

In August, the Indian subcontinent was decisively divided after two hundred years of British rule. This division, the product of a long independence movement and bloody communal riots, gives birth to two of the world's most phenomenal nation states, India and Pakistan. Many leaders of the undivided India fought for the independence of Indian subcontinent from the colonial clutches of the British Empire. Most of the leaders such as Gandhi, Nehru and Jinnah fought for independence politically, through discussion and negotiation with the British government.

However, there was one Bengali leader who raised his own army and declared total war against the British Empire. During the Second World War he joined the axis forces to wipe out the British rule from India and his army fought against the British forces along with German and Japanese armies. The name of this unbending leader is Subhash Chandra Bose popularly known as Netaji Subhash Bose. With his famous army called Azad Hind Fouj (Indian National Army), he is the only Indian leader in 20th century who showed the valour of waging full scale war against the British occupancy in India demanding independent, undivided India.

Nevertheless, after the destructive defeat of the axis forces in the Second World War, his dream of liberating India through armed struggle was shattered. Subhash Bose was also mysteriously disappeared immediately after the war in August 19, 1945 exactly two years before the division, and independence of Indian subcontinent.

Subhash Bose was born on 23rd January, 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa Division of Bengal province. Although studied in European institutions throughout his student life, he always nurtured highly nationalistic sentiments in his mind. He even assaulted one of his British professors for the latter's anti-Indian racist remarks. After completing his study at University of Cambridge, he rejected the offer to join the Indian Civil Service under the British government, and joined the independence movement instead.

Thanks to his dedication and charismatic personality, he soon became a very popular leader. In 1920, he was elected as the Mayor of Calcutta and was elected as the President of Indian National Congress. As the President of Congress, Bose demanded full autonomy and supported to use force against the British occupancy which was firmly opposed by the leaders like Gandhi and Nehru. In 1939 Bose was ousted from Congress leadership and British authority put him under house arrest.

However, as the Second World War broke out in 1939, Bose envisioned it as a chance to achieve India's liberty. He escaped from British captivity and flew to Germany in 1941 when Germany was fighting against the British forces. German leadership welcomed Bose and



## REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN HERO

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

PHOTOS: INTERNET

offered him support to raise an Indian army. Meanwhile, as the Japanese army was conquering Southeast Asia and captured Singapore from the British Empire, Subhash Bose moved to Singapore and reorganised 43,000 members to build a strong army popularly known as the Azad Hind Fouj. The army took part in different campaigns in Burma against the British forces.

Bose also formed Provisional Government of Free India in Japanese occupied Andaman Nicobar Islands. He collected taxes from the Indian inhabitants of Malaya, Singapore, Burma and Thailand to raise funds for his army. However, as the British army regained its force in the South-East Asian theatre of the Second World War, Azad Hind Fouj started to pull back with the retreating Japanese army. After the fall of Rangoon, all hopes of evicting British occupation from India were lost and Bose's Provisional Government of Free India lost its political entity.

Bose's last days are shrouded in mystery. As the Japanese forces were in full retreat, he moved to the heartland of the Japanese empire. Some say that while travelling to Japan, the Japanese plane carrying Bose and some of his workers crashed and Bose died instantly from the accident. Again, some other theories claim that Bose did not die and rather lived on but he was silenced by the independent Indian government. In fact, Narendra Modi's government in 2014 rejected the plea to declassify some top secret documents related to Bose apprehending that it would harm India's foreign relations. Again in April 2015, some declassified documents of Indian government revealed that Bose's

family members in India were put under strict government surveillance.

At the time when India was being divided on the basis of religion and on the pretext of merciless communal riots, the Bengali leader Bose dreamed of an undivided, independent India. He did not agree to sit with the colonial rulers, who exploited the entire Indian subcontinent for more than 200 years, and then became the decision maker of India's borders. However, the course of history made him a tragic hero of India's struggle for independence despite the fact that he is the leader who fought unconditionally for the independence of India.



Subhash Chandra Bose



# DARE TO BE A STAR!

NILIMA JAHAN

PHOTOS: COURTESY



Now-a-days, nobody questions the significance of good communication skills. Being able to communicate effectively is regarded as one of the most important of all life skills. With an attempt to teach the core skills to the youth from different professions as well as educational institutes, BDYoungStarz, an online forum started its journey just a few months ago. Since its inception in June, 2016, BDYoungStarz has been working relentlessly to bring a sustainable change by teaching some basic skills, for example-communication, leadership, networking, English language and much more.

"I would not underestimate the great jobs that our teachers are doing in academic settings, but I feel that there is not enough highlight on these core skills", believes 28-year-old Md. Sabbir Sarkar, Founder Chairman of BDYoungStarz. "We try to bridge this gap and hence, want to bring forward successful youngsters, who will share their views, give their precious suggestions and thoughtful advices." Sabbir is an adjunct faculty of Fundamentals of English at University of Dhaka, as well as a corporate trainer, who has been involved in corporate training for the past eight years.

BDYoungStarz, the organisation -- analyses the interests of the youth via an open online polling system. And then, based on the demands of the target audiences, it makes different educative videos and uploads them on YouTube along with Facebook.

"Here, I get the understanding of many complex lessons in a very simple way, with few technical steps", says 23-year-old



Mabi Mir, a 4th semester student of Sonargaon University. "After watching the videos, if I am still confused, I just put a comment on the comment box, and the team is ready to solve my problem within 30 minutes," she states.

Apart from the online activities, the

forum is also engaged in organising different live workshops and seminars in many schools, colleges and universities -- helping in developing presentation and public speaking skills. Furthermore, the organisation trains the youth to face interviews, prepare resumes and cover

letters, practice the art of leadership, and nurture the skills of corporate networking.

BDYoungStarz also offers an extensive segment called 'ADDA with BDYoungStarz'. In this segment, they reveal the background stories of successful youth leaders and entrepreneurs of our society, who can be some of the best sources of inspiration for our upcoming youth leaders.

"We were very happy when ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak, encouraged us by sharing our YouTube video, titled 'Adda with BDYoungStarz: National Hackathon Champion', says Mahbubul Haque Osmani, one of the chief advisors of BDYoungStarz. Osmani is also the Head of Current Affairs at NRB TV, the first 24 hour Bengali TV channel in Canada and well-known for his role in journalism, anchoring, communication and media research activities.

Recently, BDYoungStarz team began working on conducting workshops titled 'Set Your Career Goal' in different educational institutions. The team also has a long term vision to contribute to the 'Digital Bangladesh' campaign of the present government. And for this, they aim to create 2020 videos and more than 100 live workshops by the year 2020.

The activities of BDYoungStarz are driven to establish a firm belief among the youth. The main focusing point is that the dreams of every youth can be true, if and only if they nurture some basic skills, apply them in a strategic way and yearn to go beyond. And that very attempt by BDYoungStarz is nothing short of commendable.