istrative capital Ankara. It was a good feeling to be the Head of Mission at the first foreign posting at the age of twentyfive. Communications including telecommunications were not what they are today. Ankara was a faraway city. where the Ambassador reigned. From my Istanbul office I used to bring out a fortnightly magazine in Turkish called Pakistan Postasi (Pakistan Post). The magazine contained news and mostly illustrated features on Pakistan. The role of poet Mohammad lgbal in the creation of Pakistan, Igbal used to be the main vehicle. Iqbal had also written about the martyrs of the Balkan war, which stirred the feeling of the Turks. Along with Pakistan, Day, we used to observe in the Missions Iqbal day. Our information Secretary Mohammad Ikram, a former ICS officer was a great devotee of Iqbal. On Iqbal Day I distributed articles to Turkish newspapers. A young foreign editor of an evening daily, Hifzi Topuz, whom I see even now, used to make fun whenever I appeared at his office door by asking 'what is the latest on Igbal'? The editor of my fortnightly Pakistan Postasi was a young intellectual Turkkaya Ataov (now Dr Ataov, professor of political science in Ankara, whom also I meet now). I asked Ataov to translate Nazruls epic poem Kama Pasha. I did the translation from Bengali to English. Ataov was young and enthusiastic like myself and did a superb job. That a poet sitting thou-

Remembering Nazrul

by Arshad-us-Zaman



sands of miles away would de- Pakistan although my normal scribe so vividly the victorious march of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk - the rhythm, the ecstasy of victory — profoundly moved my friend and colleague Ataov, scion of a martial people. This was printed in our Pakistan Postasi. Our magazine had a tiny circulation but it was distributed to all in the media and intellectuals. It took everyone by storm. Ataov's translation was reprinted by many newspaper.

My next encounter with Nazrul was in 1970. I had managed a transfer to Dhaka as the Director of Public Relations and Joint Secretary to the Government of East

place of posting should have been Islamabad. I had visited Dhaka a year before and had become convinced that my motherland was on the anvil of big events. In 1970 a Turkish press delegation visited Pakistan. The Foreign Secretary Sultan Mohammad Khan, with whom I had served in Turkey, asked me to accompany the delegation in its visit to various parts of Pakistan. In the delegation there was my friend Shevket Rado, editor of the largest pictorial weekly. During their visit to Dhaka, they had a complete exposure to cultural life here. Nazrul fascinated them. They

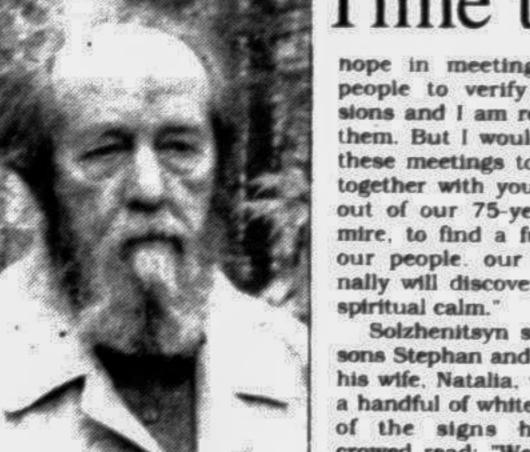
were trilled by the performances at the Bulbul Academy. In my Directorate of Public Relations there was a film division whose head was Abul Khair, well known actor of film and stage. He came with the proposal for a film on Nazrul, first such venture by our department. I gave it my enthusiastic support. Abul Khair, who had unbounded energy, set about the task thoroughly. He travelled everywhere including Churulia, the birth place of the poet in Burdwan in West Bengal. He went to Karachi. where the poet had been stationed during his career in the army. Khair prepared a fine colour documentary on Nazrul, which was ready in early 1971 Political events had taken a dramatic turn and neither Khair nor I had any interest in releasing the film then.

Shortly after the beginning of the War of Liberation Abul Khair told me that he wanted to move to Calcutta, like many others, because he felt he might be arrested by the Pakistani military since he was so frequently in the house of Bangabandhu at Road 32. Dhanmandi R/A. I tried to hold him back by saying that the Pakistan military would arrest me first since I was also frequently at that address. Finally in the middle of 1971 Khair went over to Calcutta with the Nazrul film securely under his arm. After Liberation Khair returned with the Nazrul film. In a cinema hall in Dhaka n free Bangladesh we screened the film with President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury as Chief Guest.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman brought Nazrul Islam from Calcutta to Dhaka. He lived in a house in Dhanmondi. Like thousands of other Bengalis I visited the poet, whose soul-stirring poems had inspired us all. He is best described as the meteor. which appeared on the skies of bengal, cut a majestic path burnt out and fell in a long si lence as he had written in has

unforgettable poems.

Solzhenitsyn has No Time for Writing: "It's Time to Start Rebuilding Russia"



REETED with bread and -salt and the emotional cheers of thousands. Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to his homeland last Friday after 20 years of exile and said he will never write again. "I have already written all of my books and fulfilled my literary task, he told the ITAR-Tass news agency. "Now I don't have any time for writing. It's time to start the hard work of rebuilding and reviving

Solzhenitsyn's writings got him sent to the gulag as a young man in World War II and expelled from the Soviet Urnon in KGB handcuffs. His works detailing the cruelty of the communist system also won him the Nobel Prize in literature and acclaim as Russia's conscience and greatest living writer.

Solzhenitsyn, 75, looked pale and tired after his 38hour trip from Vermont. "Hurrah!" shouted about 6,000 people who had stood in the rain for hours waiting for him to arrive.

"I know I am coming to a Russia that is torn, discouraged, disoriented, changed beyond recognition, convulsively searching for itself, for its own true identity," Solzhenitsyn said in a 10-minute speech.

nope in meeting with many people to verify my impressions and I am ready to revise them. But I would like during these meetings to help to find together with you a true path out of our 75-year-old quagmire, to find a future so that our people, our children, flnally will discover the light of

Solzhenitsyn stood with his sons Stephan and Yermolai and his wife, Natalia, who clutched a handful of white flowers. One of the signs held by the crowed read: "We ask for forgiveness, Welcome to your homeland. Before you all of Mother Russia is waiting for

Someone asked him whether Russia could be revived. "Yes," he said. "It will be difficult, not easy or fast, but we have lived through other hard times... Truly, our fate is in our own hands, beginning with every step of life, with every small choice.... How life goes depends on us, and not on how someone from above in Moscow or somewhere else sends down a decision."

From Vladivostok, Solzhen itsyn plans to travel by train across the country to see the sweeping changes Russia has undergone since he was exiled from the then-Communist police state under KGB guard in February 1974

He will live in a red brick home over looking the Moscow River on the outskirts of the

On his first stop on Russian soil in the Far Eastern city of Magadan, Solzhenitsyn stooped and touched the ground, looking exultant as a crowd of journalists and well-wishers pressed around him. "I am so overwhelmed with so may different kinds of emotions," he

Solzhenitsyn paid homage to those who perished in

labour camps in the region. the symbolic heart of the Soviet penal camp system. Magadan is in the Kolyma region. where an estimated three million inmates died in the camps from exposure and exhaustion. T come to bow to the Kolyma land where may hundreds of thousands of our countrymen, who were executed, are buried... - Today, in this period with so much political change, people easily forget these millions of victims." he said in a voice throbbing with

Solzhenitsyn, who hopes to

in the bleak distance of eternity.

problems. "The sources of today's flood of problems in the land are from those times," he said. 'According to ancient Christian" tradition, the earth is where the innocent victims are buried and it becomes holy, and we will hope that the Kolyma region will become the light for the future recovery of

serve as an inspiration to Rus-

sia as it wrestles with the

transition from communism.

blamed the oppression of the

Stalin era for many of Russia's

AP report from Vladivostok



Gazi Abdulla-hel-Baqui, Assistant Registrar, Khulna and part-time teacher of English, Khulna University took part in an open to everyone international poetry contest "A Poem for Peace" in English, French, Italian, Spanish and German held at Torino in Italy in April 1994 and was awarded 'Prize of Merit." His poem "Peace Lost and Regained" which is published in a special book by Centro Studi Cultura e Societa is reproduced below.

Russia. "

is it not still told a Star of Order to be born? The news as usual spread in skies, air and world, For which the whole humanity remains worried. But nobody knows who does what -The moon and galaxies disappear from the skies,

Waves and billows recede from all banks, Love and hope leave their sanctuaries. None is able to cool the fire in stone

None is able to write Peace On that sun that never sets.

Look at those flags, the proud fluttering of which Engenders the innocent fall of

and hands.

Ah! look at the immunity of Truth losing appallingly How a Neanderthal peeps through a gunman's eyest Alas! the soul of Plato is mobbed and howling.

As a daily auto-suggestion sing in unison with me: Throw all armaments in seas, MAN is to be called PEACE

Coming down from the summits of conferences and meetings

WORLD is to be named PEACE, and Hoist all flags with PEACE inscribed." Thus save the summits of

Pyramid, Tajmahal and the Statue of Liberty.

Nasiruddin: Man of the Century Continued from page 9 vounger generation as to bear

the responsibility of the future

specially for the Muslim community, could not be continued where 55% of the population was Muslim.

Cause of Women

It was again Nasiruddin who felt the urgent need to do something for the Muslim

Special issue of Shaogat was dedicated for the women writers and he inspired Muslim women to write. In this connection, one is tempted to recall from a letter by Sufia N. Hossain in response to the editor's invitation, where she expressed her regret as she was not accustomed to write an article but she lamented to see the list of a very few Muslim women writers. The letter was dated 23 July 1929. However it may be noted that Sufia N. Hossain used to contribute poems and short stories to Shaogat regularly. Shaogat brought out the special issue in Bhadra 1336, where the editor commented on education of women and their rights. overplay with veil, prejudice and oppression in the name of religion. Begum Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain, who was a pioneer among Bengali Muslim women litterateurs, used to contribute to Shaogat. Mrs. M Rahman, Mrs R S Hossain Razia Khatun Chowdhurani Akhtar Mahal Syeda Khatun, Sajeda Khatun, Motahera Banu, Mahmuda Khatun Siddique are also to an extent the products of Shaogat.

Nasiruddin did not stop here. He thought it fit to bring out a separate weekly for women. In July 1947 Weekly Begum was published from Calcutta and Begum Sufia Kamal was its first editor. After partition of British India when Nasiruddin's printing press was also a target of Hindu-Muslim riot he decided to move to Dhaka in 1950 and started publishing Shaogat and weekly Begum which was the first such magazine for women in the erstwhile Pakistan.

Begum Club

Nasiruddin practically imbued the women community with the spirit of freedom of expression. To get rid of conservatism and to spread the idea of free thinking Mohamad Nasiruddin established Begum Club where women writers exchanged views and ideas. Weekly Begum and the Club had in fact played pioneering role in bringing qualitative changes in the mental makeup of the women in our middle class society. Nasiruddin's only daughter Noorjahan Begum steered the wheel of the vehicle which got rolling by grand old man.

The Weekly Begum is now at the command of Noorjahan but there is hardly two opinions that it requires to be continually upgraded to keep pace with the fast changing technology of communication.

Shishu Shaogat

Mohamad Nasiruddin gave a serious thought to groom the

society. Keeping this in mind he also brought out Shishu Shaogat for the children. It

was a really challenging task to bring out and sustain a children's journal. Possibly only Shishu ·Bharati, a monthly journal of Bharatbarsha group, edited by no less a person than Roy Bahadur Jaladhar Sen of Kumarkhali, was there to meet the need of the children. The long felt demand, however, was met by Shishu Shaogat which evoked a positive response among the youngsters. A few newspapers like Ananda Bazar Patrika and Daily Azad for the children. Their Monimela and Mukuler Mahfil

devoted a page in the weekend respectively, had made a mark in the children's columns. So it was a hard task with Shishu Shaogat. The responsibility of editing was entrusted in Rukanuzzaman Khan in 1949. But in the doldrum years following partition when Nasiruddin had to move to Dhaka from Calcutta, he could not sustain the publication of Shishu Shaogat. Monthly Shaogat also ceased to appear after 14 years of the emergence of Bangladesh because of financial constraints. It is a pity that no literary journal worth its name exists in Bangladesh presently. Shaogat travelled a long 68 years in its solitary sojourn for the promotion of literature and culture in the Bengali society in general and Muslim commu-

nity in particular. Nasiruddin maintained a disciplined life and was punctual at his work till death. Practically he dedicated his entire life to Shaogat and Begum for the cause of enriching literature and emancipating women from exploitation and superstition. Love for Children

He loved children.

Whenever a request came from Kachi Kanchar Mela, run by his son-in-law Rukanuzzaman Khan, he never refused to accept the invitation to chair a function or accompany them to different parts of Bangladesh. I recall the fond memory of one such trip to Sylhet in 1963. Nasiruddin joined a band of eight of us which included Poet Sufia Kamal and Noorjahan Begum Nasiruddin was bubbling with life amidst us and would make us laugh all the tie by his disarming humour and wit. He probably never said 'no' to anyone who invited him to preside over any literary or cultural function. On many occasions if needed, he was to be carried by a wheel chair to attend such functions. He had full of unending energy to inspire and promote the cause of the society — to fight against social injustice, conservatism, superstition and oppression of women.

Nasiruddin was closely associated with Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq and Abul Mansur Ahmed and held almost identical views with them on many political issues of their time.

A Forum for Nazrul

Nasiruddin provided a forum to Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam to his meteoric rise and it was Nasiruddin who always projected Nazrul and his works until his death. On the occasion of his birth anniversary in 1993 Nasiruddin recalled the colourful struggling life of poet Nazrul Islam and said his last writing Kabir Mukti (salvation of the poet) also appeared in the Shaogat. Since the death of Poet Nazrul in 1976 Nasiruddin, along with other litterateurs, advocated relentlessly for establishment of a mausoleum on the grave of the poet and an institution where research could be carried on the poet's works. In May 1976. Nasiruddin raised his voice for a house in the name of Nazrul which would be a store house of the poet's works, musical records, cassettes and research writings on him published at home and abroad along with props used by the poet. However, Nazrul Institute was set up in the same house at Dhanmondi where Nazrul passed his last days of life. Nasiruddin presented the nation with his monumental work 'the Age of Shaogat in Bengali Literature' consisting 1700 pages. The Nazrul Institute also published a book by Nasiruddin Nazrul Islam in Shaogat Age'. These are indeed an added gift from Mohamad Nasiruddin for which the nation will remain ever grateful.

Nasiruddin was decorated with many prestigious awards which include Ekushe Padak. Swadhinata Padak and Bangla Academy Fellowship. One could believe it or not Nasiruddin was found reciting the very poem of Rabindranath Tagore 'Pather Sathi' which he published in the second issue of Shaogat, before embarking on his last journey from this

Continued from page 9 lished the weekly Begum. He also established the Begum Club more to serve the cause of women.

He was never lured by fame or power. Rather he was shy to acknowledge any kind of appreciation for his magnanimous deeds.

The larger section of the society threatened him for doing something allegedly un-Islamic. But they knew themselves very well that in Islam to acquire knowledge is a must for every body irrespective of sex. But to dominate the womenfolk and to treat them virtually as a slaves had been the preferred process in the society. Nasiruddin pointed this out boldly and firmly. He tried to establish the fact that the Muslim women are national human beings who have every right to know and enjoy the cultural and literal heritage of

the country. His longevity was a boon to the nation. No doubt we suffer a tremendous loss of an efficient editor and a great reformer in his death.

D-Day Commemoration Gathers Momentum

Kofi Akumanyi writes from London

HE programme to com memorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day in Britain is under way with a series of high profile activities of military and civilian events to remember the day - 6 June 1944 - that changed the course of World War II.

The national commemorative theme - the nation gives thanks - is designed to provide Britons with an opportunity to remember the D-Day legacy of democracy, free speech and the British way of

The highlights includes a parade of 20,000 veterans in Southampton on England's south coast, and other military events. Churches also play an important role, with special services throughout the coun-

On 14 and 15 May, seven overseas air forces participated in 'Fighter Meet 194', the annual show the Royal Air Force (RAF) had selected as its tribute to the men and machines of D-Day.

The Netherlands, France, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, the United States and New Zealand flew in modern jet aircraft to join a total of 70 in the displays, while a range of World War I and World War II machines, including a replica Fokker Triplane as well as Lancaster, Spitfire, Hurricane, Dakota, Corsair, Catalina, Messerschmitts and Fieseler Storch, were on show.

Commenting on the commemorative programme Prime Minister John Major said he hoped people of all ages would participate in a national thanksgiving this summer. 'The 50th anniversary of D-Day is a huge national event and I intend it to be commemorated on a national scale. It changed our future — the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy laid the foundations of the peaceful and a free Europe we take for 'granted today, he added.

Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the Royal Family will be at the centre of all the commemorative events both in Britain and France. On 4-5 June, they will be in Portsmouth, southern England, where the programme includes a military display and a Guildhall dinner with the French President Francois Mitterrand.

On Sunday 5 June, after at tending an open air church service, the Queen and some members of the Royal Family. the Prime Minister, and government officials will travel to Normandy on HMY Britannia. On arrival the same day, the

Prince of Wales and the Duke of York will observe a parachute drop by British, Canadian, French and Polish forces near Ranville. Then, the Prince will unveil a statue at Ranville and review the parachute pegiment's beating retreat while the Duke of York attends at Te Deum service at 9.386 Americans give their fi-

Bayeux Cathedral and a commemorative parade at Asnelles where representatives from several nations will be present.

The programme for 6 June begins with Mr Mitterrand. the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent participating in a commemorative service at the Bayeux Commonwealth War Graves. Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, the Princess Royal and Princess Margaret will be attending ceremonies at Hermanville (Army), Ryes (Marine), Douvres la Delivrandes (Army) and Ranville (RAF), respectively.

On three evenings, 20, 22 and 23 June, the Tower of London, which is bound up in Britain's history, will be the backdrop when veomen warders, massed marching bands and the Royal Navy mark the anniversary with music, pageantry and much ancient ceremony.

Two of the four bands — the Drums and Pipes of the London Regiment, the Band of the Blue's and Royals, the Adjutant General's Corps Band and the Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers — will play each evening.

Continued from page 9

thereby saving him from the

fate of many of his comrades

who were shot on the spot, be-

low him. The townhall also has

the first American flag which

flew over the French soil and

one of the first markers of

"freedom way" followed by

General Patton from Utah

Along the coast, Pointe du

Hoc is incontestably the most

spectacular place. This steep

cliff, overlooking a narrow

pebble beach, held out for two

rangers. Of the German fortifi-

bunker which was later re-

into view on the horizon. A re-

entrance to the place saying,

A Final Salute

rials. No excavating allowed".

Colleville-sur-Mer call for re-

Beach.

Memories in Normandy

How American Journalists Covered World War II

S the United States and its World War Two **A** allies prepare to make the 50th anniversary of D-Day, the National Portrait Gallery has mounted a major exhibition telling the story of American journalists who covered the war.

"Reporting the War: The Journalistic Coverage of World War Two" is about the men and women who risked their lives to tell people back home what was going on at the front. Sponsors of the exhibit,

which continues through

September 5, include Scripps-

Howard News Service: Time Inc: Life magazine, and the Smithsonian Institution. Long before D-Day — June, 6, 1944, the day on which the Allied invasion of Europe got under way - journalists, photographers and newsreel crews were sending back

words and pictures that enabled Americans to keep up with events. At war's end, there was general agreement in and out of the Estate that World War

bled by curator Frederick S

nal salute, lying there in horri-

fying lines of silence. In addi-

tion to these, the names,

ranks, states and units of a

further two thousand soldiers

who gave their lives are writ-

ten on the walls of the memo-

rial. Even the location of this

cemetery, on a cliff overlook-

ing Omaha Beach, is a symbol

Indeed, that is where the

greatest number of allied

troops landed. The terrain was

given by the French govern-

ment indefinitely as a token of

gratitude, and the American

cadets guarding it contribute

Two was the best reported war in history. In a stunning display of photographs, cartoons, drawings, paintings, newspaper elippings, correspondence and personal memorabilia assem-

Gallery, the story of how that war was reported unfolds. Of the thousands of Ame-

rican reporters who covered the war, the exhibition focuses on 33 photographers, combat artists, reporters, broadcasters and censors who especially stood out. World War Two journalists faced many of the same haz-

Voss, historian at the Portrait

ards solders did. By the end of the war, 37 American journalists had died, including Ernie Pyle, the Scripps-Howard newspaper columnist, whose sympathetic coverage of the average enlisted man earned him the nickname, "soldier's friend. Pyle who won a Pulitzer

Prize for distinguished reporting in 1944, died from a Japanese sniper's bullet on the lonely Pacific island of le Jima. A number of correspon-

dents became prisoners of war, among them Life magazine photographer Carl Mydans and his wife Shelley. who spent 21 months in Japanese prison camp in the Philippines.

Edward R Murrow's broadcasts from London during the German air blitz brought the war into America's living rooms with unmatched vivid-

"His broadcasts had moral

to keeping the memory alive. Towns inland, such as Bayeux, Lisieux and Saint-Lo also tell a poignant tale. However, not everything is contained in museums or in special sites. A patient explorer, wandering through a field or going along a path, can still, by chance, come across a wreck or an isolated bunker.

But the most essential remains of Operation Overlord are perhaps elsewhere: in the silence of these windswept salt-grass landscapes, where all those people who had come to defend a certain idea of freedom, gave their lives, in the late spring.

Murrow was later to serve as director of the United States Information Agency (USIA) from 1961 to 1964. Exhibit-goers may watch videotaped interviews with distinguished journalists, including Army cartoonist Bill

weight, and his reports on the

war in Europe prepared Americans for the inevitability

of their involvement in that

conflict," Voss said.

Mauldin on the subject of his much-publicized encounter with General George Patton.

satires on the lot of the average soldier were fomenting rebellion in the ranks. In other interviews, CBS commentator William Shirer describes his first impressions of Adolph Hitler and his experiences with censorship in wartime Germany: John Hersey tells how he came to write "Hiroshima," the story of

Patton felt that Mauldin's gritty

on the citizens of that Japanese city. World War Two was a landmark for journalism in several respects. Voss told USIA in a

the effect of the atomic bomb

"It was the first war broadcast via radio," he observed.

May 12 interview.

"The photo eassy, pioneered by Life photographers Margaret Bourke-White and Carl Mydans, matured and reached state of the art.

"The technology of printing

photos advanced, as did camera technology; there were faster lenses, faster film. You could take photos at night. "Telecommunications had

developed so that stories could be transmitted quickly. Print reporters found they could get through to their home offices in two or three minutes, provided they could get through the censor," Voss said.

The need to censor material that would have helped the enemy was accepted by journalists, "and they were willing to go along with the ground rules," Voss said.

Many exhibit items came from censorship records at the National Archives, Voss said. Others came from various sources, including the reporters themselves, he said.

