

'The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh' Memoirs of a US diplomat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The struggle for freedom and the price paid for it is vividly depicted in the book titled 'The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh', noted the discussants at a discussion in the city yesterday.

The discussion was organised by the Liberation War Museum as part of its three-day programme to celebrate the Victory Day.

Memoirs of an American diplomat Archer K Blood, the book contains many details about the liberation war which were previously unknown to us, said the discussants.

Holding a diplomatic post in US embassy in Dhaka from March 1970 to June 1971, Blood nurtured a different viewpoint from the American executive wing regarding the liberation war.

His reports as an eyewitness

were never appreciated by the then US government and he was unceremoniously called back.

Blood illustrated the war without being prejudiced or emotionally recharged, said Akku Chowdhury, trustee member of the Liberation War Museum.

The book is an aid for the younger generation to overcome the misconception about our liberation war, he added.

A glimpse of Blood's life was given by Shahudul Islam, a friend of him. 'Blood was almost a Bangali' said Islam. He also noted the stream of affection received from Blood.

'It is a pity that a book like 'Cruel Birth of Bangladesh' was not published even in 30 years of independence, said AMA Muhi.

He, however, added that it is a right time to publish the book as the victory of the nation is being dishonoured.

He discussed several chapters of the book which include the life of Bangabandhu and his six-point demand.

The nation as a whole should share the author's experiences, said the speakers. They expressed their gratitude to the author for focusing the history.

Dr Kamal Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

The discussion was followed by the screening of a film titled 'Tale of the darkest night' directed by Kawsar Chowdhury.

CU BCU to form human chain

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Chittagong University (CU) unit, will form a human chain on the Shaheed Minar premises in the port city today protesting the move to stop the government grant to public universities and raise tuition and other fees.

In a joint statement yesterday, BCU CU unit president Ripayan Barua and general secretary Dev Prasad Devu said the government wants to create discrimination among the poor and the rich even in the education sector by raising the fees.

Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Mamataz Uddin Mehedi, former general secretary of Dhaka District Bar Association, was arrested on December 9 and detained for 30 days on December 10 under the Special Powers Act, 1974.

Barrister Rukanuddin Mahmud along with Zahangir Hossain Selim moved the petitions on behalf of the petitioners while Assistant Attorneys General Zaman Akhter Bulbul and Gias Uddin Mithu stood for the state.



Devotees cling to a train at Tongi to return home at the end of three-day Biswa Ijtema yesterday.

PHOTO STAR

Tk 8.6cr Japanese grant for arsenic mitigation

UNB, Dhaka

The government of Japan will provide 184 million yen equivalent to Tk 8.60 crore for a UNICEF-funded arsenic mitigation project in Bangladesh.

The project is designed to ensure the supply of safe drinking water to some 2,000 communities directly benefiting some 4 million people.

A memorandum of understanding to this effect was signed at the conference room of Local Government Division of LGRD Ministry in the city yesterday.

State Minister for LGRD Ziaul Haq Zia was present during the signing of the MOU.

Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Jiro Kobayashi and UNICEF representative in Bangladesh Morten Giersing signed the agreement, said an official release.

Local Government Secretary AYBI Siddiqui, Chief Engineer of Department of Public Health Engineering Ishaq Ali and other high officials were also present.

Ziaul Haq Zia thanked the Japanese government for providing the timely assistance.

He said the grant will help complete the work of blanket testing, patient identification and provision for safe drinking water options in 14 upazilas of 8 districts.

The Department of Public Health Engineering is working to implement the project with technical assistance from UNICEF.

Referring to two Japanese projects on arsenic in Bangladesh, Japanese Ambassador Jiro Kobayashi called for urgent, concerted and coordinated action in this regard.

He stressed on multi-sectoral approach involving relevant ministries, NGOs and development partners to thwart the challenges posed by arsenic contamination in groundwater.

Commending Japanese support to arsenic mitigation, Morten Giersing called for complete testing of wells to save the people from the ill affects of arsenic contaminated water.

He said the Japanese grant-in-aid is a practical demonstration of the Japanese Government's support for children and women in Bangladesh.

UNICEF's four-pronged strategy for arsenic mitigation programme includes blanket testing, awareness creation through communication, patient identification & management and development of alternative sources of drinking water.

Speaking on the occasion,

Khair sustained fatal injuries as he fell off a rickshaw in Paltan area on Thursday while returning home from his workplace. He was rushed to the hospital in an unconscious state.

Khair is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

He was buried at his village home at Homna in Comilla yesterday evening.

A condolence meeting in his memory will be held at the Prothom Alo office tomorrow.

Moslem Uddin

BSS, Dhaka

Moslem Uddin, a former assistant secretary at the Ministry of Establishment, died in the city yesterday after a prolonged illness at the age of 72.

A confirmed bachelor, Moslem Uddin hailed from Muktagachha of Mymensingh district.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Khair, an editing assistant of the Prothom Alo, died of brain haemorrhage at Dhaka Medical College hospital yesterday at the age of 45.

Khair sustained fatal injuries as he fell off a rickshaw in Paltan area on Thursday while returning home from his workplace. He was rushed to the hospital in an unconscious state.

Khair is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

He was buried at his village home at Homna in Comilla yesterday evening.

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'Help injured JU students'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of the Archaeology department of Jahangirnagar University yesterday appealed for financial help for the treatment of their fellow classmates injured in a fatal road accident in Chandigarh, India, last month.

The students of the 27th batch called upon all, including the former students, to extend a helping hand as the university authorities said that 'they had no fund for the treatment of students'.

At a press conference at the JU Journalists' Association yesterday, they said the guardians of the severely injured four students could

no longer afford to meet the expenses for treatment.

The accident took place on November 21 when a group of 21 students and their teacher was on a study tour. Associate professor Hosne Ara Motahar died on the spot while a female student Shamina Yasmin Munni succumbed to her injuries the following day.

Severely injured Nupur, Deneb, Joly and Lipi are now undergoing treatment at the PGI Hospital in Chandigarh. Among them, Nupur is still in the Intensive Care Unit.

Although the Chandigarh Hospital authorities are providing free treatment, the guardians cannot

manage to meet the huge expenses for medicines, they said.

Earlier, the university authorities assured that they would bear the expenses for the treatment.

But when the students met the university authorities on December 3, the authorities told them that they had already given the chairman of the department Tk one lakh and there are no other funds to help the injured students.

As the money was spent for bringing the other students back to the country, department Chairman Prof. Mozammel Haque said, he could not provide any fund for the treatment.

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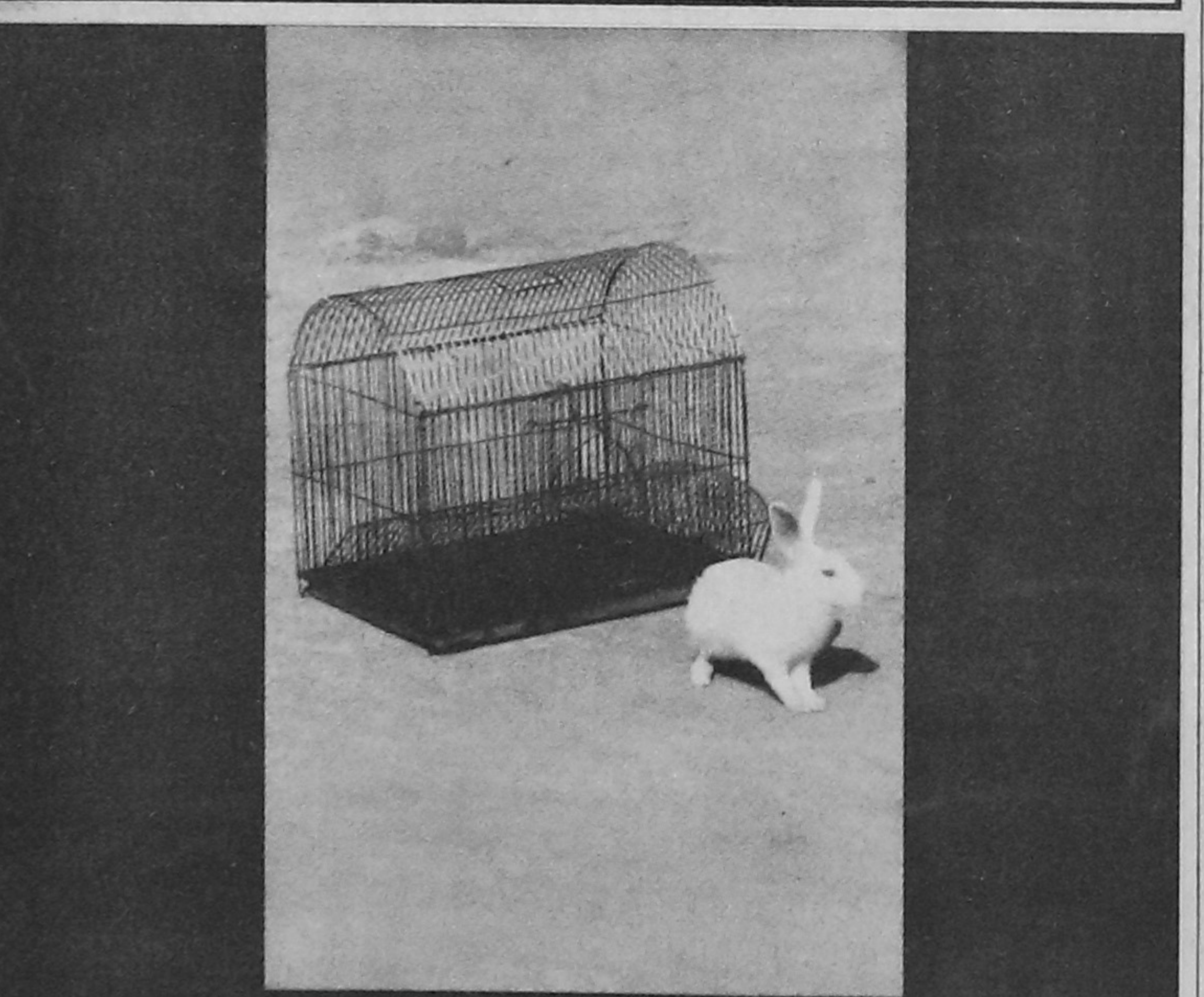
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