mahfil and Quran Khwan.

Sree Sree Gita Sangha

A day-long geeta anniversary organised by Sree Sree Gita Sangha, will be held today(Friday) at the Swami Sree Sree Bholaranda Gita Asram at K M Das Lane.

Seminar

The closing and certificate awarding ceremony of the seminar on 'accident prevention' will be held today (Friday) at Hotel Sheraton at 10 am.

Naripakkha

In memory of those who lost their lives during the war of liberation, Naripakkha, a women organisation, has organised a candle-light ceremony at the central Shaheed Minar today(Friday) from 5 pm to 6.30 pm.

Everybody whose near and dear ones died for the independence of the country are invited to join the ceremony and light a candle in memory of each departed soul.

Milad Mahfil

A milad mahfil will be held today(Friday) after Magreb prayer at the Sohag Community Centre at New Eskaton Road to pray for the immediate cure of Dr. Shafig Siddique, son-in-law of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The milad mahfil has been sponsored by the Sohag Community Centre.

BCS conference

The three-day 15th annual conference of Bangladesh Chemical Society(BCS) will begin today(Friday) at the auditorium of BCIC Bhawan in the city at 10 am.

... and tomorrow

Janata Mukti Party

Janata Mukti Party has decided to observe the Martyred Intellectual Day tomorrow(Saturday) by laying wreaths at the Shaheed Buddhijibi Memorial Monument at Mirpur at 7 am.

Dhaka University

Dhaka University has taken up elaborate programmes to observe the Martyred Intellectual Day tomorrow (Saturday). The programmes include rally at the Aparajayo Bangla monument of the teachers, students and employees of the university at 6:45 a.m. march on towards the Shaheed Buddhijibi memorial monument at Mirpur and discussion meeting at the TSC auditorium at 10 am.

Jahangirnagar University

Jahangirnagar University has decided to observe the martyred Intellectuals Day tomorrow through laying wreaths at the Shaheed Buddhijibi Monument at Mirpur.

Plea to expedite promotion of Asstt Professors

A general meeting of the Government College Teachers' Association Wednesday urged the government to accelerate the promotion of Assistant Professors to the posts of Associate Professors or equivalent posts, reports BSS.

The meeting also urged the government to fill up all vacancies the posts of Principals, Professors, Vice-Principals and Assistant Professors without any delay.

Sanni greeted

The Secretary General Ismail Mohammad and Secretary, International Affairs Aminul Islam Bedu, Bangladesh Bharat Maitree Samity Thursday congratulated Mrs Sanni Mahapatra, an exponent of Odyssey Dance of Orissa on her being honoured with the title, 'Bharat-Bangladesh Maitree Kalakar', reports BSS.

Furniture for Sale

Some used modern Furniture and a Refrigerator will be sold. Pls. Contact Tel. 507020 only on Friday.

For Sale

For Sale at very reduced prices household goods, single and double beds, sofa set, side tables, dining table set, kitchen utensils, electric goods, toaster, kettle, fans etc. Visit 3/9 Block-D, Lalmita Tel. 323597 S-80

LAND FOR SALE

A high piece of land measuring 3.75 Kathas at Indira Road, free from all encumbrances, beside 20 feet wide road. Construction can be started any time. Please contact : 310071, 813613

It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

For booking details, please contact : Advertisement Manager Phone : 246023-4, 863035

ALIGARH MODEL ACADEMY

(ENGLISH MEDIUM) EST. BY ALIGARH OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION 2/10, SIR SYED ROAD, MOHAMMADPUR, DHAKA

ADMISSION GOING ON FOR 1992

PLAY GROUP TO CLASS V

ONE HIGHER CLASS WILL BE ADDED EVERY NEXT YEAR ACADEMY PROVIDES: FOREIGN TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED TEACHERS * PERSONAL ATTENTION TO EACH STUDENT * AUDIO VISUAL AID * LIBRARY * GAMES * HEALTH CARE * EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES PLEASE CONTACT ACADEMY TEL: 315522 (SUNDAY TO THURSDAY BETWEEN 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M.)

MEENA BAZAR

Today The Gulshan Ladies' Community Club has arranged a Meena-Bazar at the Gulshan North Park, Road No. 83, Gulshan, from 10 AM to 5 PM.

The entire collection from the Bazar will be spent on various humanitarian projects of the Club. The projects are: Free Medical Clinic, Immunisation Center, Family Planning Center, Free Primary School for boys and girls, Adult Literacy Center etc.

Entry cards available at the gate.

IN MEMORIAM



Beloved Nanu

We fondly remember you today on your 67th Birth Anniversary. May your soul rest in eternal peace.

Your loving grandsons

Shena & Sheahan

Notice of RHD Inviting Tender

1. Tender Notice No : 13/JRD of 1991-92
2. Name of work : Re-construction of pavement at 16th (Part) and 17th (Part) KM of Jamalpur-Sherpur-Bongaon Road under Jamalpur Road Division during the year 1991-92.
3. Estimated cost : Tk. 12,17,651/=
4. Earnest money : Tk. 24,353/=
5. Time allowed : 45 (Forty five) days from the date of issue of work order
6. Eligibility of contractor : "A" to "C" Class general category contractors of Roads & Highways Department and "D" general category contractors of Mymensingh Road Circle, Mymensingh.
7. Name of offices availability of tender documents : Office of the undersigned and the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Mymensingh/Tangail/Kishoregonj/Executive Engineer, RHD, Preliminary Engineering Divn. Dhaka/Dhaka Road Construction Divn. III, Allenbary, Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Planning and Programming Divn. Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Div. I/II/1st Line Work Shop Sub-Div. Jamalpur/Sherpur under Jamalpur Road Divn. Jamalpur.
8. Name of offices to receive tender bids : Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mymensingh Road Circle, Mymensingh/Project Control Circle, Dhaka/Planning and Design Circle, Dhaka/Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Div. Sherpur under Jamalpur Road, Division and by the undersigned.
9. Last date of receipt : Up to 12-30 PM of 22.12.91.
10. Date and time of opening of bids : At 12-45 PM of 22.12.91.

Md. Lutfur Rahman
Executive Engineer, RHD,
Jamalpur Road Division, Jamalpur.

DDP(G) 14854-8/12
G-1062

President exchanges views with pry teachers

Make independence meaningful: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Thursday called upon all to make the hard-earned independence meaningful by raising the rate of literacy in the country, reports BSS.

He stressed the need for increased adult education and said it was the responsibility of the educated section of people to create way to learning for the uneducated persons.

The president was exchanging views with an eight-member delegation of Bangladesh non-government Primary School Teachers Association who called on him at

Bangabhaban.

Referring to the last nine years autocratic rule, the president regretted that the regime had misused crores of Taka in unproductive sectors and thereby increased the sufferings of the people.

He said the present democratic government was trying hard to overcome that situation by undertaking various development programmes to rejuvenate the economy of the country.

The delegation led by the association's Vice-President Akkas Ali Sheikh placed before the president a memorandum containing their nine-

point demand.

The president assured them of sympathetic consideration of their demands.

The central organising secretary of the association's Ruhul Amin Khasru and an office bearer of its Rajshahi region Golam Mostafa Chand were, among others, present.



Friday

Morning Session

- 8.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary
- 8.10 News in Bangla
- 8.15 Chena Kahini
- 8.45 Cartoon film
- 9.10 Film show
- 9.35 Popular film show: Tarjan
- 10.00 News in English
- 11.15 Moner Mukure
- 12.25 Programme summary of evening session
- 11.30 Closing

Evening Session

- 3.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary
- 3.15 Reading from the Triptitak
- 3.20 Alor Dishari
- 3.40 Movie of the week
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Sports Programme
- 6.45 Anu Panamanu
- 7.05 Sangeeta
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Comedy series: The Cosby Show
- 9.00 Bishwa Natak
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama series: L A Law
- 11.30 Khabar/The news
- 11.40 Saturday's Programme
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Night temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Met Office forecast that night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius as mild cold wave was continuing in the country on Thursday.

Dry weather will prevail over the country. Cold wave would continue in subsequent two days. Met office also said.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Thursday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	27.8	16.6
Chittagong	28.8	16.4
Rajshahi	27.0	14.4
Khulna	28.7	15.8
Barisal	27.5	15.0
Cox's Bazar	28.2	16.5
Srimangal	27.4	12.0
Mymensingh		14.2
Dinajpur	26.3	13.2
Bogra	29.0	14.8

Country's lowest temperature was at Srimangal. Sunset at Dhaka on Friday at 5.14 pm and sunrise Saturday at 6.33 am.