



Days of Hopes, Days of Fear

by Fayza Haq

"I was a part time student at the Michigan State University at East Lansing, doing my masters in Education, when 26th March '71 came by. We were only seven students from the then East Pakistan and we openly cut off our relationship with Pakistan. My husband was a Ford Foundation scholar in Agriculture Economics and his job in East Pakistan was in jeopardy. We declared an association of Bangladeshi students and comprised four or five families," said Shamima Islam who worked her heart out for the cause of Bengalis at home, while in the United States during the Liberation War.

"The work was divided into many phases and forms. The collection of money for refugees was just a part. The campaign of 'Stop Genocide' and motivating the American people were different," she added.

The Emergency Relief Fund was mostly connected with collecting money and the Americans were involved in this. My house was the secretariat for the Bangladesh association. For days and months I spoke at churches, faculty clubs and community leaders' clubs. Michigan had the largest foreign students' association. The 'BARD' at Comilla was built with the help of the Michigan University and there was a very well motivated group who sympathised with Bangladesh," Shamima continued.

"The responsibility for organising the movement fell on us. We were more fortunate compared to many others in having a chance to help the cause. We supplied thousands of stickers and buttons for the 'Stop Genocide' campaign. The first base was our campus and we were supplying the entire USA and coordinating with the rest of the campuses in USA," Shamima explained her role in raising funds and making the American people aware of the situation of the Bengalis in the then East Pakistan.

The mass media gave a lot of help. This was organised with the help of the teachers. They gave support throughout the year. The Michigan campus paper, the state newspaper, television and radio carried the message through the help of the teachers and students. Dr William Ross, the Director of Asian Studies, Ralph Smucker, the Dean of the International Programme, Dr. Ralph Nicholas, the Professor of Anthropology Department and Assistant Director of Asian Studies, Dr. Robert Stevens, the Professor in Agriculture Economics Department, and Dr Cole Brembeck, the Director of International Education had all helped. They had once been to Comilla and sympathised with the people there. Two other people who aided and encouraged were Reverend Warren Day on behalf of the churches of East Lansing and Carol Thompson. These two, in particular, helped me organise the speech in hundreds of dorms," Shamima narrated her experience.

"Seventy Americans who came in January '72 to Dhaka included Linda Worthington and Len Stuttmann. They dealt with the collection of

money and the later handed over US \$ 16,00 to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," Shamima informed.

What was the reaction of the Average Americans in Michigan? "The Americans are basically simple people. The story of torture and exploitation, and my message that money was literally killing us hit them. When we were organising the funds, we said, 'skip a meal and contribute 33 cents to save a child.' This was the fasting programme. A big amount of money was not asked, but it came to quite a bit when put together. Hundreds of faculty members, students and community members volunteered for the fast and the signature programme," Shamima added.



Shamima Islam

Benefit dinners and lunches were arranged and for this the mass media helped. They carried features, news, and programmes on TV. The University had its own channel programme. We had five male students, Anwar, Faisal, Bahuddin Saman and my husband Rabbul. Among the women were Nasim and I. There was a teacher too, Dr. Khan, and two other housewives had also pitched in," Shamima said.

"When we asked, Dr. Robert Stevens and Dr. Bertocci organised a summer course in East Lansing to get a few more Bangladeshi families on the campus, so the movement could get stronger," she continued about the efforts of the Bangladeshis to help their brethren back home.

"For months after months we heard little of our families. The Red Cross helped to get news. We listened to VOA and BBC. Within USA privately funded groups telephoned each other and visited campus like Chicago and Detroit, so that all the campus were involved," she informed.

"We were small in number and had great work load. There was fear of scholarships being cancelled. I personally lost 18 months of work. When we got the news that five of my husband's family members had been killed in '71 it was very hard to take. Each one outside the country lived in risk and tension as we were personally involved," Shamima informed.

Does she feel that the values for which the Liberation War was fought was being violated at present with the sporadic anti-social activities? "It is my honest feeling that it takes time to organise. We started from scratch. The initial years will be spent for building the nation. We must not be over ambitious. If we, as the educated and aware individuals all contribute we can overcome problems. My attitude is a positive one," Shamima replied.

Shamima has written six books so far, including 'Indigenous Abortion Practitioners in Rural Bangladesh' in '81, 'Women's Education in Bangladesh—Needs and Issues' in '77, 'Invisible Labour Force' in 1985, 'Women, Victims of Violence' in '85, 'Annona (Pioneering Women in Bangladesh)' in '88 and 'Begum Rokeya: Arjaner lithash' in '91. She also has an experimental literacy model, an innovative weekly education programme, called 'Kolorab'.



BUET VC Md Shajahan addressing a discussion on SAARC yesterday in the city. —Star photo

Human rights issue may be put on SAARC agenda, hopes Amnesty chief

Amnesty International chief Prof Ross Daniels hoped that human rights would be put on the rescheduled SAARC summit agenda for betterment of millions of people in the region, reports UNB.

Speaking as chief guest at a seminar at the Jatiya Press Club, he focused on flagrant human rights violation and resultant refugee problem across the world.

Prof Daniels, Chairman of the Executive Council of Amnesty International, cited Myanmar in this region where, he said, gross violation of human rights by the government had been reported.

He touched on the Rohingya refugee problem Bangladesh is facing as a result of the situation in Myanmar. Some 2.65 lakh Myanmar Muslims have crossed into Bangladesh.

According to the United Nations, there are 70 million

refugees around the globe who are living in a distress condition, he said and disclosed that human rights were now being trampled in 60 countries.

The chief of Amnesty, a non-government human rights watchdog, underlined the need for regional and international cooperation in securing human rights for teeming millions of the world.

"Human rights are the birth rights of every human being," the Australian-born Professor told the seminar held in observance of World Human Rights Day yesterday.

Referring to the Chittagong Hill Tracts issue, Prof Daniels said Amnesty had information on gross human rights violation there. He hoped the democratic government would take effective steps to secure human rights for every individual.

He urged the government

to ensure proper application of the anti-terrorism law, enacted to check violence-related offences.

Organised by Amnesty International Bangladesh, the seminar was also addressed by Barrister Ahmed Lutfar Rahman Sahjahan, Mohammad Kamaluddin and Mohammad Ataur Rahman.

Barrister Lutfar said torture in police custody in our country is a glaring example of human rights violation. Particularly, women and children in custody are the victims, he added.

Those arrested under the Anti-terrorism Act could be interrogated anytime and at any place, he said. It is a denial of human rights, he observed.

He said humanity should be given priority to secure human rights of thousands of maid servants in the country, he said.

Implementation of IWT-3 project stressed

By Staff Correspondent

Participants at a workshop of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) recommended that all the existing services of the corporation should continue to keep it as a service-oriented organisation.

The workshop, held Wednesday at Hotel Purbani on IWT-3 project was jointly organised by the World Bank (WB) and the BIWTC.

The Resident Representative of the WB, Christopher Willoughby, speaking at the workshop, stressed that need for quick implementation of the IWT-3 project.

The recommendations of the participants said that instead of a cut in the fleet of BIWTC, the exact requirement of the corporation should be determined.

Recommendations said the manpower of BIWTC should also be fixed according to the expansion of the corporation.



BIWTC Chairman Faruk Alam speaking at the inaugural function of IWT-3 project workshop at a local hotel Wednesday. Resident Representative of the World Bank Christopher Willoughby also attended the function.

Involve people with Mass Education Programme: Huda

KHULNA, Dec 10: State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda today called for involving people of all walks of life with the Primary and Mass Education Programme for its successful implementation, reports BSS.

The present government has undertaken massive programmes, including creation of a Primary and Mass Education Division, with a view to ensuring education for all by 2000, he added.

The State Minister was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural function of a day-long seminar on 'Role of administration and local government

in implementing mass and compulsory primary education' at Khulna Collectorate conference hall.

Organised by District Administration, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Divisional Commissioner Abdul Muktar Choudhury, Joint Secretary, Primary Education Division Khandakar Shahidul Islam and Deputy Commissioner Kazi Reazul Haque.

Terming education the key to national development, Huda said spread of education was indispensable for protecting democracy as well as achieving rights of the people.



Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury seeing off the Royal Malaysian Air Force chief Lt. General Dato Seri Haji Mohammad Yunus Bin Mohammad Tasi at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday. —ISPR photo

Weather

Night temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain dry with fair sky across the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday).

Met Office says night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

Country's highest temperature 27.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Sathkira while the lowest 9.6 degrees at Srimangal and Chudanga.

Sun sets today (Friday) at 5:12 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:31 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Thursdays were:

Cities/Towns	Temp in degree/Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	26.5	12.6
Chittagong	27.0	15.2
Khulna	26.4	12.1
Rajshahi	26.2	10.0
Dinajpur	25.2	10.0
Sylhet	26.0	13.6
Cox's Bazar	27.5	16.0
Barisal	27.0	12.4

Australian team due today

A 20 member Australian Rover-Renger delegation will arrive in Dhaka today (Friday) to participate in the Bangladesh-Australia Child Health Project, says press release.

Babri Mosque demolition

More organisations condemn, call for communal harmony

The Faridabad Prabin Majlish in an emergency meeting here on Tuesday expressed

indignation at the demolition of historic Babri Mosque in India, a press release said, reports BSS.

The Prabin Majlish, an organisation of the senior citizens of the Faridabad locality, called for punishment for the persons responsible for the barbaric act and urged the Indian government to rebuild the mosque at its original place.

It also appealed to the countrymen to maintain communal harmony.

The meeting was followed by a peace procession participated by the people of all ages, the press release said.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan yesterday called upon BNP workers for maintaining communal harmony and peace in the country with the spirit of Islam, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at a conference of party workers held at Kushtia circuit house.

The State Minister said, "... Islam teaches us to maintain peace in the society" and urged the workers to resist all attempts to disturb the communal harmony in the society.

Later, he presided over a meeting on canal digging programme of the district held at DC's office.

Speakers at another discussion meeting here Thursday condemned the destruction of 430 years old Babri Mosque.

They also criticised the attempt to destabilise peace and communal harmony in the country by certain quarters raising the issue of Ayodhya incident.

Addressing a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh National Buddhist Youth Federation on the occasion of World Human Rights Day, the speakers also called upon all to maintain peace and communal harmony.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority

Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in prescribed form are invited from bonafide printing press for printing & supply of various kinds of forms, envelopes, file covers etc.:

1. Tender No : CROM-57/92, dated 1.12.92.
2. Earnest Money : 2½ % of the quoted total amount (Refundable) through Pay Order/Call Deposit/Bank Draft from any Scheduled Bank in favour of BIWTA to be submitted along with the tender as earnest money.
3. Price of Tender Schedule : Tk. 50/- (fifty) (Non-Refundable).
4. Place where Tender Schedule will be sold : BIWTA, Accounts Deptt, 9th floor, BIWTA Bhaban, 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
5. Place, date and time of receiving tender : Purchase & Stores Deptt, Regional Office, 1st floor, BIWTA Bhaban, 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka up to 11-00 hours on 13-12-92.
6. Opening date and time of tender : At 11-15 hours on 13-12-92 in presence of the Tenderers, if any.

No tender schedule will be sold on the opening day and no tender will be received after scheduled date and time. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

PR-154/92

DFP (G) 21071/3/12
G-1586

Chawdhury Mohd. A. K. Azad
Director (P&S)

Chinese medicinal experts visit BCSIR

The visiting four member Chinese delegation led by Li Daming, Deputy Director General of State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, People's Republic of China called on Dr M Waluzzaman, Chairman Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) Dhaka yesterday, says a press release.

Flight Safety course certificate giving ceremony held

The certificate awarding ceremony of the ninth Flight Safety course of the Institute of the Bangladesh Air Force was held at the Air headquarters here yesterday, reports BSS.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury distributed certificates among the student officers as chief guest.

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Re-Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are invited for the following project as estimated cost mentioned against from the gas pipeline contractors under category 1.3 enlisted with the Company for the year 1991-92.

Project	Estimated construction cost (Tk)
Gas pipeline construction at Manikganj BSCIC Industrial Estate	2,15,618.00 only

Tender documents will be sold at a non-refundable cost of Tk. 400.00 (Taka four hundred) only per set from Company's Accounts & Finance Department on all working days from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm from 10-12-92 to 14-12-92 and shall have to be dropped in the tender box located at Pipeline Construction Department at Company's Head Office latest by 11:00 hours on 15-12-92 with Tk. 5000.00 (Taka five thousand) only as earnest money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh and documentary evidence of contractors VAT registration as per clause 15 of VAT Act, 1991 (if the firm's turnover is more than 5 (five) lac annually) where the VAT registration is not required a certificate in this regard from the concerned authority & other necessary documents. Tenders shall be opened on the same day at 11:30 hours in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

The contractors who have not completed 75% of running Pipeline/Riser construction projects (up to 31st October, 1992) and the contractors who will be determined as successful bidder for previously tendered Pipeline/Riser construction projects before last date of submission of this tender are not eligible to participate in the Tender. All other information enclosed within the Tender schedule.

The Company reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all the tenders without incurring any liability or assigning any reason whatsoever.

"গাছ লাগান, পাহের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

TGTDC-92/92-93
D-678

Manager

Pipeline Construction Department

Tender Notice

No 110-9/Engg

Dated : 7/12/92

University of Dhaka : Sealed tenders in Dhaka University form "Tender for works" are hereby invited from the enlisted contractors (Bldg/Furniture) of Dhaka University for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned up to 12 Noon on the dates mentioned against each work and opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence of the contractors who may remain present. Contractors will have to deposit as earnest money a sum of taka as stated below in Demand Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh. Specification and other particulars may be had from office of the undersigned all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender after depositing the cost of tender forms and schedule as stated below against each work to the Janata Bank, TSC branch (non-refundable) after showing the necessary enlistment papers endorsed by the undersigned.

Sl No	Name of Works	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Price of Tender Form	Time Allowed for Completion of the Work	Opening Date
1	Some essential repairs i/c painting, polishing, snowcem, colour washing works at V.C's House, D.U.	Tk. 1,28,313/77	Tk. 2566/=	Tk. 100/=	21 days	20th December, 1992
2	Additional & alteration work in the Computer Science (at Computer Centre) D.U.	Tk. 1,24,075/39	Tk. 2482/=	Tk. 100/=	30 days	20th December, 1992
3	Repairing the old furniture in the different offices, Deptts, & Institute of D.U. (2nd time tender)	Tk. 1,58,856/=	Tk. 3177/=	Tk. 100/=	30 days	20th December, 1992

D-680

Executive Engineer
University of Dhaka