18 DAYS THAT SHOOK BANGLADESH

In the last 18 years we have experienced some of the most significant moments in the history of Bangladesh. On the occasion of the Star's 18th anniversary, we get the opportunity to have a look at those momentous days.

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN



The winning team of ICC Champions Trophy. PHOTO: COURTESY

1 The First Triumph, ICC Champions Trophy 1996/97 *(April 13, 1997)*

The whole country burst with joy when Hasibul and Khaled Mashud, two Bangladeshi batsmen, secured the winning run in the last ball in a tough match with Kenya. This victory made Bangladesh the winning team of the 1996/97 ICC Champions Trophy and qualified the team to participate in the ICC World Cup of 1999. Winning the match against Kenya was the stepping stone for Bangladesh's entrance to the world of international cricket.

2 Peace in the Hills *(December 2, 1997)*

Just after the liberation of Bangladesh, another struggle for self identity began inside the war torn country. Organised militia named Shanti Bahini, formed by the indigenous races residing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, started an insurgency against the Bangladesh government. Their first attack on the Bangladesh army convoy took place in 1977. Ever since then, every government of the country had tried to repel the insurgency, sometimes by military operations and sometimes by pushing in Bengali settlers in the hill tracts. Finally in 1997, the Bangladesh government signed a peace accord with



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Santu Larma surrenderd weapons to the then Prime Miniser after signing the peace accord.