

Lest we Forget

Habibullah Bahar: A Politician with a difference

By S. M. Ali

More than four decades ago, young newspaper reporters in Dhaka, including myself, had direct access to quite a few Cabinet Ministers in the first provincial administration of the erstwhile East Pakistan. In our daily rounds of the Secretariat, then still called the Eden Buildings, we would walk along the long corridor and, then, with a little bit to help from his personal secretary, just walk into the room of a minister for a chat, a cup of tea and a story — usually in that order.

This direct access to ministers filled a vacuum, in the sense that most of the secretaries or even some deputy secretaries of various ministers were from the former Indian Civil Service (ICS). They hailed from West Pakistan, knew little Bangla, spoke crisp English and generally discouraged press publicity. The set-up was tightly controlled by Aziz Ahmed, a formidable, handsome Chief Secretary who, we are told, served as a model for many of his successors who, at least in this piece, should remain unidentified.

However, one who should be named now is not one of the secretaries, but a cabinet minister, a politician with a difference, a writer of great distinction and one of the most pleasant human beings reporters and occasions to deal with — Habibullah Bahar, the first Minister for Health of the then East Pakistan, the position he held with notable success. He retired from politics and, indeed, from active life in 1953 when he suffered his first heart stroke. He suffered the second attack in January, 1966 and passed away on April 15, the first of Baishak, 1373, at a relatively young age of 60.

On Tuesday, the relatives and admirers of Habibullah Bahar paid tributes to this outstanding son of Bengal on his 26th death anniversary, with due solemnity, affection and a bit of nostalgia.

It should be relatively easy to pay our tribute to Bahar, the Minister for Health, who carried out his duties with total commitment, with his successful drive against mosquitoes in Dhaka serving as the highlight of his administrative career. But this was only a part — perhaps the most enduring part — of his health care programme carried out with incredible dedication as if nothing else really mattered. A friend once said that if mosquitoes carried malaria for the people of Dhaka, they gave Bahar a heart attack.

Easy? But it is not. The late Habibullah Bahar was not just a dynamic Minister for Health. He



was a writer and a newspaper columnist — one of the pioneers in satirical writing which appeared in the Daily Azad of Calcutta under the title "Hing O Halim" — the founder editor of monthly Bangla journal "Bulbul," author of books (not to mention numerous articles and short stories) and organiser of literary and socio-economic societies. But this is not all.

Believe it or not, Bahar was a top ranking footballer. In 1931, he joined the Mohammedan Sporting Club and became its captain, the position he held with great distinction.

Somehow, as we go through an anthology of writings on Bahar, which includes tributes to this outstanding man by some of the most eminent personalities of our country, it seems that whatever this man ventured out to do, he did it with success, in style and downright honesty. For instance, when he joined active political life in 1946, he got elected to the Bengal Legislative Assembly with one of the highest number of votes obtained by any successful candidate, and then he turned out to be a close associate of Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy and he travelled with Mahatma Gandhi through the riot-ravaged parts of Noakhali.

Having graduated from the Islamia College in Calcutta in 1928, Habibullah Bahar did indeed put in a lot in his relatively short working life of less than four decades and that too in varied fields.

Lastly, nothing that one can say or write about Bahar can leave out the reference to his long abiding friendship with our national poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam. This association, based on their shared values, continued right through the working life of Bahar. Nothing expresses the poet's affection for Bahar — and for Habibullah's sister Shamsunnahar — better than a short poem he wrote, titled, "Bahar O Nahar" at a fairly early stage of their friendship. I had read this poem when I was at school, and it was very much in my mind when I first called on Bahar, the Minister for Health, as a reporter. I looked upon the big-built man who had received me with a broad smile with a mixture of awe and admiration, wondering if there was anyone else we knew who had been immortalised in a poem by Kazi Nazrul Islam. After all these decades, the same feeling — and the same question — are still in my mind.

Our regular feature Dhaka Day by Day has been held over for today (Thursday) for reasons of space.

Deputy leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof. AQM Badruddin Chowdhury Tuesday said the medical students should acquire proper knowledge both in Bengali and English to meet the future needs in this field, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a seminar on "Culture of Medical Science in Bengal: past, present and future," held at the auditorium of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, Dhaka University.

Prof. Chowdhury said the medium of instruction in the medical colleges should be in Bengali for proper and quick understanding by the students.

He said the students should develop sufficient control over Bangla for communicating with the patients in an easy to understand language.

He said to understand the medical science and to be current with the world-wide development in this field the students should also learn English as an international language. He suggested introduction of a special course in English for the medical students.

Organised by the health education organisation "Esho Saisther Katha Bati" the seminar was addressed, among others, by Dr. S.A. Khalek, Prof. Shah Mohammad Keramat Ali, Prof. Sirajul Islam, Prof. MA Hadi, Associate Professor Sirajul Islam, Prof. Moshir Rahman, Prof. Mamanullah, Prof. Pravarak Parakaittha and Member Secretary of the organisation Dr. Ibrul Hasan Chowdhury.

Convenor of the organisation Dr. Sankar Chandra Poddar presided over the seminar.

Prof. Keramat Ali said the medical books published by Bangla Academy were difficult to understand due to use of technological terminology considering the origin of Bangla words, he said the text books in medical science should also be well written.

Prof. MA Hadi said medical students should learn both Bengali and English considering the practical aspect of their use instead of being

Tk 10 Prize Bond draw held

The 103rd draw of 10-Taka Bangladesh Prize Bond was held Wednesday at the Conference room of the Commissioner Office, Dhaka Division, says a press release.

The following 100 common numbers were drawn from amongst the numbers 000001 to 500000.

FIRST PRIZE OF TKA 50,000/00... 158802
SECOND PRIZE OF TKA 10,000/00... 072904
FOUR PRIZES OF TKA 1,000/00 EACH:
209999 318059 350073 495780
FOUR PRIZES OF TKA 500/00 EACH:
184938 198210 284059 292565
NINETY PRIZES OF TKA 100/00 EACH:
000017 081511 182482 223745 265993
001325 084105 194814 331372 401392
004325 085510 199232 336239 410213
009943 094197 203307 337819 412927
009995 107300 220798 343028 427704
011133 117844 233190 349253 430001
015101 118009 336623 349039 431771
025107 125894 237787 350643 456541
026078 134237 239457 352496 462690
405446 136736 255710 354095 463682
044234 137390 274008 362528 463710
046532 147396 274123 371749 465058
056118 150907 287465 374194 466080
057255 156107 286727 374672 467078
067580 164851 293369 385062 478688
072932 173387 301379 394046 481349
075302 175852 302448 394327 481695
080511 175855 306976 395589 492845

Thursday

5:00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran Programme
5:10 News in Bangla
5:20 Recitation from the Gesta
5:30 Sabar Sathey
6:00 Cartoon: The New Three Stooges
6:30 Jiboner Aalo
7:05 Debate
8:00 News in Bangla
8:40 Drama of the Week
10:00 News in English
10:25 Parliament round-up
10:40 Film: Turn Peaks
11:40 Friday's programme summary
11:45 Closing.

Weather

Dry spell will continue

By Staff Correspondent

Met office's weather bulletin valid till 6 pm today (Thursday) says prevailing dry weather will continue over the country except in the regions of Comilla and Sylhet where rain or thundershower may occur.

It also forecasts, day temperature is likely to rise by one degree Celsius today (Thursday).

The maximum temperature in the country, 41.7 degree Celsius, was recorded in Rajshahi while the country's minimum, 23.8 degree Celsius was reported from Rangpur Wednesday.

The sun sets today at 6:21 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:37 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country Wednesday were:

Cities / Towns	Max	Min	Humidity in Percentage
Dhaka	37.8	27	82
Chittagong	32.6	25.5	73
Rajshahi	41.7	25.3	57
Khulna	37.5	25.4	63
Srinagar	37.4	26.3	78
Rangamati	34.6	25.8	67
Rangpur	38.6	23.8	53
Mymensingh	36.8	26.5	51

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They exchanged views on the bilateral issues specially about various aspects of the cultural agreement between the two countries. The agreement is likely to be renewed in December this year.

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'Bengali should be medium of instruction in medical colleges'

driven by emotion alone.

Prof. Sirajul Islam said adoption of some medical terminologies in Bengali from English and Latin would make medical books in Bengali more lucid and understandable.

Prof. M Amanullah said to move with the advancement of medical science in the present era one should learn English along with Bengali.

Associate Prof. Sirajul Islam suggested creation of powerful new Bengali terminologies in

medical science by the writers, especially the translators. He also proposed creation of a new research organisation to work for writing medical books in Bengali.

Dr. SA Khaleque gave a chronological description of different medical books published in Bengali. He said due to lack of publicity the doctors and the students were not aware of the books which had already been published in Bengali.

Syed Tawfiq Mustafa Ali

S/O Mr & Mrs Syed Iqbal Ali on the occasion of his Aqiqa



Greetings
From all Uncles & Aunties

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

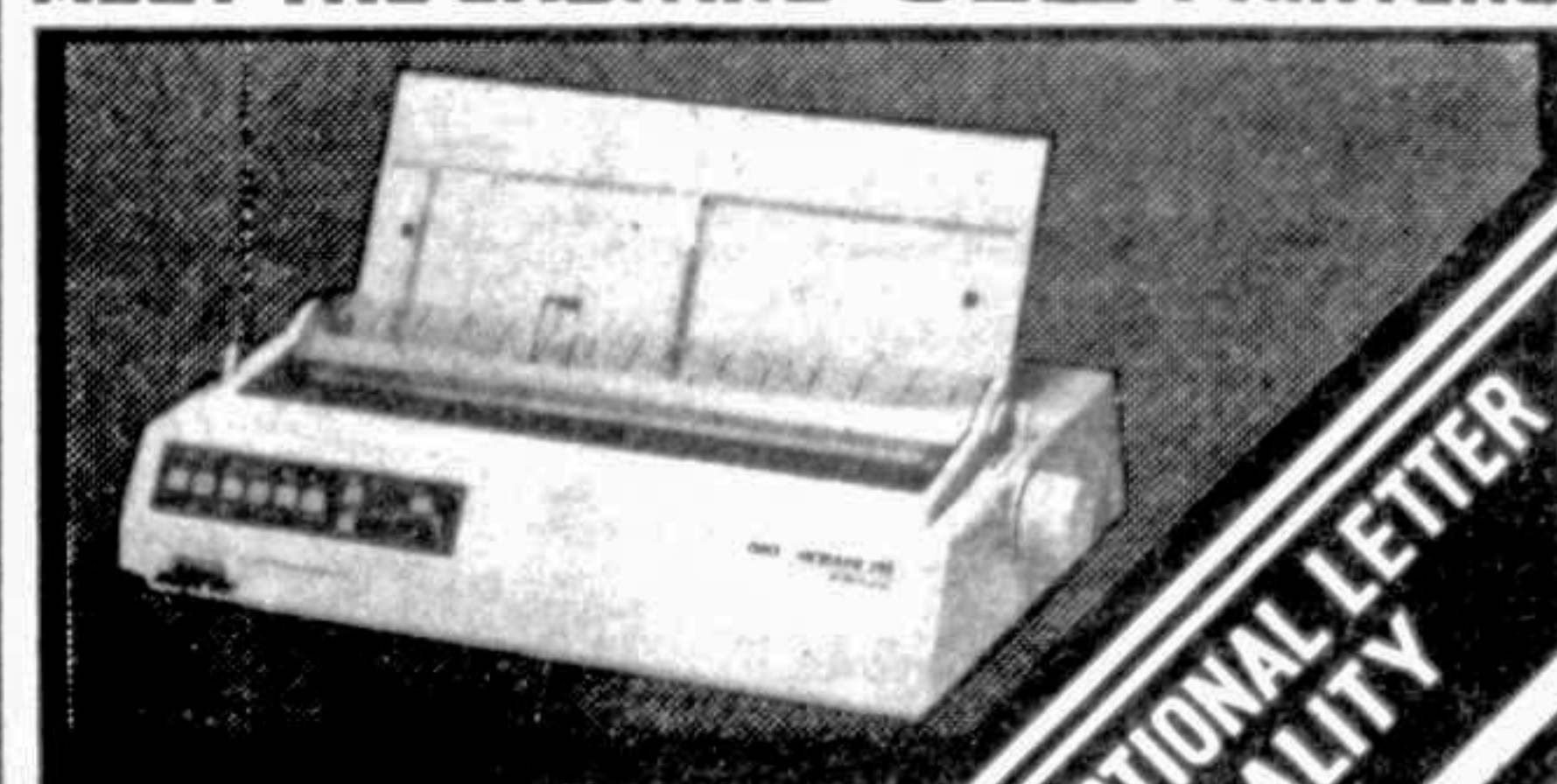
The containerised cargo ex. M. V. "Nanta Bhum" V-83 from Bangkok, ex. M. V. "Alligator" V-04398 and "Dresden Express" V-04313 from Hongkong, ex. M. V. "Alligator" V-02026 from Kobe, Yokohama, Hongkong, ex. M. V. "Trieste" V-03363 from Keelung have been relayed to M. V. "INFINITY" V-555, Imp. Rot. No. 255/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 16.4.92 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from "FCL" containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

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EXCEPTIONAL LETTER
QUALITY

UN should take allout move to solve Rohingya issue

Saudi Prince Khaled Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz said in Dhaka Tuesday, that his country would like to see safe and dignified return of the Myanmar refugees to their homeland, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport prior to his departure by a special flight after a four-day visit to Bangladesh Prince Khaled said "I think the United Nations should do just what it did to liberate Kuwait."

Describing his impression of the plight of the refugees after visits to some of the camps in Cox's Bazar Prince Khaled said he would report back his experience to the appropriate quarters. In this connection, he said Saudi Arabia would provide more help for the refugees.

Prince Khaled Tuesday described the sufferings of the Rohingyas as an "affront to every human being of goodwill."

The plight of the Rohingyas "is a sad, unnecessary, and unacceptable human tragedy," the Prince said while making remarks after visiting a number of Rohingya refugee camps at Dhoh Palong where 17,290 helpless Muslim refugees from Myanmar have taken shelter.

Prince Khaled, who was visibly moved at the plight of the refugees said these helpless

Myanmar Muslims had done no wrong and had committed no crime yet they were being driven from their ancestral homes by a government in Yangon which "uses their religion as a political device for taking their lands and their possessions."

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said, condemned the forced labor, imprisonment exile and genocide being committed in Myanmar.

He reiterated that his country would continue to discharge its Islamic and brotherly obligation to the Rohingyas, and to our friends and allies in Bangladesh for giving generously of their assistance to the refugees.

Prince Khaled said he would also make news of his visit to the Rohingya Muslim refugee camps available to the world media so that the searchlight of world opinion could be brought to bear on the plight of the Rohingyas.

"It is not too much to ask that all Rohingya refugees be repatriated, their civil and political rights as full citizens of Myanmar be recognised and that they be compensated for the loss of their business, their property, and their land."

Prince Khaled described the relationship between, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia as excellent and hoped it would

strengthen further on the basis of mutual respect. He expressed his happiness over voluntary participation of some Islamic organisations in the relief activities from the refugees.

Prior to the departure of the royal guest Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman presented him a gift.

Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan also presented Prince Khaled some gifts.

Prince Khaled was seen of at the airport, among other, by the Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Noor Uddin Khan, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman and Saudi Charge D' Affaires Talaat Hamza Shera.

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A CAREER OF HONOUR AND DIGNITY WITH CHALLENGING LEADERSHIP REGULAR COMMISSION — BANGLADESH ARMY

31TH BMA LONG COURSE

- ELIGIBILITY:**
 - Age on 10 May 1992** (Affidavit NOT acceptable)
 - Civilian**, 17 to 21 years
 - Service Candidates**, 18 to 23 years.
 (A service candidate is one who is an ununiformed serving member of the Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force).
 - PHYSICAL STANDARD:**
 - HEIGHT**, 1.63 Metre (5'-4") Minimum.
 - WEIGHT**, 45.36 Kilogram (100 Lbs) Minimum.
 - CHEST**, 0.76 Metre — 0.81 Metre (30"-32") Minimum.
 - EDUCATION QUALIFICATION (MINIMUM):**
 - Civilian**, SSC — 2nd Division, HSC — 2nd Division or Senior Cambridge/A Level or Equivalent.
 - Service Personnel**, Army Special Certificate of Education or as for Civilians.
 - MARITAL STATUS:**
 - Civilian**, Unmarried.
 - Service Personnel**, Unmarried/Married.
 - NATIONALITY**, Male citizen of Bangladesh.
 - INELIGIBILITY:**
 - Withdrawn/Discharged from Army/Navy/ Air Force or any Government Service.
 - Screened out/rejected twice by ISSB. Once rejected and once screened out candidates may apply.
 - Declared medically UNFIT by Armed Forces Appeal Medical Board (Rejected on grounds of Height, Weight and Chest may apply on attainment of requisite standard).
 - Incomplete application or false statement given in the application.
 - Forwarding more than one application.
 - SELECTION PROCEDURE:**
 - Preliminary Selection:** Preliminary Medical Test/Interview will be held at the following places:
 - Dhaka
 - Mymensingh
 - Chittagong
 - Comilla
 - Sylhet
 - Rajshahi
 - WRITTEN EXAMINATION:** Written Examination will also be held in the above places on the following subjects:
 - Bengali and English.
 - General Knowledge.
 - General Mathematics.
 - TEST/INTERVIEW BY INTER SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (ISSB)**, Inter Services Selection Board (ISSB), Dhaka Cantonment.
 - FINAL MEDICAL BOARD:** Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka Cantonment.
 - FINAL SELECTION:** Adjutant General Branch, Army Headquarters, Dhaka Cantonment.
 - TRAINING/COMMISSION:**
 - 98 to 100 weeks training at Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA), Bhatiari, Chittagong. On successful completion of the course, cadets will be granted regular Commission as Second Lieutenant with effect from the following day of the passing out. Cadets will also be awarded B.A/B.Sc degree depending on their academic performance/result. Cadets obtaining 1st class with distinction marks in Degree examination will be allowed to pursue higher education after commission.
 - APPLICATION:**
 - Application on the white paper (Size 14" X 8", "as per undermentioned proforma to be submitted to Army Headquarters, Adjutant General Branch, Personnel Administration Directorate (PA-2), Dhaka Cantonment by 10 May, 1992.
 - NAME:** (Block letters as per SSC Certificate).
 - FATHER'S NAME:** (Block Letters).
 - PERMANENT ADDRESS:**
 - PRESENT ADDRESS:**
 - DATE OF BIRTH:** (As per SSC Certificate)
 - AGE ON 10 MAY 1992:**
 - NAME OF CENTRE FOR PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW:** (Write down the name of the Centre in the block according to your choice where you want to appear for Preliminary Medical Test/Interview as mentioned below:

(Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Comilla, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Bogra, Rangpur, Saidpur, Jessore and Khulna).

H. MARITAL STATUS:

J. RELIGION:

K. NATIONALITY:

1. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

Certificate Group Division Year Examination (Class)

Dated: (Signature of Candidate)

14. The following documents must be submitted along with the application:

a. A self-addressed envelope (9" X 4") with Tk. 2.00 postage affixed.

b. 03 copies of recent passport size photograph duly attested by gazetted officer.

15. Candidate will write the name of the Centre where he wants to appear for preliminary Interview on the top middle of the envelope containing the application.

Last Date of Submission of Application: 10 May 1992

Join Bangladesh Army. Take Part in the Defence of the Motherland

ISPR-37(Army)92/458
DFP(G) 5420-12/4
G-405

CIRCULATED BY:
Director of Personnel Administration
Adjutant General Branch
Army Headquarters
Dhaka Cantonment

LAND WANTED FOR OFFICE BUILDING

A bi-lateral institution wants to buy minimum of one acre of land for construction of its office building either at Karwan Bazar C/A or at Motijheel C/A in Dhaka. The land must be located on the main road and should preferably be rectangular in shape. Interested persons having good title in their lands of such description are requested to send by 30th April 1992 to G. P. O. Box. No. 4175, Dhaka, their proposals and details of Khatian No. and Dag No. together with the photocopies of site map, land deed, mutation certificates etc.

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