

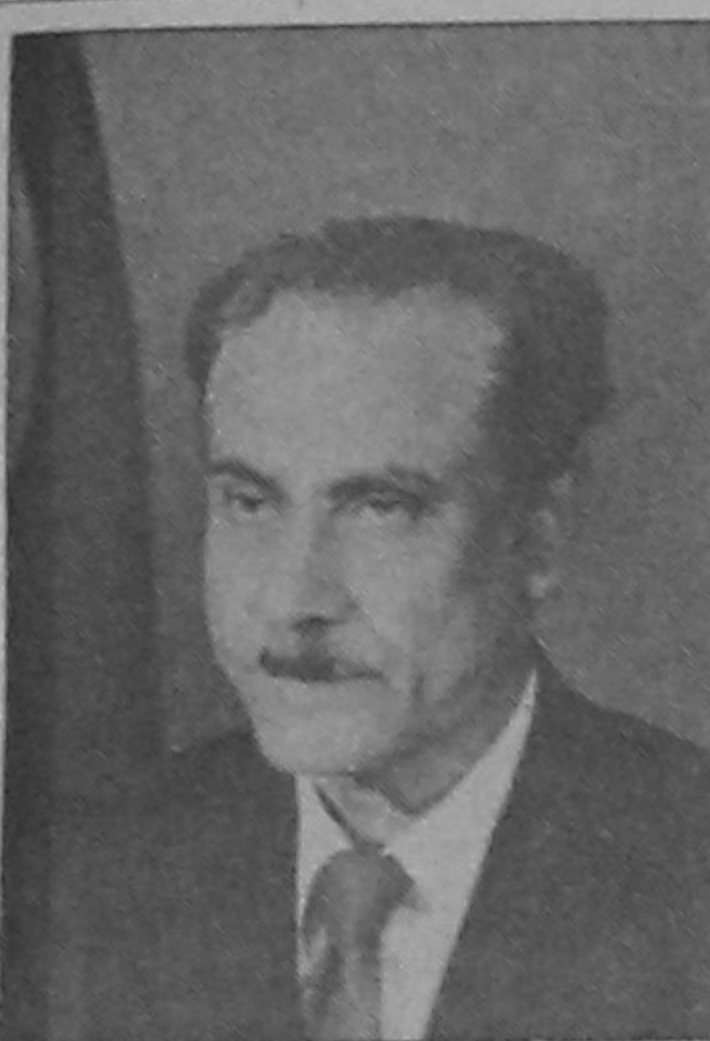
Joi Bangla

Joi Bangabandhu

THE GLORIOUS VICTORY DAY 2000

Special Supplement

Concept & Design : Step Media



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA
16 December 2000

Message

The great Victory Day, following a nine-month long Sanguinary War of Liberation in the year Nineteen hundred Seventy one against the Pakistani Forces is a memorable and glorious day in our national life. On this day, I recall the contribution of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the untold Sacrifice and sufferings of the people and supreme sacrifice of the valiant freedom fighters. I pay homage to the hallowed memory of the Shaheeds of the Liberation War and pray for the salvation of their departed Souls.

Democratic government has now been established in the country. The prime need of the hour is to forge unity on important national issues and create favourable social atmosphere ensuring uninterrupted peace and development for the welfare of the people. All will have to devote sincerely to the establishment of Parliamentary norms-values and rule of law in the country.

On this day of national rejoice, I wish a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed

Victory : Back to the Light from the Dark

Sohrab Hasan

(One)
Every nation has Independence and National Day, but this is only Bangladesh which has the victory day too.

Independent and sovereign Bangladesh has emerged after a long political movements and nine months of bloody struggle and in exchange of self sacrifices of thousands of people. The Bangalee nation achieved her final victory on 16 December 1971. What was that victory? The victory was of justice against injustice, of truth against untruth and victory of light against dark.

The victory of Bangladesh in 1971 was, of course, an important event but the defeat of Pakistan was not less important than that. Some people of independent Bangladesh may forget the glorious victory day, but the Pakistanis still could not forget their disgraceful defeat. It is clear from the sayings of the first President of divided Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to the present military ruler Parvez Musarrat. Though the Pakistani ruling clique failed to distract the world opinion in 1971, but it has succeeded to keep their people away

from the truth for last 30 years. The ruling junta did not let its people know about the genocide and destruction it did in Bangladesh in 1971. And this is why Pakistani military ruler Parvez Musarrat advised (?) to forget the event of 1971 and the Pakistani diplomat Irfanur-Raja spoke arrogant against the liberation war of Bangladesh.

But the Pakistani ruling clique does not know that for us forgetting the event of

not only 95 thousand soldiers of Pakistani occupation army surrendered, but also the untrue vanity and pride and unlimited atrocity of Pakistani ruling clique had surrendered.

(Two)
The Pakistani soldiers carried out genocide, mass rape and mass repression over Bangalees throughout whole nine months. There is not such a village where there is no sign of their repression.

their all out defeat beginning in December, the Pakistani Army and its collaborators Rajakars and Al-Badars carried out a barbaric and heinous killing to make Bangladesh meritoriousless. They killed Bangalee writers, intellectuals, educationists, lawyers, engineers and architects after home to home search in the capital city Dhaka and in other big towns. In the early hours of independence many of their dead bodies were found in



1971 is to forget our existence. Forgetting the event of 1971 is to be unfaithful to the blood of three million martyres. Pakistanis do not know that 1971 is the address of the heart of Bangalees. 1971 means coming back to the light from the dark. The surrender of the Pakistani Commander Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi on 16 December afternoon was as true literally as symbolically. In this day

There is not a single family in Bangladesh which had not sustained loss in any way by the Pakistani army. The newly married wife lost her husband, mother lost her only earning son, the beloved daughter was raped before her helpless father. But the genocide carried out by the Pakistani army on the eve of the Victory Day had surpassed all its past misdoings. After smelling

the massgraves, but many of them are not yet traced. Describing the barbaric genocide carried out by the Pakistani Army a foreign journalist Nicholas Tomaline wrote : Before the surrender at Dhaka on Thursday, the Pakistani Army arrested and then shot more than 50 of the city's surviving intellectuals, scientists and businessmen. It was a closely planned elimination of elite Bangali

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PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH
02 Poush 1407
16 December 2000

Message

The great Victory Day is a matter of absolute rejoice and glory for the people of all walks of life of Bangladesh. The Bangalees earned the final victory on December 16, 1971 by defeating the Pakistani occupation army in the sanguinary War of Liberation through the legacy of our prolonged Struggle for Independence under the leadership of great leader Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The War of Liberation is the greatest event of the Bangalee's history of all times.

I respectfully recollect the sacrifice of the millions of freedom fighters who embraced martyrdom in the glorious War of Liberation of Bangladesh, the grief of the oppressed and persecuted mothers and sisters, the endless sacrifice of the countrymen, the moral support and total cooperation of the peace loving nations and peoples of the world, the extraordinary contribution of the four national leaders including the leaders of the Bangladesh Government in Exile and the people of all walks of life irrespective of their party opinion who participated in the war of liberation. I convey my heartiest salutation to the freedom fighters both martyred and alive.

The military rule following the cruel assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975 pushed backward the pace of development of the Bangalee nation. It destroyed the spirit and values of the War of Liberation and distorted the history of independence. During the long 21 years of autocratic rule, our great Victory Days were observed only to maintain the official formality. The Bangladesh Awami League that led the War of Liberation of the country, after establishing the people's right to vote, returned to power on June 23, 1996, through the mandate of the people in the general election. Country's journey towards progress is now being implemented through the ideology of War of Liberation and independence. The flag of justice has been dignified through the trial of the killers of the Father of the Nation. The trial for the Jail Killing is in progress. According to the people's demand the war criminals of 1971 and the killers of the intellectuals should be put under trial in the soil of Bangladesh. The process of rule of law has been geared up. We have regained our lost glory in the world arena. The 21st February, the commemorative of Language Movement of the Bangalees has been recognized as 'International Mother Language day' in 1999. Bangladesh got the membership in the UN Security Council. This year Bangladesh has been crowned with the Test Status as the 10th test playing nation in the global cricket arena. These recognition have adorned the Bangalees with pride and dignity.

We are committed to build Bangladesh free from poverty and illiteracy facing the challenges of the 21st century and to join the global stream of modern science and technology. I am confident that Bangladesh which came into being with great promise of liveliness, wealth and prosperity would again hold its head high with honour in the world arena.

On the eve of the Victory Day, I call upon the countrymen and the Bangalees residing abroad to come forward untidily with the spirit of War of Liberation to face the evil forces, who want to halt the pace of nation's progress by destroying the values of independence. I also fervently call upon the countrymen living both home and abroad to make effective contribution in building Bangladesh economically prosperous in the new century and enhance the fame of the country at home and at international level.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever

Sheikh Hasina

The Liberation War and the Freedom Fighters

Ajay Das Gupta

It was the 25th of April 1971. Exactly one month had elapsed since the beginning of the barbaric genocide by the Pakistani invasion force. A large column of vehicles was advancing through the Faridpur-Barisal highway to establish the authority of the invading army. As they approached the 'Sauder Khal Bridge' at Barisal's 'Torki Port', they were confronted by a band of fearless freedom fighters. The Pakistani forces were equipped with modern arms including machine guns, cannon and mortars. On the other hand, the freedom fighters only possessed 303 rifles, muzzle-loader, bamboo sticks, chopper, axe, etc. Most of them had to take up arms to liberate the motherland after receiving training for only a few days. The battle was unequal, but both the sides incurred heavy losses. Some Pakistani soldiers were killed and a few of their armoured vehicles were destroyed. Four armed freedom fighters embraced martyrdom. They were Alauddin Bux, Parimal Mandal, Abul Hashem and Mokhtar Hossain. Their co-fighters buried them on that very night when a firm resolve was expressed to free the country swiftly from the clutches of the enemy.

The tools and cane-shields used by the valiant freedom fighters at the Battle of Donarkandi in Barisal have now been preserved at the Liberation War (Mukti Juddha) Museum, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. These heroic freedom fighters of Donarkandi and Naogram had killed four Pakistani soldiers with these very arms on 14 May 1971. They were led by one Anil Mallik, who was martyred during the war. The invaders were entering the villages, setting the dwelling houses on fire and were resorting to looting and plunder. The twenty-year old vivacious youth Anil was determined not to allow these brutes leave the place alive. He ultimately had

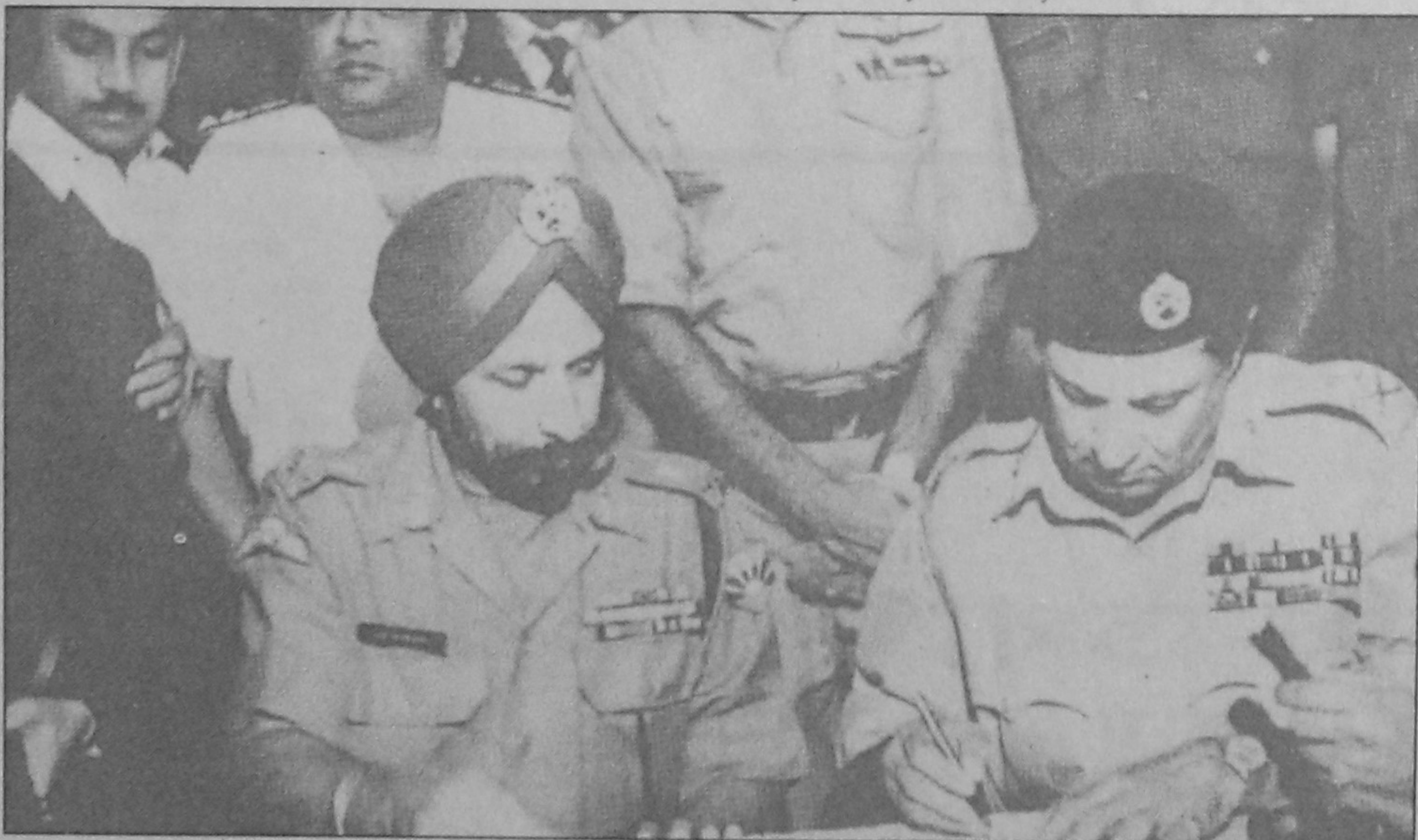
to give up his own life for that. His co-fighters bade him adieu with tearful eyes. They vowed to show due respect and honour to him by expelling the invaders. Shaheed Anil Mallik and Parimal Mandal were students. Abul Hashem's profession was rice-trading. After listening to Bangabandhu's 7 March speech over radio at Goila Bazar of Barisal on 8 March 1971, they told their family members that the call of freedom had come. There was no other alternative other than fighting the Pakistanis.

Alauddin Bux was working in the Pakistani military until 25 March. Evading the watchful eyes of the Pakistanis, this half-educated young man started for his village home at Barisal on 27 March along with his wife and one and a half-year-old son. He did not waste any time after reaching home at the end of 9-days' onerous journey. He began to train up those teenage

boys and youths who were eager to participate in the armed liberation war. He was in the front row of the freedom fighter group who went to confront the Pakistani soldiers on the 25th of April. He fought like a tiger in the battle-ground. When the Pakistani army launched their brutal genocide on 25 March 1971, there were doubts in many people's mind regarding our preparations for facing the formidable enemy. The spontaneous resistance put up in different parts of the country demonstrated that the Bangalees were prepared for independence. The invaders had to ousted. That was the solemn pledge of crores of people of the country.

The Bangalees have fought for their independence for ages. The land was often shaken in the process. People suffered repression and torture in jail and even gave up their lives for

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General Niazi signing the instrument of surrender in Dhaka on 16 December 1971.

WORLD PRESS ON BANGLADESHI GENOCIDE IF BLOOD IS THE PRICE OF PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE BANGLADESH HAS OVERPAID

Mahbubul Alam

The whole world knows that the ugliest genocide in history was committed by Pakistani forces in Bangladesh in 1971. The survivors as well as the foreign correspondents stationed in the then East Pakistan had narrated vividly the extent of atrocities and cruelty, they observed. All these were published in many local and international publications and periodicals. Pakistani authorities had expelled 35 foreign newsmen from Bangladesh in a bid to keep the outside world blind about the facts of March 25 crackdown and the following

'kill and burn missions' throughout the country. However, fast hand reports were given by journalists, foreigners, and diplomatic missions. And most of the foreign correspondents were confined in the Hotel Intercontinental in Dhaka. While the foreign newsmen were staying there, they tried to observe the happenings outside. But they were forced back in by Pakistan Army. They heard continuous firing and artillery bursts and saw big blazes of fire around the city for the two days, right upto the time they were expelled. One

of the expelled journalists, Sydney H. Schanberg in his story published in New York Times on March 28, 1971 gave an account of their departure : 'Just before leaving, the lieutenant colonel in-charge was asked by a newsmen why the foreign press had to leave. "We want you to leave because it would be too dangerous for you," he said. "It will be too bloody." All the hotel employees and other foreigners in the hotel believed that once the newsmen left, carnage would begin. "This isn't going to be hotel," said

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