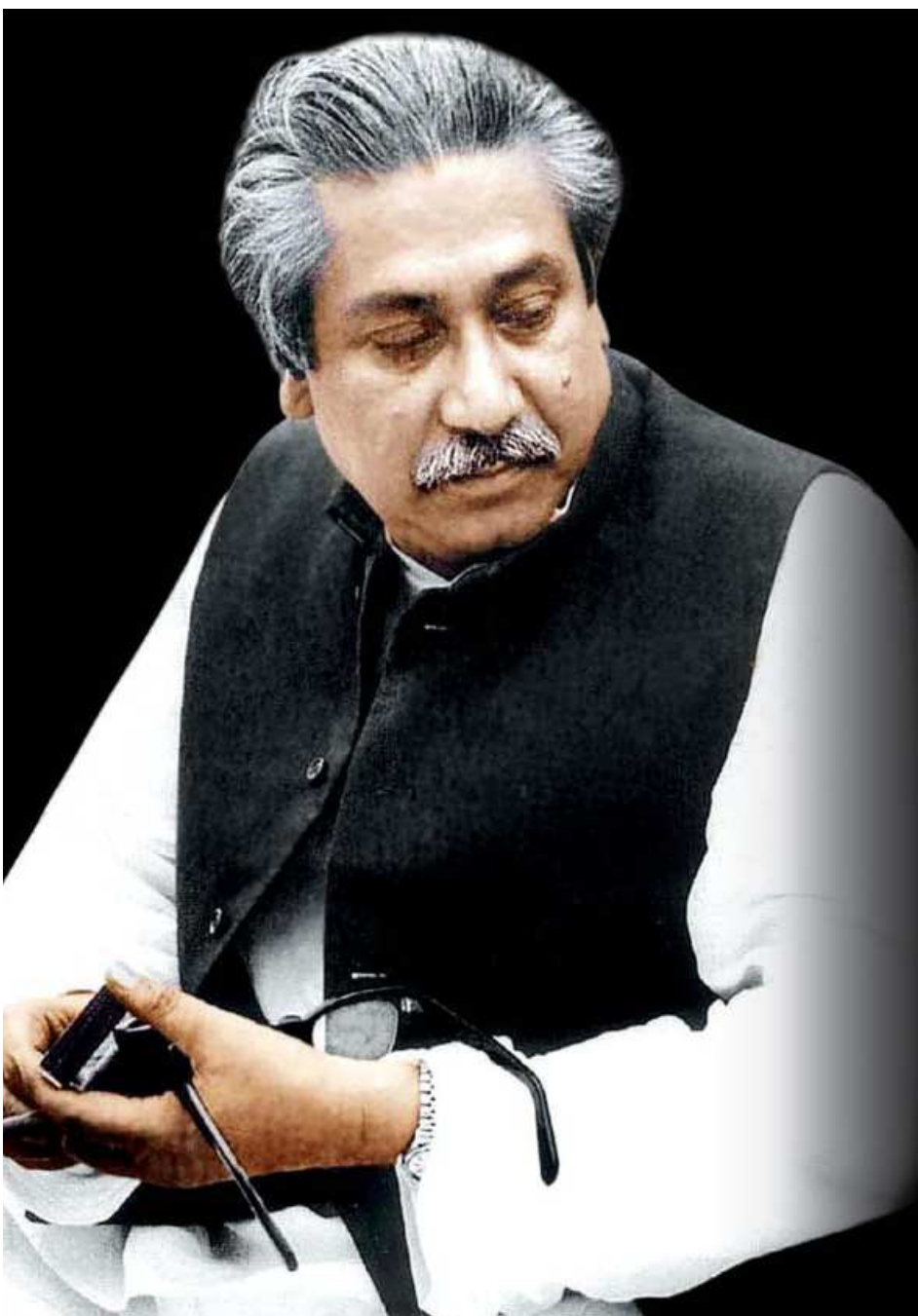




The Daily Star



REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXIX No. 205 | SRABAN 31, 1426 BS | Your Right to Know | ZILHAJ 13, 1440 HURI | 16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



NATIONAL MOURNING DAY TODAY

BANGABANDHU IN PRISON

Transcending stone walls and iron bars

FAKRUL ALAM

"Stone walls do not a prison make, Nor iron bars a cage." — Richard Lovelace, "To Althea, from Prison"

Quite a few famous books have been written either in prison and/or about prison life. One thinks of the English puritan John Bunyan's 1678 allegorical book *The Pilgrim's Progress* which begins with an account of his imprisonment. Somewhat closer to us in time is Mahatma Gandhi's 1932 work, *My Experiments with Truth*, in which he ruminates on his role in the Indian movement

towards independence; it was written while he was in a Pune prison. Even closer to us in time is Nelson Mandela's book written over 27 years—*Conversation with Myself* (2010). It consists of articles and interviews dealing with his years of imprisonment and makes us aware of his thoughts and experiences relating to his involvement with the movement against apartheid.

To these important and stirring books, which reflect minds that are indomitable, as well as movements that have had a lasting impact on world history, we must add the two prison books written by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The first of these works is *Oshomupto Atojebani* (written probably between 1966 and 1969 and possibly sometime "in the second half of 1967 during his imprisonment at Central Jail, Dhaka," p. 295; all page references are to the OUP edition); it has been translated into English as *The Unfinished Memoirs* (2012). The second is *Karagarer Rojnamcha*, based on five notebooks written in English between 1958 and 1969; these have been translated into English and brought under one cover as *Prison Diaries* (2018). What follows is an analytical account of these two books, prefaced by a summary account of his years in prison.

SEE PAGE 7

TRIBUTE

Every eulogy falls short

He acted so that we could all stand tall

MAHFUZ ANAM

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose 44th death anniversary we observe today, stands tall among many heroes of history whose individual contributions have made their country and people great. However, as we delve deeper into what he did for us as a nation, as a people, as a culture, and as an economic entity, giving us self-confidence and pride of place -- both of which we desperately needed -- his uniqueness begins to stand out, making the world and us take a more serious look into what his murder on August 15, 1975, really meant.

In terms of providing leadership to liberate his own country, Sheikh Mujib can easily be compared to the likes

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Little progress in bringing six fugitive killers back

PORIMOL PALMA and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The extradition of six fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman sees little progress even a decade

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

TIMELINE

AUG 15, 1975

Early in the morning, some disgruntled army officers lead the pre-planned attack to assassinate and overthrow President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Attackers open fire indiscriminately on his residence at Dhanmondi. Bangabandhu phones army chief General KM Shafiqullah and says, "Shafiqullah, your forces have attacked my house. Perhaps they have already killed Kamal. Send forces quickly."

SEE PAGE 13

Tk 100cr rawhide thrown away

Syndicate behind fall in demand, low price; tanners oppose govt's sudden decision to export rawhide, to start buying rawhide Saturday at govt-fixed rates

STAR REPORT

Seasonal traders and small farmers have thrown away thousands of pieces of rawhide of sacrificial animals across the country, failing to sell those for a lack of demand, according to traders and merchants.

They put the prices of those rawhide at around Tk 100 crore.

"I bought 250 pieces of cowhide from farmers for Tk 100-500 per piece. But I could sell only 150 pieces to merchants at less than the purchase prices. I left the remaining 100 pieces by the roadside," said Moinul Islam, a small trader in Oxygen area in Chattogram city.

Like him many small traders all over the country dumped rawhide beside roads as they could not find any buyers.

There are allegations that a syndicate has been behind this sudden fall in demand for rawhide.



Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday blamed a section of businessmen for manipulating the market prices of rawhide, reports Bangla daily The Prothom Alo.

Rawhide was sold at significantly low prices over the last 11 years as merchants didn't buy it at government-fixed rates, he told journalists at his Rangpur residence.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

KASHMIR DISPUTE Pakistan seeks urgent UNSC meet

KASHMIR DISPUTE —Pakistan seeks urgent UNSC meet

Reuters, ISLAMABAD Pakistan has asked the United Nations Security Council for an urgent meeting on the contested Kashmir region also claimed by India, according to a letter released by Pakistan's foreign ministry yesterday.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi made the request in a letter to UNSC President Joanna Wronecka, seeking to participate in the meeting under the agenda item 'India-Pakistan question'.

The foreign minister had last week visited Beijing to consult the Chinese leadership on Pakistan's plan to take the issue to the Security Council. Chinese Minister Wang Yi

Dengue ruins Eid of many children

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Jannatul Mawa, 5, spent part of her Eid day in the children's park of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, which has around 80 dengue patients, before returning to her hospital bed.

The child diagnosed with dengue had her heart set on adorning her hands with beautiful mehendi designs and celebrating the day with her cousins, but that was not to be. Doctors determined her condition to be risky.

The young girl was admitted to the hospital on August 9 and had hoped to be discharged by the time Eid came around.

"She has been wanting to go home since morning. I gave her a new dress and also my mobile set to watch cartoons and play games, but it was not enough to make her happy," said Jannat's mother Qulsum.

"My daughter is feeling better since coming to the park and I plan on staying here till evening."

Like Jannatul, seven-year-old Tasnuba Akhter was also playing in the park. She too wanted to go home, but dengue made that impossible.

"Usually she played a lot with the sacrificial animals, but this is the first time in her life when she is celebrating Eid in a hospital bed," said Sultana Begum, mother of Tasnuba.

Like them, dozens other dengue-infected children in the 650-bed hospital came to spend the Eid day in the park. Surrounded by trees, the main attractions there for children were the swings, slides and see-saws.

This kind of facility, however, is not available in every other hospital.

"My son Masum Sardar has been undergoing treatment in the hospital for the last five days but still he is not risk free for which doctor did not

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bhola 'gangrape' victim battling for her life

2 suspects killed in 'gunfight' with police

STAR REPORT

The sixth grader allegedly gangraped in Bhola on Sunday evening has been struggling for life.

After doctors at multiple hospitals in the region failed to stop the bleeding, her family started for Dhaka yesterday afternoon in an ambulance.

However, they had to stop at a Faridpur hospital for emergency treatment as she was bleeding excessively. They left the hospital for Dhaka last night.

Doctors said she needed 22 stitches for wounds to her private parts and there were numerous cuts in her toes and back.

Meanwhile, two men accused of raping the 12-year-old girl were killed in what police said was a gunfight early yesterday.

The girl's family members said she was raped at her neighbour and distant aunt's house when she went there to have mehendi on her arms on the eve of Eid.

As she was waiting at the veranda of the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

১৫ আগস্ট জাতীয় শোক দিবস

সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি, স্বাধীন বাংলার স্থপতি, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান-এর ৪৪তম শাহাদাত বার্ষিকীতে আমাদের গভীর শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

A boy suffering from dengue crying in agony on his mothers' lap at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital yesterday. Inset, a corridor at the paediatric section of the hospital filled with dengue infected children.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN