



Recent events in East Pakistan

Here we publish a letter from Dr. John E. Rohde, a physician evacuated from East Pakistan, to Senator William B. Saxbe. Senator Saxbe presented it in his speech in the U.S. Senate on April 29, 1971.

HON. WILLIAM B. SAXBE, *New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

Dear Senator Saxbe: Two days ago my wife and I were evacuated from Dacca, East Pakistan, where I have been posted for the past three years as a physician under USAID. I am certain that you are aware of the political events preceding the army crackdown on March 25th. As a result of complete censorship and the expulsion of journalists, banning of the major political party in Pakistan, and repressed information about the military campaign against the civilians of East Pakistan, it must have been difficult to obtain a clear picture of events since that date. From the outset of the army action, the American Consul General and his staff

wish to bring to your attention the observations I have made in the past weeks in Dacca. My wife and I watched from our roof the night of March 25th as tanks rolled out of the Cantonment illuminated by the flares and the red glow of fires as the city was shelled by artillery, and mortars were fired into crowded slums and bazaars. After two days of loud explosions and the continual chatter of machine-guns, we took advantage of a break in the curfew to drive through the city. Driving past streams of refugees, we saw burned out shacks of families living by the railroad tracks, coming from Gulshan to Mohakhali crossing. A Bengali friend living close by had watched the army set fire to the hovels, and as the families ran out, he saw them shot down "like dogs". He accepted our offer to take him and his family of twelve into our home. In the old city we walked through the remains of Nayer Bazaar, where Moslem and Hindu wood cutters had worked, now only a tangle of iron, and sheet and smouldering ruins. The Hindu shopkeepers and craftsmen still alive in the bombed ruins of Shankari Bazaar begged me to help them only hours after the army had moved in with the intention to kill all inhabitants. One man had been shot in the abdomen and killed only one half hour before we arrived. Others were lying in the streets rotting. The day before we were evacuated, I saw Moslem names in Urdu, on the remains of houses in Shankari Bazaar previously a totally Hindu area. On the 29th we stood at Ramna Kali Bari, an ancient Hindu village of about two hundred fifty people in the center of Dacca Ramna Race Course, and witnessed the stacks of machine-gunned, burning remains of men, women and children butchered in the early morning hours of March 29. I photographed the scene hours later.

inside were the smoking remains of the rooms and the heavily blood-stained floors. We also saw evidence of tank attack at Iqbal Hall where bodies were still unburied.

The two ensuing weeks have documented the planned killing of much of the intellectual community, including the majority of professors of Dacca University. These include: Professor G. C. Dey, Head of the Philosophy Department; Professor Maniruzzaman, Head of the Department of Statistics; Professor Jotirmoy Guhathakurta, Head of the English Department; Dr. Naqvi and Dr. Ali, Head of the Department of History; Professor Innas Ali, Head of the Physics Department and Professor Dr. M. N. Huda, Head of the Economics Department, former Governor and Finance Minister, were shot in their quarters, injured and left for dead. Many families of these professors were shot as well. Full documentation of the people is difficult due to the army's thorough search leaving Dacca. Complete censorship was facilitated when three prominent mass circulation dailies were burned: The People, The Ittefaq and the Sangbad.

Military action continued after the attack of the first two days. We listened as the early morning of April first was wracked for two hours by artillery pounding Jinjira, a town across the Buriganga from Dacca, that had swollen in size with an estimated one hundred thousands civilians fleeing terrorized Dacca. Radio Pakistan continued to broadcast that life in Dacca had returned to normal and we witnessed a nearly a deserted city.

In Gulshan, one of the suburban areas of Dacca, where we lived, we witnessed the disarming of the East Pakistan Rifles, stationed in the Children's Park across the street, the army looting the food supplies from the market nearby, and finally the execution of several EPR as they were forced by Punjabi soldiers onto a truck to be "taken away". The mass execution of several thousands of Bengali policemen and East Pakistan Rifles is already documented. We also witnessed from a neighbour's house, army personnel fire three shots across Gulshan Lake at several little boys who were swimming. Nearly every night there was sporadic gunfire near our home adding to the fear of twenty-six refugees staying with us. During the day Pakistan planes flew overhead to their bombing missions.

It would be possible for me to chronicle many specific atrocities, but we have left close friends behind whose lives might be more endangered. It is

clear that the law of the jungle prevails in East Pakistan where the mass killing of unarmed civilians, the systematic elimination of the intelligentsia, and the annihilation of the Hindu population is in progress.

The reports of Consul Blood, available to you as a Congressman, contain a more detailed and complete account of the situation. In addition, he has submitted concrete proposals for constructive moves our government can make. While in no way suggesting that we interfere with Pakistan's internal affairs, he asserts, and we support him, that the United States must not continue to condone the military action with official silence. We also urge you to read the Dacca official community's open cable to the State Department. It is for unlimited distribution and states the facts about the situation in East Pakistan.

By not making a statement, the State Department appears to support the clearly immoral action of the West Pakistani army, navy, and air force against the Bengali people.

We were evacuated by Pakistan's commercial airline. We were loaded on planes that had just disembarked full loads of Pakistani troops and military supplies. American AID dollars are providing support of military action. In Teheran, due to local support of Pakistan, I was unable to wire you the information I am writing.

Fully recognizing the inability of our government to oppose actively or intervene in this desperate oppression of the Bengalis, I urge you to seek and support a condemnation by Congress and the President of the United States of the inhuman treatment being accorded the seventy-five million people of East Pakistan.

No political consideration can outweigh the importance of a humanitarian stand, reiterating the American belief in the value of individual lives and a democratic process of government. The action of President Yahya banning the democratically elected majority party, who had ninety-eight percent of the East Wings electorate backing them, ought to arouse a country which prides itself on the democratic process.

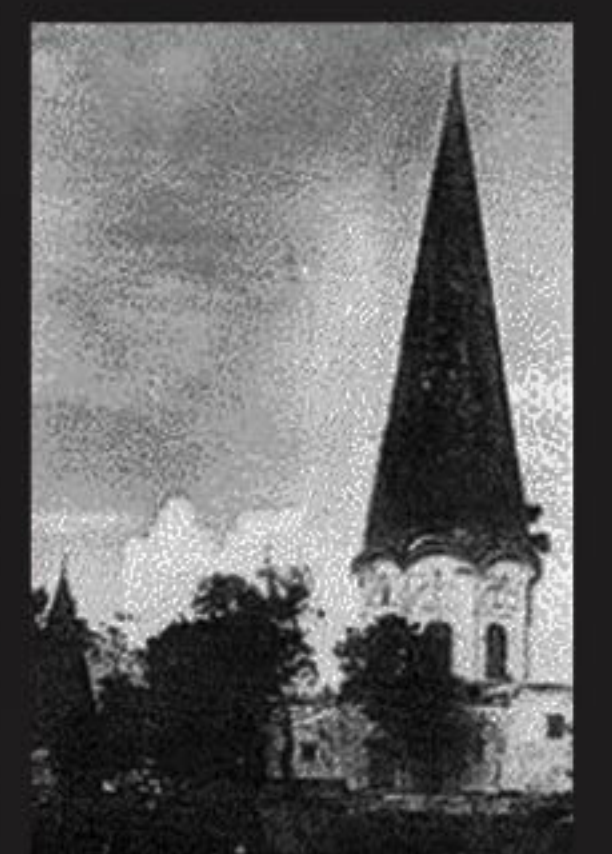
We urge you to speak out actively against the tragic massacre of civilians in East Pakistan.

Sincerely yours,
Jon E. Rohde, M.D.

Source: Bangladesh Documents, Vol - 1, Page No - 349 - 351.



Ruins of the Temple after the Pakistani army's heavy shelling in 1971.



The 500 year old famous Ramna Kali Temple.

in Dacca, have continued to send detailed factual accounts enumerating first-hand reports of the situation. These reports have been carefully collected and verified before transmission to the State Department. Publicly the State Department claims they do not have enough facts; but I have seen the factual reports sent daily from Dacca. The American Consul in Karachi stated to me that they only recently began to receive the accounts about the situation in East Pakistan, when the Consulate in Dacca has been transmitting information from the very start of the action.

Although Consul Blood's reports contain a more detailed account of the current situation, I

The gods of glitter



other parts of the world were dancing to the tunes of Elvis Presley and the Beatles in the '70s, young people in Bangladesh were inspired by the nationalistic verses of Tagore and the revolutionary ideas of Nelson Mandela. It was the golden era of the country's history and I was fortunate to be a part of it because it helped define who I am today.

In many ways, a politically charged youth has been a blessing. But sometimes I wonder if it has left a gaping hole in my education -- and I don't mean academic education. I mean the kind that helps you cope with a society where most people are incessantly trying to establish their status in terms of money and class. In recent years the act of self-aggrandisement has been developed into an art form, where all kinds of subterfuges are used to convey one's superior social position. For

instance, it's too brazen to say: "Come and appreciate my collection of rare paintings or antiques" or "I just acquired a Rolls Royce." People thus resort to name-dropping, talking about vacations at prestigious destinations and making references to their access to exclusive clubs and institutions.

In the past, status spoke for itself. Everyone knew who you were the moment you entered a room since people of a certain class exuded an aura and preferred to interact within their well-defined social group. I am glad that social norms have changed and today family does not automatically confer status -- especially in the western egalitarian world. Sadly, things have not changed for the better. The social pecking order is now primarily driven by material things like owning an expensive home, a flashy car or designer clothes and jewelry. But with the proliferation of fake designer stuff and the nouveau riche acquiring Jaguars and BMWs, luxury items are no longer considered to be a hallmark of elitism. Hence these status symbols are posing to be a problem for those trying to prove that they "belong." Human nature being what it is, the status-conscious crowd are inventing novel ways of asserting their special place in society. What better way of doing this than to inject important names, places and institutions in conversations? Thus even a casual discussion is



deftly packaged with savvy references to exotic hotels, first class air travel and exclusive colleges the children have attended.

Once they have established their social niche through subtle references to their wealth and material possessions, the status seekers are eager to burnish their cultural credentials. This is quite understandable since they would not like to be known as "rich but with no class." They unabashedly show off their "knowledge" of the arts and literature by casually quoting (or mis-quoting) a few lines from Shakespeare or Tagore or mentioning how "Ravi Shankar introduced me to Raga Yaman

when he was dining at my place." Please don't get me wrong. I am in no way suggesting that culture is the exclusive preserve of the virtuosos and art connoisseurs. I believe that everyone should have access to the arts and develop an appreciation for them. My point is that cultural taste is something you acquire over the years and should not be dependent on how many books you own or whether or not Rashid Khan visited your home.

The other unfortunate fall out of this elitist trend is that professional excellence has become a casualty to the practice of leveraging your status and impressing by talking big." In a highly

competitive environment "contacts" serve as the defining element in clinching business deals. This explains the growing tendency to focus on networking and self-promotion rather than honing professional skills. Most readers will agree that potential employers are often inclined to hire people who impress them with their name and institution dropping rather than those who simply offer solid professional credentials.

The "status culture" has made a serious dent not only in our value system but has also impacted our daily lives. Recently, I was having lunch with some friends at a local restaurant. The service was excruciatingly slow and one of my friends was anxious to get back to work. She called the waiter and said: "When I was here last week with the minister for ---, the food appeared in 10 minutes. Today, we have been waiting for half an hour etc." Needless to say, the strategy worked. But it left me wondering -- what kind of a world do we live in that a minister's name has to be invoked to get a Masala Dosa served on time in a casual eating joint? Certainly not the kind of democratic world that I dreamed of, after Bangladesh's liberation in 1971!

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BEETLE BAILEY

by Don Trachte



HENRY

by Mort Walker



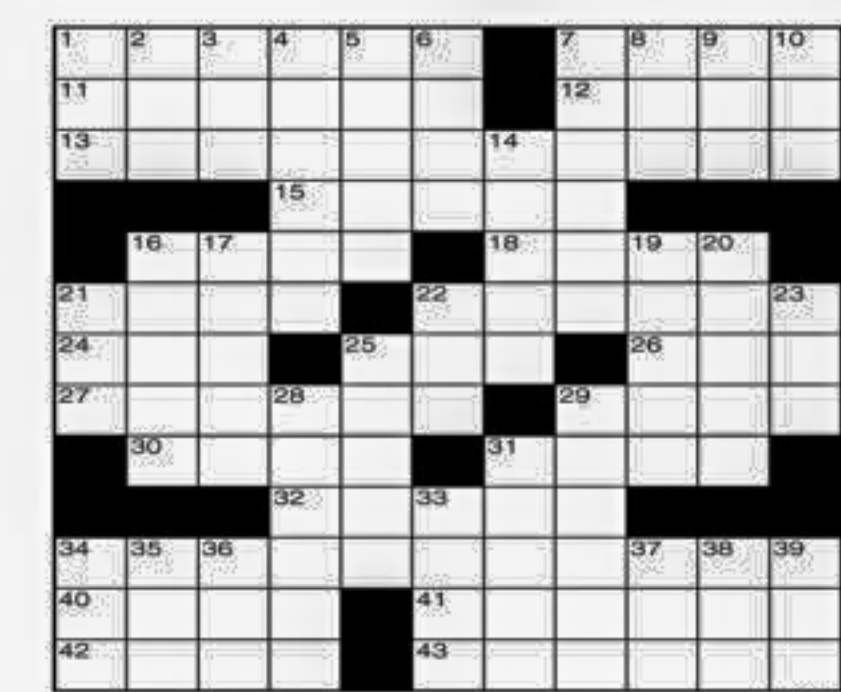
QUOTABLE Quote

Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.

Benjamin Disraeli

CROSSWORD by Thomas Joseph

ACROSS
1 Irish tongue
7 Bird's gullet
11 Basketball's Moses
12 The - of the Irish
13 Irish clubs
15 Powerful beam
16 Irish - (hearty dish)
18 Final, for one
21 Tater
22 Shirt feature
24 Charged bit
25 Swabbing tool
26 Count start
27 Would-be lawyer's major
29 Rowing team
30 Deuce beater
31 Inquires
32 Make ashamed
34 Irish sprites
40 " - go brag!"
41 Some sculptures
42 Jokes
43 New York cathedral, familiarly
DOWN
1 Baseball team VIP's
2 Contented sound
3 Yale student
4 Was lazy
5 Spouse's kin
6 Middling grades
7 Red wine
8 Floor cover
9 German cry
10 Mo. divisions
14 Abate
16 Hurling or curling
17 Radio dial
19 Wading bird
20 Phone sounds
21 Use a straw
22 Fiddling need
23 Modern
25 Perhaps
28 Gets smart
29 It's below D
31 Take - (guess)
33 Play parts
34 Pants part
35 Memorable time
36 Slop slurper
37 Much of N. Amer.
38 Negating word
39 Durst org.



Yesterday's answer
REELS RADAR
AVAIL EXILE
GETTO FELON
ISME LET
LONGHORN
AREA PEAPOD
MALLS EVOKE
ALLOTS ISLE
RAINGEAR
HAS IDEA
EXCON ATIME
ALONE TODAY
REWED ORATE

CRYPTOQUOTE
OCDB DB HPT ODNT VCJIT OTRIGDBDHP
JFRRS WEDRB OH QFUOLJT OCT OJLT
TIQDOTNPO HW F RFJAT BKLDJJTR
UJTMQDQDPA OCTVFOCTJ.
- UCDR QHPPHJB
Yesterday's CRYPTOQUOTE:
RESEARCH IS FORMALIZED CURIOSITY. IT IS POKING AND
PRYING WITH A PURPOSE. - ZORA NEALE HURSTON

A XYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

শেল্টেক্ বর্ষপূর্তি মেলা ২০১৫
শেল্টেক্ বীথিকা
নান্দনিক অ্যাপার্টমেন্ট প্রকল্প
বেখানে থাকছে
• জিমনেসিয়াম
• নামাজের স্থান
• ফোয়ারা
• সুইমিংপুল
• সু-প্রশস্ত
ওয়াকওয়ে
• মনোরম ল্যান্ডস্কেপ
• রেইন ওয়াটার
হার্ভেস্টিং • স্ট্যান্ডবাই
জেনারেলের • সুয়েজ ট্রিটমেন্ট
প্ল্যান্ট • পাকিং-এ পি.এ. সিস্টেম • ৫০%
উনুত জায়গা • নিজস্ব ওয়াটার পাম্পে
সার্বক্ষণিক গানি সরবরাহ • বাচ্চাদের খেলার
জায়গা • অগ্নিনির্বাপণ ব্যবস্থা • ক্রাজ
সার্কিট ক্যামেরা ও সার্বক্ষণিক নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা
এছাড়া আরো অনেক কিছু...
১২-৩১ মার্চ ২০১৫
(সময়: সকাল ৯টা থেকে ৫টা পর্যন্ত)
স্থান: শেল্টেক্ বীথিকা
১১৪/১ দ্বিতীয় কলোনী
মাজার রোড, মিরপুর, ঢাকা।
প্রকল্প দেখে অ্যাপার্টমেন্ট বুকিং দিন
সাইজ: ১০৪০-১৫৭৫ বর্গফুট
শেল্টেক্ SHELTECH Since 1988
01713-091704, 01713-091708, 01713-091724
এছাড়াও রয়েছে বিভিন্ন মাপের বাণিজ্যিক স্পেস!!!