chintito

You Were IN, Now You are OUT

CHINTITO

During the War of Liberation 1971, at Sector 2 HQs training camp at Melaghar (India), trainees were always cautioned by military officers about anti-Bangladesh forces within their ranks. This seemed dramatisation to the mostly teenage trainees, who wondered what sort of a lowly person would dare to work against them... this shaded forest had more freedom fighters than trees. But in the midst of Bangladesh forces there always lurked the Bangla-speaking collaborator and conspirator. Sadly for more deserving and loyal persons, several of them reached high positions in government and other services, so effective was their masquerade.

Born in Pabna [*in proximity of the Pabna Mental Hospital*), Planning Minister in the Hasina government (2008–13) [*God knows what he was planning!*), Member of Parliament on Awami League ticket (1998-2001, 2008-13), Chairman of the Sector Commanders Forum (2006-), High Commissioner to Australia (1976-82) and India (1982-86) during Ershad's notorious regime, Chief of Bangladesh Air Force (1972-75), Deputy Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Armed Forces (1971-75) under five presidents including Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad, and during the Liberation War, and decorated with the gallantry award Bir Uttam [*he seems now all set for some uttom-maddhom*]and the Independence Award (2011), Air Vice Marshal Abdul Karim Khandker has turned out be a surprise turncoat. No cat has had so much milk from so many sources and then kicked the main bucket. Were the Bangladeshi officers at Melaghar talking about people like Khandker?

> It took only one book to let the cat out of the bag, but that too only after he had been allowed to slurp all the cream for more than four decades.

AK Khandker's"১৯৭১: ভেতরে বাইরে (1971: Inside Outside) published September 2 is a clear distortion of historical facts as documented by hundreds of local and foreign authors as well as newspapers and periodicals of international repute over the last four and a half decades since Bangbandhu uttered "Joy Bangla" at the famous 7 March erstwhile Race Course congregation, and heard on Live Radio by lakhs of freedom-yearning Bangalees from Teknaf to Tetulia, and Tamabil to Hiron Point.

Of the seven crore people then, about half were of the age who could understand what Bangabandhu said March 7. Even if we consider mortality, about two crore people are still alive. Among all these people, including lakhs of people who practice anti-Awami League politics and harbour anti-Mujib philosophy, only AKK claims that he heard Sheikh Mujibur Rahman concluding his historic March 7 speech with the slogan 'Joy Pakistan'. Even the 'Bangladesh Zindabadwallas' have never come up with such a ludicrous accusation.

The retort of some of those people still alive was obvious. "We were on the stage from where Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib gave his historic March 7 speech. But we did not hear Bangabandhu uttering 'Joy Pakistan'," said the Deputy speaker Fazle Rabbi Mia in Parliament. Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed told the House, "I was present on the stage (on March 7). I did not hear such a slogan from Bangabandhu." Quoting from the confrontational book, Tofail said Khandaker had not been aware of the incidents of mass upsurge in the then East Pakistan since he was in West Pakistan from 1951 to 1969.

In truth, the unified mood of the people in the then East Pakistan was of such extreme animosity, and so high was the anti-Pakistan feeling among