



Rahman designed what was to be the new Shaheed Minar and the elaborate project eventually proved to be too much to complete. On the 21st of February the new monument was inaugurated by Abul Barkat's mother, but it would not last long. By the end of The Liberation War in late 1971 it was almost entirely demolished by the Pakistan forces and needed to be rebuilt. Hamidur Rahman took the project on again and produced what we see now. A trip to Shaheed Minar now is a walk into a leafy paradise far from its tumultuous origin more than fifty years ago. Lovers hold hands, children play cricket and people just stop by to relax. It has become a community centre of sorts which binds us with the language we speak. When people die their bodies are brought to Shaheed Minar as it seems even in death they soak up its unrivalled atmosphere. As the day draws nearer it is a hub of excitement, as students paint the adjacent walls and the ground is covered in flowers, the Shaheed Minar is the centre of what it is to be a Bangladeshi. February is Ekushey. ■