

Dhaka Day by Day

Reviving the Spirit of Liberation

We devote this space to the memory of Shaheed (martyr) families from today to 16th December — the Victory Day.

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

As the son of a martyr of '71's liberation, Notok does not demand much. All he wants is for people to know the truth about his father and millions like him who sacrificed their lives for an independent Bangladesh. All he wants is to cleanse our history books of the lies that have distorted our memory as well as our conscience.

Notok Kishore Aditya is a member of Projonmo Ekattor, an organisation that consists of the children of martyrs of the Liberation War. This is a unique group, united in their sorrow, and committed to keeping the spirit of liberation alive.

Notok tries to keep his voice calm, but it is choked with emotion as he relates his parents' story. It was a cloudy day on April 4, 1971. The ashram (where devotees assemble and reside) called Shat Sangha located 22 kilometres away from Tangail where Pali Mohan Aditya worked, had already been attacked several times by the Pak army. The temple's dome was blown off by shell fire and a helicopter hovered ominously in the sky. The ashram, once filled with homeless people from all over the country and often the shelter for MuktiJoddhas, was completely deserted. Only Mohan, Notok's father had stayed on. "My father," says Notok, "used to help the Mukti Bahini by hiding them, giving them food, medicine etc. On that day, while trying to escape, he was shot by three bullets. The bullets went through his chest and he fell next to the temple steps."

Notok continues the grisly story as recounted by his father's brother: "The soldier then ran and kicked my father's face, shouting, 'Tell me where they (the MuktiJoddhas) are'. By that time my father's blood had soaked the ground. They dragged him around and then stabbed him again and again with their bayonets. Seeing this, someone who had been hiding in the ashram ran forward but he was shot down too."

It was only later that Notok's uncle found Aditya bleeding and mutilated by bayonets. Aditya passed away just as the evening prayers at the temple concluded, leaving behind Notok, his only child, and his wife. Soon after, Notok's mother was kidnapped by Razakars never to return.

The anguish of losing both parents still haunts Notok even after 22 years. Yet he wants to believe that they died for something worthwhile — for freedom of their country. Speaking of Projonma Ekattor, Notok says, "We the children of the shaheeds want to bring out the real history that has been distorted for so long. We want to keep the spirit of the liberation alive."

For one thing the organisation is trying to locate shaheed families and make a list of the chil-

dren. Commenting on the rise of fundamentalism that has amounted to an anti-liberation movement, Notok says, "Thirty lakh shaheeds sacrificed their lives for this independence. We will never let it be destroyed or compromised. First by uniting all shaheed families it will be just like '71 and we will defeat the anti-liberation forces."

At the government level, Notok says Projonmo will appeal for an active observance of days that signify the Liberation War — 14th December, 16th December, 26th March etc. He believes that with the help of the government the history books

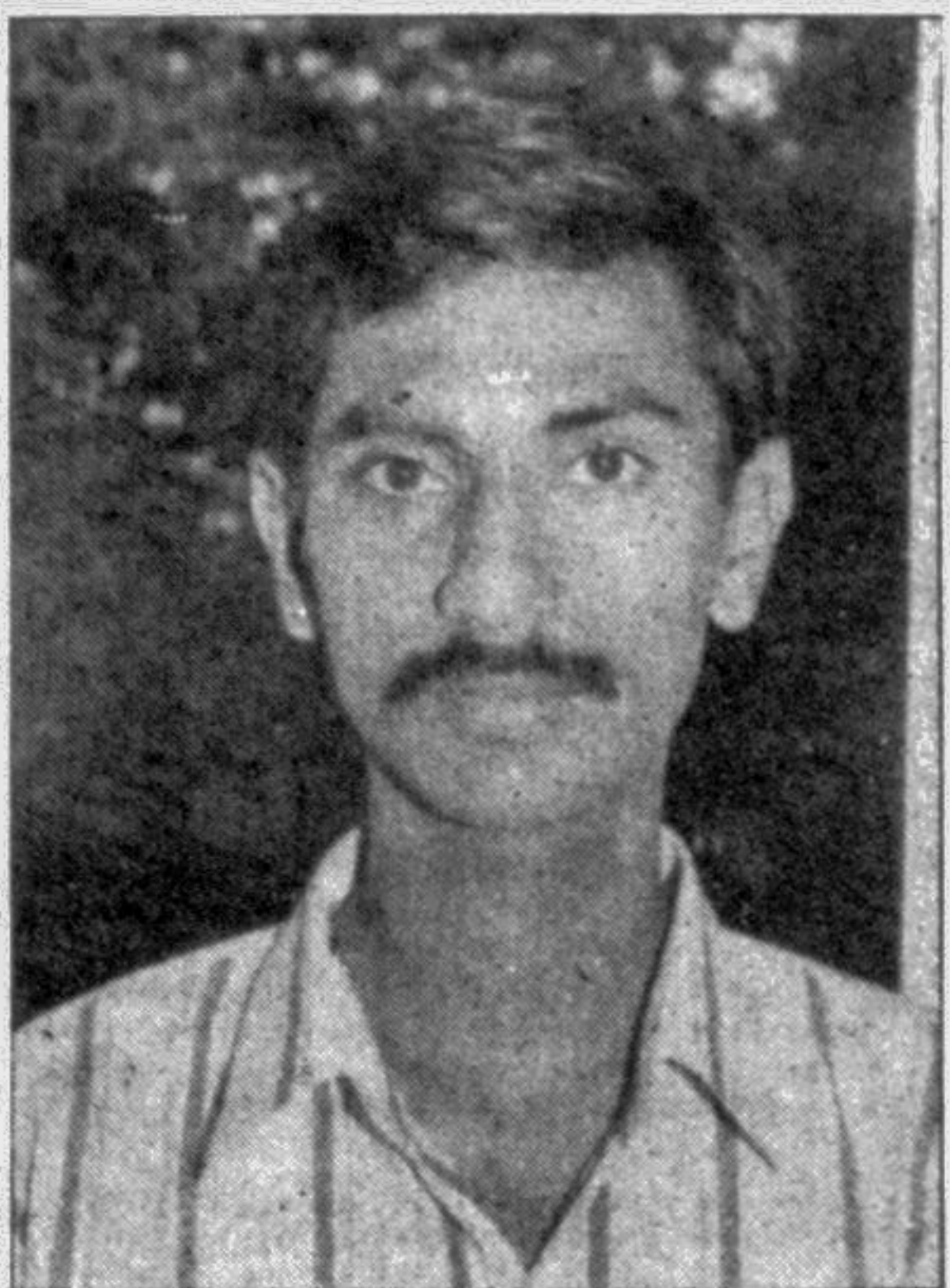
should be corrected and be based on factual information. "Now, the Razakars are going to the Smriti Saudha pretending to show their respects as if they are the ones who fought for independence," he says bitterly. "We want to teach our own generation and generations to come the difference between a Razakar and a MuktiJoddha."

Notok agrees that there is a distinct link between the movement away from secular thinking and a diminishing of the spirit of liberation that is beginning to creep into our culture. "The people from whom we snatched our independence now have all the power, they want to take us back to pre-independent times," he says. "We no longer have the secularism we fought for. We should be able to practice our own religion. In '71 we were all the same — Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist Christian — all brothers united for a single cause."

What about the growing apathy of people of his own generation towards the Liberation Movement? Notok says that they should be given the facts through various agents, especially the media — radio, TV, newspapers etc. "We want to show them what happened and what is still going on. We don't have as much power as our shaheeds of '71, but if we are encouraged and supported at all levels, we can certainly inspire the young generation," he adds.

Notok is a Management Honours student at Jagannath University. His thoughts on democracy: "The democracy that we fought for — to put a smile on the face of the poor, on the workers". We have not been able to bring that kind of democracy. Now independence is just a word, it has no form in reality."

This kind of cynicism, however, does not stop Notok and fellow members of Projonmo Ekattor to carry on their task. This is to keep the memory of their parents, of the liberation, alive. For them this is not just a duty, but the only way to live with their unbearable loss.



Notok Kishore Aditya

DU Bangabandhu Hall team calls on Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said that peaceful and congenial atmosphere must be maintained on the campus for uninterrupted continuation of academic session in the university, reports UNB.

Biswas told an eight-member delegation of the provost, resident teachers and vice-president and general secretary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall students union of Dhaka University called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Exchanging views with the professors and student leaders, the President said there should be strong will and determination of the general students to keep the campus free from terrorism.

Earlier, the members of the delegation apprised the President of some of the problems of the students and the hall. They informed him that they would undertake a study tour to the SAARC countries and sought his cooperation.

Dr HKS Arefin and Mohammad Hamiduzzaman Khan, resident teachers, SM Nazrul Islam, VP, Mohammad Shaheen Uddin Shaheen, general secretary, and Mohammad Khalequzzaman Juel, Mohammad Saiful Islam Niru and Mohammad Saiful Islam of the hall students union were present.

Happy Birthday To



BORSHA

lots of love

From: Abbu, Ammu, Dada, Dadi, Nani, Nani Bhai, Uncles & Aunties and all cousins.

Welcome to Dhaka



Faisal Dear
Nana, Nani, Mama

POPULATION PROGRAM POSITION OPENING THE ASIA FOUNDATION

Applicants are invited to apply for the position of Deputy Population Program Manager. This individual assists the Population Program Manager in the operational management of the Population Program, which provides service delivery funding to 26 NGO sub-grantees. Candidates must be Bangladeshi nationals.

QUALIFICATIONS : A master's degree in public health, public policy, social sciences, health care management or other related field. Administrative experience in public health and/or population/family planning programming preferred. Supervisory experience, strong analytical and planning skills, and proficient computer skills required. Candidate must have a demonstrated high level of English verbal and writing skills.

APPLICATION DEADLINE : Applications and curriculum vitae are due to the Population Program Manager, The Asia Foundation, G. P. O. Box 666, Dhaka-1000 by **JANUARY 6, 1994**.

The Asia Foundation is an equal opportunity employer. Female and minority candidates are encouraged to apply. D-890

Int'l plant tissue culture confce begins Dec 19

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day international plant tissue culture conference organised by the Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture begins in the capital on December 19.

The conference will be sponsored by FAO, UNESCO, BARC, Dhaka University, Third World Academy of Science and Ministry of Science and Technology.

Over 60 scientists from Korea, China, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Australia, Singapore, Austria, Germany, Finland, Canada, USA, Mexico and 50 from host Bangladesh would participate in the conference.

The theme of the conference will be the "application of plant tissue culture for crop development" another important feature would be a special session on "neem" plant and its multifarious uses as a biopesticide, bio fertilizer, a potent antifertility drug and its role for conservation of nature.

Painting show begins at La Galerie today

By Staff Correspondent

La Galerie, a pioneer in promoting art and artists through running a professional gallery and holding exhibitions, will celebrate its 5th founding anniversary through holding a week-long show — beginning today — and by a hold an auction on December 17.

The exhibition will remain open for all from 9 am to 8 pm everyday till December 16. The auction will be held on December 17 with the bidding starting at 11:30 am by auctioneer Tim Bridges.

The Galerie opened with a collector's art exhibition on June 26, 1988. Ever since La Galerie has not looked back but kept on holding exhibitions one after another of artists young and old known and unknown. Till date 89 exhibitions have been held at the Galerie.



BTV Friday

Morning session

- 8:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran
- 8:10 Programme summary
- 8:20 News in Bangla
- 8:20 Alor Dishari
- 8:40 Natun Kuri
- 10:05 Moner Mukurey: Ayomayo (5th episode)
- 11:15 Film show: Taarzan
- 11:40 Shasthya Katha
- 11:55 Film show: Border Town
- 12:30 Closing

Afternoon session

- 3:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran
- 3:15 Programme summary
- 3:15 Cartoon show: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 3:40 Movie of the week: Moment to Moment
- 5:25 Sports programme: Athletics
- 7:00 Malancha
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
- 9:00 Magazine: Manobadhiker
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 special programme on World Human Rights Day
- 10:55 Drama series: LA Law
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme Summary
- 11:45 Closing



Jean-Michel Lacombe, Ambassador of France in Bangladesh, speaking as special guest at the closing ceremony of the fortnight-long seminar on Narcotics Control yesterday at the auditorium of the Alliance Francaise. The seminar was jointly organised by French Embassy in Dhaka and the Department of Narcotics Control. — Star photo

Int'l seminar on lathyrism begins today

The three-day second international seminar on lathyrism begins in the capital today with specialists from 16 nations participating, reports BSS.

The seminar, the third of its kind in Bangladesh, will highlight various aspects of lathyrism as a crippling disease and

its remedies in the present socio-economic context.

The seminar is being sponsored jointly by Crop Diversification Program (CDP), Commission of the European Community (EEC), Belgium Ministry for Development Cooperation (BMDC) and the

University of Gent (Belgium).

The seminar, which opens at 10 am at Hotel Sheraton, will be participated by more than 50 researchers, scientists, nutritionists and academicians from 16 countries including Canada, USA, Belgium, UK, Japan, India, Australia and Pakistan.

BOL
Bangladesh Oxygen Limited

Announcement

Dividend recommended for 1992/93 — Tk. 3.60 per share (36%)

Date of next AGM }
Book closure dates } To be announced shortly

The Annual Report for 1993 and Notice of AGM will be sent to all shareholders in due course.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Apex Tannery Group is involved in the manufacture and export of quality Finished Leather, Leather Garments, Leather Shoes and Leather Goods. In order to achieve its expansion/diversification goals Apex Tannery Group invites applications for the following positions:

Position	Vacancy	Qualifications
GENERAL MANAGER	3	Responsible to the Board, the desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be 35 to 45 years of age ● have an MBA and/or engineering background ● have minimum 10-15 years mid-senior level managerial experience preferably in export oriented industry ● be currently earning minimum Tk. 25,000 per month.
MANAGER (Finance)	3	Reporting to the General Manager, the desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be a C. A./I.C.M.A. with 5-10 years experience ● be able to formulate and implement a MIS system to generate profitability and other financial data ● be currently earning minimum Tk. 12,000 per month.
MANAGER (Administration)	2	Reporting to the General Manager, the desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● have at least 10 years experience in administration ● possess thorough knowledge of legal and statutory requirements regarding employment ● be able to formulate and implement administrative and human resource development policies ● be currently earning minimum Tk. 12,000 per month.
MANAGER (Commercial)	1	Reporting to the General Manager, the desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● have an MBA/Masters degree ● have minimum 5-10 years experience in export oriented industry ● be currently earning minimum Tk. 12,000 per month.
EXECUTIVE	2	Reporting to the responsible Manager, the desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● have minimum 3 years work experience ● have an MBA/Masters in Management or Finance ● have strong communication and planning skills.
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	2	Working for senior management, the desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be completely fluent in spoken & written English ● be able to perform support and liaison functions for senior management ● be able to deal with foreign nationals and senior officials ● Shorthand, language and computer skills will be added advantage.
FACTORY ENGINEER	2	The desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be a B.Sc. Mechanical Engineer minimum 2nd class ● have minimum 5 years practical experience in maintenance ● have prior experience in developing/improving production systems ● be currently earning minimum Tk. 7,000 per month.
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	2	The desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● have a background in design/engineering ● be interested to work with fashionable/consumer products ● have prior work experience involving creativity and/or innovation.
LABOUR OFFICER	2	The desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● have 5-10 years experience in labour administration with a minimum of 300 workers ● be conversant with relevant legal and statutory requirements ● be currently earning minimum Tk. 7,000 per month.
LINE SUPERVISOR	4	The desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be a Diploma Engineer ● be maximum 25 years old ● be interested in pursuing a career in production.
ITALIAN INTERPRETER	2	The desired candidate(s) should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be fluent in written and spoken Italian and Bengali ● have some prior interpretation experience ● be interested to work in an Italian joint venture.

Apex Tannery Group strongly encourages applications from qualified candidates (male / female) for all of the above positions.

Compensation packages will be commensurate with the qualifications and positions of the individuals and include other benefits such as transport, stock options where appropriate.

Interested candidates are requested to send their complete resume with two recent photos and personal reference by **December 30, 1993** to:

Director, Apex Tannery Group
65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

All applications will be strictly confidential and only short listed individuals will be notified. Any solicitation or canvassing on behalf of candidates will result in disqualification of candidature.