

# Historic March

March 13, 1971

## People's Movement Picks Up Steam More Organisations Join Non-cooperation

THE non-violent and non-cooperation movement launched by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the emancipation of 75 million people of Bangladesh passed peacefully for the 12th day on Saturday.

The Government and semi-government offices, autonomous bodies, High Court and subordinate courts remained completely closed in response to the call of the Sheikh. The educational institutions all over Bangladesh also remained closed.

The class I officers of the Postal Department lent their full support formally on the day to the movement led by Sheikh Mujib. In an emergency meeting held on Saturday the postal officers also expressed their solidarity with the people's struggle.

The postal services and the services exempted from the non-cooperation announcement such as, health and sanitation, water and power supply, telephone and telegraphs functioned as per directives of Mujib. The State Bank, all commercial banks, private business houses, mills and factories within Bangladesh functioned normally. These were exempted from the movement by the Awami League.

The inter-wing telephone and telegraph communications continued to be suspended. Inter-district flights of the PIA within Bangladesh remained totally suspended as the PIA staff had joined the non-cooperation movement.

The river and road traffic are back to normal. The inter-district coaches and buses of East Pakistan Road Transport Corporation (EPRTC) have been plying on schedule. In Dacca city all sorts of vehicles plied on the roads.

East Pakistan Student's Union (EPSU) brought out a torchlight procession in Dacca city on Saturday supporting the movement launched by Sheikh Mujib. Earlier in the

morning they held a parade at the Dacca University Ground. A meeting under the auspices of EPSU will be held at 4 pm today (Sunday) at Baitul Mukarram.

Our Staff correspondent from Chittagong reports: The members of the now defunct UCACEP, an association of the non-gazetted employees of the government and autonomous organisations, in a largely attended meeting held at Laidighi Maidan on Saturday took an oath to abide by the directives issued by Sheikh Mujib. Speakers at the meeting also urged the AL High Command not to attend the National Assembly session if the four-point demands made by Mujib were not met.

Presided over by Mr Mohammad Khodadad, President of the now defunct UCACEP, Chittagong zone, the meeting was addressed by Professor Nurul Islam Choudhury, an MNA-elect of AL.

— The Pakistan Observer, March 14, 1971.

**ML Order a provocation, says Sheikh Mujib**

SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN, the Awami League chief, on Saturday night deplored the promulgation of another Martial Law Order and said that promulgation of such orders could only serve as provocations to the people, reports AFP.

In a statement Mujib urged the authorities concerned to desist from such provocative action. He said "the people will continue their struggle despite all such attempts at intimidation, for they know that no force can withstand the strength of a united people."

Following is the statement: "I am astonished to learn that yet another Martial Law Order has been promulgated. Since we have already voiced the demand of the entire people that Martial Law itself

should be lifted, the promulgations of such orders can only serve as provocations to other people. Those who have been promulgating such orders should wake up to the reality that the people are united in their determination not to submit to such measures of intimidation. I urge those concerned to desist from such provocative actions. The people will continue with their struggle despite all such attempts at intimidation, for they know that no force can withstand the strength of a united people.— The Pakistan Observer, Mar 14, 1971.

**MLO 115**  
The following Martial Law Order was issued in Dacca on Saturday night: Civilian employees paid out of defence estimates have been ordered to resume their duties on Monday morning failing which their services are liable to be terminated and they may also be tried as absconders by a military court, according to MLO No 115 issued from Headquarters of MLA zone "B" on Saturday.

—The Pakistan Observer March 14, 1971.

**Don't Transfer Money, Student Leaders Appeal**

MESSRS Nur-e-Alam Siddiqi, Shahjahan Seraj, A S M Abdur Rab and Abdul Kuddus Makhani, members, Independent Bengal Central Students Action Committee (IBCSAC) appealed to the people of Bangladesh not to help transfer of money.

The four students leaders, in a joint statement on Saturday said that they had been surprised and shocked to learn that some people were helping transfer of money by keeping houses, cars and other belongings of those who were leaving.

Observing that such selfish acts by such persons were against the struggle for emancipation, the student leaders said if such persons did not

desist from helping the transfer of money from Bangladesh by their actions, the properties bought by them would be made national properties.

They also urged all patriotic Bengalees to contact the IBSCAC if they come to know of such transactions.

The student leaders said that certain people were trying to avenge their old internecine disputes by taking advantage of the present struggle and thus were engaging themselves in creating disunity among the Bengalees.

Again the student leaders said, certain elements were trying to occupy houses using the name of the IBSCAC.

These persons would be treated as enemies of the movement, the student leaders pointed out. They urged every patriot to resist such persons.

—The Pakistan Observer, March 14, 1971.

**Wali Khan Meets Mujib Today**

KHAN Abdul Wali Khan, President of the National Awami Party (NAP), said in Dacca on Saturday night that the present political crisis was so "delicate" that it touched the fundamental question integrity of country, reports AFP.

Khan Wali Khan who flew into Dacca from Karachi on Saturday afternoon told newsmen that he had come to assess the situation which had deteriorated extremely and to have talks with Sheikh Mujib, the Awami League chief, on his party (AL) stand. He said he would meet Mujib today (Sunday). "I have not seen him after the elections", Wali Khan added.

Replying to a question about the solution of the present crisis Wali Khan said, "he did not call it a 'blind alley'. Where there is a will there is a way," he remarked speaking about the four preconditions of Mujib for his party's consideration to

**Media Flashback**

Compiled by Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ekram Kabir and Dipak Kumar Karmakar.

attending the National Assembly session, Khan Wali said that there was no two opinions about lifting of Martial Law and transfer of power to the people's representatives.

Describing the postponement of National Assembly as "very unfortunate", Khan Wali Khan said it was a national trust on the elected representatives to frame a constitution. "We can talk like brothers" about the constitutional issues in the National Assembly, he said.

— The Pakistan Observer, March 14, 1971.

## Bangladesh Already Independent, Says Maulana Bhashani

BAHARAB, 13th March (ANA): Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani said here today East Bengal is now fully independent and we are waiting for an East Bengal government. There is no need to utter slogan about the independence of East Bengal. While addressing a large public meeting here in the Railway Maidan, the National Awami Party (NAP) chief said, people of East Bengal have launched the movement in order to establish their basic rights and they are ever ready even to shed blood to attain this objective.

Maulana Bhashani praised the patience and unity which the people of all classes showed in the non-violence and non-cooperation movement. He further said, this unity is unprecedented in the history of liberation movement.

Maulana asked the people to follow the instruction of Sheikh Mujib not to pay taxes, and to form action committee in order to check the price-increase of the daily necessities and to stop black-marketing.

—Sangbad, 14th March

**Removal of 265 Foreign Citizens from Dhaka**

BANGKOK, March 13: A spokesman of the German embassy informed a news agency here that 60 West Germans, 45 personnel of the United Nations and about 40



citizens of Italy, USA, UK, Canada and France, have come here from Dhaka this evening.

In the beginning of this week, 150 officers of German embassy and their family members came to Bangkok from East Pakistan conforming to the order of West German government. The German spokesman said removal of German citizens from East Pakistan have been completed with the arrival of this group of people here.

—The Ittefaq, Mar 14, 1971

**Renamed**

THE name of the "Pakistan Cultural Academy" has been changed to "Bangla Sanskriti Academy", says a Press release of the Pakistan Cultural Academy on Saturday.

—The Pakistan Observer, March 14, 1971.



Armed struggle ahead: Students began training with dummy rifles in early March.

## Magazine

### PAINTING EXPOS

## Riot of Colours, Figures and Themes



Shahid Minar-71: Rejaul Karim



Mask-1: Shahadat



Memory of poet Abul Hasan: Masudul Hasan

NATIONAL Museum had on display Rejaul Karim's 52 absorbing paintings and graphics in the later part of the last month. Inspired by Zainul Abedin, the painter felt the raison d'être of art was to enrich and beautify everyday existence.

While Rejaul brought in the theme of the Language Movement in some of his paintings, and the general suffering of the masses in others, his creations remained decorative, though natural.

There was a column of female faces in "Mortal Sunlight", with dramatic plumage sketched at the bottom. This was in wash and ink and had colours ranging from orange to cobalt blue, which interlaced each other in a fill-gree motif.

The romantic figures persisted in the "Waiting Shohag". Done in pastel this had the romantic figure of a woman complete with jewellery, with a bird, a disc of the sun, and foliage in the backdrop and forefront.

A more mellow hand was seen in "Acute Pain" which was in water-colour and had women's figures that reminded you of Picasso's work. The women appeared massive and elongated. The black hair relieved the continuous use of pinks, browns and white.

The simple themes from everyday life were continued in "Kite Dream -1" which had

simple peasant holding the strings of a kite while a gorgeous female figure, decked with armlets, and accoutrements of various nature, held on to the kite. All the vibrant colours of the palette were used.

"Kite Dream -4" was more interesting although no idyllic woman's image was involved in it. Three-fourths of the canvas remained semi-abstract but the composition captivated the mind of the viewer.

Human figures were mingled in an impressionistic manner in "Kite Dream-3". The oil paintings were done in two sections. One was overwhelmed with the riot of colours.

"Still Life" in pastel was a combination of impressionism and cubism. It also brought in a woman's figure in grey dressing herself before the mirror. The vase, bottles, bowls and objects of daily life were glorified.

A marvellous combination of imaginary figures and symbols using lines and colours, which stood for human faces and bird plumage were seen in the "Garden of Dream", a water colour. This used masses of brown, burnt-sienna and mauve and had been treated with subtlety.

"Wounded Falgun" had the symbolic figure of a blackbird

that had been injured. In the backdrop the orange, yellow and white in deft strokes highlighted the subject. This was in keeping with the mood of the season.

Done in pastel, "Shahid Minar -71" was an abstraction where one would have to decipher the figures and images. The composition was a neat harmony of pinks, greys and blacks and commemorated the occasion of the movement.

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La Galerie at Banani, at the same time, had Shahadat's exhibition. The artist has had two exhibitions in Paris earlier, and this was his second solo in Bangladesh. Using geometrical forms as symbols, he was inspired by nature, human beings around him and folk art of Bangladesh in particular. Even though he treaded into the world of fantasy in all his works, yet he kept in touch with the traditions of his country.

His "Mask -1" had the face of a bearded man. It looked quite grim and overwhelming, with the abundance of black. There was an actual mask fixed on to the mouth of the portrait in green and black.

Bold in composition, Shahadat's "Mask11", "Mask 111" and "Mask IV" were interesting in their composition. They were all mixed media, each one containing an actual doll's head. "No 15" was an interesting combination of blue and raw vermilion. Human faces could be seen in the backdrop in scarlet, brown and black. The play with the texture was absorbing. The paintings symbolised the poses people assumed when facing the rest of the world, sometimes to protect themselves and at times only to impress others.

highlighted with red and black "Couple II" was replete with symbols and the striding match-stick like figures in black were offset with chalk white. These too were oil on canvas pieces.

Gaudy abstractions prevailed in all his works including pieces like "Falling Rhythme" and "Face". His "Childhood" series was similarly pulsating with the strokes and colours of a confident painter.

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Another exhibition which presented works of a painter with a promise, at the same time in the city, was that of Masudul Hasan at Saju Art

Gallery at Gulshan. Masud, after doing his Masters in Fine Arts, has been connected with a children's art school, and his profession has influenced his vision. Although presented in a contemporary manner, the simplistic strokes and carefree world of a child were brought into many of his paintings.

In the "City of Remembrance" series, the painter brought in the factory workers, who had left behind their simple idyllic life and had got involved in the desperate chase for commercial and materialistic gains. He had focused his work on the garment workers, in particular. There was an extensive use of

yellow, red, black and grey. In his "Childhood" series Masud brought in fishing, delineating the harpooned fish, with a moon at the backdrop, in an endearing manner. The colours were muted. In another entree in the series he brought in the idyllic theme of a boatman, with the beloved rushing in to bring his lunch.

The artist had brought in the recent cyclone in "Departure of Moonlight". It showed torn trees and branches and used swirls of burnt sienna and pale blue. The artist had also delineated lines from poems and novels that had caught his imagination too, such as the "Padda Nadir Majhee" and "Ditchley Shokol Akash". The painter felt that the abstract art of the senior artists were a far cry from what one found in Bangladesh. Masud felt they were too westernised. He believed, at the same time, that all paintings should have a universal appeal.

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All the three expositions were worth watching and brought in a respite in the humdrum existence in the city. They also added to the cultural activity in the metropolis, along with prevailing plays, poetry recitations, dance performances and musical soires.

## WRITE TO MITA

Dear Mita,  
What does a woman do if her husband has an affair with a close friend? My friend is in such a situation. Everybody knows and talks about it though both of them deny all such allegations. She is very dependent on her husband and cannot leave him, moreover they have two children and she does not want to break the family. Her husband refuses to talk about the affair and calls her "mad" when she accuses him. What is the solution to this problem? Do you have an answer, Mita?

Anonymous, Dhaka.

Dear Anonymous,  
It is very difficult to give any advise on a complex issue as infidelity in this column. However, this happens in many marriages and often leaves scars that never heal. While both man and woman face and suffer when this happens, the dependent status of women in our society makes it even worse for her. Your friend should face some truths and look at her marriage, and her relationship with her husband. A woman in a middle class home need not be so dependent, she must understand that she does have other options. Actually dependence is more in the mind from which she has to get out. As for the "friend" she is of no consequence, and should be totally ignored.

Dear Mita,  
My son who was a very good student, has recently lost interest in studies. He is 15 and is getting too interested in the outside world. What can I do to stop him? He is our only son and we want him to be very successful. We have so many dreams about him and it will break my heart if he does not study well. What can I do to get him back to his books? Please advise.

Saleha Begum, Chittagong.

Dear Saleha,  
It is natural for parents to want their children to succeed but this expectation should not throttle the child's other aspirations so that he/she is forced to rebel. Remember, 15 is a difficult age, your son is going through a lot of changes, both physical and psychological. Most probably this is a passing phase and he will return to his serious study habits. The problem is that our competitive education system gives no

respite and children have to be on their toes all the time; the system does not allow for any.

If you really think something serious is bothering him than depending on how close you are, try to have a talk. Remember their is no substitute for communication.

Dear Mita,  
I am a divorcee mother of two sons aged 19 and 9. For the past five years I have been in love with a man who has also been divorced. He is very bitter about his divorce and still cannot forget the cruel and unfair way in which it was conducted. His wife literally destroyed his self esteem by carrying on a court case which lasted for 4 years. He has made up his mind never to marry again. His one obsession is that he will prove to his ex-wife that she made a mistake by leaving him for someone else. My parents went through a similar situation and I was left with my father who thought similarly. Experience proved to me that my father died a lonely man misunderstood by the one he had sacrificed his youth for, namely me. I want him not to make this mistake regardless of whether we make it or not. He expects me to share his life which is very ordinary and at times quite difficult because he has a foul temper and is not an understanding person. Do you think it is fair for him to expect me to go along just because we love each other? I do have my children to consider, by the way, they don't like him very much. Please advise.

Undecided

Dear Undecided,  
Forgive me for replying so late but for some reason I got the letter last week. This is a complex and difficult situation where you are having to deal with a number of issues at the same time. Whatever may be the case the person you love must make a clean break from the past, both physically and emotionally, before you start your life together. This obsession of his will constantly come between you and cause misunderstanding. Your children's attitude towards him is important, though this should not be the deciding factor. You have many doubts regarding the relationship, clear these up before you make a commitment. Your question — is it fair ... just because we love each other? Well love is very important, it is what adds magic to our lives. But I don't understand how he expects you to share his life if he has promised never to marry again?