worth only less than a

L cow or a goat. But now I

realize that as an individual I

parting ways with her husband.

she joined the cooperative and

today she is a community

leader. Through sheer deter-

mination and hard work she is

self reliant and is able to help

other women of her locality, to

work productively and improve

This hardship and determi-

nation, unusual strength to

break the chain of slavery by a

woman, her struggles and suc-

cess are all portrayed in a doc-

umentary video film 'Tale of a

Woman" (Ekjon Bulur Aakhyan)

country will always remain

contemptible, unless and until

they dare change their own

fortune. Their meek personal-

ity, submissive attitude to

wards everything, fear for es

tablishing their right will con-

tinue to worsen this discrimi-

nation. But among them are a

rare few who might emerge

strong and act as pathfinders

to others. Tale of a woman is a

documentary that projects

"(Michiler Mukh), also a

Protishabda production brings

another aspect - the harsh re-

ality - into focus. This docu-

mentary video film is about one

of the martyrs of the mass up-

rising of 1990. Monwar

Hossain born and brought up

in an alley, wasn't just a

dreamer. Even though he

wrote poems in a book with

flowers on its cover ... he was a

man of the streets. He couldn't

accept the cruelty injustice

around him; he voiced against

oppression, tried to resist the

autocracy. With people around

him, he became stronger than

his oppressor. He became a

martyr on Oct 10 '90, thus ig-

niting the fire to burn out all

This documentary film is

important because of the life

within it has a third dimension

besides the length and the

width," Prof Strajul Islam

Zakir Hossain Raju, the vi

Chowdhary commented

brant young writer and direc-

tor of both the documentaries.

tivists under the banner of

Protishobda Alternative

Communication Centre', PACC

with a view to building a coun-

try wide alternative audio-vi-

sual communication network.

leave mark of his creativeness

both at home and abroad. All

his documentaries have differ-

ent approach as and deep in

At 23, Raju has been able to

organised a group of media ac-

oppression and injustice.

"Face in the millions

such a determination.

The plight of women in our

a Protishabda production.

their living standard.

A Guide to Disaster Management

ANGLADESH, being the disaster-prone country it is, many of her concerned citizens have delved deeply on the subject of natural catastrophes - the most common being floods, cyclones and drought. There is precious little one can do about the last item beyond what is already being done by the government at various stages of its development since its post-liberation period; i.e. engaging in negotiations with its neighbouring countries concerning the flow of water from the mighty rivers which end up in Bangladesh.

Cyclones and floods however, fall in a different category and although no power on earth can "control" these natural forces, humans can certainly alleviate the suffering unleashed by them. Much research and soul-searching have gone into this subject - much more attention being paid to it than in the days of a rather indifferent administration in Islamabad; with the result that a whole plethora of studies have appeared covering its manifold aspects.

One of the latest of this genre is a monograph by Dr Faruq Aziz Khan, an adviser to Comilla Proshika. A host of information is compressed in this learned treatise and one will discover facts not readily available in other "more popular" publications. Most lay readers would wish however that the language was less technical and the style more journalistic. On the other hand, researchers may find this no barrier to the substantial facts laid bare.

Useful charts (dating from 1960) of historical records of the cyclones which have plagued the country, with its various maximum wind speed, height of storm surges and deaths are mapped out: as are brief descriptions of the "killer cyclones" of 1970, '85 and '91. A host of technical data concerning flood cycles, weather satellites and their role in

BOOK REVIEW

Living With Natural Hazards: Publisher: S Huq, House of Consultants Ltd. Author: Faruq Aziz Khan Tk 100. Pgs: 92

Reviewed by NANCY WONG

author has presented a wide range of facts dealing with cy-Living with clones and flood which periodi cally haunt Bangladesh. Some Natural Hazards useful suggestions such as spe-

aster strikes, starting from the school level, is certainly worth implementing. One is reminded of the thorough educational programmes and regular drills instituted by the Japanese government in preparing their citizens for earthquakes. A friend posted in Tokyo was highly impressed by the fact that every school knows precisely where to send its students and what to do in the event of an earthquake; to ensure safety for all.

undertaken to educate the peo-

pic about what to do when dis-

While this monography may not end up as a popular bestseller, all concerned with disaster management will find it most relevant.



A Tale of the Patriots



Muktijuddhe Noi Mash (Nine Months in the Liberation War) by Major General MSA Bhuiyan Publisher: Ahmed Publi shing House

Reviewed by A K M Salahuddin Ahmed

UKTIJUDDIJE Noi Mash" is the first book of its type written on Liberation War. The first edition was published in June 1972, the second in November 1974 and the third

in February last. The book contains the war time experience of a valiant freedom fighter of the heroic struggle of liberation of the Bangalees. The author not only dedicated himself in the war of independence but also took the responsibility of organising the liberation war as because the Bangalees in 1971 were respectful to their race and were promise bound to their own blood. The author's respectfulness is expressed in the note of dedication of the book. While dedicating his book for the new generation, he said, "Remember, you are our children. It was for you that we took up arms so that you can live in an independent country with your heads up and hoist a flag of your own."

"Believe me, leaving you alone on your mothers' laps we took a vow not to return home till we liberate this country. We kept on fighting days after days without food and without sleep to make this country worth living for you. Please save this country even at the cost of your lives. Don't ever let lose the right of succession."

"Remember, you are sons of this soil. I fervently pray that none can ever question your patriotism be qualified all

through". The expression that has been revealed in the above

freedom fighter's pen alone. . The initial days of the liberation war has been very well described in this book. The war of Kumira in Chittagong is

BANGLADESH

weather forecasting will proba-

bly enlighten serious readers of

this subject. A lot of people who

may not be aware of the won-

ders of modern science will be

reassured by the knowledge

that space meteorology (with

equipment provided by USAID

and NASA) play a vital role in

weather forecasting and is alive

Avoiding all efforts to hu-

manize the face of disaster, the

and well here.

really every touching. The author led this battle along with EPR. Police and Army's combined forces against Pakistan Army. Apart from this, details of the famous battle of Montala. Taltapara and Akhaura are also described in this book. Not only the details of war, but a good number of adventurous experiences and post-war memories have also been incorporated in this volume of 160 pages. Moreover, there is a chapter on 25th March -

revenge to take In one of the chapters, it is mentioned that on the first encounter of 26th March night the enemy suffered severe causalities. Two officers and 150 soldiers died including the Pakistani Battalian Com mander Lieutenant Colonel Shahpur Khan. Two trucks of ammunition were captured. Fourteen of our valiant freedom fighters sacrificed

On the night before, that is on the 25th March, Major Zia drafted his historic speech. He then translated the speech into English and read out from Chittagong Radio Centre in both Bengali and English. He did realise that people would not response to his call and on the contrary, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was under the custody of Pakistanis. How could he announce the name of Sheikh Mujib while he was not pre-

the next day's transmission he declared that he was conducting the liberation war on behalf

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was not an individual the symbol of freedom movement, a source of revolutionary lie needed to be publicised as a source of inspiration for the liberation war.

It is now well conceived that the inclusion of the name of Sheikh Mujib in Major Zia's speech had a positive impact which gained momentum in the liberation war and that helped the issue to take a political colour.

The author in his description of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra wrote that, he made request to all in the Chittagong Radio through a broadcast to report to "Laldighir Maidan" with available arms. Because, on 29th March it was seen that people from all corners of Chittagong were fleeing towards their home through Chittagong - Cox's Bazar and Chittagong - Kaptai road. Chittagong Radio at that time repeatedly broadcasted to report to Captain Bhutyan at Laldighir Maidan with avail-

The truth, of course, has

comrade Lieutenant Badiuzza man who became a martyr, about valiant hero Dula who fought fearlessly. Dula's contribution has not been ascertained anywhere. But the author has done so as a cofighter. Dula used to visit him from time to time. While the third publication of this book was on the offing, Dula appeared all on a sudden to meet the author and explained about his financial hardship. The author helped him by giving him some money and asked him to keep in touch if anything could be done for him. While talking · to the author, Dula with a sigh of frustration questioned him, Sir, I fought with you. The country got liberated. But look at mc. You did not even give me a medal."

The author remained quiet Dula's voice appeared to be very sad, soaked. He did not find any language to console Dula Mian. Yet, he said, "Does everybody get a medal"?

"Sir, I have not seen many in' the front. Still they got awards. But I was almost dying in the front.

"Many of the fighters did not get gallantry awards, like you. Look Dula, we did not fight for any medals. We fought for the independence. The country has became independent. What else could we ask

Dula rinses his tears. His sentiment was heart touching Dula could have been honoured with a gallantry award. If the actual heroes are not given due recognition, no one would volunteer to fight for the country in future.

Countless freedom fighters like Dula Mian fought a great battle and gave birth to a state.

A good number of symbolic photographs has been placed in the book whose captions are also exceptional. For example, the 7th March historic meeting at Suhrawardi Uddayan has been eaptioned as "A flag. Bangabandhu and Bangalees. A group of freedom fighters has been captioned as "An outburst of fire". The caption of Pakistani surrender is "The soil of Bengal an unconquerable fort, Let the robbers know".

The book is full of emotion and initiative of a freedom fighter which strongly speaks of his patriotism. Plain language and simple presentation has enlightened the book. The book should be read by all, at least those who want to know the nation, the country and its

It is very essential for the new generation, to whom the author has dedicated this book. The printing of the third edition, the binding and the cover page by Mr Mazumder is eye catching. Ahmed publishing House deserve to be thanked for the quick publication of the third edition.

Video Movies: Alternative Communication !! Tused to think I was

REVIEW

by Raffat Binte Rashid am just as important as a man. A woman can accomplish as much as a man can do, there is sights. A 59-minute film 'Miles no difference." This is the to Go (Durer Jatra) was on the realization of Shahimuda Bulu, parliamentary election of 1991, depicting the contema grassroots development activist, working as a field porary socio-political situation organizer of Banchete of the country. Besides, a news Shekha," a rural cooperative reel video, "Bangladesh for destitute women. Her February 1992," focused on 10 conjugal life is a repetition of different issues of the month the same story of thousands of February, Rohingya, Ekushey, women in Bangladesh. After book Fair, and others.

"PACC aims at encouraging a greater sense of responsibility. professionalism among alternative media practitioners, to foster a horizontal exchange of ideas, information and experience within Bangladesh, so

sponsible and active and because of his initiative, this workshop was possible for the second time. In fact the public response was very encouraging both the times. Doctors, NGO workers, writers, journalists. filmmakers, MBA's, different people with different experiences took part in this workshop," Levy informed.

Actually short films and documentances are able to hold the attention of the general audience more. It's like the commercials - within a very short span of time they grab the viewer's mind in a creative

ing these shots together with modern technology, I am sure, much niore appreciating films are possible in future. Even though there are limits to filming here but editing is done on a very professional manner. Levy commented. Girls and boys here are very organised, they plan a

drawings, paintings and blend-

pre-production script, make a story board and then go for a good shooting. They are very creative and enterprising. Within their boundaries they are able to produce their best I think the girls are much stronger and creative, they should definitely be given a chance. The males with their chauvinistic attitudes are not bad either," Levy added laugh



I used to think I was worth less than a cow or a goat. But now I realize that as an included. I am just as important as a man: Tale of a Woman.

that the potential of alternative communication for develop ment is more fully realized and explored by the organization and individuals engaged in

scribed. "To help others in this domain, PACC organised video workshops jointly with the Asian Mass Communication Research and Information centre (AMIC) Singapore, once in 1992 and again this year. These workshops are attended by various people from different walks of life, interested in refining their skill," Raju said.

similar activities," Raju de-

These workshops were instructed by Wayne Royal Levy, head of Media Production, Deakin University of Melbourne, Australia,. "I am extremely happy to be in Bangladesh again, my young friend Raju here is very reindividualistic way; whatever hard message it carries is conveved instantly for sure.

market is booming, there's a lot to be done and can be done here. Documentary films can be educational, teaching the people about environment conservation, health and hygiene as well as harsh social issues, he said. "Raju's Tale of a Woman is

exceptional. I must congratulate this young man. With limited and just basic instruments, like cameras and tripods, he has managed such an exciting film. The girls and boys of Bangladesh are very creative; it is because of their rich, colourful heritage and culture. People here are very visually-oriented. I mean your literature, your traditions, like



Waiting for the outcome: Miles to ao

brother, shot-dead in a procession: Face in the Wayne Levy, a lively instructor, gave small tips on shots -In Bangladesh the video

Repeated knocking at the door. Raising her face,

the girl looks up to see a corpse, the corpse of her

long and short, close ups, interviews and many other positions which helped every eager student. The students had an outdoor shooting class and with a day's editing the class projects were screened at Goethe Institut. Wayne Levy is presently supervising such workshops in India, the Philippines and Singapore. Student -taking part in the course were very much encourage to boost video technology in Bangladesh. Until very recently short

him meant little more than government newsreels or propaganda documentaries in the service of the leaders and parties in power. But these young men with an inexhaustible zest for life are out to set new boundaries and expand the spectrum. Protish abda Alternative Communi cation Centre has set a new trend of low cost filmmaking. Finding the 35 or 16 mm film out of reach, they set out with easily accessible VIIS cameras. and fearless spirit to do what they think is the best way to make the under privileged understand their stand better. Their works have priority access to grassroots people. mid-level development activists, social workers and media-activists.

PACC within its mini world is bound to reach to the skies of Monowar's dream or break the invisible chains of Bulu's life. It has set out on a mission

Andaman Islands: A Holiday Spot

TOU may have read about the Andaman Islands in a novel or a history book. If you have, it was probably described to you as a penal colony, where many Indian freedom fighters were tortured and imprisoned for life. All of this is true; however, what you may not know is that the Andaman Islands have recently become a popular tourist destination. I know that because it was to these islands that I and my fellow classmates took off to

for our annual school trip. Indian Airlines flies to the town of Port Blair every other day from Madras and Calcutta. Since Calcutta is closer to us, that is the route which we followed. We arrived in the South Andamans the morning after we had left Dhaka. Upon my arrival, I-was greeted with the gently, cool breeze of perfect island weather, which, except for some occasional rainfall, lasted throughout my journey. A tourist bus came to the tiny, one-room airport to pick me

By a Correspondent and my fellow travellers up and take us to the Andaman Beach Resort. Now, when you hear the words Beach Resort, don't think of Club-Med or anything. This is a modest, medium sized, two

storied hotel with one restaurant and a tiny store where you can buy postcards. However, it was an ideal place to stay. It was about 100 metres from the beach, the service was excellent, and the food was indescribably yummy.

Besides the sandy white shores of the beaches, there were many interesting places to visit in and around Port Blair, The first place we went to was what they call the Cellular Jail. Much of the mystery that shrouds the Andaman Islands can be attributed to the fact that it was used as a penal colony by the British during the early part of the century. Political prisoners would disappear onto the waters of the Andaman Sea, never to be seen

or heard from again. The huge seven-winged fail was built in the late eighteen hundreds. It has now become a national monument, and honors the hundreds of men who died there. Every night, there is a sound and light show at the Cellular Jail which recounts and illustrates the atrocitics which were committed there by the British, and then by the Japanese, who took over the Andaman Islands during World War II. It's actually quite an eerie place at night, and sometimes you get the feeling that all those bruised souls are somehow lurking in the shadows.

Another mystery that surrounds the Andamans is the story of their indigenous people The Islands are classified as a restricted area and tourists are only allowed to visit certain parts of it. The Indian government has done this because there are a few tribes in the scattered islands which are on the verge of extinction. These tribes are primitive—they know

nothing about the outside world, and many are even hostile. Their tools and technology are so minimal that they are said to be somewhere in the Stone Ages. Upon my visit to the Andamans, the most I was able to see of these people were the pictures I saw in the Anthropological Museum in Port Blair, For what I could see, they looked rather happy to remain undisturbed and untouched by

history. There are several smaller islands surrounding the large one on which we stayed, and we payed a visit to one of these; named Jolly Bouy. The warm, shallow waters surrounding these small islands are ideal conditions for the growth of coral reefs, which adorn the waters around the islands. The coral, with its abundance of colors and shapes, was a beautiful sight, and the tiny fish which kept swimming between the reefs made the whole scene seem like something out of a fantasy novel.

The Andamans were an ideal place to visit. Besides the natural beauty, there were historical sights as well. And I forgot to mention, if you're a museum fan, there are about ten small museums in Pro Blair with almost every aspect of Andamanian life on display. So if you're looking for an interesting holiday spot, I highly recommend the Andaman Islands

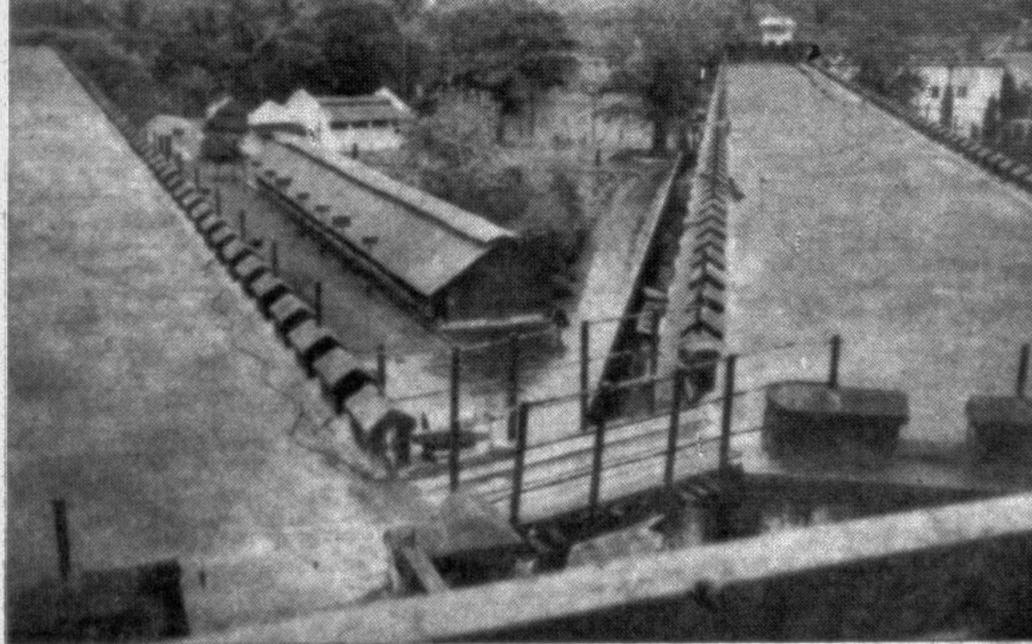
Language

Continued from page 10 ness in the world with their knowledge of different lan-

guages.

While speaking about the utility of languages, Madame De Stacl, a feminist writer, said "Ner vier Sprachen kann, er hat den nert von vier Menschen." (He who speaks four languages, has the value of four men).

Both Liaquat and Ashik are the vivid examples of Madame De Stacl's words. Because they have proved it in their lives which is very rare in the coun-



The infamous and famous Collular Jull

stanzas could come out of a sent. But for a greater cause, in FROM BOSNIA TO MALAYSIA

Continued from page 9

Besides Dosnian language, they are being taught English, Arabic and even Malaysian language Indiasa. Opportunities of higher studies for those who need have also been made.

AlsiM has provided jely for a dozen of Bosnian wanten while efforts are being made for oth-

There are many skilled and semi-skilled workers are a these Bosntaris, so it would be be difficult to find jobs tot them, said an ABIM official. Prima Bosnia-Herzegovina to

Michaysia - it is a long way. Culture and environment of the fwo countries are different.

Nevertheless, these ill-fated Bosnians had to seek refuge in Malaysia only to save themscives from atrocities and genocide unleashed by Serbs and

'Arc you happy here?', this common question was put forward to Dr Ermina and some others at the Kajang camp.

And there was a common as swer, with different expresstate at different times: "We are in safety, no doubt about that - but can we be happy living lar away from home with uncertain future?"

Photos used with this story are by the author and Pauline

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This was told because

only to the Bangalces. He was a history all by himself. He was spirit. There was no choice but to use his name to induce the Bangalees for the liberation war. The war of independence that started on the morning of 26th March 1971 did require a call to the Bangalees on the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. If the people had known that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was under custody of Pakistan Army and he was not with the freedom fighters, the start would have been full of chaos and confusion only. And that is why, knowing fully well, this

able weapons. been revealed now. Everybody has now come to know that this announcement from Chittagong Radio was a fake one to deceive the Pakistanis. It is beyond any doubt that there had been lot of confusion at that time.

In addition to this, the author in his book, has mentioned about his mother, his