

Special Supplement

The Glorious Victory Day

Wednesday, 16 December

(Continued)

Discourse on the Victory Day

that spirit and values of the liberation war vanished from amongst us - the people of that time? It seems as if everything is sinking in the turbulence of distortions! And the new generation of our present time? Their brain-washing has been accomplished in a most clever and shrewd manner. They are learning another kind of history. They are unaware of all the great deeds of their fathers. Instead, all-out vile efforts are being made to groom a parasitic population oblivious of the heritage and legacy of their forefathers.

It is an infinite mercy of God that the memorable day of achieving victory in Bangladesh's liberation war has arrived at such a dark hour. That is why this humble submission - now is the auspicious moment to look at one's face in the mirror, to rise, to resist those who had opposed '71 and to become invigorated with the Bangalee spirit of Bangladesh. And justifiably, the questions of relevance will come over and over again: liberation war - freedom fighters; killing of the Father in August '75; Indemnity Ordinance; martial law - coup - counter-coup in the country; rehabilitation of the Razakars; the episode of autocracy; victory in the anti-autocracy movement; and what followed after that.

When we speak of people's rights and freedom and relate those to our present, the relevance of Bangladesh's liberation war and its backdrop becomes huge. Overall, it deserves a thorough discussion. However, for the sake of easy deciphering, it can be narrated as follows. It was freedom of the common people from the tyrannical rule and exploitation of the plunderers, freedom from the repressions of servitude and occupation. History says that the process of enchainment is more or less similar in all countries and ages; aggression by wearing socio-economic and religious garbs. The emperors, generals, churches, feudal lords, merchants and industrialists arrived. They forged coalition with local vested quarters. Their main objective was to exploit the general masses by forcing them into slavery. On the other side, people got organised for freedom in many countries of the world throughout the ages; they revolted through resistance movements and ultimately waged armed wars. We have read about the Spartacus mutiny against the Roman Empire in the remote past. From then on, history has been beset with so many upsurges, revolutions and revolts. We have seen at the height of the Twentieth Century how Ho Chi Min of Vietnam, Martin Luther King of the United States and Nelson Mandela of South Africa had provided leaderships in the fight against various strands of autocracy. For the freedom of the underprivileged teeming millions. Now it becomes clear that a war was fought for complete freedom under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in our own country as well.

History is not created all of a sudden. Outbursts may occur due to momentary excitements. But that is quite temporary and evaporates quickly. On the other hand, our '71 was the accomplishment of a luminous history; a mass upsurge throughout the land and factors in the background depths and currents of time. And we witnessed it when history got consolidated on the surface. There were many who had the experience of active participation. Let us present an outline of relevant events, especially for our present generation:

a. I shall say, history started its journey with the language movement of 1948-52;

b. Cultural conferences at Chittagong, Comilla, Dhaka and Tangail's Kagmari during the 1950s. The source of our heritage was becoming clearer; the cultural reservoir of a thousand-year old Bangla was enriching our ethos;

c. The massive defeat of the flag-bearers of Pakistan - Muslim League - in the 1954 elections. This event propelled the movement for political autonomy and economic rights of the people of East Bengal;

d. Observance of the centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's birth in 1961; a cultural resistance movement was waged throughout the decade, based on Tagore's ideals; it played a supportive role in boosting the nationalistic spirit of the Bangalees;

e. Intense protest movement by the students against the Sharif Education Commission Report of 1962;

f. Spreading the movement for realization of 6-points throughout the country in 1966.

December, Month of Freedom and Victory
Belal Chowdhury

The seed that had been spread
All over the country in March
It took only nine months not even ten months, ten days
In December the victory flag of Bangla and Bangalees
Has flown in the free sky.

The eastern horizon has become scarlet
With flushing lights of thousand suns
- Since then December means
Month of freedom, month of victory.
Who remembers the dark night -
After those black nights -
Everywhere delightful celebration of victory
With colored festoons!

The free human sea roared in high tide of spirit
Hand in hand shoulder to shoulder
With flag of freedom soaked in paddy color
Blood-stained bare branches
With the fragrance of ripe grain
In the deserted horizon

Who is calling whom from far and near
From everywhere of Bangla
Everybody is in strong grip, student, teacher and farmer
Labor with Charter of Freedom

The loved call of freedom fighters during day and night
Where are you Ray rayan Jibanando
Sheikh Mujib -
The cosmos of Bangla is resounded
With the twittering of seven and half crore cuckoos
"Struggle this time is struggle for freedom
Struggle this time is struggle for Independence"

Sad-faced birds around the country
Melancholic flowers and fruits of Bangla
Homeless haunted for nine months-
Tears turn into solid stone.
Rush of confined flood will come down
By the gentle stroke with a finger.
Red china rose symbolizes our deep wound
Beyond invention - no fear or wonder
Today only to embrace in endless tears and smile
In the beautiful Bangla of Mujib and Jibanando
All rivers-indomitable sons of Bangla
Return home meeting life's all transaction
Bangla and Banglae of time immemorial
Has become overwhelmed
With the voice of joy Bangla.

Translation : Fatema Zohra Haque



Droplets of Life

Syed Shamsul Haq

O life etched with sorrow, not all can be erased - like the sky or garden.

The garden is still keen to bloom flowers round the year, and the sky bends to see the face - even now.
Need labour, want birds, need sunshine, seek seed - no pause in these wishes.

Those who lie in wait night and day to demolish the subject's roots with axe,
Against them, I still stand in the mirror, please look at your own self in the reflection.
But other images continue to fall on that reflection - of sickness and darkness, and leads to
Accounting errors, of pluses and minuses, divisions and multiplications, straight lines and curvature
Above them fly the flocks of black birds, I also watched them descend with valour.
They pierce the seeds of stars with their nails and fills up the mantra with their cawing.
All these are opposed to my composition, aiming to rape your face, needless to say.

I could not be satisfied with my attires and addictions, these are not something unknown.

I really don't know why I try to belch them out repeatedly like a nauseating patient, and
Cut with my teeth the stalk of green grass, only to find the garden and sky of words,
Whether you kept track of that news or not, look inside your glittering reservoir of water.
On the day when I wanted that water for the first time, you cried out - go away!
Now that current of water wets all black lips of the globe, I have seen that as well!

You showed your priority on that very first day, in that way. And!! -!! -!!
Standing on a hopeless terrain beyond the plains, I started to weave a fabric whose designs
Were composed with the tinsel of a profound rage and the cotton thread of love.
I also made a flag from that, O life etched with sorrow, of your own country.

Look, holding on to your shadow, I am still a flag-bearer moving in a procession of solitude.

No ditches of apathy and estrangement, or piles of worries have been painted in my map.
I have continuously released the fierce screams within me through the voice-box or words,
And I am making them fit for utterance with our daily tongues in this rural habitat of the dumb.
Not everything can be erased! Indelible ink and the pen of gods are in my prayers.
I still collect flowers, and having the talent of garlands I still have needle and thread in my hand.
Although the terrain may have become barren, at its end lies your long shadow.

O life etched with sorrow, O the goddess form of the life-god, let you be placed in front - come And
take the soil from my hand, take the linseed oil for opening the eyes, become visible O goddess!
I am a being dedicated to your worship - and who else is there to worship in my life other than you?

Translation: Helal Uddin Ahmed

g. The mass upsurge reaching a climax during 1968, 1969;

h. Then how swiftly arrived the fiery month of March 1971! Bangabandhu called for a non-cooperation movement; then came his historic 7 March speech - "The struggle this time is for our freedom, the struggle



this time is for independence". Then within a span of three more weeks, we reached the stage of an armed liberation war.

It is not merely a chronology of events. It was a cinema of transition, from one layer of history to another. At the same time, we should look at how the roots of a people's belief had widened and deepened in their hearts. This could be interpreted from the following significant slogans: 'The address of yours and mine - Padma Meghna Jamuna', 'Wake up Bangalee, Wake up', 'Joy Bangla' (Victory to Bangla), 'Bangla's Triumph', 'Brave Bangalee, take up arms, liberate Bangladesh', etc. And finally, all these met at a confluence, where we find the immortal words of inspiration - the war-cry 'Joy Bangla'. It is obvious that the tales of motherland Bangla and the Bangalee people are bound to resurface over and over again. ■

Translation: Helal Uddin Ahmed

Bangladesh to return to the old Pakistani order. The implication of the killing of Bangabandhu and some other persons was not limited to the killing itself. The Father of the Nation was killed because he had wanted Bangladesh to secede from the religion-based and army-centric Pakistan, and build Bangladesh as a modern people's republic.

After long 24 years of Pakistani misrule, 1971 had arrived as the dream-year for the much-oppressed people of Bangladesh. Fighting determinedly since long against the colonial rule of Pakistan, the people looked upon their dear country, Bangladesh as the embodiment of their long-cherished dream. The seer of that dream was Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. 1975 was, therefore, a combined revenge of all the known and unknown anti-liberation forces who were still operating in the country. It was an all-out attempt to kill the new nation in the very labour room.

Since 1975, sovereign Bangladesh had ceaselessly been bleeding. With the pains of failures slapped on the nation, the rainbow - hued dream of independence became blurred. Instead of democracy and good governance, a distressful period had intervened. In the post-1975 period, the exploiters of religion and elements with anti-people political background were rehabilitated, although Bangladesh was born to annul the sick Pakistani ideals. The rulers, - military and semi-military, - revived communalism and fanaticism. They turned election as a tool to lengthen their undemocratic rule. In the name of restoring multi-party democracy, they had virtually installed an evil administration dominated by the Army, - the concept which was banished through the war of liberation.

To be honest with history, it has to be agreed that these were the same elements who were directly or indirectly involved with the happenings of 1975. They must be identified urgently to facilitate the new journey of the nation. In nation's interest it has to be acknowledged that these were the elements who had demolished the very political and cultural history of ours that had spurred the creation of Bangladesh and attacked the very soul of the Bangalee nation. All that were good and blissful for the nation were deemed as waste by them. Not only that, they even distorted the true history of our liberation war. A misguided generation is now with us who are still confused about our history. Following the dictates of history, a new generation must stand fearlessly as symbol of national honour. But truly they had been incapacitated in many ways before in a planned manner.

Without doubt, it must be admitted that the final verdict given in the case of Bangabandhu has removed the main obstacle on way to achieving toward the long-cherished progress



of the nation as claimed by history. At the same time, it is also true that Bangladesh is still not fully secured. To make the country safe and put her on the way to development, a committed leadership is most urgently needed. As the nation embarks on her new journey, I must say there is no room for complacency at the present moment.

We have to acknowledge that the killers of 1971, - the ghosts of the defeated Pakistanis and the killers of 1975, - are the two sides of the same coin. They all were killers, - directly or indirectly. Some of them had to join the liberation war per force; they were never enthused with the ideals of the liberation war. It is obvious therefore that the truth-seeking democratic-minded people must hate the collaborators of the killers of 1971 and 1975 who had helped revive the culture of anti-secularism and initiated the spread of terrorism in the country.

The judgement given by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional dignity, and rule of law is now firmly re-established in Bangladesh. It has once again been proved that a modern state shall have to function as per constitution, state power shall change only through vote as provided under rules, and not by any impromptu move by the Army or by any segment of it.

The most urgent task at this moment is to ensure the safety of the new journey signaled by this historic verdict. The party-in-power has to remember that it



owed a big responsibility to the nation. They also are to face the all-out challenge posed by the anti-liberation forces. The opponents of Bangladesh, one has to remember, shall never allow this country to progress and become stable. The new Pakistanis want to see our country achieved through the sacrifice of millions of our compatriots, a failed state. It is therefore, the call of the time, to remain ever vigilant against all kinds of designs of the conspirators. A determined effort has to be made to move the country ahead. Without hesitation, the trial of the anti-liberation war criminals have to be completed. This trial shall obviously secure greater safety of our country. Surely, our dear motherland, Bangladesh shall be crowned with success in her endeavour to establish democracy and good governance of the country. ■

Translation: Syed Badrul Haque

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New Dawn of Independence

historic day, it was simultaneously a date for the nation to move forward as well.

History to-day is here to meet its obligation with invincible power. The people tied up so long with strong knots has now been freed to make a new beginning in her developmental strides. Bangladesh is now free of any stigma. The killer-betrayers who had wanted the nation to forget the sacrifice made by the Father of the Nation and millions of martyrs to the cause of the nation so that Bangladesh failed to make any headway in her developmental strides, were now consigned to history as waste and are surrendered to the rule of law.

History's judgement is infallible. Thirty four years have elapsed from the national life. The people of this land had to put up per force with untold miseries and setbacks that visited them for nearly three decades. Grief-stricken Bangladesh had to weep year after year silently. But even after such a desperate time, the beginning of the new journey bears a great significance for our people.

The blood that was shed in 1975, euphemistically speaking, was the weeping response to the great sacrifice made by 30 lakh martyrs to pledge a new life to the nation. Fifteenth August had happened because the conspirators had wanted The People's Republic of

