Bangabandhu Through Our Eyes

N the occasion of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth anniversary, March 17, a few of our Rising Stars members, who were born after the birth of our nation, expressed their views and opinions about the leader, in their own words. Here are few excerpts from their original scripts.

E was born a mortal man but died as an immortal one living forever in the hearts and memories of his fellow Bangladeshis. He is the father of our nation and no one can take that title away from him. He fought for the freedom of our nation and his efforts were not in vain.

I. unfortunately, was born after his demise, and do not know enough about him to base any personal opinion regarding him. There are so many divergent views of the man and I cannot side with any. I can only say what ! know to be true and comment on

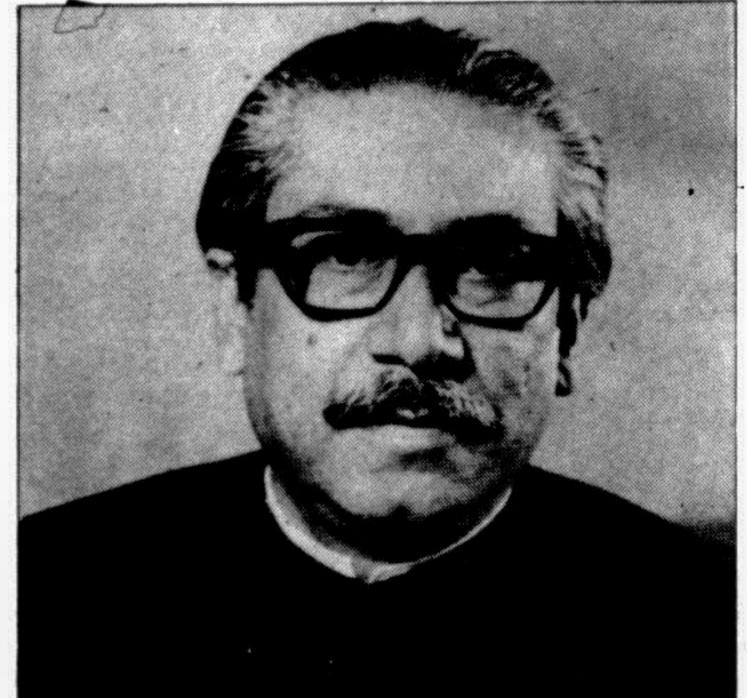
He was a tall man; around 6 feet tall. But it was not only his height that distinguished him. It was his overwhelming pride

I know that I have lost my way and that I have merely described the role of a certain man in the struggle for independence. What followed is certainly important in his life but I feel that it is his struggle which shows his inextinguishable flame and his determination to free his people. It is his struggle which shows the difference between a mortal man and one that can never die.

by Syed Nageeb M Ali

HE lather of our nation is like an obscure hero to me. A great leader, who did a lot for our liberty and then faded away with time.

From childhood days, I have studied in an English medium school. Hence there was not much exposure to Bangladeshi culture or history. From what



of being a Bengali and his love for our people that set him aside. He was born of middleclass parents in a small town sixty miles southwest of Dhaka. He attended the Islamia College in Calcutta and the University of Dhaka.

From the very beginning, he was a fiery orator. handsome and hardworking, capable of putting twenty hours a day in his work. This incredible man won a sweeping victory in the national elections of Pakistan securing 167 of 169 seats. Hence he was meant to be the next prime minister.

Now let us go to the time when General Niazi was surrendering on the race course at Dhaka. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was in a cell in the prison at Lyallpur. He had been charged with high treason and was awaiting execution. He knew not of all the happenings in his nation — the massacre. the threat of nuclear holocaust the victory or the establishment of the provisional government. But in all his lack of knowledge of current events. he remained defiant to the

The isolation failed to break him down. Rather it increased his stature with the passing of every day. As one writer put it - "His silence was thunderous." . Pleas from all over the world came for the leader's release. And finally the Pakistani spirit broke down and the leader was freed to lead his new nation upto the time of his sad demise.

parents told and from books and television programmes, I gather that Sheikh Mujib was a great man. His famous speech sparked

the revolution. He brought out the true spirit of the Bangladeshis. They rebelled against the oppression and in-

I could never figure out why people turned against him and caused his tragic death. Some people say that he turned into a megalomaniac and others state that opponents of democracy acted against him.

Of course. I was not there and have to accept what people of that time tell me. But stories handed down are invariably exaggerated and truth twisted to lit the teller's opinion. So I really don't know what to think of the person after the war. I also know very little about Sheikh Mujib as a person I do know that the Father of a nation was a great political leader.

My opinion is limited by my knowledge of the man. It may be wrong or right, but this is my opinion of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

by Borhanuddin Tulu**kdar**

NDIA has Mahauna Gan dhi. Pakistan has Muhama mad Ali Jinnah; but are we Bangladeshis justified when we call Sheikh Mujib the Father of our nation? It is true that every person

has his virtues and vice but are we right in judging them? Take me for instance, when

was not even born. All I know of him is what I hear or read about him. Hence the picture of him that comes to mind is not that clear - at times he seems like the saviour of our country and at times the devil himself.

Sheikh Mujib was in power, I

Well, maybe with the benefit of power he did a few wrong , things; but who doesn't? It is only natural to do something once you have the power to do it - man is only human. I don't know if what I heard is true or not but there were some things done which even I would protest against. But we should also look at the man himself. What sort of person was he? How were his habits? These are all questions I find unanswered. In spite of what type of man he was I still think he should not have died the way he did.

Though I myselfe in name. do not support the Awami League (I say "in name" because I don't understand heads or tails of Bangladeshi politics). I, however, have come to respect Sheikh Mujib as a son of his motherland and a friend of his countrymen. But still, what the Awami League leader was remains a mystery to me even

by Shakeb Kamal Ahmed

T'S not easy to write on someone whom you've never seen or heard much about. To most, if not all of our generation. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is known as the father of the nation, is such a person. But why is it that a man who is said to have so much contribution in the liberation of our nation, has so little influence on the present generation?

The very fact that we're not aware of his achievements or failures suggests that there is a mystery surrounding this person. There seems to be a taboo. a social stigma involved in discussing the true contributions of Sheikh Mujib or, for that matter, the events leading to the birth of Bangladesh.

If Sheikh Mujib really was the father of the nation, then why is there so much contradiction and controversy surrounding his success and fail-

Another thing which one finds odd is that there is no national monument in memory of a person who is considered to be the liberator and saviour of the nation. So was he really

the father of the nation? The Americans honoured the founder of their country by erecting a monument in their capital which is the most prominent feature of the city's skyline. Until re-cently, the former Soviet Union's capital was home to a giant statue of Lenin who was considered to be their national leader. It was only after they abandoned communism that the statue was removed.

in our country, we don't even know if there ever was a plan to build any kind of memorial for our leader. Then maybe, the Bangladesh which Sheikh Mujib liberated is no more. If that is so, then the present generation must be told when and how this transition took place. Or are we. as a nation, remain confused and uncertain about where our roots lie?

by Adeeb Z Mahmud

The Sun of Freedom

by Rabeth Khan

25th March. 1971: a black day for the Bengali nation. An eerie stillness crept into the air. Just as the sun went down the horizon. The fate of the Bengali people decided yet unknown.

The night wore on with a mourning spirit, Suddenly, sounds of firearms echoed

all around. The barbaric atrocities of the enemies spared none.

They killed to satisfy their evil intentions. The rape of the whole nation was committed in one night.

The shame of our mothers and sisters. The helpless howlings of the children, The brutal deaths of our brothers and fathers, Enraged the whole Bengali nation, Determination and revenge ruled every Bengali soul,

A promise to liberate the mother land was made. A promise which had no other options but to succeed.

The journey to freedom was on the move. A journey embellished with the blood and soul of the whale nation. Our heroes forgot death And splashed the blood of revenge Wherever they went.

16th December, 1971, a day which began on a different tune. The sun rose as usual. But its warmth being more refreshing than usual, A sweet, gentle breeze began to blow, Swaying the flag of green and red.

Freedom was there at last, Nine months were needed to get there, With the sacrifices of our beloved ones, Who will always be with us. In the skies, with the sun of freedom.

My favourite Haunt by Saquiba Haq

Enchanting is my favourite

Which I'm sure will fascinate both the aesthete and the dilettante. My favourite haunt is where

the grass is green. The sky is blue and perfect for the screen.

It is a place where there is always a wanton breeze

Which at once puts my soul and body at ease. is where the pretty

petals and bloom And removes all traces of sorrow, misery or gloom. There the branches of

flowers unfold their sweet

slender trees sway in a rhythm And fills my heart with a feeling which is difficult to

The ever-green foliage, the ceaseless chirping of

the birds, the colourful butterflies - all gives a picture of gaiety

Oh! Never shall I cease to appreciate its beauty.

favourite haunt Which has so much to offer and so much to flaunt

I could never tire from my

Nobody knows where this

heavenly place lies Only I have access to the special touch of paradise.

Achievement

YEDA Madiha Murshed daughter of the late Syed Tanweer Murshed and Ms Yasmeen Murshed. Founder/Chairperson of Scholastica School, who is a final year IB student at the United World College of South East Asia in Singapore has been selected by the school to participate in a prestigious meeting of some top students from around the world in New York from 28th February to 6th March 1995.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of UNESCO and the United Nations 50 highly selected young people from all over the world have been invited to attend a unique rendezvous at the UN headquar-

Organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the United Nations Organization, the ASI International United Nations School, the United World Colleges and the International Peace Child the encounter seeks to bring these young people together to take part in an unique programme designed especially for them which will enable them to:

i) interact with UN/UNES-CO experts and observe firsthand how the United Nations system operates and make

proposals for future UN action; ii) share their views on some of the crucial issues facing the international community;

4Lo's huts?

OBELLA Parvin," the you are so keen on her, you Reacher called out. Ti-mothy Rema, our scolled. chemistry teacher was taking the attendance.

"Present." Robella replied. After our names had been called out the teacher got ready to call out our class test

"I am happy to announce that all passed the test except one brilliant lad." He looked at one boy pointedly and asked, * "Saif, what do you have to say for yourself?"

"Sir. I and chemistry don't see eye to eye," was the boy's silly reply.

"And why is that?," "To be precise, there is no chemistry between me and

chemistry itself." Laughter broke out in the

That's no reason. Make sparks fly if you have to or you'll be digging your own grave." Sir said with a straight

A giggle or two broke the silence that followed afterwards. Again peals of laughter rang out. The bell rang. Class was

Boys and girls passed remarks at Saif before they left for their next class.

"Start cramming up," "Hit the books, man," "If you ever need a spade feel free to ask."

"Hey! Isn't anyone with me on this?" He asked indignantly. "If it'll make you feel better I'll back you up," chirped OI' Uma.

Saif looked as if his eyes would pop out of their sockets. OI' Uma wasn't the average beauty. She occupied 3 times the space a normal guy would do. The guys went though a lot just to get her off their backs.

"We could go out together to see the new romantic film downtown." She added with a mischievous wink. "Maybe another day. Right

now I have a grave to dig," He gulped and ran away before she could do or say anything else. He found himself next to his best friend. Zahid.

"I guess I am safe now! Saif panted. "Safe from whom?" asked

"From that 500 pound meatball who else. Of Uma if

you have to know. "Uma? But she's not fat at all. She is in the cheer-leading team. I hope you haven't taken leave of your senses. " Zahid continued after a pause." I kind

of like her. I got the feeling

that she feels the same way about me. We have a date today." he added shyly. Saif rolled his eyes. "You gotta be kidding?! You've hardly been here a week and you've started going out with

that manhunter." "She is the sweetest thing on earth created by God, sent for me," he retorted

"She ain't sweet. She is a hunk of fat and calories! And if by Nishat Hussain

have my blessings." Saif "You don't have to be so sar-

castic." Zahid scowled. "Well, well, look who's here. There is your sweetie pie right now and she's headed this way!" -

"Where? Wha".

"Saif! There you are." OI' Uma gave him a rib — creaking hug. Fear written on his face and then his body went limp. He had fainted!

"Huh ...? Where am I?" Saif sat up groggily looking up at his friend. Sudden realization dawned on him, Saif made a

hands in the air. "You Go ta admit you two are made for each other. U and Uma." "Hah! that will only han in

when pigs fly." "A little magic can change that...'

"Look here master madician, you wouldn't able to coins appear out of nowhere ..." In a flash Zahid's hand shot behind Saif's ear and later he withdrew his hand. A coin was in his hand.

"How'd, you do that?" Saif asked amazed. "Oh, you won't able to ge it

through that thick skull of yours. And anyway even if it lid



face and said "Tell that gal of peactrate, through, you vours to keep her hands to herself or on you and off me!" "Whoa! Hey there has been a

misunderstanding here." Zahid started. "I'll say," said their friend, Saba. She looked at Saif. "Did it ever occur to you two that you

may have been talking about two different girls?" "What?!" Saif asked aston-

"Boy were you lucky. Anyway, sometimes you are too smart for your own good. You

know that?" "Yes., well., I really., blah., blah." Saif began to babble on and on about different things.

lose nut." sighed Saba. "I don't think he had any." Zahid and Saba stared laughing much to the annovance of Saif. "Hmph! If that's what

"I think your friend has a

friends are for than I wish i hadn't any." That only made the two laugh all the more. "He is priceless." Saba left

with a wave of her hand. Saif looked at his friend threateningly.

"True pal we were only kidding." Zahid threw up his wouldn't be able to fit it into that pea-sized brain of yours. "Well laugh all you want, but

remember I'll eget the last laugh." "When pigs fly."

"Hey! That's my line."

"No wonder. I always kr w you to be a 'boar'. " "Vee-ery funny." Saif a d

when the true meaning downed on him.

'Let's go and sit under that tree," Zahid suggested to his friend. Both pale sat under the large mango tree. Okay. Now you can tell he

all about your problems. "What problem? I don't it ve any," said his friend, Saif.

"Then why did you say vo had and brought me here'. "You'll find out so a enough," Saif looked at

friend.

"Can't you leave without "What?" inquired Zahid. "That camera of yours!" "Of course not." Zahid patted the camera that hung it m around his neck.

"If I didn't know bet er To be continued

Wise Words Compiled by Ismat

Haseen

He who never made a mistake never made a discovery.-Samuel Smiles

A lather is more than

hundred school masters .-George Herbert Anyone can sympathise with the sufferings of a friend but it requires a very fine na-

ture to sympathise with a friend's success.—Oscar Wilde Excess of sorrow laughs. excess of joy weeps. -William Blake

He censures God who quar rels with imperfections of men.—Burke The worst form of injustice

is pretended justice.-Plato Necessity reforms the poor and satiety the rich.-Tacitus Recreation is not being idle; it is easing the wearied part by change of occupation .-C. Simmons

To revenge is no valour, but to bear.—Shakespeare The lewer our wants, the nearer we resemble the

Gods.—Socrates

Notice Our serial 'Double Dealer by Shahed Latif could not be accommodated in this issue of Rising Stars due to unavoidable reasons. We sincerely regret the inconvenience. - RS Editor

THE MISSING MACHINE by Sharie



NOM HIS SEA SIDE







Bangladesh Cricket: Time to Rise by Naveed Ahmed Choudhury of 52 runs, our boys showed HE luminous prospects of Bangladesh cricket In 1994. Bangladesh perguts and bravery against a team formed very well against the were sinking into obli that comprised some one-day

vion specially after Bangladesh team failed to clinch a berth in the coming World Cup cricket: hopes and aspirations all became lustreless. But the light still didn't extinguish, as the recent results of the team indicated In the SAARC tournament.

the local lads showed their guts and determination against teams from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka which comprised some very good and well known players. The home team has proven that they do not lack in the temperament essential to play one day cricket. In the title deciding match, chasing a target of 217 to win the home team was reduced to 31 for 4. But captain Akram and Minhajul Abedin. the most prominent national cricketer kept their heads cool and added some vital 52 runs on the 5th wicket.

Though Bangladesh lost the match by an extensive margin

and former test players. In the earlier matches. Bangladesh did very well winning two and losing one with tremendous contest. The result of the league match between India A and Bangladesh indicate that

the home team is developing a killer instinct as they beat the Indians by only a single run when they were poised to win the match. Bangladesh outplayed Kenya

in three consecutive matches and also defeated Hyderabad cricket association by 6 wickets to whom they lost earlier. The U-19 and A team played upto their expectations as they won most of their matches against Kenya and HCA. The idea of U-19 and A team is no doubt excellent as it would greatly contribute to the development of Bangladesh cricket. Again the brilliant

success of Anis, a newcomer in

the national squad shows that

promising cricketers are com-

world champs Pakistan and earned praise from the cricket lovers of the country. The prospects of qualifying for the WCC was very bright. But the dismal performance of the national cricketers in Kenya dashed the hopes of millions and jeopardised our cricket. Bangladesh is set to take part in Asia Cup cricket, a four nation tournament featuring India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Reaching the final of the SAARC tournament was a remarkable achievement and it has put hopes in the mind of country's cricket lovers. Bangladesh is not expected to win against India or Pakistan but a win against Sri Lanka will not be a great upset in view of the teams recent success in SAARC tournament. As the chances of success are brilliant in the meet, will a win against a test playing nation and emerging as a cricket power in the international arena of

sports be everelusive?