

# Dhaka Day by Day

## History again at Suhrawardy Uddyan

by Sabir Mustafa

They came in buses and trucks; they came on foot, and in huge processions; they also came in ones and twos, in rickshaws and scooters, from far and wide.

For a few hours on Thursday March 26, 1992, the Suhrawardy Uddyan turned into a human sea, with banner-waving, slogan-chanting processions flowing towards the historic park like so many rivers.

History was being re-enacted on the spot where on Dec 16, 1971 Bangladesh finally won freedom through the humiliating defeat and surrender of 93,000 Pakistani troops to a joint Bangladesh-India force.

Tul Razakar, Tui Razakar, Golam Azam I the multitude, numbering over 150,000, chanted while clapping their hands rhythmically. "Death, death, death to Golam Azam I" the people roared as the chaotic trial proceedings got underway.

The uniqueness of the event was not limited only to Bangladesh. This was the first time charges of war crimes were being aired at a popular, but extra-judicial court since Bertrand Russell and Jean-Paul Sartre brought similar accusations against American forces in Vietnam, at a people's tribunal in Paris in the '60s.

The crowd did not seem to mind or care about the chaos prevailing on the 'stage', from which the guilty verdict was announced.

Many felt they had given their verdict on Golam Azam, who was re-appointed ameer of the Jamaat-e-Islami last December after a 20-year break, by their very presence.

"I go to any and every event here I can express my disgust at the genocide of 1971," said young poet Sohel Amratabh.

Student leaders and political figures from parties which could not stand one another until only the other day worked together and mingled with the crowd. They also made life hell for the organisers by standing around on the trucks when they were not supposed to be there at all.

When the huge figure of Al-Haj Makbul Hossain, the defeated Awami League candidate at the last by-election in Dhanmohammadpur, came on to the truck, there was a serious chance of the stage collapsing altogether.



One in the guise of a 'Rajakar' being dragged to the 'People's Court' at Suhrawardy Uddyan

What certainly did not collapse was the enthusiasm of the people spread all over the park where, on March 7, 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had effectively seized sovereignty from Pakistan. Not since that day has Suhrawardy Uddyan seen such a spontaneous, massive gathering.

A young American attorney or lawyer strolled through the crowd, attracting everyone's attention possibly because he wore a dark suit and a tie in the stifling heat. Then, demolishing the theory that people of Bangladesh do not know what is going on in their own country, man after man came upto the American and enquired if he was Thomas Keating.

He was. And whole of Suhrawardy Uddyan seemed to know it. He was sent to Dhaka by the Committee's New York branch to observe the trial and compile a report on its proceedings. The chaos on the stage and the lack of microphones made sure he did not get to see or hear a full-scale "trial" as lawyers understand it. But Keating had no doubt what the People's Court really meant.

"This is not just a criminal trial, but also a public forum, for people to come forward and air their views on the issue of genocide of 71," Keating told the Daily Star, "it is obvious that the people of Bangladesh would not be satisfied until all the charges relating to the genocide have been aired."

Keating spoke to children of martyred intellectuals and looked closely at the faces of three village ladies who had travelled all the way from Kushtia to testify to the People's Court.

"These were real people I met today. They want to bring charges and testify. They want justice," Keating said.

The jovial, almost triumphal mood of the crowd did not escape Keating's attention. Despite the unanimous demand for the death sentence for Golam Azam, the tens of thousands of clapping and chanting people constituted anything but a "lynch mob."

"These people have to be heard," Keating said in reference to the survivors of the genocide perpetrated by the Pakistan army and the Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams forces in 1971. "This People's Court has provided them a perfectly democratic forum in which to do that."

## 81 arrested on various charges

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) arrested 81 people from different localities in the city on various charges during last 24 hours, a DMP press release said on Friday.

Tejgaon police late Thursday night arrested two persons from a slum near the Begunbari Post Office, and recovered a bullet-loaded revolver from them.

The arrested persons were Shameem (25) and Ameer (38).

A patrol force of Tejgaon police Thursday night caught two snatchers red-handed at Tejgaon. The accused Tayab Ali (27) and Shameem (21) halted two passers-by and snatched away Taka 180 in cash and a wrist watch on dagger point. Mohammadpur police Thursday morning arrested one person and recovered a home made gun from him at Agargaon area.

Acting on a tip, police raided Haji Toyob Ali Road and arrested Mir Rashed Uddin Ahmed alias Ujjal (20), and recovered the gun. But his four other accomplices managed to escape, police said.

Sabujbag police late Wednesday night arrested a convict, Golam Sarwar alias Masum (27) from Khalil Sardar Road at Lalbag.

Masum, who was absconding for a long time, was awarded life-term in a murder case under Motijheel Police Station, police said.

## Media slated for not covering public trial

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Shahidul Alam, an eminent photographer of the country, in an open letter to the Prime Minister, has criticised the Government-controlled electronic media for not covering the public trial.

"What happened at Suhrawardy Uddyan on the 26th of March 1992, might not have been in the interest of the ruling party. There may be a debate over the validity of the trial, but it is surely impossible to deny that probably the largest public gathering since 1972 had taken place. For a democratically elected government it is shamefully hypocritical to deny that the people had made a statement, reads the letter received by the PM's office yesterday.

The news last night (Thursday) mentioned the parade in the morning, a small march past in Ghatampur, violence in distant lands, even the man of the match in a game cricket. Nowhere was there a reference to the fact that almost a million people had gathered that morning for a public trial of a war criminal.

"After the fall of the Ershad regime one had expected to see a change in the traditional propaganda that had been passed as news. Last night's news was a blatant and sad reminder that nothing had changed."

Dr Alam is the president of Bangladesh Photographic Society, the Principal of Bangladesh Photographic Institute and managing director of Drak Picture Library. But he wrote the letter as a 'conscious citizen,' Alam told this paper.

Time	Programme
5.00	Opening announcement
5.05	Al-Quran programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Recitation from the Tripitak
5.30	Sports World
5.50	Mahey Ramzan
6.30	Jiban O Projukti
7.05	Banshari
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Probaha
9.00	Shilpa O Shahitya
10.00	News in English
10.30	Film: Dallas
11.15	Khabar/The News
11.25	Sunday's programme summary
11.45	Closing

## Weather

### No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent  
Met office forecast Friday that dry weather will prevail over the country till 6 pm Saturday. Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country, it added. The highest temperature 38 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi and the lowest temperature 18 degree Celsius was recorded in the same district on Friday. The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.13 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5.54 am. The temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns Friday are:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	35.5	23.4	71	39
Chittagong	30.6	23.6	80	80
Rajshahi	38.0	18.0	48	88
Khulna	35.2	23.5	77	52
Cox's Bazar	31.0	23.0	77	85
Buraid	35.4	23.4	82	52
Sylhet	32.0	20.5	77	60
Jessore	36.2	22.2		
Rangpur	32.8	20.5	45	25
Dinajpur	34.4	20.5	50	33



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia with US President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush in the White House while on a state visit in the United States recently. Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda also seen with them. —PID photo

## Unity of world Muslims a must to retrieve Al-Quds Mosque

Speakers at a seminar Friday called for building a rock-solid unity of the Muslims of the world to retrieve the holy Al-Quds Mosque and the Palestinian lands from the Zionist occupation, reports BSS.

They said occupation of the Al-Quds Mosque and the Palestinian land was a total piracy on the land of Arabs as part of the conspiracy of the Anglo-American axis to undermine the Muslims.

The seminar on "Unity of Muslims is the key to the success of the Palestinian Muslims" was held at the Engineers Institution in observance of the Al-Quds Day yesterday. Committee for the observance of the World Al-Quds Day, Bangladesh organised the seminar, which was presided over by its convener Prof A N M Abdul Mannan Khan.

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury addressed the seminar as the chief guest while Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Ganjidos, Palestinian Ambassador Mohammad Shahta Zarab and Cultural Attache of Iranian embassy H Ali Madadi attended it as special guests.

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury said the Palestinian

problem was a man-made tragedy which originated with the establishment of the Israeli state as a cancer in the land of Arabs in 1948. Chowdhury said human rights were completely absent in Palestine where people were being killed, raped, beaten and rendered homeless over the years.

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury referred to the overnight implementation of the UN resolutions to free Kuwait from the occupation of Iraq forces but regretted that the world's apex body could not implement its resolution on Palestine till now.

He condemned the remark of the new UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali who recently said that the UN Resolution 242 was not binding or mandatory on Israelis.

Iranian Ambassador in Dhaka Mohammad Ganjidos called upon the world Muslims not to keep their eyes closed even after experiencing atrocities on Muslims over the years. "Unity of the Muslims is the necessity of the hour to retrieve the holy Al-Quds Mosque," he said.

Mohammad Ganjidos said the imperialist force had always tried to weaken the

Palestinian and Al-Quds issue directly or indirectly in the international fora and quoted Hazrat Imam Khomeini that this issue could not be solved unless the Muslims world over got united.

The Iranian Ambassador also said the Muslims in Myanmar and Kashmir were being oppressed, killed, forced out of their lands but the advocates of human rights were not looking at such a serious issue.

Palestine Ambassador Mohammad Shahta Zarab said Baitul Mukaddas is the first Kebla of the world Muslims but the Zionists and their imperialist allies were conspiring to destroy it. Shahta Zarab said the Zionist force was afflicting untold sufferings on the Palestine people using modern weapons supplied by the United States and their other allies.

Shahta Zarab said today the Palestinians are not alone responsible for protection of their land and the Baitul Mukaddas from the occupation of the Zionists but the world Muslims must come forward untidely to protect the Muslims in this Arab land.

## BFUJ, DUJ slate attack on paper offices

Leaders of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalist (DUJ) have condemned the attack on several newspapers in Dhaka and the Chittagong Press Club, reports BSS.

In a statement issued Friday Reazuddin Ahmed and Amanullah Kabir President and Secretary General of BFUJ and M Shahjahan Mia and Altaf Mahmud, President and General Secretary respectively of DUJ regretted Thursday's incidents of firing and hurling of bombs and stones at the Inqilab, Al-Amin, Meillat and Dainik Bhor.

They said a group of people passing through Motijheel area Thursday in a procession had hurled petrol bombs and stones at the Inqilab office. Similar attack was carried out at Meillat office and the attackers set ablaze two vehicles there, they said.

The leaders further said a group of armed persons had attacked the Al-Amin office and ransacked it night and hurled bombs at the Dainik Bhor office.

The attack at the newspaper offices is tantamount to interference in the press freedom, the leaders said, adding the journalists believed in the freedom of all opinions.

They urged all concerned quarters to refrain from attacking the newspaper offices in future and called for following the norms and codes of journalism.

## Japanese language contest held

The 16th Japanese language speech contest was held at Sonargaon Hotel Friday, reports BSS.

A total of 28 students of the city's Japanese language school took part in it.

Y Ichibashi, Minister, Embassy of Japan in Dhaka, attended the function as chief guest while Fujimoto, General Manager of Sumitomo Corporation in Dhaka, Imazu, Representative of JICA in Dhaka and K Tajika, First Secretary of Japan Embassy in Dhaka attended the contest as judges.

Sherin Jahan Chowdhury secured the first position while Abul Kalam Azad and Md Rafiqul Bari clinched the second and third positions in the senior group.

## Prisoner commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent

A young under-trial prisoner reportedly committed suicide in a bathroom of the Dhaka Central jail Thursday afternoon.

The youngman identified as Selim bearing number 3701/92 hanged himself by a 'lungi' in the bathroom at about 4 pm Thursday, police confirmed.

Selim was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors on-duty declared him dead. The body was kept in the morgue of the hospital for autopsy.

Meanwhile police without giving the specific date said that Selim was taken into the jail save-custody this year.

## FP, Progash condemn 'public trial'

Various political parties have condemned the activities of the proponents of "public court" in the city on the Independence Day, disregarding the Constitution and law, reports BSS.

The parties, in separate statements Friday, regretted that the attack on the newspaper offices and banks and alleged that a vested quarter was out to divide the nation by creating anarchy and resorting to destructive activities.

Wahiduzzaman, General Secretary of Progamishil Ganotantrik Shakti (Progash), in a statement condemned the attack on the Inqilab and Meillat office and said the organisers of the so-called "public court" was trying to create indiscipline in society.

## Physicians to render duties with zeal

KHULNA, Mar 27: Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali Friday said doctors should render their professional responsibilities with missionary zeal to serve the suffering humanity, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a private clinic here. The inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman and the Director of Health Directorate, Khulna Division, Dr Syed Mahfuzul Haque.

The Speaker reaffirmed that the present government had been putting in its best efforts to provide health services to the vast population despite its resource constraints.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Principal Technical Training Centre Maskanda, Mymensingh

### Notice for Admission of Students to Self-Reliance Course

Applications are invited from candidates intending to be admitted for training in the undermentioned trades of "Self-reliance" Course during 1992 Session at Technical Training Centre, Maskanda, Mymensingh under the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training. The training programme is of 6 (six) months duration. Certificate from the centre will be given on passing the final examination after completion of 6 (six) months training.

The candidates intending to get admitted should deposit two copies passport size recent photographs, true copy of educational qualification certificate, character certificate and the money mentioned below with self hand written application in plain paper by 20-04-92 and get admitted.

Intending candidates having minimum educational qualification and age for the undermentioned trades can apply for admission.

Sl. No.	Name of Trade	Minimum educational qualification	Age	Remark
1.	Auto Mechanics	Class VIII passed	18 to 30 years	
2.	Electrician	- Do -	- Do -	
3.	General Mechanics	- Do -	- Do -	
4.	Carpentry	- Do -	- Do -	

Age relaxable up to 40 years for workers and employees in service at industries. Candidates intending for admission will have to deposit Taka 500/- as course fee, Taka 250/- as training raw material and Taka 50/- (refundable) as security — Taka 800/- in total at a time at the time of admission and get admitted and, after admission, training class will continue from 5-00 PM to 9-00 PM every day from 01-05-92.

It may specially noted that there is no provision for seat allotment at the centre's residential building for candidates intending to be admitted for Self-reliance Course.

Khandker Mozammel Haq  
Principal in-charge  
Technical Training Centre  
Maskanda, Mymensingh  
Phone: 4977

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