

TRIBUTE TO KULDIP NAYAR

Kuldip Nayar, the grand old man of Indian journalism, died on August 23, 2018 aged 95. In a career spanning over six decades, Nayar established himself as an exceptional columnist and intellectual known for his frank and fearless views on politics, culture and society. The Daily Star Editor takes a look at the rich legacy that he has left behind.

Journalism's guiding light

MAHFUZ ANAM

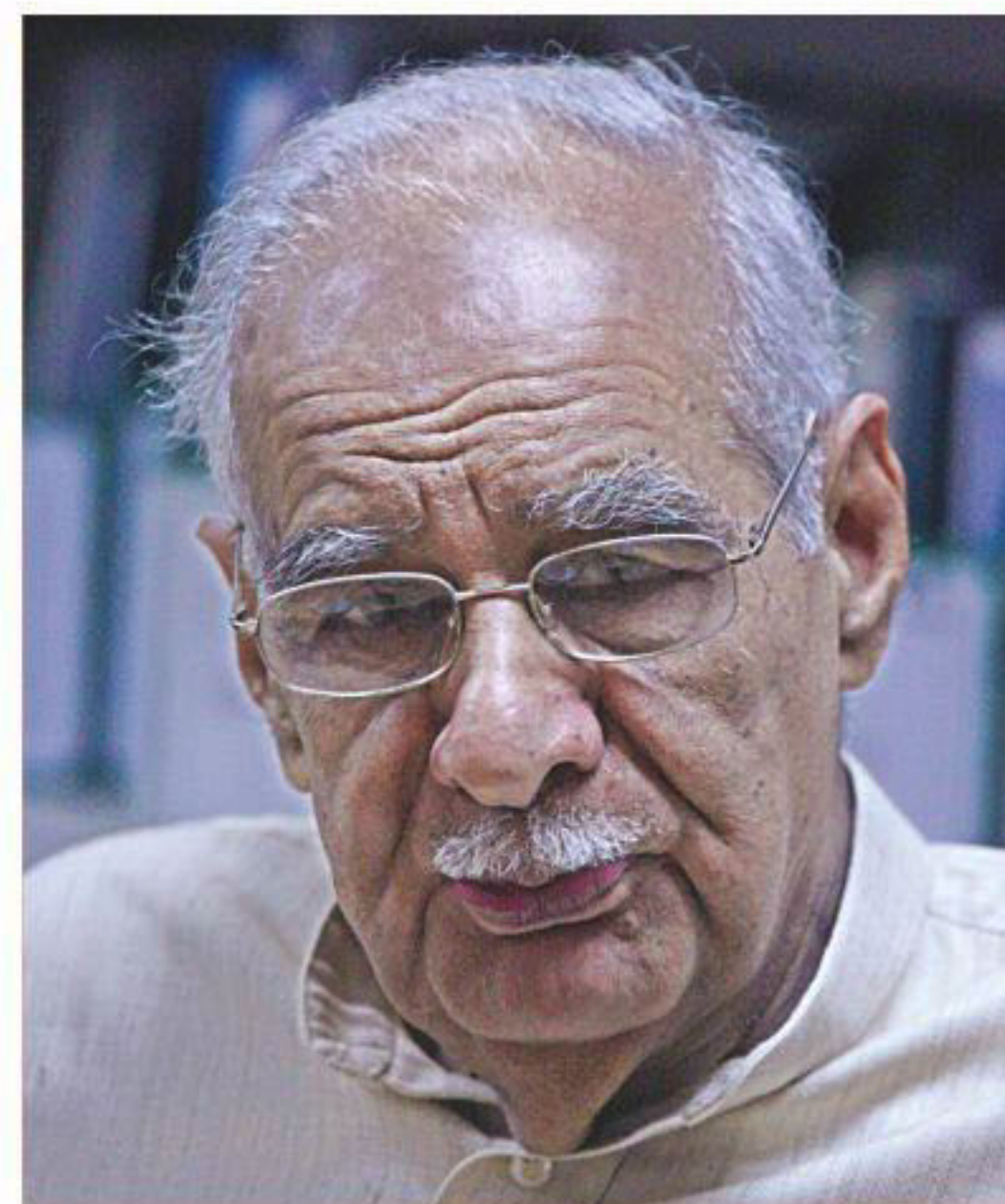
WITH the passing away of veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar, Bangladesh has lost a sincere and lifelong friend, India has lost a conscience keeper for secular values, Pakistan has lost an untiring voice for greater understanding between the two neighbours, South Asia has lost one of the loudest voices against hatred and oppression of all minority groups everywhere, journalism has lost an incomparable example of the profession's ethos, and humanity has lost one of the truest believers in the ultimate goodness in man.

He was a personal witness to the partition of 1947 that rendered him and his family refugees—and the subsequent bitterness, suspicion and hatred, not to mention several wars and numerous war-like situations between the two biggest South Asian countries—prompting him to devote his whole life in trying to ameliorate its ill effects.

He accepted partition but not the hatred it generated. His life's experience convinced him that peace and understanding was the only way for South Asia's prosperity.

A lifelong journalist, he devoted his full energy to fighting communalism and hatred between countries of South Asia. He always spoke of greater responsibility of India in helping all its neighbours to develop and also in promoting greater understanding among them.

As a journalist, his lifelong attachment to the profession's fundamental ethos was incomparable. He would never tire of telling youngsters entering the profession that their ultimate success lay in promoting "public interest" instead of the interest of the powers



that be. He was never comfortable with the corporatisation of the media and saw its core values threatened under the relentless drive for profit.

An active supporter of Bangladesh's Liberation War through his writings, he was one of the first senior journalists to visit the newly independent country and developed an abiding interest in Bangladesh's march forward, an interest that he maintained to the very end. He visited Bangladesh regularly and wrote about our economic and social progress with his characteristic insight. He would rejoice at our democratic journey, and warn when he would notice

it faltering.

His last piece published in *The Daily Star* was on August 14, 2018, just a few days before his passing away, which was on India-Pakistan relations. The title "71 years on, frosty relations continue" did not hide his sadness in seeing his life's work not reaching its desired goal. But he never gave up. In the article, he recounts his lifelong effort for peace and understanding symbolised by his annual candle lighting project at the Wagah Border that he started 20 years ago.

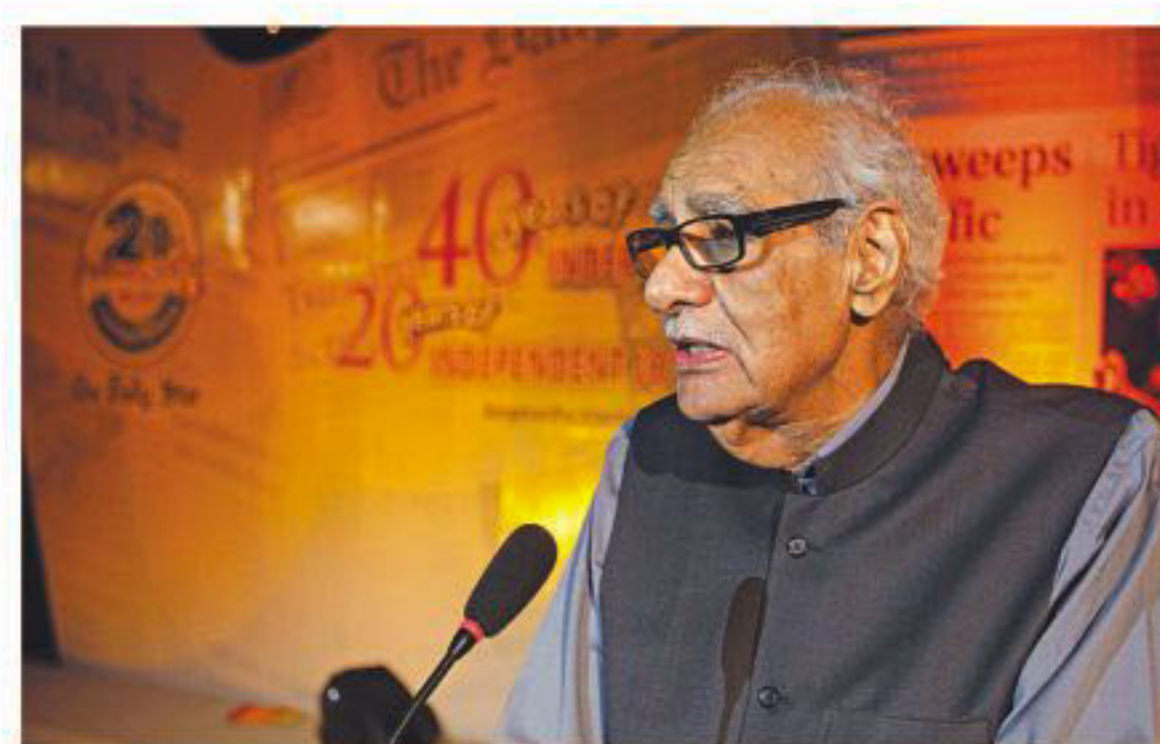
Every August he, along with a few fellow travellers, would go to the Wagah border and stand on the Indian side and light candles as a symbol of goodwill for the people across the border. Started with a few individuals, the event now, as he states in his column, brings thousands of people on the Indian side with several hundred across the border. It was his way of strengthening understanding between the two bitter neighbours. Who will stand with the candles from now on?

For us at *The Daily Star*, Kuldip Nayar was a guiding spirit and a symbol of the values of the best in the profession. His occasional visits would be occasions for us to learn from his long and vast experience, a learning that would be made easy by his generosity, humility and sincere desire to see *The Daily Star* succeed in its mission to serve the people. For him, *The Daily Star* was like a baby he was intent on nurturing and ensuring that it becomes a newspaper of quality and credibility both nationally and regionally.

May his Soul rest in Peace.

Mahfuz Anam is Editor and Publisher, *The Daily Star*. The article was earlier published online on August 23.

Kuldip Nayar: Life and work



Kuldip Nayar at the 20th anniversary of The Daily Star in Dhaka.

EMINENT Indian journalist and a regular columnist of *The Daily Star*, Kuldip Nayar died on August 23, 2018 at a hospital in Delhi, India. He was 95.

In a career that spanned over six decades, Kuldip Nayar was much more than a journalist. He was a champion of civil liberties and human rights, an untiring advocate for peace between India and Pakistan, a chronicler of the historic events of his time, an uncompromising editor, and an author of several bestsellers. He was among India's first syndicated columnists; his columns were read and appreciated across the border.

Kuldip Nayar started his journalistic career with the Urdu daily *Anjam* in 1948. He also worked at the Press Information Bureau as a Press Officer to then home ministers Govind Ballabh Pant and Lal Bahadur Shastri. Subsequently, he went on to head various Indian newspapers including *The Indian Express*, *The Statesman* and contributed in over 80 newspapers in 14 languages including *Deccan Herald*, *The Daily Star*, *The Sunday Guardian*.

In 2015, he was awarded the Ramnath Goenka Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to journalism.

Indian historian Ramachandra Guha gave an insight into what shaped the mind of Kuldip Nayar when he talked about the three stalwarts of Indian journalism—the other two being Ajit Bhattacharjee and BG Verghese—who created a niche for themselves when Indian journalism was just taking off. Writing for *The Hindu* in 2003, Guha said, "These men are all in their seventies, which means they came of the age around the time India became free. All were shaped by the humane and inclusive spirit of the freedom struggle, and all joined the press when it was a trade that was neither glamorous nor well paid."

Born on August 14, 1923 at Sialkot (Pakistan) in British India, Kuldip Nayar spent his early childhood and youth in Pakistan. He graduated from Forman Christian College before pursuing law in Lahore. In 1952, he moved to Illinois, United States to study journalism at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Nayar was one of the first journalists to be put in jail when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared emergency in India in 1975, for his detailed documentation of human rights violations by the state.

He was well-known for his efforts to improve frosty relations between India and Pakistan, including leading peace activists to light candles on the Independence days of Pakistan and India at the Attari-Wagah border near Amritsar. He explained his efforts in a column published by *The Daily Star* just over a week before his death, in which he acknowledged that his experience of the 1947 partition particularly motivated him to work on India-Pakistan relations. In his own words:

"That was the main reason why I started lighting candles on the Wagah border, a process that began some 20 years ago. It was a small movement with just 15-20 people to begin with. Now roughly one lakh people on this side and the people of Pakistan, though in limited number, have joined the cause...I wish that the border could be made soft and the situation became calm so that the enmity between the two countries is banished." ("71 years on, frosty relations continue", August 14, 2018.)

Kuldip Nayar authored a total of 15 books, including *Beyond the Lines*, *Distant Neighbours: A Tale of the Subcontinent*, *India after Nehru*, *Wall at Wagah*, *India-Pakistan Relationship*, *The Judgement*, *The Martyr*, *Scoop and India House*. He also served as High Commissioner of India to the UK. He was also nominated as a member of the Upper House of Parliament in 1997.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

KULDIP NAYAR WITH THE DAILY STAR

From L-R, Suthichai Yoon, founder Editor-in-Chief, *The Nation* (Bangkok), N. Ram, Editor, *The Hindu* and *Frontline* (Chennai), Kuldip Nayar, Mrs Bharti Nayar, H. E. President Abdul Hamid, and Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher, *The Daily Star*, at an event at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka celebrating the newspaper's 25th anniversary.



Kuldip Nayar (2nd from left) at the 10th anniversary of The Daily Star in Dhaka.



Kuldip Nayar (2nd from right) is seen among regional editors from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Thailand at the 20th anniversary of The Daily Star in Dhaka.

QUOTABLE Quote

GALILEO GALILEI
(1564-1642)

ITALIAN SCIENTIST AND POLYMATH

I have never met a man so ignorant that I couldn't learn something from him.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Pass over
- 5 Beer amounts
- 10 The present
- 12 Insertion sign
- 13 Spring up
- 14 Sports setting
- 15 Earth: Prefix
- 16 Needle-point work
- 18 Strong fellow
- 20 Enzyme suffix
- 21 Therefore
- 23 Composer
- Rorem
- 24 Show boredom
- 26 Await
- 28 Debate side
- 29 Inning count
- 31 Historic time

DOWN

- 1 Some deer
- 2 Seoul setting
- 3 Figure of speech
- 4 - de deux
- 5 Racket
- 6 Deform
- 7 Limerick setting
- 8 River to Lake
- 9 Gawked
- 11 Answer choice
- 17 Director Lee
- 19 Attach a patch
- 22 Gets
- 24 Spot for a workout
- 25 Showy flower
- 27 Belief, in brief
- 28 Cellist Pablo
- 30 Much of N. Amer.
- 33 Cookout spot
- 34 Operative
- 35 Plane parts
- 37 Longing
- 38 Stagger
- 42 Athena's symbol

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AUGUST 21 ANSWER

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BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT