well known for his sense of humour that

ous number like Woh bedardi sarkate

amir, huzoor, ahista ahista'. Only Jagjit

can codswallop in an analogy of 'ghoti'

and 'bangal', culture and agriculture to

clear the implied distinction between

'huzoor' and 'janab', much to the surprise

and delight of the audience. Watching,

listening to Jagjit is a memorable experi-

ence. He is perhaps the ony ghaza

singer who, while uttering a wish, an

overture to the dreamgirl to come in his

life with the rhythmic jingling of the

'payel' (hothope choolon tum), a ghazal

later incorporated to the film 'Premgeet',

can give you the auditory sensation of

payel without its wearer. When asked.

how could he look so nonchalant, jovial

on the stage when his wife Chitra is lan-

guishing back in India from the loss of

their 19-year old son, Jagjit quipped "I

cannot let myself loose on the stage, no

matter how much grieved I am. Puplic

pays to get in to see Jagjit Singh the

artist, not the man who has lost his son.

belive it is an artist's duty to hold back

his emotions and perform to the highest

level of his ability. Laugh and the world

laughs with you; weep, and weep alone;

for the sad old earth must borrow its

mirth, but has trouble enough of its own."

Jagjit had me 'Solitude' of Wilcox and

'Traditon' of Eliot revisited in the wink of

The doyen of ghazal does not enter-

tain anything as 'apni zuban' as regrads

perfection in ghazal. 'Chandan Das' dead-

panned Jagjit, "is from Bangladesh: he is

doing very well in India. He is one of my

Jagjit who has composed music for a

number of films and tele serials like

'Mirza Ghalib', 'Manzil Apni Apni',

'Kaikashan', 'Hothope choolon tum', in

film 'Premgeet' and 'Tumko dekha to' in

'Sathe Sathe', both sung by Jagjit, have

carved a niche in the heart of millions.

Unable to pick any one ghazal as his

favourite from a career spanning 15

years, Jagjit got up saying 'keep your

search on for my latest album In Search.

You will get your answer in 'Apni hotho

par sajana tha' . I was left wondering

whether if was another flash of his radi-

ant wit meaning the immortal longing of

an artist to transcend his art or a truism.

favourites.'

strips the tinsel of sentiment off a seri-

## 'Aapni Hotho Par Sajana Tha'

Jagjit Singh Talks to The Daily Star Correspondent Chandrashekhar Das

E did that. For two evenings in a row, on October 10 and 11, in the ball room of Hotel Sonargaon, he drew out the sobs of the violin of late autumn that wounded and soothed the hearts of the audience. Reaching him was not easy if not impossible. The annoying energy of the autograph and photo hunters had not ebbed till then. And the twin disappointment of the stealing of the thunder by the newly-fledged fans and an inner realisation of 'Idhar to jaldi jaldi udhar ahista ahista' was urging my feet to be on the move. Just then, at 11.35 pm, outside the hotel, before stepping into the shimmying automobile Jagit Singh, one of the finest exponents of Ghazal schussed down the mountains of my dream to the plain of reality. Far from being exhausted after three and half hours of rendition, Jagjit agreed to talk next morning.

Clad in a white tee-shirt tucked in a white pair of trousers, Jagit looked relaxed. Now 51, with a few grey streaks over the ears, the bespectacled maestro exuded optimism in his first pronouncement. The baritone voice that injected life to poems like Baat niklegi durtalak jayegi', 'Pareshan raat sari hai, sitaron tum to so jao', 'Hothope choolon tum' and many others reassured that although Chitra, his wife, was not with him on his second trip to Bangladesh, the tale of Chitra-Jagiit duet was far from being over. "Chitra has not yet recovered from the shock. She is not prepared to face the audience." Together with his Bangalee wife Chitra, Jagjit resurrected ghazal, a moribund art, in the eighties. The irresistible march of the couple came to a halt following the death of their only son Vivek Singh in an accident in 1990.

The advent of the ghazal-nouveau can be traced back in 1976, the year Jagit launched his first album 'The Unforgettables'. A watershed in the annals of Urdu poetry in tune, the superhit album was followed by "A Milestone," 'Come Alive at Wembley', 'Gold Disc', 'Main Aur Meri Tanhai,' 'Ecstasies,' 'Echoes,' 'Mirza Ghalib,' 'Beyond Time'. A gifted composer Jagjit recently mesmerised his numerous fans with 'Sajda', an album made in tandem with legendary Lata Mangeskar. The offering in 16 track digital recording is perhaps the finest

ASSACRES, human ri-

ghts abuses, environ-

Imental catastrophes -

perhaps somewhat surp-

risingly, the Pacific has them

Australia and New Zealand tells

in 15 chapters of sometimes

chilling writing of torture in

Fiji and Kanaky (New

Caledonia) and political

killings in East Timor, West

the response by the United

Nations to the Indonesian in-

vasion of East Timor in 1975

against that made to the Iraqi

invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Both invasions were over oil

The reactions were quite dif-

Soci Liong says that while the

UN adopted a resolution de-

ploring the Indonesian inva-

sion, it did not follow it up

with the same speed as it did

resolutions on the Gulf. He

writes: "The East Timor issue

was drawn out in a once-a-year

stopped appearing on the

"consultations" were reputedly

being held between Portugal

(which ran East Timor as a

colony for 500 years) and

Indonesia. These consultations

did not involve the East

Timorese and have since

tragedies is edited by New

Zealand journalist David Robie

under the title Tu Galala:

Social Change in the Pacific.

Tu Galala is Fijian for

sovereignty, freedom and self

It shows that in the Pacific

polities is no longer limited to

indigenous peoples' struggles

The book cataloguing these

After 1982 East Timor

Instead

resolution up to 1982."

agenda.

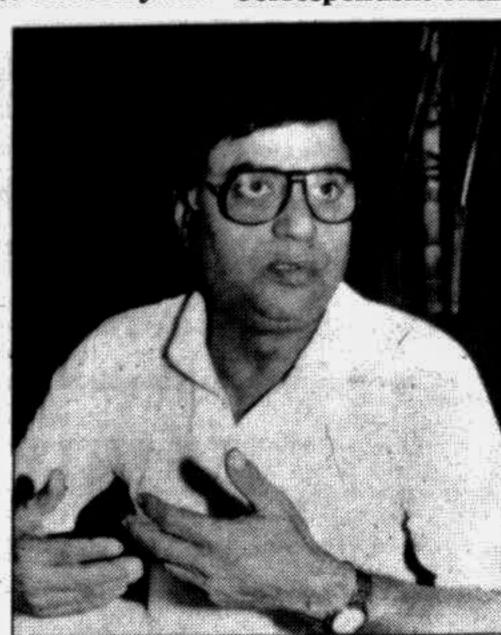
determination.

Indonesian author Liem

Several writers compare

Papua and Belau.

A book just published in



ethereal expression of the romantic imagination of Jagjit.

Dheeman Jagjit Singh is in a way comparable to the 19th century English Romantic poets, who got poetry out of the drawing room; paved the path for common man's access to it. 'Maine ghazal ko kothi ki bahar nikalneka koshish kiya haf (I have all along tried to take ghazal out of courts and palaces). In other words Jagit has democratised an art that had been awaiting an inglorious death in the tin pan alley of western music.

Jagjit however bears no grudge against Western music. Asked about his relentless innovations Jagit, who was born on February 8 in 1941 at Shriganganagar in Rajasthan said, "Tradition is not sticking to the outdated set rules or patterns. It can always be replenished with new ideas. If the original Ten Commandments can undergo change why not ganeka dhang aur tarika? Baat agar sirf tradition ka hi ho to admi ko air-conditioned car pe nahin, bail gadi pe baith kar ana chahiye gana sunneke liye" (If it is only a matter of remaining fixed to one's roots then people in the subcontinent should use carts instead of automobiles). .

Jagjit who received his first lessons in classical music from Ustad Jamal Khan is

What Goes on beyond the Palm Tree-lined Lagoons

Alison McCulloch writes from Auckland

Behind the postcard images of golden lagoons ringed

## Longing for an Unfettered Life

OHAMMED Iqbal, who had his recent exhibition at the Alliance Francaise, delights in presenting nature as unspoiled, revelling in the untouched beauty. In a less keen artist, the consciousness might only have been seen as nostalgia or a penchant or even a hang-up over environmental matters. With Iqbal there is a deep understanding of a communion with nature, from which one can draw inspiration. His choice of colours and his technique of putting on the paints bring in semi-abstract

Igbal stresses on "fakirs", "sanyasis" and rootless castouts. The artist brings out the natural people in their normal environment, attempting to make his viewers sympathise with his subjects. Sensitive and with a good insight into the lives of the vagabonds, the artist has tried to develop his

by Fayza Haq own style with his avant garde

"The young artists are experimenting with materials. techniques and style. Their work today is modern and at the same time linked with the life in Bangladesh. They face the constant problems of not getting adequate supply of their materials. They are available but expensive as they are imported. For six years I have tried to be self-dependent through selling via the gal leries at Gulshan. I have often been tempted by offers but wish to remain free, the young artist said.

In "Unfettered Life -111" there were different types of people. "I deal with people who have no homes or families and live a gypsy life, hiding away from the normal run of the mill life. They want to create another world of beliefs

and habits," the artist explained about his work. Four bearded characters with ragged clothes and long hair were seen standing, and sitting in broken down places. It was impressionistic.

"Unfettered Life 1" saw a "baul" and a gypsy in brown and grey with a "trishul" in his hand. There was another character sitting in front and this too was done in abstract splashes of grey, brown, red, and blue. The white in the left background and the ochre in the right forefront balanced the figures.

"Farmer" was paper and oil colour. The farmer was presented in dark hues while his wife had on a green "sari". The background was in bright green, black, white, ochre and was semi abstract in presenta-

"Bull carts" showed well the struggle of the bullock cart in masses of grey and black, highlighted with yellow and vermilion. The pouring rain was brought in by splashes of bold grey and white.

"Unfettered Life 11" which won an award for experimental work, depicted gypsies with barely any clothes. Strings of gay necklaces and ample coloured bangles, along with matted hair, were depicted along with the horn of the buffalo. The white and beige were offset with dark colours and vivid black lines. In the series the artist had applied the same technique, using collage of paper on canvas. He had used tea leaves instead of the conventional sand.

In "Immateriality" the figure felt himself above the rest of existence. He was a gypsy and shown on top of a beige brown wall. The play of textures and colours were subtle.

In "Encompassed", in an area surrounded by wire, the gypsy in a ragged red was concentrating and pondering about life. "I was influenced by a man in front of the Institute of Fine Arts who slept under a banyan tree. He rested in such a hovel that half his body stuck out, he had nobody for his family. Passersby saw him but did not care 'or feel," the artist

explained. Born in '67, the artist has had two solo expos so far and has participated in 14 group exhibitions. He has won seven awards. At present he is a final year student of M.F.A. at the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

It is always welcome to see the artist dwelling on the grim question of the ignored and the poor instead of presenting something glittery and eyes. catching, and which would sell with ease.

### Unfettered Life — II Unfettered Life - III Columbus Found Guilty

Continued from page 9 other metals. Columbus pleaded to the monarches that with their support he would

wished. From his base on Haiti, he

the slaves that can be sold." As many of the captives sent even bled to death. For the natimes to resist the white peohorses and arms. Helpless Arawaks began to commit sui-

be able to bring as much gold and as many slaves as they

sent his men to the interior for gold. But no gold was found. Desperately, he arranged for a great slave hunt in 1495, caught fifteen hundred Arawak Indians, and kept them in cages which were guarded by his Spaniard men and dogs. Of those, he shipped five hundred to Spain; two-fifth of those died on the way. Columbus despatched a letter saying: "Let us in the name of Holy Trinity go on sending all

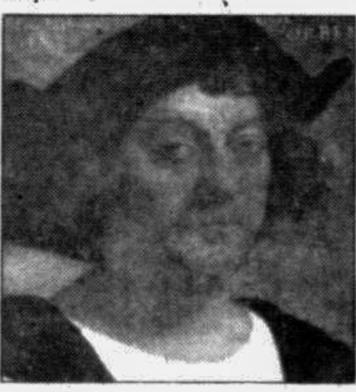
to be sold as slaves died, and as he was unable to keep his promise of sending gold, he ordered all the native Americans fourteen years or older to bring a certain quantity of gold every three months. As a mark of payment, the natives who brought gold were given copper tokens to. hang around their necks. Columbus' men cut off the hands of those who were found without copper tokens. Some tives it was impossible to find gold; so they fled for fear of life, but were hunted down by dogs. Arawaks tried several ple but it was not possible to fight the mighty outlanders who were well equipped with cide en masse, taking cassava poison. They even killed their babies to rescue them from Spanish atrocity. In two years,

were dead. When it became apparent that there was remote chances

half the population of Haiti

of getting as much gold as other side it was a story of Columbus wanted, he captured and divided the natives into two classes of labourers. Some were taken as slave labourers to work on huge estates and others were taken to

work as mine labourers. About the mine labourers Las Casas wrote in his book: "They suffered and died in mines and other labours in desperate silence, knowing not a soul in the world to whom they could turn for



Males were taken to mines for work while the females were forced to do the tormenting work of digging and making hills for cassava plants. While the husbands and the wives met after eight to ten months' 'interval they were physically and mentally so exhausted and depressed that they were unable even to cohabit and procreate.

According to Las Casas, the Indians were of a simple and inoffensive nature. European observers also said repeatedly about their hospitality and of their "belief in sharing things with others". But from the

ica for training in High Educa-

tional Administration. On re-

devastation, destruction, murder and mutilation. It was quite natural that the natives would, in despair, try to revolt against the Spaniards. Neil Macaulay of the

University of Florida comments that Las Casas' narrations tend to exaggerate the woe of the Indians and the crimes of the conquistadores. It might also be contended that Las Casas had some sort of prejudice against Columbus and his men. But historian Neil Macaulay, when he wrote about Las Casas himself said that this missionary, later Bishop Las Casas was dubbed the "Apostle of the Indies" for his staunch "advocacy of justice for American Indians."

However, as a young man of thirty, after going to America in 1502, Las Casas even helped his fellow Spaniards put down native American revolts in Hispaniola and as a 'reward was given an "encomienda" (the right to the labour of Indians living on a tract of land) but Spanish cruelty bothered him. He was humane in his treatment toward Indians but gradually he became more and more troubled by Spanish atrocity he had seen on other "encomiendas." He disclaimed his "encomineda" and condemned Spanish exploitation of the Indians. As cruelty was a general feature of the system he spent the rest of his life fighting against that system and against the conquest of the native American people.

John Parry, the author of "The Spanish Seaborne Empire", spoke highly of Columbus as a navigator, sea

ality, he wielded in him a hear

with stoic fortitude. Shocks of

commander and geographical theorist. But at the end he also. had to admit that Columbus' obsession with and greed for gold made him unscrupulous. To lighten the blame on Columbus he says that for procuring gold he had to use brutality towards the native Americans — but only ocean sionally. But even if this was true that would not redeem Columbus of moral turpitude

John Parry justified Columbus' action by saying that he was not alone in that respect. But the fact cannot be ignored that he was the one who initiated that brutality which certainly had an influence on conquistadores like Pizarro, Cortes and others who followed him for the conquest of other parts of the New World.

In support of Columbus it may be said that though aboard the ship as an admiral he was undoubtedly a powerful and efficient one, on land he proved to be a poor administrator. Hisserious handicap was his humable origin; he was an Italian who was serving under the Spanish monarches while his men were mostly of Spanish

He was not tactful and diplomatic enough to handle his men. Moreover, his avaricious and cruel mentality had a great impact on his crewmen who themselves were unscrupulous and brutal.

It was not Columbus alone but his men and the latter conquistadores were also equally guilty of so many misbut Columbus was the one who is held responsible, faces trial and is found guilty because he

deeds done in the New World was the pioneer. inscribed on the black-board numerous forms of the word governor, its verb, adjective,

hitting setbacks into an incredible reservoir of strength Suffer he did but never for a moment he broke himself. Extremely pious, Guda treated his students at par with his own children. Nevertheless, he reared up his children with astute parental care only to see some of them leaving him for their death when they were half-way through their lives. His fourth son died by drown ing at the age of 21 in 1976 while his eldest son Godfray an upcoming architect, died on June 28, 1990 when he was only 45 years old. These losses

Memories of my school days

adverb etc. We were literally bemused but we kept on silently awaiting Sir Frederick's stepping in. As is usual we stood up to welcome the respected visitor. Guda, who, as I have already mentioned, was little over four feet, was still on the teacher's rostrum. The Governor at first appeared to have been a bit annoyed as the teacher was not standing on the floor as was expected. Soon his annoyance lost itself into a wide grin after he measured Guda from top to toe. To. us it appeared that the Governor made a stient but eloquent appreciation of the wit of our dear teacher. Turning to the black-board the distinguished visitor almost laughed out and bade us goodbye. Paul Guda is dead but will

remain alive till the last student he taught is dead. I say this with confidence that teacher of his sterling calibre would have nothing else to do excepting to build his student into responsible manhood. An that input of responsibility teaches the students to recip rocate his teacher's contribu tion through respectful remembrance. Such a spiritua exchange is indeed divinely blessed to enrich our menti standing at a time when the student community has be come hostage to moral degeneration.

### published by Bridget Williams Books and Pluto Press. It was launched in New Zealand in May 1992. \$NZ 39.95.

against colonial occupiers. Writers on Fiji make that clear in tales of racism and elitism in their country and analyses of the coups there which toppled a democratically elected government in the name of indigenous rights.

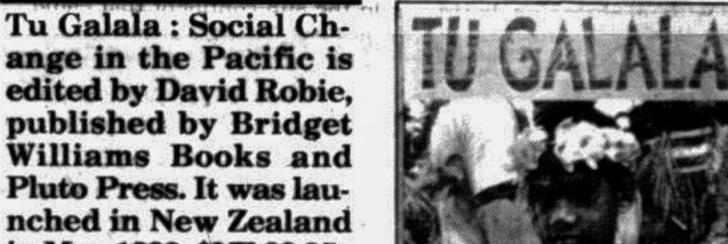
Robie, explains these conflicts.

Another chapter, by Susanna Ounci-Small, on New Caledonia will raise controversy inside and outside that country's independence movement

Ounci-Small argues that the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) has not wanted to fight for an independence in which all the political and economic power is "controlled by foreign capital and a small Kanak elite of well-paid politicians, civil servants and junior business part-

Ounei-Small, a longtime independence activist, writes about the movement's splits, successes and failings, pointing to its antipathy to women's rights.

FLNKS leader are also criticised for signing the contro-



Ounei-Small says many in the movement felt betrayed by the signing of the accords. She gives a close account of the 1989 assassination by Djubelly Wea of the FLNKS leader who signed the accords, Jean Marie Tjibaou, and his compa-

held view that the shooting was a conspiracy involving "a wide group of people in Kanaky and abroad.

Ounei-Small, herself related to Djubally Wea, says none of his family knew what he was planning to do.



versial Matignon accords which, among other things, fixed a referendum on independence for 1998 and gave settlers who arrived in New Caledonia up until 1984 the right to vote.

triot Yeiwene Yeiwene.

She debunks the widely

She writes: ".....Djubelly

with palms, the South Pacific faces fast changing politi-Minister at the time) friend is dead. Down with the Matignon cal and social struggles that show no sign of abating. A Accords...Long live Kanaky.' He book just published in Australia and New Zealand, himself was shot by Jeanedited by Gemini News Service correspondent David Marie's bodyguards. "Djubelly could have got

someone else to do what he did, or he could have sneaked up at night and then tried to escape. Who he was, and the fact that he carried out the act himself and the way that he did it: all this points to Djubelly assuming total responsibility for his own action.

shot Jean-Maria and Yeiwene

at point-blank range, crying,

'Rocard's (French Prime

"The real motive of those who generated the rumours of a complex conspiracy was to isolate the opponents of the

accords." She ends her moving piece by pointing out that the FLNKS would evaluate its position on the accords in 1992, but the future lay with the politicised

Kanak youth. She says: "There are hardly any political people of my gen eration who are respected by the youth. The youth once took all the risks and gained none of the rewards."

Other contributors look at issues like the environment, human rights abuses, Bougainvillea, militarism in the Pacific, Belau, Tahiti, Tonga and Western Samoa.

The book was assisted by the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust, a fund established with money paid for the bombing of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior by French agents in Auckland harbour in 1985.

ALISON McCULLOCH is a freelance New Zealand Journalist, formerly a senior sub-editor at The Dominion newspa-

# Growth through Redistribution

Continued from page 9 while roads in the black townships are pitted with potholes

The economy is also char acterized by high levels of concentration and centralization. Six conglomerates control the mining, manufacturing, and financial sectors. There are few micro-enterprises and the informal sector is undeveloped compared with other African countries.

#### Growth strategy

The Economic Trades Research Group believes that these economic ills can be treated with a strategy they term 'growth through redistribution."

"Our position is that growth can only take place on the basis of redistribution of productive capacity and productive resources to the mass of the population," says Dr Michael Morris, an economist with the project who is based at the University of Natal in Durban.

He says this strategy differs from that advocated by radical free market economists, which he describes as 'let the rich get richer and the poor will

just catch up 10 years later. In a post-apartheid econ-

omy, Morris envisages a revitalized manufacturing sector that is characterized by new methods of factory organiza tion, integrated technology more inter-firm cooperation, and improved skills training He says that state intervention is critical in making these changes: "If you leave things to the market, then nothing will

The industrial strategy project will develop policy recommendations designed to guide state intervention in a post-apartheid economy. The economists hope that these policies will help South Africa catch up with middle-income countries like South Korea, where the state has been used effectively to foster economic development. Project recommendations will be drawn from a series of sectoral and crosssectoral studies of the South African economy.

### Project goals

These studies have three objectives. The first is to fill an in formation gap - there are

currently no detailed studies of the South African industrial sector. The information gener ated from this study will be crucial to formulating an industrial strategy.

The project will also examine how the current structure of South African industry can be adapted to a new strategy for growth. A third objective is to train policy-makers, with particular emphasis on black economists. Throughout the project, re-

searchers will interact regularly with the COSATU and the African National Congress so that work will proceed in tandem with the changing political environment. Project economists will also develop links between the state and the private sector. "In order to have an impact,

one has to feed these ideas into the general debate," Dr Morris says. "That means major contract with the state and the private sector." He and his colleagues also plan to circulate results through the me-

The industrial strategy

## Portrait of

Brother Godfray, the then Head Master of St Alfred High School of Padri Shibpur, Barisal, after failing in his pursuit to move the Parish priest at Barisal town. Brother Godfray was kind enough to install Paul as the Hostel Superintendent in lieu of food, lodging and facilities to continue his studies. Frail health and bereft of parental care, Paul Guda had yet an unfathomable strength of mind which earned him a first division in the Entrance

project represents a pragmatic approach to influencing debate on the structure of a post -apartheid economy. "Political slogans are not the order of the day right now," says Dr Morris. Without policy formulation and alternative policy research, we'll get absolutely nowhere. We need to win the political game in South Africa over which kinds of policies are going to dominate in the future".

Jennifer Pepall in Ottawa

Later he found himself admitted into Chittagong Government College. Abruptly abandoning studies in science Paul Guda switched over to studies in English language and literature. After obtaining Honours degree in English he secured employment as an Assistant teacher with St Lawrence School in Calcutta. Brother Godfray of Padri Shibpur High School had so long continued to give Paul Guda financial as well as moral assistance.

Paul got a new employment and a new bride almost at the same time. But life was yet to be easy for him because of the unwardly hostility of his uncles from both sides. They were perhaps victims of jealousy that one of their kins was going to be recognized in the educated society. Undauntedly Paul Guda pursued his vocation with redoubled determination. He got through B.Ed (BT) examination and subsequently higher diploma in education with distinction.

Between September, 1963 and April, 1964 Paul Guda was in the United States of Amer-

After retirement from government service Paul Guda joined CORR - a voluntary organisation as its Regional Director in Barisal and worked there till 1977. Paul Guda had a number of publications to his credit. Amongst them he wrote "Rapid Reader" for students of Class VII and VIII in 1961 and Popular Stories" for Class IX and X. Another "Rapid Reader' for Class IX and X authored by this illustrious teacher has been approved by the Text Book Board recently. This book has stories of early days which are sure to stir the imagination of the students.

For his merit of performance Mr Paul Guda had received back in 1964 Best Head Master's Award and Tampha-e-Qaid-e-Azam in 1965. As an honorary member he served on the Advisory Board of Udayan High School, Padri Shibpur, Barisal. His career as a highly dedicated teacher started in 1939 and ended in 1972.

As I have already said that despite his physical stature Guda wore a towering person-

turn he served in different life he had in abundance but he had the tenacity and forbeargovernment institutions as Head Master and in 1971, ance to turn all those hardduring the War of Liberation he was transferred to Rajshahi Division as Inspector of Schools wherefrom he retired in May, were indeed devastating for Mr Paul Guda but he withstood the shocks in calm resignation till he himself left this worldly abode on February 10, 1992 after a prolonged illness with cancer of the tongue. He was

> are almost fading away. Still then I can recall at least one interesting incident occurring in the last quarter of 1947. Sir Frederick Bourne, the last British Governor in East Pakistan, visited our school. Paul Guda was then taking our class for English grammar. The seven and a half footer Governor, accompanied by B K Biswas, Head Master, entered our classroom. Prior to that Guda

#### Continued from page 10 examination with scholarship. Being thus totally detected and plunged into an endless mental ordeal he met late