Tajuddin Issues Directives

1971: Ahmad, Minister of, Bangla

He has said that the peo-ple should not listen to rumours nor should they have doubts about the ulti-

Hella

ing forward and retreating are of equal importance. The retreat of the liberation army from one point should not give the people the impression that we have abandoned our war against the Pakistan

and semi-government organiations who have taken she ter elsewhere will be considand are expected to help the tion in cottage industry."

from The Statesman, Calcutta

Bangla Desh Government and the Mukti Fauj according to heir capacity."
Officers and men of the military and para-military organizations, whether they are in service or retired, should immediately report for duty at the nearest liberation army unit and "should in no circumstances" allow them-selves to be exploited by the enemy "nor should they co-

The directive says only the Bangla Desh Government and none else has the right to collect taxes, revenues and duties. It should be remem-

bered that a paisa collected by the enemy will be used to kill you and your children.

So anybody who will pay taxes to the enemy or help them in the matter will be considered by the Bangla Desh Government as an enemy of the nation."

Employees in the commu-nication and transport system should not be co-operative with the enemy. At the first opportunity, they should vacate along with their means of transport, the enemy-held

Proper attention should be paid to the food and commodity needs of the people and the people should be encour-aged to produce more.

produce, reliance on locally

It adds: We should also be ever cautions about another kind of anti-social and criminal elements who are acting as traitors. They should be marked, because they are our bitterest enemy. In the name of religion and a united country, they are try-ing to mislead the simple peo-ple. They are really the agents of the West Pakistan ested interests.

The Awami League, in a directive published in the Party's weekly Jai Bangla, has directed all MPs and MLAs to stay in their respective areas and help the liberation strug-

"If it appears absolutely impossible for an elected rep-resentative to stick to his constituency, he should move to the nearest liberation army unit and supervise training and arrange supplies for lib-eration fighters," the party

The MPs and MLAs who have gone on the other side of the border into India should immediately act according to the Party directive, the Awami League high command has ordered people who are young or middle-aged and have taken shelter in India should immediately enlist themselves for training.

"Those who have taken shelter in refugee camps on the other side of the border to save their lives should always keep it in mind that this is only a temporary arrange-ment. They have not gone to

No Settlement, Says Bhasani

The octogenarian National Awami Party leader, Maulana Bhashani, made it absolutely clear that they did not want any mediation for a political settlement of the Bangla Desh issue. He, however, reiterated his earlier stand that a referendum could be held under the direct supervision of the United Nations to ascertain the wishes of

The NAP leader was talking with some local and foreign correspondents somewhere in a liberated area of Bangla Desh. He asked: "How can there be a political settlement with the invaders who have killed lakhs of defenceless people and unleashed a reign of terror in Bangla

The Maulana said that their main aim was to liquidate the hordes of West Pakistan. "We will fight to the finish; either

said that he was never a communist.

Deprecating the international inaction. he said it was strange that the world com-

NEW DELHI, June 3, 1971: Report of | munity behaved like a silent spectator when Bangla Desh was being drenched with the blood of its people. There was not

The NAP leader expressed his gratitude

In reply to a query he said that China's friendliness with the military junta of Islamabad was a strange politics. He ruled out the possibility of his ever visiting China. For long popularly known as a friend of China, the Maulana said that Peking would one day realise its mistakes

The Maulana is against the formation of a liberation front or a National Government at this stage because, according to him, there might be a struggle for leadership "which will jeopardise our cause." He said he was in favour of an all-party action committee to mobilise the people for the

Nation and Literature : No Longer a Teenager

Faisal Moshraf Mahmud

NTIL yesterday, 15th December, 1991, Bangladesh, our beloved homeland, could have been called a teenager. But, today she turns twenty full-fledgedly. As the country, Bangladesh, becomes mature from today. we the citizens of Bangladesh should, from now on try to become more mature and shun the childish attitudes, such as distorting the history.

Speaking of teenage, the Bengali Literature, if not other literatures, has a special place for teenagers in it's poetry, songs, short stories etc. The 'shoroshi' (the sweet-sixteen) or the 'kishore' and 'torundal' (the thirteens-going-on-eighteens) plays a major part in the Bengali literature.

On the contrary, we could ask what part did the Bengali literature play in the life of this dear land of ours. Bangladesh, the just-passed-teenager? The answer firmly should be: "A

Though, Walt Whitman said in his 'Specimen Days', "The real war will never get in the books," but then again he himself said in "Democratic Vistas." "In the civilization of today it is undeniable that, over all the arts literature dominates, and serves beyond all." And it also is undentable that, that domination sometimes plays a vital role in life.

During our War of Independence a lot of litterateurs all over the globe, expressed their solidarity with us. Some of them even wished to fight alongside us and lay down their lives if necessary. Andre Malraux, the French author, was the most anxious among them.

World famous protest singer and ballad singer Joan Baez put words to her tune.

"Bangladesh! Bangladesh! Where the sun does never end. The hungry millions

of Bangladesh." In the field of the Bengali literature also, the songs provided the greatest impetus to our freedom-fight. It may be recalled how the protest songs imbibed us with the needed vigour during the days of our non-cooperation, from 1st its

25th March, 1971. These songs were on the lips of the entire nation throughout the liberation war. In the non-co-operative days, these songs were ever printed every day on the front pages of the national dailies, sponsored by Bangladesh based commercial organisations and banks.

The inspiring songs included, "Amar Sonar Bangla" (which was by then regarded as, but not officially the national anthem yet), "Ovai khati, sonar cheye khati," "Kandari hushiar," "Puber of akashe surja utheche," "Joy Bangla, Banglar Joy," "Dhanodhannya pushpavara," "Sharthok janom amar," "Badha diachi Badhbe lorai," "Songram, Songram, Songram," "Amar deshero matir gondhe," "Salam Salam, hazar Salam" and others. These were not just trendy songs, as literature too, they were rich.

As on any other aspect of Bengali life, Rabindranath Tagore's literature had the greatest influence on our war of independence. His patriotic songs and verses influence us the most.

As a matter of fact, literature's role began earlier in the history of the Liberation War. Literature's way of influence is usually like that. It uses the long way round. The longer but the firmer one. Actually, it be-

Division thus came into being in September '75.

The quick expansion of these brigade groups to division was possible because by then repatriation was already complete. We received trained man power. With these additional troops all brigade group became four infantry battalion strength in place of three. Further expansion was possible as the preliminary work was already completed and was only waiting for the green signal from the government by way of approving the table of organisation and equipment.

Inspite of strain on the national budget, the government did not hesitate to provide

By the time I left Bangladesh Army was already a well organised institution capable to take on any task. May it be internal or face external threat, but there were a lot of scope for development.

In short this is the history of Bangladesh Army. It started

gan, when the British were about to leave the sub-conti-

That's how we had the influence of Tagore although he didn't even live to see the partition in 1947. The influence comes from the consciousness in favour of the proletariat in Bangla literature.

Tagore's plays "Muktadhara," "Rakta Karabi." "Tasher Ghar" and others have voiced their strong "anti-oppressive" statements. His novel 'Chare Bairey's subject was directly anti-British agitations. His poem "Bashundhara", sonnets 'Doridra,' 'Atmasamarpan' and numerous other poems have literally taught the Bengali nation to love their motherland and even die for their homeland.

Flashback 71 The most influencial after Tagore, obviously, was Kazi Nazrul Islam, the Rebel Poet. The language movement of 1952 provided a strong background for the Bengali nationalism in our literature. Which in turn gave way to the idea of a separate identity, namely independence.

Among the poems which are the spinoffs of that movement "Amor Ekushey" by Hassan Hafizur Rahman stands out as a milestone. Many poems including "Asader Shirt" by Shamsur Rahman also contributed significantly to the realization and visualisation of our national identity as a Bengali nation and making us aware of the necessity to turn ourselves loose from the bonds of Pakistan.

Other poems by poets as Abu Zafar Obaidullah, Alauddin Al-Azad, Al-Mahmud, Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, Md Moniruzzaman, Shohid Kadri, Abdul Mannan Syed. Syed Shamsul Huq and others contributed to the building of our patriotic dreams.

In the field of drama, consciousness against exploitations began earlier.

The dramatist, who is regarded as the father of drama in Bangladesh by the foremost critics of Bengali literature. Nurul Momen in his one-character play 'Nemesis' depicted how the exploiters become brutes and pay no heed to the sufferings of the majority of the masses. 'Nemesis' one of the best plays in the entire Bangla literature was written in the early forties.

Later, Munier Choudhury, the most worthy successor of Nurul Momen, wrote his most

significant play 'Kabar', based on the language movement. Although it was unwittingly an adaptation of Irwin Shaw's Bury the Dead, 'Kabar' played a deserving role in the building

of our consciousness.

During the Pakistani regime allegorizing the underlying anti-exploitational statements in any literary work was a common practice, due to the censorship. Sikander Abu Jafar's 'Shakunta Upakkhyan' was such a play; so was 'Kupokat' by Munier Chowdhury in a simplified way, as it was a play for the children. A very significant allegory play of

Bangla Desh:

yesterday

Liberation day for

the people of Dacca

(December 16). They wept

and were delirious with joy.

lost brothers.

They pelted Indian troops with flowers and wrapped

their arms around them like

streets like youngesters, and

everywhere the city rang with

the independence cry of 'Jai

Bangla, Jai Bangla Jai

fusion. And there was blood-

Dacca, the independent State

already become a reality.

barracks to be disarmed.

Niazi, the

soldierly dignity

At the centre of it all.

Pakistani

Lieutenant-General 'Tiger'

Commander, maintained his

stern and stolid dignity. He

was vilified and publicly

humiliated, but he kept his

rectly. But within the limits

of correctness, they made the

most of their 13-day victory.

The Indians behaved cor-

Ten helicopters flew in

army, navy and airforce brass

for the surrender ceremony.

and, with them, India sent the

international press so that

There was chaos and con-

Diplomatic niceties have

Bangla (Victory to Bengal)*.

Old men danced in the

this time, was broadcast from what was then the eastern section of Radio Pakistan on the 22nd of April, 1965. It even used the word 'Sheirachar' (autocrat) in it. It may be recalled that, we were in the midst of the Ayubian dictatorial decade then. That play was 'Dik Chalar Path' by

Other plays by playwrights as Syed Walfullah, Sayced Ahmad, Showkat Osman, Ashkar Ibne Shaikh, Obaidul Hug and others played their deserving roles in Bangla lit-

Nurul Momen, a masquerade

Novelists like Zahir Raihan wrote 'Arek Falgun,' based on the language movement and 'Are Katodin' (Let there be light) which pursued the liberty of humanity. His film 'Jivan thekay neya' also contributed largely. Other novelists like Showkat Ali, Shahidullah Kaisar, Rahat Khan, Abu Ishak, Rashid Karim, Razia Khan and others also contributed significantly to Bangla literature.

In totality our literature contributed and laid a major sense of nationality and independence in the mind of the whole Bengali nation.

Victory Dance in Dacca from Dennis Neeld in

The Daily Mail, London

render.

detail of what they had done I their loxholes. Indian para-troops, air-

dropped north of the city on Saturday, were the first to enter Dacca. They swept in with the green, red and gold flag of Bangla Desh flying from their trucks and jeeps.

Bangla Desh guerillas — the Mukti Bahini — were on hand to greet them with volleys of shots from their rifles and sub-machine-guns.

In the excitement, Pakistani troops opened fire, and in the ensuing shoot out, a Pakistani soldier and an yet to be observed, but for the Indian major were killed.

long suffering people of It was not the only violence in Dacca. Many of Bangla Desh-once known Pakistani troops had not as East Pakistan-had received word of the surrender and continued to fight. At Defeated in battle. the Lakhya River, on the east-Pakistani troops, fearful now ern approaches, the elite for their lives, streamed into Indian guards brigade ran into determined resistance.

> It was a set-piece battle. As the tanks pumped in shells. foot soldiers moved up behind a steep embankment.

The duel went on for an hour. Then, a Pakistani officer walked out waving a white flag. Major M. S. Dhillon, a Sikh, strode forward to the wall of a factory compound to complete his enemy's surren-

Finally, led by Brigadier R. N. Misra, they crossed the river and drove along an eerily silent road from the side of steel-helmeted the world should miss no | Pakistani troops peeped from |

Preceding Misra in a separate vehicle, was the Pakistani colonel who had negotiated his sector's sur-

Four hundred yards ahead, as they touched the outskirts of Dacca, a great crowd surged on to the street to greet their liberators.

At Dacca airport, damaged by days and nights of bombing. India's top brass was already arriving. Niazi was there to meet them.

He shook hands with Eastern Front Commander. Lt.-Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora, and in fading light, drove with him to Dacca's Race Course to sign East Pakistan's unconditional surrender.

Squads of Indian and Pakistani soldiers flanked the plain wooden table on which the surrender document was signed. Niazi sat beside Aurora, grim faced and Bengalis screamed their

Jai Bangla' slogans. For Niazi, it was a humiliating, terrible moment.

Someone rushed forward to wave a Bangla Desh flag above towers. Niazi signed, rose to shake

hands with Aurora and walked toward his car, surrounded by a cordon of indian troops linking arms to keep back the crowd

Lt.-Gen, "Tiger' Niazi, who had vowed to fight to the end, had had his day.

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The same table of organization and equipment was put into operation immediately after August 15, '75 incident. 9 Without tanks, morale of

these four tanks. Since we did not have any more tanks and also due to financial constraint was not visualising to procure tanks from outside in near future, we restricted the raising of armour units to only one.

Deah, has issued an 18wint directive outlining the siks of the people in the libration struggle mate victory of the people". He says: "Let the people remember that in war march-

In the struggle, people are not divided on the basis of

parties, religion or classes.
We are united as Bengalis,
and our enemies look at us
that way. When they burn villages, shoot people or destroy towns, they attack us as Bengalis, not caring for our religion or politics." No Bengali employee

should co-operate with the enemy; employees of all ranks should act according to the directive of the Bangla Desh Government. In areas occupled by the enemy, they should work under the guid-ance of the popular represen-tative and use their discretion

as circumstances demand." Mr. Ahmad says Employees of Government

The people should remember that dependence on imported food or articles will be suicidal. There should be greater emphasis on farm

from The National Herald, New Delhi

Maulana Bhashani's talk with some local foreign correspondents somewhere in a liberated area of Bangla Desh on June a single country left to whom he had not 2,1971.

the Bangla Desh people.

Desh?"

we achieve victory or die," he said. Mr. Bhasani spoke in the same vein as the leaders of the Awami League had done a few days ago. During his talk with

newsmen he called the Chinese bluff and

approached seeking recognition to the Bangla Desh Government, he said. They had only expressed sympathy.

to the Indian Government for helping lakhs of refugees with food and shelter. He felt sorry that no other country, be it a socialist or imperialist, had taken any note of the pitiable plight of the people of Bangla Desh.

in supporting Islamabad.

long-drawn battle against Pakistan. He emphatically said that Pakistan and Bangla Desh can never meet together, the breach is total and final", he prophesied.

Building from Scratch

(continued from previous page) then he did not neglect this By the end of 1973, we not only built this accommodation. we also built further accom-

modation to accommodate at

least another 20,000 troops who were to join us on repatriation from Pakistan. Since there was no arrangement to produce military equipment in Bangladesh, we had to depend for this from outside. India being our closest neighbour we initially procured some from there. Later we started experimenting to produce these locally. The government of Banga Bandhu gave me permission to explore the possibilities of producing some of these in Bangladesh. We imported know how from

Singapore to produce boots

and canvas shoes locally

through Bata. To produce cloth

for uniform we started trial

production locally. Todays

camouflage uniform is the outcome of that trial. As I said before, the Pakistan army did not establish any training institution in the than East Pakistan which we could inherit. But the army could not be developed without training. It was also costly to send people abroad for training. We therefore had to establish some training institu-

First of all we had to establish a Military Academy to train the young ones to become officers. The reason this was our priority was because we needed officers for these newly raised units. Another reason was that

some of the students who were on training in India to become officers were returned to Bangladesh before their training was complete. Since the war was over so they were returned. We could not disheartened these boys, so we established the Academy in Dhaka

of these boys took place in shifted to Comilla where from the first batch of the cadet passed out in the month of March '75 the President Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rahman was there to take salute. The same Academy is now shifted to

so we named this institution as Combined Armed School.

sonal collection of books and pacies and the exercises that I wrote in Staff College Quetta. and as instructor in the school of infantry and tactics. This institution is now located at Sylhet and it is now known as the school of infantry

four M-24 medium tank. Allthy. Just to keep the armour troops engaged we gave them

The first Passing Out parade Dhaka. This Academy was later

Chittagong. We also needed a training institute for various arms and services. For such training an adhoc institute was first established at Comilla. It was later shifted to Jessore. At that stage, since we could not establish institutions for all arms and services separately

Incidentally, the tactical wing of this school started its initial courses with my per-

and tacties. Apart from this, few other smaller institutions were established in Dhaka and they were, Signals, Engineers. Ordinance and Supply. Some of the students of these arms and services were given on the job training and some in the class

So far as the armour was concerned we inherited only these were also not road wor-

the troops of this unit was also not very high. Banga Bandhu knew the morale condition of

his troops. So during goodwill visit of Presid Anwar Sad't of Egypt. Banga Bandhu raised this point with him who immediately offered 32 tanks. On arrival of these tanks some time in 1974 this unit was properly organised. This being the only one of its

kind was kept in Dhaka. After the surrender of Pakistan Army all their weapons were moved to India. It was because of our insistence and Banga Bandhu's effort, some of the weapons we got back from India. With those weapons we raised new

Some Artillery and Anti-Aircraft units were equipped with these weapons. Another consignment of weaponry we got was from Yugoslavia. When President Tito came to Dhaka Banga Bandhu approached him for this, who honoured Banga Bandhu by giving him certain quantity. These also arrived in Bangladesh some time in early

Once these armament were in the pipe line. I prepared a new organisational table to organise the Army into five selfcontained military zone, initially up to Divisional level. It took about stx months to prepare and finally it was with the Government for approval from some time end- of 1974 onwards. Banga Bandhu was probably hasitating to approve this at that stage because of financial constraint. He was still to recover from the shock of famine and I also could not insist on it as I was also aware of the country's financial position.

fund for the development of the armed forces. Progoti was providing vehicles for the army. All the workshops were up graded to meet the requirement of the army then. Signal equipments and wireless sets were bought with hard cash from the UK.

as Mukti Fouj and today it is well established, well trained and disciplined body who has proved its worthiness during the crists period in the country . At the same time it also enhanced our image outside.