## Seeds of Independence

by Towheed Feroze

6TH December- a day of utmost importance and significance for all those who claim themselves to be Bangladeshi's.

After 250 years of foreign rule Independence finally dawned upon this nation. This day herald the beginning of a new sovereign nation. But independence played a hide and seek game with the people of this country for nearly about two centuries. Since the abominable, disgraceful defeat at Plassey many attempts were made by gallant sons of this soil to capture the elusive golden deer of liberty.

During the colonial period daring intrepid attempts were taken to root out British rule. These attempts took the form of armed uprisings. Needless of say that in these insurrections were the seeds of liberty. Uprisings during the British colonial rule laid the foundation for our Liberation struggle in 1971.

Our war of independence was but a final sequence to the previous liberation efforts. When we read history of our independence we rarely go through the attempts carried out by the valiant warriors who a century and half ago rose against the mighty British. Rarely do we venture to trace the actual roots of our independence movement.

Many of us are totally ignorant, unfamiliar with the names-Titumir, Fakir Maznu Shah, Fakir Musa Shah, Bolaki Shah, Aga Mohammad Reza, Runu Khan etc. it is absolutely reprehensible that our young generation is not familiar with their chivalrous attempts to secure freedom for the people of Bangladesh. We should pay homage to these heroes too.

Let us take a brief glance at their exploits. At least this would familiarise us with those who first laid the stones of the Liberation movement.

#### Fakir Sanyasi Uprising in North Bengal (1760-1800).

The Fakirs of present day bear no resemblance to the Fakirs of the 18th century. At that time the Fakirs lived and traveled in groups. They traveled from one place to another and collected aims. The Fakirs lived a nomadic life. But one remarkable aspect is that these Fakirs carried arms. The rest less and precious political arena of the 18th century increased the military activities of the Fakirs. To fight against the British Nawab Mir Kashem solicited the assistance of the Fakirs. After his defeat Mir Kashem fled but the Fakirs kept up their anti British activities. The British finding the Fakirs to be a thorn on their ambition made efforts to suppress and disorganise the Fakirs and Sanyasis. The British with the help of the zamindars tried to create obstacles for the Fakir.

The British also imposed a prohibition on their activities. At such a critical juncture the Fakirs and the Sanyasis wore to tear apart the roots of British rule. The fakirs rose under the able leadership of Fakir Manzu Shah Burhana. The Sanyasis were led by Bhabani Pathak. In 1960 the Sanyasis in Bardhaman first rose against the British

In 1763 a group of Fakirs attacked in East India Company Kuthi. The same year the Fakurs attacked a factory in Dhaka capturing all the goods they

In 1770-71 several fierce battles were fought between the Fakirs and the troops of the company. These fighting's usually ended with the defeat of the British company. In 1771 Maznu Shah started a massive anti anti-British campaign in North Bengal. To apprehend Manzu Shah and to suppress the Fakir movement the British

sent troops to Rajshahi, Rangpur. In 1772 a battle was fought between the British and the Fakirs in North Bengal. The British were defeated and their commanding officer captain

Thomas killed

Warren Hastings made several attempts to defeat the Fakirs but the company lost most of the military encounters against the Fakirs and the Sanyasis. In 1987 Manzu Shah died. After his death the Fakirs were led by Musa Shah, Karim Shah, Sobhan Shah. But Manzu Shah's death gave a stunning blow to the entire movement. Internal conflicts increase of British troops weakened the Fakir Sanyasis campaign, as a result they were finally defeated in the year

#### Rangpur uprising 1783

In 1783 the peasants of Rangpur declared a revolt against the inhuman revenue policies of the government. In 1781 Raja Devi Singh was awarded the Izara of Rangpur and was given the authority to collect revenue. Devi Singh exceeded the amount stipulated by the government. This had a severe impact on the economy of Rangpur. In the famine of 1769-1770 one third of the entire population of Rangpur died. General income reached its

Moreover it was the company policy to increase revenue every year. Along with the company revenue the Raja also imposed some more taxes for his convenience. The organised peasants declared a new Nawab and asked all to present their allegiance to the new ruler. To repress the rising the British sent a strong contingent. In the title that ensued thousands of peasants were brutally killed. Finally the British the their superior weapons contrived to defeat the United Peasants.

#### Bolaki Shah revolt 1791-92

Bolaki Shah's revolt was a conscious political uprising aimed at securing independent Due to the imposition of excess revenue tax the economic inmastructure of Bengal repl lapsed. With a view to save Benali from the clutches of the British Bolaki Shah at first established a port at Chandrad wip. He fortified it with cannons. These cannons wee of the Suzabad port and out of order. Bolaki Shah repaired these cannons and with them increased his military power. After making all the preparations Bolaki Shah along with his five thousand disciples declared independence.

He announced that anyone who paid revenue to the English would be appropriately punished. However the British did not accept his audacity and dispatched a strong force to apprehend him. After a bloody battle Bolaki Shah yielded. He was later given lifelong imprison-

#### Revolt of Aga Mohammad Reza 1799

Aga Mohammad was a Fakir of Sylhet. He believed that the English rule would only last for forty years and after that Muslim rule would be established But practically when he noticed no sign of the fall of the British rule he himself initiated a "drive the English out" campaign.

He asked for help from the Muslim zamindars but the zamindars were totally under British domination. Finding no allies Reza Mohammad with five thousand of his armed followers attacked Sylhet. But Aga Md. in the face of massive British force was compelled to draw back. Many of his cannons were captured. While trying to flee to Tripura he was caught and given lifelong imprisonment.

Chakma Uprising 1777-87 The Mughals had friendly relations with the Chakmas. The Mughal govt. never interfered with the internal social. political, economic matters of the Chakmas.

In 1760 Chittagong was handed over to the East India Company. From 1761 the new company administration started to increase revenue and other taxes. Due to the increase of these taxes the Chakma community had to face a lot of hardship. Gradually an anti British public opinion formed. This opinion took the form of a revolt in 1777.

Naeb Runu Khan with the consent of Chakma King Jawan Baksh declared a revolt against the company. Runu Khan expelled all company servants from Chittagong hill tracts. To suppress Runu Khan the British sent troops to Chittagong hill tracts. Runu Khan had the nature of his side. adopting guerrilla methods he repelled the English. The British despite their repeated attempts failed to defeat Runu Khan. In 178 1781 the English established a blockade around Chittagong hill tracts area and the area as economically, commercially isolated.

For fish, meat minerals, iron products Chittagong hill tracts depended upon the suppliers based in Chittagong. Due to the British trade blockade the supply of those products was

stopped. In reply Runu Khan also established a blockage. Chittagong was the centre for the company's salt industry. The wood needed to sustain this industry came from the hill tracts. Runu Khan arrested the supply of fire wood. In this way hostilities continued of ten years. In the end after becoming tried and impatient the company made a truce the Chakmas. In that truce internal sovereignty of the Chakmas was acknowledged

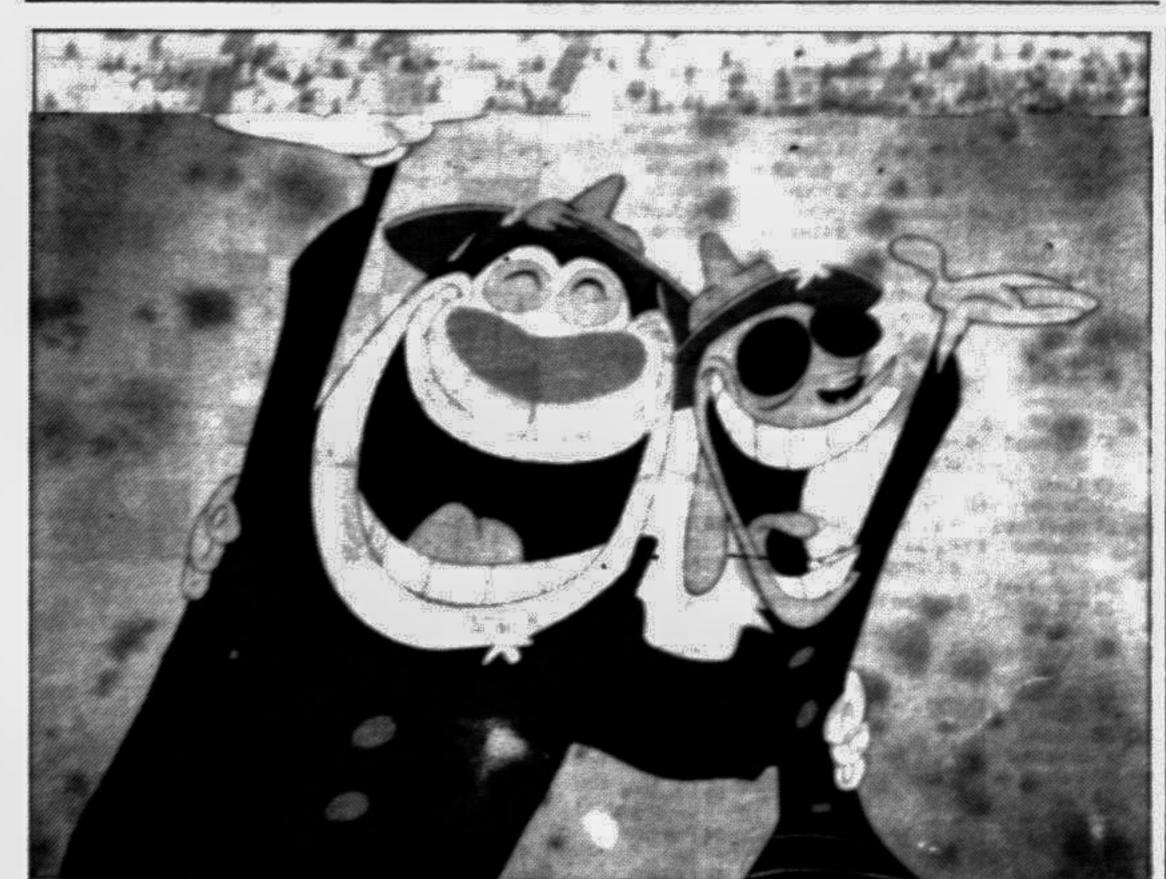
#### Titumir's revolt 1831

Titumir was a professional l'lathial." He was imprisoned on a govt. case during his captivity he developed a passion for religion. After getting his release Titumir went to Arabia. To perform Hajj on his return he established a Khankah at Haidarpur and devoted himself in preaching Sunni ideology. soon he grew to be an influential social leader. Eventually he became a threat to the Hindu Zamindars.

Thus a dispute between the followers of Titumir and the followers of the zamindars ensured This dispute later took the form of an anti English campaign. The oppressed captured peasants joined with Titumir to rise against the tyranny and despotism of the British. Titumir established a port made of bamboo sticks, at Narkelbaria. In the initial bat tle against the English Titumir was victorious but later the British dispatched a full fledged military operation to subdue Titumir Outnumbered, outgunned Titumir was costly defeated. He fought till the last moment and was killed in ac-

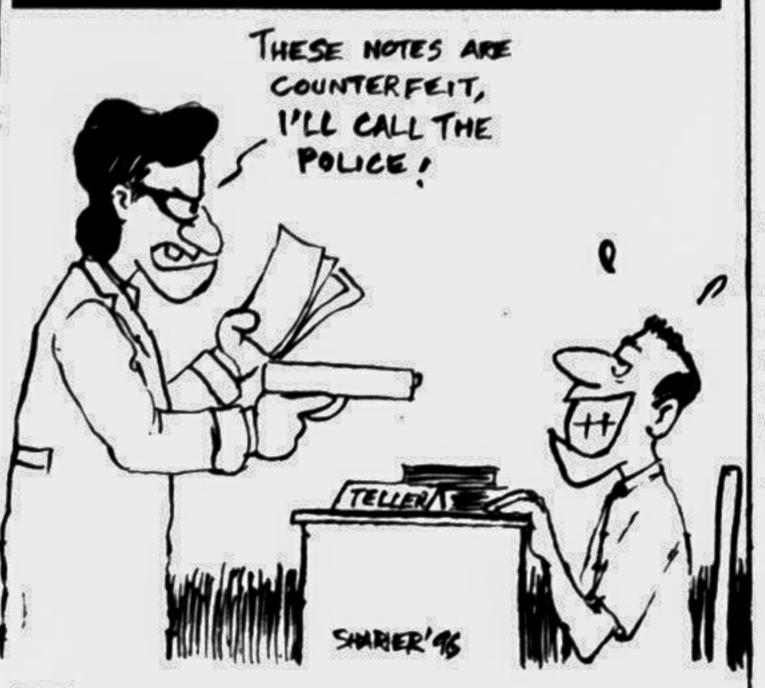
Many tend to believe that the English establishing their rule in this country faced no opposition. But the uprisings of Titumir, Bolaki Shah, Manzu Shah Runu Khan testify to the defiance opposition presented by the people of this country.

The massive insurrection of 1971 was but a culmination of these events. Our chivalrous freedom fighters of 1971 got their encouragement from their predecessors who with open swords and unflinching patriotism dared to challenge the mighty British lion.



What could be the best caption for the above animated picture? We leave it to the readers to choose L send your entries by the end of the year.

### How Not to Rob a Bank



HE following is an excerpt from Tim Clark's "How Not to Here are some easy lessons gleaned from the experiences of a number of would-be robbers.

#### Pick The Right Bank

You don't want to make the same mistake as the fellow in Anaheim, CA, who tried to hold up a bank that was no longer in business and had no money.

#### Study Your History

Don't try to stick up the First National Bank of Northfield, Minnesota. Jesse James tried it 111 years ago, and the townsfolk took just seven minutes to kill two and capture three of his gang. Nobody tried again until 1984, and the customers chased the guy down. They're tight with their dollar. those Minnesotans.

#### Speak to the Right Teller

One robber in Upland, CA, presented his note to the teller, and her father, who was in the next line, got all bent out of shape about it. He wrestled the guy to the ground and sat on him until authorities arrived.

#### Don't Sign Your Demand Note

Demand notes have been written on the back of a subpoena issued in the name of a bank robber in Pittsburgh ... on an envelope bearing the name and address of another in Detroit .... and in East Hartford, Connecticut, on the back of a withdrawal slip giving the robber's signature and account num-

#### Don't Advertise

A teenage girl in Los Angeles tried to distract attention from her face by wearing a see-through blouse with no bra while holding up banks.

#### Go Easy On the Disguise

One robber, dressed up as woman with very heavy make-up, ran face first into a glass door. He was the first criminal ever to be positively identified by lip-print.

#### Take Right Turns Only

Avoid the sad fate of the thieves in Florida who took a wrong turn into the Homestead Air Force Base, drove up to a military police guardhouse and, thinking it was a toll-booth, offered the security men money.

Be Aware of the Time

Or the chagrin of the bank robber in Cheshire. Massachusetts, who hit the bank at 4:30 pm, then tried to escape through downtown North Adams, where he was trapped in rush hour traffic until police arrived.

#### Consider Another Line of Work

Bank robbery is not for everyone. One nervous Newport, RI robber, while trying to stuff his ill-gotten gains into his shirt pocket, shot himself in the head and died instantly.

#### Be Strong

Then there was the case of the hopeless criminal in Swansea. Massachusetts, who, when the teller told him she had no money, fainted. He was still unconscious when the police arrived. His getaway car, parked nearby, had the keys locked

#### Compiled by Shahed Aziz



### What Causes A Mirage?

MAGINE a wanderer in the desert, dying of thirst. He looks off into the distance and sees a vision of a lake of clear water surrounded by trees. He stumbles forward until the vision fades and there is nothing but the hot sand all around him.

The lake he saw in the distance was a mirage. What caused it? A mirage is a trick Nature plays on our eyes because of certain conditions in the atmosphere. First we must understand that we are able to se an object because rays of light are reflected from it to our eyes. Usually, these rays reach our eye in a straight line. So if we look off into the distance, we should only see things that are above our horizon.

Now we come to the tricks the atmosphere plays with rays of light. In a desert, there is a layer of dense air above the ground which acts as a mirror. An object may be out of sight, way below the horizon. But when rays of light from it hit this layer of dense air, they are reflected to our eyes and we see the object as if it were above the horizon and in a our sight. We are really "seeing objects which our eyes cannot see! When the distant sky is reflected by this "mirror" of air, it sometimes looks like a lake, and we have a mirage.

## Technology - Master or Servant?

by M. Ahsanur Fahim

HE one thing that separates man from other animals is his capacity to change his own fate. How he does that is left to his own discretion and judgement. One of the main tools man has in his arsenal to fight fate is 'technology'. This is a word which does not only mean knowledge but also is representative of all the machines that we build to help us in our activ-

Technology has enabled us to accomplish what has been ossible only in man's wildest dreams. We would have been laughed out of any household in Europe only a hundred years ago had we described to any member, however far-sighted or liberal he or she may have been. of the wonders of our present world. We thus think ourselves more fortunate than our great grandparents.

But are we? The only technology that our great grandparent's generation had to worry about was that of the looms in the cloth factories if they had worked in one or owned one. Now, my grandfather is bewildered by all the appliances around him half of which he does not understand and would prefer not to work

Technology is something the case then man would have

that supposed to ameliorate the condition of the ordinary people. But, as it appears, it has done exactly the reverse. As in England during the industrial revolution, large machines have replaced weavers in our

own and worked on other's fields for their livelihood are being replaced by all the modern agricultural machines. When the dish antenna was legalised so as the ensure free flow of information, our culture is being destroyed as the youth 6. our country prefer foreign lifestyles, fashion and music to our own. I frankly think that girls in T-shirts an jeans look more ridiculous than had they worn the Shalwar-kameez that belonged to girls then of my

textile industries. The labour-

ers who had no land of their

grandmother's time. Of course then they wore sarees more frequently. Anyway, it appears that the only information that people are interested in getting from the internet and the satellite channels is which movie is going to be worth the walk to the movie club; or what is the latest cricket test score; or, at the most, which foreign university is easy to get into.

What is it that is wrong here? Is it that technology itself is harmful for man? If this was to return to the life of the stone age or, at best, the nomadic age of man's history.

Don't worry, nothing, such drastic is required. What is needed is awareness. Awareness of something for which so many wars have been fought: freedom of choice. This decides whether to progress to a bright, happy future where both man and technology are enmeshed in a network where man decides the direction of progress, usually for good, of technology, or whether he will allow technology to be untilised inordinately for good and bad thus speeding towards an unforseable and uncertain future.

If someone intends to use my thought as an argument to inhibit freedom of scientific research then he must be informed that I am strongly for total freedom in scientific research. No government, religious institution or group of persons has the right to judge what should be researched about or not.

All types of research should be carried out and the results noted. It is then the responsibility of all ordinary people to decide what should or should not be adopted into our society. It is also important to decide in what way should the adopted technology be utilised.



#### "Chance" by Nazia

IVE me a chance To prove myself And face the world without your help.

Give me a chance To be at the top And reach the moon With no intention to stop. Gime me a chance

To achieve my power And show the world That I'm not slower.

Gime me a chance To love from the depth of my

And resist my pains Without giving a start. Give me a chance

To shed my tears And forget about it Before someone else hears Give me a chance

To love & to be loved And break the rule Of being rough & tough.



You and I can stay along. If the bond of our love is

by Nazia

You and I share the joy. If the world does not annoy. You and I can face the trou-

If the bliss of our love is dou-

You and I can shed the tear If the love keeps us near. You and I can cross the sea, If the love of us does agree. You and I can touch the sky. If the love is there till we die. You and I can love till our

And till the last bell of stopour breath.

## My Fine Little Toy

#### by Tapan Mondal

Y fine little toy Gives me much joy. My fine little toy Is an American cowboy. My fine little toy is named

My fine little toy is very much coy My fine little toy sounds. mree mrow, moy.

My fine little toy is not only He is also a boy.

Mr Roy

# Without Oxygen!

Translated by Paula Aziz

HUME is a very unknown village in Nepal. But as a matter of fact now it became very famous for one of it's inhabitant Ang Rita Ang Rita broke all the records and climbed the Everest for 10 times since '83 to '96. But this adventure becomes more thrilling when we hear that he had done this without oxygen.

In 1980 he got a chance to climb up the 'Dhaula Giri' with Spanish team. That was the first he climb 8000 metre. Two years later he again climbed up the Dhaula Girl with a Swiss team. He made these two attempts with out taking a oxygen cylinders. Ang Rita started doing this at an age when usually every highlander retires. Rita was 35 at that time. In 7th May 1980 Ang Rita climbed the Everest for the first time with a German -American combined group from the South East way, with out oxygen ofcourse. This expedition was not only about climbing Everest but has also helped him climb the stairs of his life. From a very poor and neglected life he reached the top of his success as he reached the mountain tops. The first time made him feel that he can again do that.

This idea took him to Everest again and again. In 1980 with a German team Ang Rita climbed 'Macabu-2', without any training and oxygen it was quite an impossible task to accomplish.

In 1990 when he reached the mountain tops for the sixth time it was memorable one because this time he went up with his natives. After doing or taking all those attempts he had to wait for a long time for the recognition for his splendid expeditions. And when he reached top for

the ninth time without oxygen the world accepted him as a great mountain climber. This year in May the whether is the Everest was really awful, and two greatest mountain climber died in that rough weather. But Ang Rita gave a dam to that weather and climbed the Everest for the tenth time without oxygen. This is really exceptional. Ang Rita wants to climb two more times to the Everest and ofcourse without Now it is our duty to

encourage him and let him fulfill his aim. Good luck to Ang Rita Sherpa.

Courtesy — Ananda mela

## The Stranger

by Farhana Yusuf

Makes it look brighter: He brings sunshine and warmth in life. He makes you feel lighter. He fills the soul

He drives the emptiness away: He makes you crave for more in life And renders you desperate to have you say.

He quenches the thirst, Satisfies the dreams and whims; He brings love and care in life. He gives everything a new meaning.

E surrounds the world.

He completes life with his presence. Teaches you the art of giving: He is the hope, the tomorrow you look forward to. He is the reason you are living.

He rules the heart Makes you feel special and wanted: He brings joy and refreshment in life. He is the ray of light I have taken for granted.