

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Reliving the 1971 Days

by Gemini Wahhaj

There's a strange excitement in the Dhaka air. Dinner conversations have returned to a familiar topic — stories of 1971.

"So tell me," says your normally restless teenager, "where were you on the 26th March?"

"Ah, that's a long story," you say, chewing some betel leaf. "Now, let's see..."

As soon as one person starts, others can't wait to fill in with their own experiences. The trouble with 1971 is that everyone remembers something. Even the 23-year-old is quite vocal on the subject.

"I remember perfectly," says he. "I had just been born..."

There is no end to the variety of stories that can be told. There are the campus stories from BUET and Dhaka University professors, your Dhamondi aunt's tale about how the army had searched the house looking for your cousin, thrillers about adventurous escapes to village homes, firsthand freedom fighter accounts, your maid's blood-chilling tale of how they burned down her basti, and even some good ones from your uncle who was stationed in Pakistan.

"Bhabi, do you remember?" asks one neighbour of another. "You moved into our flat and we lived in the dark for three days. Ooh, how scary. There was shooting all night and all day."

So many people died. But we were so proud."

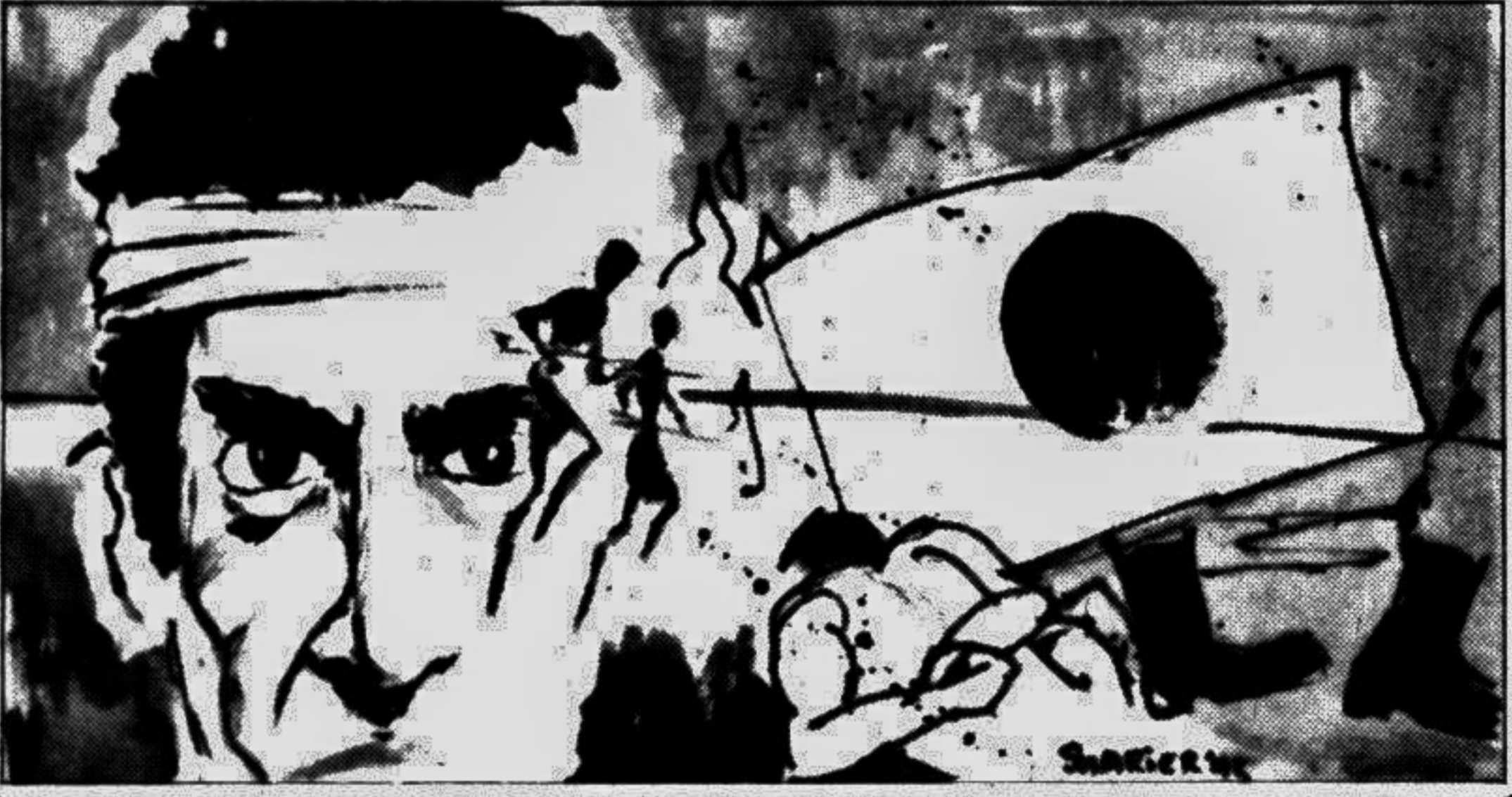
Then there are *shaheed* stories. Every family knows countless people who died in those few months, from March till December.

Every person saw a dead body lying on the street. There is silence around the table for a few minutes, as we feel again, oh so intensely, the injustice of 1971, the chaos, the losses, the fright, and the anger of an entire nation.

1971 reflections aren't limited to dinner conversations only. The school teacher comes up with a most original topic for essay class: Write about your feeling of 1971. Of course, this topic is becoming increasingly difficult with the passing years. The sixth-grader with no liberation war memories starts with uncertain ideas and themes. But some of them still manage to recreate the glorious past. Even different Dhaka areas reverb with war memories, like the entire university zone from Dhaka Medical College to BUET campus.

Each liberation war story, whether sad or funny, is a proud tribute to all the events of 1971. And they're all the better because you can end with the best of them all:

"And then on 16th December..." you begin. You pause and look around the table at all the smiling faces. "On 16th December, the Pakistani army surrendered."



## 3 killed in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least three persons were killed while one reportedly committed suicide in the city Saturday.

A day labourer was killed when an electric pole suddenly hit him while he was digging a drain at Ashakona near the Biman staff quarters under Cantonment police station in the afternoon.

The victim Mohammad Abdul Majid, 32, — was seriously injured and admitted to

the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at 6 pm.

A baby, 3, and her mother were injured when a speeding auto-rickshaw knocked their rickshaw in front of Khilgaon post office Friday afternoon.

The baby, succumbed to injuries at the DMCH around 12:00 am Saturday.

One Chakura Begum aged about 26 was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck

while crossing the road at Dakhin Khan under Uttora police station Friday afternoon.

Chakura breathed her last at the DMCH early Saturday.

A housewife reportedly committed suicide by taking poison at her residence at Dhania Friday night.

The 18-year-old Nargis Begum, wife of one Abu Hasem, was rushed to the DMCH where she expired.

Police sent all the bodies to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## Ultra-modern cardiovascular hospital being set up at Tongi

An ultra-modern cardiovascular hospital well-equipped for open heart surgery is being set up near the capital at a cost of Tk 21 crore, reports UNB.

A consortium of three nationalised commercial banks — Sonali, Janata and Agrani — is financing the private-sector project at Tongi, which will conduct 100 open heart surgery every year.

The planned Khairunnessa Memorial Medical Centre, to be completed by December, 1996, with a residential capacity of 86 patients initially, will provide treatment to all sorts of heart ailments.

Every year, the medical centre will be capable of providing treatment, including installation of pacemaker and replacement of valves, to nearly 15,000 heart patients.

The consortium signed an agreement at the Sonali Bank headquarters on Saturday with the entrepreneurs from the district of Sylhet for financing the medical centre.

## Teachers' team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the unemployed youths of the country for initiating self-employment projects with a view to establishing themselves as earning members in the society, reports BSS.

He said such projects would ease the problem of unemployment in the country, while talking to a group of teachers of the Akbar Ali Khan Technical College of Comilla when they called on him at Bangabhaban.



Members of the consortium of Sonali, Janata and Agrani Bank seen signing the agreement at the Sonali Bank head office in the city on Saturday.

## Tk 140 crore DCC projects carried out in one yr

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has implemented 1,100 projects at a cost of Taka 140 crore during the last one year, reports BSS.

The projects included construction of about three hundred kilometer road, one hundred kilometer drain, and development and reconstruction of 10 kilometer footpath. Besides, works of 24 special projects of Taka 7.5 crore of DCC are progressing fast toward completion.

Eleven foot over bridges are under construction at a cost of Taka 1.2 crore in different parts of the city. Moreover works for expanding the Farmgate overbridge is progressing fast to facilitate the pedestrians.

It said 20 demountable container have already been in-

stalled with the financial assistance of World Bank for removal of garbages under the corporation's environment

## Daily Star staff mugged

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched gold ornaments and cash from a female employee of The Daily Star yesterday morning.

Two armed muggers waylaid Nasreen Akhter at Jatrabari in the city at about 8 am when she was coming from her residence to the office by an autorickshaw.

The hijackers took away gold chain, earrings worth about Tk 9.5 thousand and Taka 1.5 thousand from Nasreen, a staff of the reading section of the daily.

Local people caught one of the muggers Abul Kalam Azad, 27, and handed in over to the Demra police. The other one managed to decamp.

A case has been filed with the Demra thana in this connection.

## Buses, trucks stranded in ferry ghats

Several hundred night coaches and trucks with a large number of passengers were stranded since Saturday midnight at Aricha, Daulatdia and Nagarbari ghats and in the Jamuna as heavy fog blanketed the river routes, reports UNB.

According to BIWTC sources, ferry services in Aricha, Daulatdia and Aricha-Nagarbari channels resumed at 7 am yesterday.

## Weather

### Temperature may rise

Weather may remain dry over the country with temporary partly cloudy sky over Dhaka, Khulna divisions and the regions of Pabna and Sylhet in the next 12 hours ending 6 am today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may rise by 2-3 degree Celsius over the country during the period, Met Office forecasts.

No appreciable change is likely to occur in the next two days but it may deteriorate in the following week, weather-men said.

The sunsets today at 6.7 pm and rises on Tuesday at 6.9 am.

Temperature readings and humidity percentage recorded yesterday in major cities of the country were:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	16.5	65	41
Chittagong	31.6	18.8	58	44
Cox's Bazar	32.5	21.5	48	59
Sylhet	29.6	14.5	100	54
Rajshahi	32.0	15.2	76	32
Dinajpur	30.0	15.6	75	29

## Programmes to observe birth anniversary of Bangabandhu

The 75th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be observed on March 17 in a befitting manner, BSS reports quoting a press release of the Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote. The Jote has taken an elaborate programmes in this regard.

On the day, wreaths will be placed at the portrait of Bangabandhu at the Bangabandhu Bhaban and at the mazar of the late leader at Tungipara in the morning separately.

A two-day long cultural functions will also be held at Tungipara.

The Jote will arrange painting competition for children and youths at the Bangabandhu Bhaban premises on March 24 at 8.30 am.

Following are the subjects of the competition: Section (a) From four to eight years of age group — open; (b) Nine to 12 years of age group — Liberation War and the role of murderers of '71; and (c) 13 to 16 years of age group — Bangabandhu and Bangladesh. The competitors have been suggest to bring painting papers, colours and all necessary equipment with them.

After the contest, prizes and certificates of last year's competition will be distributed at 11 am.

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