

United we stand

DALIA NAUSHEEN writes from Chicago

It was a time of great excitement, apprehension and a time of bonding. The streets of Dhaka were filled with colourful processions, heated meetings and rallies. The daytime was occupied with guerrilla warfare - trainings, students and mob chasing 'Tholas' (police with helmets). The afternoons were for rehearsals, for us who belonged to music-schools (Chhayana). The nights were for patrolling. University students (like my brothers) and elders stayed awake all night to protect their locality against any unexpected threats from the non-Bengalis, or Biharis.

I am talking about the pre-liberation days. 1969-70 was the best time, in my memory, when the people of Dhaka, like a big deprived family, protested together against the untenable demands of the Pakis, and the arrogant behaviour of the government officials. We Bengalis were all prepared for an encounter with the militaristic elite, but could never dream of what was coming in so short a time.

Mazharul Islam, my father, was constantly busy attending meetings or arranging them at our house. Husne Ara Islam, aka Baby apa, my mother took me to the rallies, rehearsals and processions. She was one tough woman as she took care of her

on the 25th of March. Dhaka was a city of ghosts and dead bodies. We could not help cry out at the spectacle of atrocities committed by the Pak army. One cannot ever forget a genocide or a war in one's lifetime. We are that generation of Bangladeshis who are the proud builders of a new nation, as well as witness to a genocide, that is parallel to none other than that of Hitler's, the worst dictator and murderer in our lifetime.

But have we been able to convey our message to the next generation? I think we have failed immensely to continue as Bengalis. We have failed to pass on to our children the dreams of our parents.

Now that I have been abroad for quite sometime, I have silently and heavy-heartedly absorbed the fact that almost all the visions and concepts of having a war and giving birth to a country was perhaps not so great an idea. Maybe we would be more of Bengalis if we hadn't!! Maybe our hearts would still flutter, when we looked at the krishnochuras and respected our National Anthem.

Bengalis abroad are too busy to think about their country, especially, when there is so much chaos and adverse activities going on back home. My family and I have never forgotten for a single moment what we have fought for. We have never let our children forget that we are Freedom Fighters and proud to be Bengalis. From the moment we set foot on these foreign grounds, we promised ourselves to continue being Bengalis, have cultural activities and gatherings. The first thing we did was to start the Bengalis foremost celebration, 'Pahela Baishakh'; have 'jalshas on a regular basis, with a theme pertaining to Bangladesh (like Bangladeshi cinema, r'gaan, classical, folk, poncho-kobi, etc.). We are encouraging the younger generation to read Bengali books, watch Bangla movies, especially documentaries relating to our war.



Dalia Nausheen

family, attended meetings, helped keep the peace in our house, as each member in our family believed in different political concepts. Our house was one busy camp where political members, architects, cultural activists, students, cricket players, businessmen, family members, all came to do their part related to the ongoing political unrest in the country.

Like every citizen in the country, during this period of turmoil and agitation, ours was a family tied together in a web of anxiety, unsure of what the future had for us, but preparing for the worst. Like every teenager, I was only half aware of the intensity of the situation. Like any girl of my age, I enjoyed attending the rallies, processions and trainings, but could never imagine that this would come to practical use so soon and without warning. It was my dream to be in a country where I could wear a saree, put 'teep' on my forehead, sing songs of Tagore, Nazrul and not be told to change the words of any poems written by them, or even to sing a different song. I believed in what my parents were fighting for.

It was like a tremendous nightmare when the war broke out

unique in its nature.... a concept where there is no misconception, no disputes, segregation and traffic jams. Respect should be the keyword at this point, not just for each other, but for those who have laid down their lives for this country, for those who have fought and are disabled and still living amongst us, for those women who were tortured by the army and are misfits in society. Why do we still avoid the question of the whereabouts of the war-children?

I strongly believe that the primary scheme to destroy our dreams is still ongoing and we as one nation should be wary of our enemy and stand together as we did during our War of Independence in 1971. That was the spirit I recalled the other day in Chicago, where my husband Azad Hafiz and I were honoured by the expatriate Bengali community as Muktiyoddhas. It was a resurgence of old pride.

The writer is an eminent Nazrul exponent, experienced the Liberation War first-hand in exile.

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On Air

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News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm. News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.

News (English) at 6:00pm

Rtv

News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

ntv

News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV

News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

BTV

09:00 Shishur Kishor Shomabesh

10:05 Musical Programme

01:30 Mati O Manush

02:15 Recitation Programme

03:05 Paagri

04:30 Children's Programme

05:05 Musical Programme

06:15 Recitation Programme

08:35 Drama: Mritika

10:30 Discussion Programme

ATN BANGLA

08:15 Aiker Shanbadpotro

08:30 Shishu Kishor Shomabesh

10:30 Talk Show: Anyodrishti

11:05 Byangochitrey Muktiyudhyo

12:15 Shomali Shadakalo

12:45 Bijoyer Katha

01:25 Bimata Birangona

02:30 Smrititey Ekattur

03:10 Bangla Feature Film: Roklatyo Bangla

05:30 Katha Mala

06:20 Mukti Katha Bijoyer Katha

06:50 Projonmo Katha

08:00 Drama Serial: Ekjon Rojob Ali

09:00 Documentary Programme: Muktiyudh-er Ethash

11:00 Election Hour

12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

CHANNEL i

09:45 Grameenphone Tritio Matra

11:05 Bijoy Mela

05:30 Talk Show: Muktiyudhdho Protidin

06:00 Talk Show: Khola Akash Business Show

07:20 Musical Programme: Meridian Channel i

<p>09:35 Khudey Gaan Raaj'08 Drama: Bari 71</p> <p>12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shangbadpotro</p> <p>ETV</p> <p>08:30 Ekush-er Shokal</p> <p>Drama Serial: Ghatak Ebong Amra</p>	<p>05:30 Sports Plus</p> <p>05:45 Ekusher Shondha</p> <p>06:30 Special Programme: Gaaner Judhyo Judher Gaan</p> <p>07:45 Muktiyudhyo Hridoye Momo</p> <p>08:30 Drama Serial: Akey Shunyo Dash</p>	<p>08:55 Shishu Kishor Shomabesh</p> <p>10:30 Bangla Feature Film: Uttor-er Khop</p> <p>02:30 Drama: Gogon Aj Deshey Phirechhey</p> <p>03:50 Musical Programme: Bhinyo Shor O Bhinyo Shur</p> <p>04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar</p>
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Ruposhi Rohoshyo
On Rtv at 9:25 pm
Single Episode TV play
Cast: Litu Anam, Dipa Khobdokar, Tarana Halim

Muktiyudhder Itihash
On ATN Bangla at 9:00 pm
Documentary Programme on Liberation War

Closeup 1 2008
On ntv at 6:45pm
Special episode on Victory Day

Daag
On Banglavisation at 8:15 pm
Single Episode TV play
Cast: Aupi Karim, Pricilla Parvin

<p>10:30 Ekushey Business</p> <p>02:30 Drama Serial: Tun Tuni Vila</p> <p>03:30 Drama: Korimon Beoya</p> <p>04:02 Total Music</p> <p>04:30 Shomali Shadakalo</p>	<p>09:30 Drama Serial: Tomtom</p> <p>10:00 Ekushey Shonket</p> <p>10:50 Financial Bulletin</p> <p>11:45 Dekha Odekha 71</p> <p>ntv</p> <p>08:30 Aiker Shokaal</p>	<p>04:00 Amader Bijoy Music One</p> <p>04:30 Nongorer Shonket</p> <p>05:15 Nongorer Khoj</p> <p>06:00 Saajbela</p> <p>07:00 Desher Gaan</p> <p>08:15 Bangshiwala</p>
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<p>09:30 Kemon Aachen Tara</p> <p>BANGLAVISION</p> <p>07:00 Special cultural programme live telecast from Institute of Fine Arts</p> <p>09:00 Shishu Kishor Shomabesh</p> <p>02:00 Special Programme</p> <p>03:03 Drama: Phera</p> <p>04:20 X Crime</p> <p>05:15 Musical Programme</p> <p>05:45 Citycell Din-er Sheshey</p> <p>06:20 Amar Desh Amar Gaan</p> <p>06:50 Amader Desher Gaan</p> <p>08:15 Drama: Daag</p> <p>09:45 Amader Bijoyer Katha</p> <p>11:25 Judhyo Joyer Golpo</p> <p>ZEE STUDIO</p> <p>08:30 The In-Laws</p> <p>10:30 Beachhead</p> <p>12:30 The Last Samurai</p> <p>03:50 Out Of Reach</p> <p>05:30 Charlie Chaplin</p>	<p>STAR WORLD</p> <p>09:30 30 Rock</p> <p>10:00 Scrubs</p> <p>10:30 La Femma Nikita</p> <p>11:30 Whistler</p> <p>12:30 Jimmy Kimmel Live</p> <p>01:30 Monk</p> <p>02:30 The Ellen Degeneres</p> <p>03:30 Fashion House</p> <p>04:30 Cold Case</p> <p>05:30 La Femma Nikita</p> <p>06:30 Whistler</p> <p>08:30 Seinfeld</p> <p>09:00 Whose Line is It Anyway?</p> <p>09:30 30 Rock</p> <p>10:00 Scrubs</p> <p>10:30 Heroes</p> <p>11:30 Jimmy Kimmel Live</p> <p>THE HISTORY CHANNEL</p> <p>10:00 Body Armour (BA61108)- 15 Mins</p> <p>10:15 Creative Vision</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>Radio Foorti 88.0 FM</p> <p>07:30am Hello Dhaka</p> <p>10:00am Music Junction</p> <p>12:00pm My Time</p> <p>01:00pm No Tension</p> <p>04:00pm Dhaka Calling</p> <p>09:30pm Night Rider</p> <p>01:00am Back to Back music</p> <p>Radio Today 89.6 FM</p> <p>07:15am Good Morning Dhaka</p> <p>11:00am Masti Unlimited</p> <p>01:00pm Today's Adda</p> <p>04:00pm U-turn</p> <p>08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok</p> <p>11:00pm Raat Vor Gan</p>
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