

VOICES ... Young People Speak Out

No School at the Time of War

At sixteen, Salim was fighting along with other Freedom Fighters. Sajid Rizwan Matin has more



The heart of flame: Salim at 12

SALIM'S age was 16 when he joined the Liberation War. He was a student of Shaheen School and was going to sit for the SSC exams that year.

The next day at dawn, Selim left home. He left only a note behind saying that he was going to join the Mukti Bahini. As planned the 'four' of them were wearing pajama-pant and turti so that they were taken as members of Jamaat-e-Islami and nobody could suspect them otherwise.

When they were 4/5 miles away from the road a man came up and said that he would take them to the border. They followed him but on the way a moulvi stopped them. He told them not to go with the man because he was a razzakar.

Selim, Towfiq, Kamal and Bejal reached India at 2 o'clock in the night, hungry and tired they fell asleep in front of a shop in some bazar. They woke up around 4:30 in the morning with pain and hunger.

The training was very rigorous. They used to work for twelve hours a day. There was no bathroom at the camp and they had to use leaves as toilet papers. To take a bath they had to go to a lake 2 miles away from the camp.

James Bond THE LONDON FILE ON SCRAMANGA... In view of the ruthless damage Scramanga has already inflicted on personnel of the S.S., C.I.A., etc., I urge he be eliminated as soon as possible...



in the camp too. Selim and his friends used to call their trainer Pampoo, because he was fat, dark and used to order all the time and made them work to death.

After the training was over they were divided into groups and were ready to go to action. Selim was in the group of Kazi, Rumi, Tyab Ali (used to be a blacker before the war), Kamal (one year se-



Training for the teenage: Students

nior from OMPi camp), Rashid and six other Mukti Senas. Captain Haider gave them the mission to blow up Shidhirganj power station. Their group was the most armed one from Melagar.

They had never shot an Enagra before. Enagra shoots bomb shells instead of bullets. Captain Haider told Kamal to shoot the Enagra just for a practice.

Tom and Jerry LOOK! I'VE FOUND A HEATED SWIMMING POOL! THAT'S ONLY A LIKEWARM POT OF COFFEE. WOW! I GOT A NICE TAN, TOO!



was Selim's first kill and it was not at all that easy. After this incident they went back to Melagar. And a few days later again started for Dhaka. They walked through roads, waters and marsh lands and after encountering a few Pak soldiers and some razzakars they were able to reach Madertek.

Selim's group had done a lot of operations in the city. Of them the operation - on the 25th August - was the most remarkable. Three months earlier on this day the Pak army attacked the sleeping unarmed Bengalis.

The group members thought that they should do something on this day that would agitate the Pakistanis. Their main target was the Pak MPs (military police) who guarded a house of a Chinese diplomat on Dhanmondi 20 and also a few MPs on Dhanmondi 18.

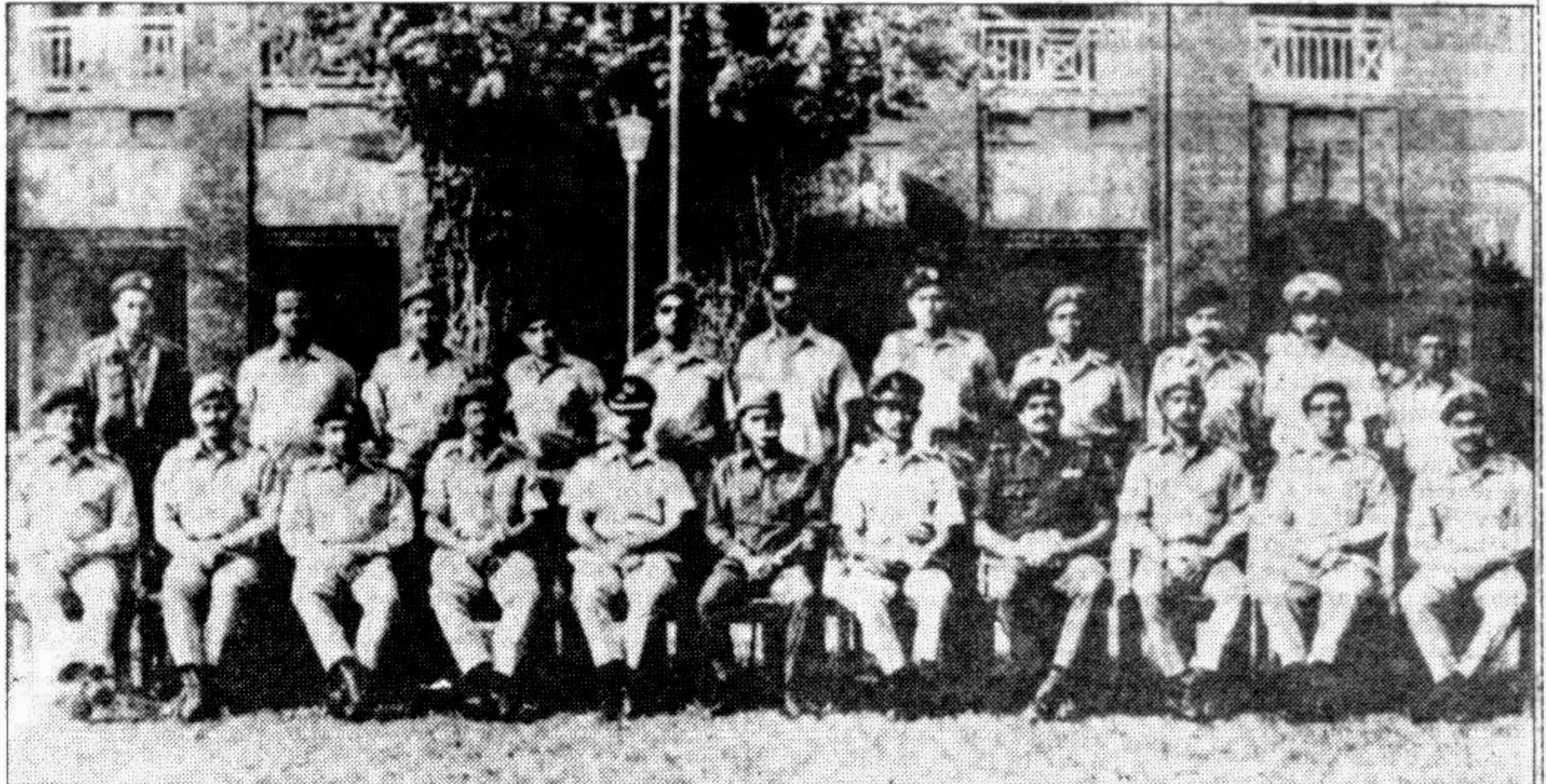
Selim's group started at 7:25. Alam was driving the car. Selim sat next to him and Kazi sat on the left of Selim. Rumi, Shapan and Badi sat on the back seat. At first they went to Dhanmondi 20 but found no MP guarding the house.

Alam then took the car on road 20 but still there was no sign of any MP. From there Alam took the car on Mirpur road and drove towards New Market. Meanwhile the army somehow got the news of the killings. They blocked the road near the petrol pump on road 3 and were searching every car.

At once he broke the glass behind him and started firing at the jeep. Badi and Shapan started firing too. The driver was dead at the first shot and so the jeep lost control. It hit a lamp-post on the road and turned up side down. Alam took a quick decision at that moment.

After this operation, Selim went back to Melagar. And after just couple of days everybody else of the group who were staying in Dhaka was rounded up. Hearing this news Selim and the rest decided to get scattered. Selim took a stengun and some grenades and went back to Dhaka.

Selim gave back the ammunition he had with him after the liberation. He was awarded Bir Protik. His award was published in the '73 gadget and he got the medal in '93, twenty years after. Selim is now a big executive of Social Marketing Company.



Victory makers: Sector Commanders of '71

Where Have All the Facts Gone?

We are not getting the real picture of the Liberation War from the political pit, worries

Nusrat Sharmin Huq

"VOICES" represents the voices of the youth of our generation. We thought it would be symbolic to write about two of the youth who had participated in the Liberation War.

Kazi Faruk Kader along with three of his friends started their journey towards India. At Daudkandi, they were caught by the Pakistani Army but, luckily, as Mr Faruk K. could speak fluent Urdu, he was able to convince the army men that he had just come back from Karachi and that his group was going to visit his hometown.

He told her son what really had been happening. Mr Faruk Kader said, "It was an eye opener. The news I had received in Karachi, had no relation to the reality." Then he decided to venture out along with his friends for research and fact-finding.

Eventually, Faruk was stationed at Banpur in the Charles Company which was quite near the Indian border. He participated in 7 to 8 operations against the Pakistani Army with the assistance of the Indian Army.

of about 5,000 who were going to India to part take in the war. These identity cards helped many people to reach India safely.

His mama was a deputy director while his khalu was a section officer of their camp. Faruk Kader was able to convince his mama that he wanted to take part in the movement in any position. His mama took him to see Major Monjur. Faruk Kader and Major Monjur were both from Pakistan Air Force College, therefore, they were already well-acquainted with each other.

Eventually, Faruk was stationed at Banpur in the Charles Company which was quite near the Indian border. He participated in 7 to 8 operations against the Pakistani Army with the assistance of the Indian Army.

much. We must all work together to put an end to this, for our own benefit.



Kill or get killed: No fear at all

became liberated. On 16th December, Mr Faruk received clearance pass to travel home. After leaving home, he had no contact with his family. He was very uncertain of what he would see.

Dhaka was dark. People were on the streets. Mr Faruk reflected, "My most memorable moment was when I saw my mother and other family members alive." Mr Faruk refused to take the certificate of Freedom Fighter when he saw people who did not take part in the war were receiving it.



After the Pak fall Celebrations in December

variety of emotions — celebration of the Victory Day, solemn prayers for the departed souls, reestablishment of patriotic feelings, remembrance of tragic events for the survivors of the war, etc. For many, December became the month of regret.



After the Pak fall Celebrations in December

Great Exploitation

As the nation celebrated its 25th Victory Day, the VOICES Team asked two college students the question: "What are your expectations from your country after its liberation?" ... And this is what they replied.

RAIHAN JAMIL Willes Little Flower

GENERALLY there is a large difference between what one expects and the reality. In our country's content, this gap is 'very' large.

From our glorious history, I expected the brave and talented patriots to build a nation, which will be envied by most of the other nations. As a nation we could have been proud of their history and culture.

much. We must all work together to put an end to this, for our own benefit.

ASIFUR RAHIM Dhaka College

WE were being exploited economically by Pakistan till our liberation. In my opinion, after independence we should have had an economic evaluation. It's a shame that after 24 years of independence, our country is still known to the world as one of the poorest countries.

COLLEGE CORRIDOR

The Victory Day Observed

People of different walks of life observed the Victory Day with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. Students from different colleges rushed to the Dhaka Stadium with the break of dawn.

Picnic and Outings All Around

Like all the yesteryears, with the beginning of the winter season, the young community got busy with picnics and outings. The splendour of some popular picnic spots like the National Park, Sonargaon etc., has been embellished by the orate and colourful picnic parties.