

# ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENTS 2021 **AGENTS OF CHANGE** CHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2021, FALGUN 2, 1427 BS

# The Liberation War: A reading list

the reality seen in brothels. One of the

novel's protagonists happens to be a

Birangona, and following that thread,

it establishes a connection between

a newly independent country and its

Tahmima Anam's debut novel, A Golden

Age, won the Commonwealth Writers'

book of her Bangladesh trilogy, which

from before independence. This novel

narrates the story of Rehana Haque and

traces the course of Bangladesh's journey

Prize for Best First Book. It is the first

harrowing past.

A Golden Age

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10**

and subsequently the US, led it to supporting the cause of Bangladesh's independence. A journalistic feat, The Blood Telegram sets a stage for readers to witness the ways in which the politics of the Cold War played out in South Asia back then.

#### Ami Birangona Bolchi

According to estimates, the Pakistani Military and their collaborators sexually abused around 200,000-400,000 women during the Liberation War of Bangladesh. Compiled by Nilima Ibrahim, this is a collection of seven stories told by Birangonas (war heroines), who survived the unspeakable cruelty they had to face at the hands of pro-Pakistan forces. Dr Nilima Ibrahim deserves an ode for her work, not only because of the compilation, but also for the journey that she had to undertake for setting these stories free, beyond the victims' lips. She managed successful adoptions (mostly encouraged by willing Canadian citizens) and triumphantly convinced many Pakistanbound fleeing Birangonas Pakistan bound to stay back, since leaving would bring more uncertainty into their lives. The book provides its readers with a vantage point on the ways in which a war disproportionately affects women. It brims with stories of both hope and dread.

#### Letters of Blood

Arunava Sinha's, Letters of Blood translated from the Bengali Rokter Okkhor—is a novel by the late Rizia Rahman that illuminates the lives of the women who have been (directly and indirectly) forced into prostitution, and shows how the intricacies of their lives hold them captive in a physically and mentally hostile ecosystem. The novel is populated by characters from as young as 12 years old to those on the brink of death—a feat that reflects THE CRUEL BIRTH OF DANGLADERS That inde self-enspect which hallow ed her being had beanage by Arob and he was told day after day.

## last eleven years that he does not know what is good for the year of the term does not know how to vote and elect a representative.

### The 1970 elections in Pakistan involved another fu

face that these were the first nationwide elections on the universal adult suffrage, the first in which all women could use in an aone-person, one-vote basis, it was also the data take in Pakistin but in the Indian sub-continent, that leaders of parties were invited to present their party programs to the election invision and radio. The broadcasts were precessed the indian indianses were invited to present their party programs to the election indianses of the sub-continent were precessed and the indianses of the sub-continent were precessed and before any was put on the size to that the later speakers would and poken easier. Broadcasts were scheduled from October 34 ho November 20 an weekdays only.

November 20 un werkdays only. Them party leaders received invitations. Five of them was hard bained. Stack Majibar Rahman for the Awami Leaper, Ma Rahman Shek Majibar Rahman for the Pakistan Demok hard bained. Shek Majibar Rahman for the Pakistan Demok hard bained. Shek Majibar Rahman National League. The old hard bained industry and the shek that the shek that hard bained industry and the shek that the shek that hard bained hard Quader. Chandhry, Mian Munnake Maji haines parties with of Lader Chandhry, Mian Munnake Majiba haines hard Quader. Chandhry, Mian Munnake Majiba haines parties with of Lader Chandhry, Mian Munnake Majiba haines and Mala Dader. Chandhry, Mian Munnake Majiba haines and the sheat Quayum, and there were also the Maji haines hard of Aline Ashdu Wait, strong only so the Netihand maxim. The meri

Guist The Area signatorical, based on party conscintors, y Multi, speaking for the Awami Leage, to Arbort of bis speech read as follows: back Majhur Rahman led off a series of the cal party leaders on TV and radio Oxide

they grapple with the dizzying forces of

political upheaval in East Pakistan. First

in the face of custody battles and then

an impending war of liberation, we see

the intense level of trials and tribulations

Rehana must brave to keep her children

lives--Maya moves to Kolkata to become

vivid snapshot of a country coming alive

a journalist advocating for Bangladeshi

self-determination, while Sohail joins

the Mukti Bahini. A Golden Age is a

close to her. We also see how war

changes the course of the characters'

TLECTION ALL TOD CONCLUSIVE

**SEGMENT 3** 

RITLA RAMMAN

TTLEGAS

21. In a half-boar address, the East Fakistan leader released his callage of Bergali grievances and called for their remech through galage of the Ausani League's Six Points. Mujib also called for headingted of the Ausani League's Six Points. Mujib also called for headingted of the Ausani League's Six Points. Mujib also called for headingted of the Ausani League's Six Points. Mujib also called for headingted of the Ausani League's Six Points. Mujib also called for headingted of the Ausani League's Six Points. Mujib also called for headingted of headingted for the Ausani Ausani and the present of and an order of the Ausani Ausani and Ausani

If discussing ecocomic reforms, Mujib called for nationalization of scaling and insurance and of the cotion and just trade as well as the elimination of monopolies and cartels. He also urged the elimination of various landholding systems in West Pakisian and the imposition of ceilings on land holdings. Referring oblekoely to Marial Law, Mujib said that the military should not carry the buffer of civil administration or involve itself in polities. The Annel Forces should be left "free to devote themselves exclasively us the viral task of defending the nation's fromier," Meijb sated. – *Constant*. The Awami League leader's speech was essentially similar in overall thrust to the themse he has been emphasizing during the company. As sach, it is no doub sounded a responsive etter in East Pakistan, but, by contrast, left West Pakistan Inservers

### See nert page too

Throughout the election campaign the Embassy had been submitting by aigrams a weekly status report, drawing together the contributions from the constituent posts, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Dacea. The following extract on East Pakistan was contained in one such aigram wound the end of the electoral campaign:

All signs indicate the Awami Lengue ateam roller is not only maintaining its momentum but perhapt is actually accelerating. Budly divided opposition parties appear increasingly democilized and in some cases financially desperate in the face of the AL outlaught. Although imponderables remain, such as the question of nucla voting behavior, the impact of ideology versus appeals of individual personalities, etc. the information Congen Dacca has

her children, Maya and Sohail Haque, as and the fumes left in its wake.

Besides the aforementioned works, nonfiction books such as Anam Zakaria's 1971: A People's History from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India, Nayanika Mookherjee's The Spectral Wound: Sexual Violence, Public Memories, and the Bangladesh War of 1971, and novels such as Numair Atif Choudhury's Babu Bangladesh!, and Nadeem Zaman's In the Time of the Others are also significant contributions to the literary body devoted to telling the story of 1971. Kamila Shamsie's Kartography, Intizar Hussain's Basti, and Qurratulain Hyder's Fireflies in the Mist are some popular novels about the war written by renowned non-Bangladeshi writers.

The author is an undergraduate student of International Relations at Bangladesh University of Professionals. tazrian1234@ gmail.com

The photographer is a staff photojournalist at The Daily Star. mehedi.morshed@ thedailystar.net



