

## PAKISTAN LYING, STILL

**INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON**  
Pakistan not only lied by denying its atrocities in Bangladesh in 1971, it deliberately twisted facts to deny the genocide it committed on the Bangali people during the nine-month Liberation War.  
However its atrocities are all in black and white. There are thousands of Bangladeshis who have testified of the harrowing tales of genocide. There are hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis still living who carry the

dark memories of the darkest hours in their lives.  
But even in the Pakistani's own version of the war, the ugly face of its atrocities comes out. These are found in Pakistan's top military leaders' memoirs of the war as well as in the depositions of military officials to the Hamdoor Rahman Commission headed by the chief justice Hamdoor Rahman. The commission was set up by the Pakistan government on 26 December, 1971 to find out the reasons of defeat of the Pakistan army.

From today, we run a series to give some snapshots of how the Pakistan army killed and raped with abandon. They unleashed their vengeance and hatred on the Bangali population on the night of 25 March, 1971. Pakistan should feel ashamed if it compares these truths with what it just said to the Bangladesh envoy to Pakistan.  
This genocide was the result of a deliberate plan hatched in West Pakistan by the Pakistani rulers much before the fateful night of 25 March in 1971. The landslide victory of the

Awami League in the 1970 election (League bagged 160 seats out of 162 in East Pakistan) made it clear that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was destined to be the prime minister of Pakistan, a prospect despised by the elitist West Pakistanis.  
In a cynical move to deny power to Awami League and to prepare the military for the pre-planned genocide, president Gen Yahya Khan presided over a deceitful dialogue with Mujib and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto,

the leader of the defeated Pakistan People's Party (PPP), from 15 March to 25 March at Dhaka.  
Playing for time, the Pakistan government was flying in soldiers and ammunitions from the Western wing the whole time the so called dialogue was going on. And then the Pakistan army cracked down on an unarmed people, started indiscriminate killings and destruction that tore asunder the peaceful lives and hopes of a democratic future of the Bangalis.

We start the series highlighting what was revealed in the Hamdoor Rahman Commission report. The Commission concluded that the words and personal actions of Lt Gen Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, who was the commander of the Eastern Military High Command of the Pakistan army, were calculated to encourage the killings and rapes in Bangladesh during the period of their operation.  
Today's report is a modified version of what we printed before.



**This is highly audacious. Pakistan can't deny the reality of 1971, nor can it inter-**

**PROF EMERITUS ANISUZ**



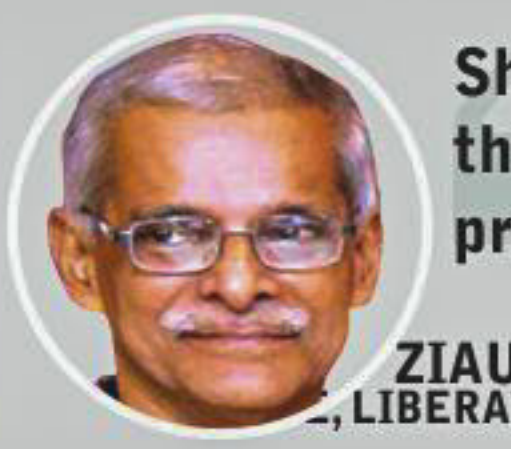
**It's unfortunate, but not unexpected from Pakistan. They're the main perpetrators of geno-**

**SULTANA KAMAL**  
FREEDOM FIGHTER AND RIGHTS ACTIVIST



**They can't accept their defeat in 1971 yet. They haven't**

**SHAWAN MAHMUD**  
MUSIC COMPOSER ALTAZ MAHMUD



**Shame on them! It only proves that they**

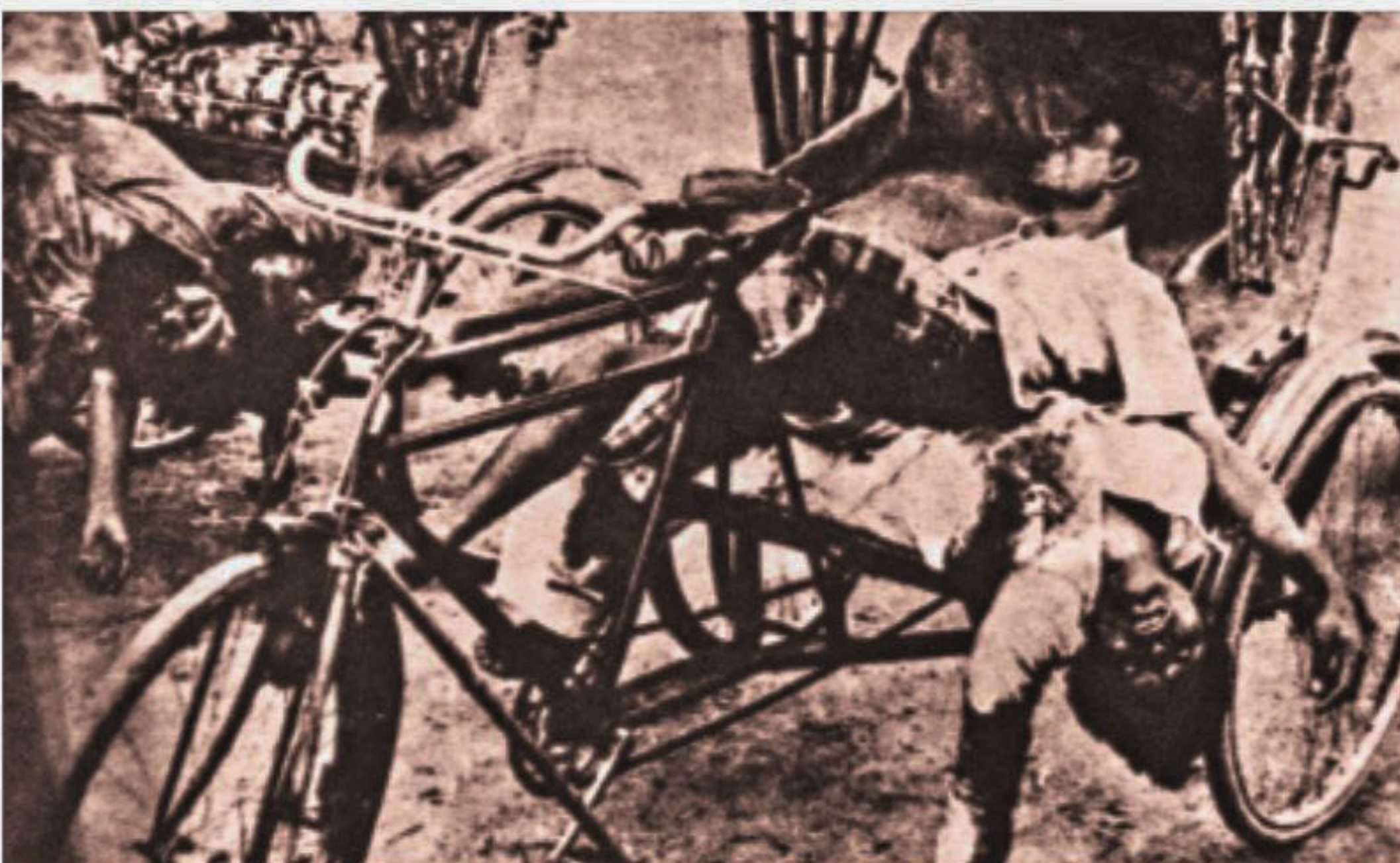
**ZIAUDDIN TARIQ ALI**  
LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM

## Genocide they wrote

Lt Col Aziz Ahmed Khan, a Pakistan army officer, who fought the 1971 war in Bangladesh, what was then East Pakistan until 26 March, 1971, went to the Hamdoor Rahman Commission and testified how the commander of the Pakistan army Lt Gen Niazi had ordered genocide.  
"General Niazi visited my unit at Thakurgaon and Bogra," Aziz said in his deposition. "He asked us how many Hindus we had killed. In May, there was an order in writing to kill Hindus. This order was from Brigadier Abdullah Malik of 23 Brigade."

Those, who were in key roles then in the military and civil administration, gave their depositions before the commission. They included Lt Gen Niazi, Maj Gen Rao Farman Ali, who was responsible for Operation Searchlight in Dhaka city on the night of 25 March, Maj Gen Mohammad Jamshed, who was GOC of 36 (A) division of East Pakistan, Rear Admiral M Sharif, the flag officer commanding the Pakistan Navy in East Pakistan, Muzaffar Hussain, who was the chief secretary, and Mahmood Ali Chaudhury, who was IGP.

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## Outrage all around

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Pakistan's recent statement in which it denied committing atrocities in Bangladesh in 1971 has drawn strong protest and condemnation from different rights organisations, political parties and freedom fighters.  
A number of organisations yesterday demanded that Dhaka sever diplomatic relations with Islamabad and take initiative to hold trial of the Pakistanis who committed war crimes during the Liberation War.  
Speaking at a victory rally in the capital, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "The crimes

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## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2015

### A chance to fight back?

**BNP picks candidates, to share 10 mayoral candidacies with allies**

**RASHIDUL HASAN**

The BNP has finalised its mayoral contenders for the December 30 municipality polls that it sees as an opportunity to "fight back" from its worst ever situation since birth in 1978.  
"We have finalised mayor candidates in all the 236 municipalities. But we will ask 10 of them to withdraw their nominations and support our 20-party alliance partners when we reach a consensus," a BNP leader, involved in the selection process, told The Daily Star last night.  
Of the ten, the Liberal Democratic Party and the Jatiya Party (Kazi Zafar) would get one mayoral candidate each while the rest may be given to Jamaat-e-Islami, he added.  
BNP Assistant Publicity Secretary Emran Saleh Prince said a team of senior party leaders under the supervision of Khaleda Zia finalised its prospective candidates in four phases.  
They, however, would not make public the names for "strategic reasons", said another BNP leader, who took part in the candidate selection process.

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### Selection of single candidates may spark infighting

**AL finalises party nominees**

**PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and PANKAG KARMAKAR**

Selection of single mayor aspirants by the grassroots of Awami League has sparked protests in several municipalities, raising fear that the candidates might face intra-party rebels in the upcoming polls.  
The protest by local AL leaders and activists might intensify as the AL nomination board late last night finalised party candidates for 235 municipalities. The organising secretaries of the party started to distribute party nomination letters among the candidates and their representatives from the AL president's Dhanmondi office.  
Sources said the grassroots of most municipalities did not pick their mayor candidate fearing it would trigger internal feud. Rather, the grassroots left it to party chief Sheikh Hasina to decide.  
Party insiders said the AL president's Dhanmondi office got names of 3 to 4 mayor aspirants from each of almost half municipalities going to polls on December 30.  
AL grassroots of Rajshahi could send names of one mayor candidate each in two municipalities of the 13 there. Jessore district units sent names of all AL mayor aspirants to party president's office to avoid conflict.  
"Awami League is a large organisation with several eligible candidates and they all want nomination ... We decided to send all aspirants' names and our leader Sheikh Hasina will make the final decision as we don't want any feud within us," Shahin Chaklader, general secretary of Jessore district AL, told The Daily Star.  
In many cases, AL nomination board for municipality elections, with 18

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## It was a criminal conspiracy

**Observe judges in full verdict of the SC on killing of four national leaders in jail in 1975**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court has said the assassination of the four national leaders was the result of a criminal conspiracy.  
The apex court came up with the observation in its full judgement that was released last night, more than 31 months after the SC upheld the death penalty of three former army personnel and life term imprisonment of eight others awarded by a lower court in 2004.  
The national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Quamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali -- were brutally killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

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## Exhibition is going on

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 • Venue: 79 Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208**  
**Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm (Friday & Saturday off)**

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