Independence of Bangladesh 1971



We ended at the win of the Bangladesh Awami League, in the research With Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh

In this part we pick up the story and continue along the time line

This is NOT a situation of Muslims vs Hindu-Buddhists

This is a war between Extremists vs Moderate Muslims, Hindu-Buddhist & Christians

As you will see many of the victims were Muslims too, and most of the Rebels were Muslims as well. So please do not interpret this as a case of Islam against the rest of the world. THAT would not do the fallen justice, and they deserve a lot of respect for standing up for them selves. And imho the people of Bangladesh are a great example for the rest of the world as they prove Moderate Islam is not a myth, but it is a definite reality that there is a huge amount of Secular Muslims.

Most we never hear or they will even defend the extremists, as you'll see these are not such people. So imho they deserve utmost respect for their true fight for freedom. This is not a topic for children as there is a lot of pain involved and some very hard graphics. I put the graphics on the end of the book so you can avoid it. And as most times I put both view points in, so this is info for all.

The story tells the details of the partition from Pakistan by Bangladesh. Pakistan wanted to force the URDU language on the people of Bengal, while they are a very proud people with their own language, So ones elections came Bangladesh people voted for the Awami party that wanted to preserve the Bengali language. They won with such great numbers that they had a majority over all of Pakistan as Bangladesh had higher population numbers. Yet still the Pakistani did not allow the Awami party to govern. So that party and its followers decided that if democracy was not listened to that they had to govern their own land as they were not willing to give up on their culture.

Then Pakistan send its army to Bangladesh and they assassinated all the Intellectuals Teachers, Doctors, Scientists, all those that the civilization needs to evolve and to work towards a future. This was done with the help of Razakars, a group of traitors that supported the extremist rulers of Pakistan. So they told the Pakistani who voted for Awami and who was with them. These Razakars came from the Bihari Muslim group. The world now knows the children, many of rapes, of these Bihari, as Rohinga, since they changed their name to ovoid being seen as traitor.

These Razakars setup mobs that slaughtered thousands 3 million people are believed to have been killed in the 9 months this went on. And 400 000 females were raped and captured and used as sex slave for months being raped various times a day by many soldiers of Pakistan and Razakars.

Millions of people then fled to India which even had a hard time dealing with this huge amount of refugees. So at a moment India decided to step in to end the madness. They already supported the rebels, but now went in with their army and they ended the occupation and freed the people of Bangladesh. The great leader of Bangladesh got murdered, and these Razakar were still in the politics in the form of jamaat e islami. So for years it was not possible to get the leaders of these Razakar to court. Until recently since then the Awami party came to power, run by the daughter of the old murdered leader the started the revolution of Bangladesh.

This will be their story including the USA vs Russia information and the court cases. So many articles about this situation. There is not much proper documentary material about what happened, but I have added a lot of text to make sense of it and Shabir has some great documentaries about it ,but it looks like most are offline again. So if a link does not work, search the title or the maker of the documentary and I bet you'll find some of the material under a different name.

One big warning various of these Razakars are now in the west and 2 of them have high positions inside western Islamic organizations. 1 is hiding in Sweden, 1 in the USA and he was deep inside political groups. And there is one in the UK who also has a high position in Islamic organizations. So you might think such groups are moderate as their here in the west, BUT BE WARNED there are extremist murderers running these organizations and they are bringing their dirt to the west and our Governments are so ignorant that they simply allow it and thus even agree with murderers in their ad visor positions. Or and that be even worse, they do not even know these are murderers. The western countries also do not arrest them to get them sentenced. But here all that information.

The Bangladesh Awami League (BAL) (Bengali: বাংলাদেশ আগুয়ামী লীগ; translated from Urdu: Bangladesh People's League), often simply called the Awami League or AL, is one of the two major political parties of Bangladesh. It is the country's current governing party, after winning a majority in the 2014 election.[2]

The All Pakistan Awami Muslim League was founded in <u>Dhaka</u>, the capital of the Pakistani province of <u>East Bengal</u>, in 1949 by Bengali nationalists <u>Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani</u>, <u>Shawkat Ali</u>, <u>Yar Mohammad Khan</u>, <u>Shamsul Huq</u>, and joined later <u>Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy</u> who went on to become Prime Minister of Pakistan. <u>The Pakistan Awami Muslim League</u> was established as the Bengali alternative to the domination of the <u>Muslim League</u> in Pakistan and over centralisation of the government. The party quickly gained massive popular support in East Bengal, later named <u>East Pakistan</u>, and eventually led the forces of <u>Bengali nationalism</u> in the struggle against <u>West Pakistan</u>'s military and political establishment.

The party under the leadership of <u>Sheikh Mujibur Rahman</u>, the founding father of Bangladesh, led the struggle for independence, first through massive populist and civil disobedience movements, such as the <u>Six Point Movement</u> and 1971 Non-Cooperation Movement, and then during the <u>Bangladesh Liberation War</u>.

After the emergence of independent Bangladesh, the Awami League won the first general elections in 1973 but was overthrown in 1975 after the <u>assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman</u>. The party was forced by subsequent military regimes onto the political sidelines and many of its senior leaders and activists were executed and jailed. After the restoration of democracy in 1990, the Awami League emerged as one of the principal players of Bangladeshi politics.

Amongst the leaders of the Awami League, five have become the <u>President of Bangladesh</u>, four have become the <u>Prime Minister of Bangladesh</u> and one became the <u>Prime Minister of Pakistan</u>. The incumbent Prime Minister of Bangladesh, <u>Sheikh Hasina</u>, has headed the party since 1981.

○ India's Partition 70 years on: 'I killed a man'- BBC News 2 min



After all these years this Muslim is still proud of killing a Hindu leader. We saw the same with the Indonesian mass murderer. They actually think that killing is allowed. I personally blame this on religion, because they are told by their holy book that killing in the name of their belief is good. So their believe is so strong that they see no wrong in the deed. For them religion comes first and 2nd comes humanity. That defines extremism as being should always come before choices. And humanity is who we are, religion a choice we make! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= FJdEXTazoQ

Why Bangladesh Separated from Pakistan - Historic Documentary 10 min Cyclone no help from Pakistan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v s-PaAl1sw

• 1971 Genocide: A Creed for Justice 9 min 3 million murdered 200 000 woman raped, Graphic images! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUjSiG08 0k

Dateline Bangladesh: Documentary by Gita Mehta 01 60 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4

The Bangladesh Story 1:17:18

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0S-FDczwXUI&t=29m21s

- © CIA Secrets Documentary Bangladesh Mujbur Rahman 1972 26 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUsHw35xlzo
 - **●** Looking back at Bangladesh Genocide (1971)-101East AJ B 23 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zky5uS-L-i0
 - **№** Why Pakistan BROKE in 1971? Pls DON'T Blame INDIA C 57 min Al Jazeera agrees

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iwPVMqUBBw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iwPVMqUBBw&t=16m25s

Bangladesh Genocide 1971 8 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXiGkXN6ywM

25 March Genocide In Bangladesh In 1971 4 min

"The pain" Graphics are hard, music insanely beautiful and emotional. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhQocnhxKKM

Pictures

Partition of East/ West Pakistan, What happened before 48:47

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUwdohRmQIM&t=5m40s

West Bengal

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West Bengal

1971 killing of Bengali intellectuals

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1971 killing of Bengali intellectuals

Martyred Intellectuals Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyred Intellectuals Day

Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Rayerbazar, Dhaka

Bangladesh Awami League (BAL)



Introduction to understand the topic

The 1971 Bangladesh Genocide (Social Studies 20) 6:59 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0doZRfOEHU

Bangladesh Genocide 1971 8:14

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXiGkXN6ywM

Looking back at Bangladesh Genocide (1971) 23:04 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zky5uS-L-i0

Dateline Bangladesh: Documentary by Gita Mehta (1=1971) 58:06

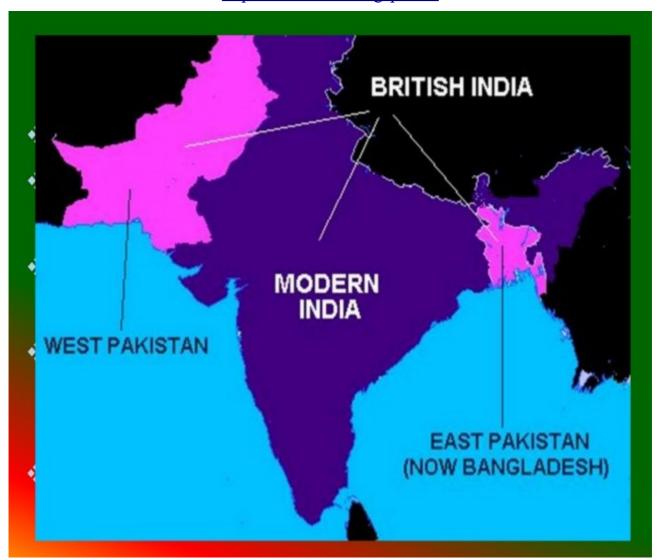
'Whither Bangladesh': a documentary by Shahriar Kabir (2=1971) 43 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7vVUCTjIEE

"Journey To Justice" A documentary by Shahriar Kabir (3=1971) 1 hr https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcCR06oqGCM

I will go deeper into the details, so I start this story 1 year earlier
In 1970 Bangladesh was hit by a huge storm and Pakistan did not come to help
Bangladesh had the fertile land so there most income was generated
So the fact that this income was not spend to help them was a big anger that grew further



History http://tusartravel.blogspot.nl/



The general elections of 1970 had made **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, the leader of the <u>awami league</u> which bagged 167 seats out of 169 allotted for East Pakistan, the sole spokesman of the people of <u>East Pakistan</u> and majority leader in the <u>Pakistan National Assembly</u>. But the <u>Pakistan civil and military</u> ruling clique had refused to transfer power to the majority leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his party.

Sheikh Mujib also refused to yield to the pressure put on him for undue accommodation. Sheikh's <u>historic address on 7 March 1971</u> made this point quite clear to the <u>Pakistani military junta</u>. Then began the civil disobedience movement. Meanwhile talks started between Mujib and Yahya to resolve the outstanding issues. While holding talks, the Pakistani military junta was bringing more troops to Bangladesh and at the same time only wanted to kill innocent civilians all over the country.

This clearly showed that they were totally insincere about handing over power to the elected representatives of <u>Bangladesh</u>. No sooner the talks failed, the genocide began, with the <u>Pakistan army</u>'s crackdown on the people of East Pakistan on the midnight of <u>25 March 1971</u>. The <u>Bengali soldiers</u> serving in the then <u>Pakistan Armed Forces and para militia forces</u> declared instantly their solidarity with the people's <u>liberation war.</u>

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Deevah Khan

The surrender of Pakistan (December 1971)

Dhaka University Massacre

Bihari Muslims

Eye Witness Videos

Mukti Bahini

Khaled's War - English (Full) Not In My Name Moderate Muslims

Razakars (Bangladesh)

Jamaat

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What do they say that motivated Pakistan to Attack Bangladesh?

They send in the army Operation Searchlight starts

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The Heroes Of A Forgetful Nation

March 1971 Operation Searchlight

Operation Searchlight: Genocide unleashed on Bangalis in East Pakistan

CIA sensed Bangladesh independence was inevitable

Pak army's radio messages prove March 25 genocide pre-planned

Operation Searchlight

Operation "Searchlight"

Operation Searchlight Planning

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Sayvid Abul Ala Maududi

The Liberation War 1971

Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami

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Did Pakistanis actually kill 1 million Bengalis in 1971?

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Pakistan Expects Bengali Attacks, By Malcolm W. Browneaug. 14, 1971

Ghazi Attack of 1971: Untold Story of India-Pakistan Naval War

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Genocide By Anthony Mascarenhas

Genocide The June 1971 Sunday Times essay about Pakistan

Mascarenhas' 1971 GENOCIDE Story Biased Media Coverage of East Pakistan

Muslim Press in India and the Bangladesh Crisis

Pakistan News

Believing in one's own propaganda: Newspapers of Dhaka and the war of 1971

Foreign Relations 1969-1976 Volume XI South Asia Crisis 1971

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17 Jamat-e-Islami leader ATM Azhar is sentenced to death

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19 Shariatpur's Idris Ali to face death for 1971 war crimes

20 Obaidul Haque Taher and Ataur Rahman Nani

As Jamaat-e-Islami goes to war, is the AL ready? February 1, 2013

Cry for Jamaat ban 2013-02-08

Parliament changes ICT law to try Jamaat, 2013-02-17

Bangladesh: Make country Razakar-free, March 7, 2013



INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL BANGLADESH

http://icrfoundation.org/home/ictbd-12-case-updates/

The Bangladesh Trial Observer

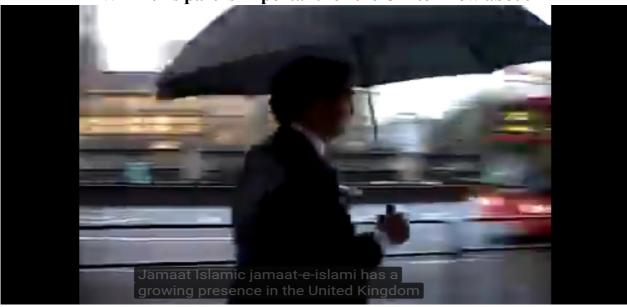
https://bangladeshtrialobserver.org/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International Crimes Tribunal (Bangladesh)

http://www.publicinternationallawandpolicygroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/WCPW 072913 Master.html

http://ict-bd.org/ict2/Order/Order%20No.08%20dt.01.08.2013 Charge .pdf

WHY this part is important for the UK to know about

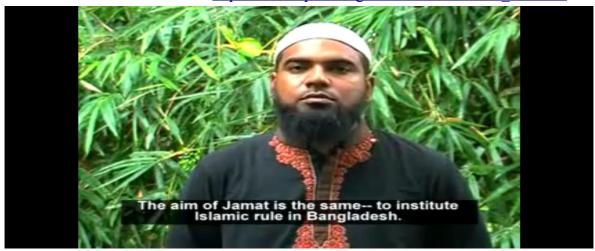


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlOsAxemyXc&t=12m50s

Jamaat E Islami has infiltrated the UK and even it's government and you'll see in the War Court information. We constantly hear about the Wahhabi and Salafist groups, but no one mentions this group. So it be wise if you UK friends know more about it, because one of the convicted war criminals had a high position in Islamic organizations in the UK. As you hear many fled to the UK



Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami



POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

The insanity of Political correctness **▼**

Bangladesh war crimes trial: Key accused

Some Jamaat e Islami leaders as example http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-20970123

POLITICAL FalsenESS

What we have here is a case of Moderate vs Extremism. Bangladesh is an Islamic State, and those who put to justice these war criminals are Muslims too! So Bangladesh is fighting a war against extremism in the last years. And instead of applauding their actions, the UN condemns the court cases. So Moderates try to fix things, and the west is boycotting this. Bangladesh ignores the West and has already hanged a dozen of extremists.

So fabulous work by the moderate Muslims in Bangladesh, who are finally showing that they have character. And they are now proving to the world that **Moderate-Modern Islam** is not just a myth but it exists! Which should give **Hope!** This is true **Not In My Name** work. Haters probably only see the negative and miss out on, all the positive in this. And the positivity in this one is huge! As the Bangladesh government being an Islamic State **proves** that there is, such a thing as Moderate-Modern Islam. And that is really very very important!

Haters are full with resentment, so they would probably hide these things, if they find such things in their research. I love science, so i look at things that refute my thinking as well. Else it makes no sense to look for truth, as then your only building a foundation for what you want to believe, and then thus manipulate the outcome.

Found it a suiting moment to share the first picture now as we again need to deal with a nutcase from this Ideology of hatred that ran into people. In this part you will see that our politicians are using convicted war criminals to setup Islamic organizations in the UK and USA. I will show every murderer committed for war crimes in Bangladesh. But first only the 2 involved in this topic.

The WHY, my thinking process explained.

I do not accept being manipulated by a distorted picture of the world around us. As i have seen well enough how people get very distorted conclusions from all the lies they look upon as truth. So i will present and show, what is fact and what is fable or lie. As the only way to convince me, is by showing me prove of facts. Thus I expect my surroundings to be the same, and then what is needed for the wanted change is, proven fact to convince people. As historians say, by history we prove.

So you will not have to believe me, as believing is of no value to me, so woudn't expect you to value it from me. So I will prove it by showing the history of human behavior, which should convince you that, this is what humans do after gaining specific know how. Which should convince you, as it has convinced me, that some religions simply should be banned, as they result in crimes against humanity. As a person who would not follow that ideology, would never come to the conclusions that these humans get, to motivate their obscene deeds. And that should prove that this teaching itself, is a crime against humanity.

Iman Tahwidi will probably not agree with this approach, but i still promote-support him. As our end goals are the same. We both want to save the followers of this ideology. Because we humans are not born evil! We were made evil by those who gave us wrong knowledge, Thus the wrong of that knowledge has to be shown. Tawhidi approaches it differently as he shows an alternaternive. Different, interpretation of these same words. So he in fact seems to create a modern Tafsir as his solution to the problem.

I thought about that solution as well and have voiced it, but I do not think that is the best way to confront it. Because then we put all our hope in interpretations. And interpretations are joined by changing surroundings, as your interpretation changes, ones your convinced about a different look at a certain situation. So to interpretations belong, change, as we humans evolve and gain knowledge. Thus adding a different interpretation, does give people a chance to change, but does not force them into change.

And that kind of aprouch is not wise against extremism. Extremism is the most radical and extreme way to take the given scripture as fact or even orders. And you can not change that reaction to a teaching by giving these extremists an alternative interpretation. An extremist will never go for your new interpretation as it is inherent to an extremist to take the most ancient interpretation instead of the newest. An extremist wants to preserve the most original ways of his teaching. That is what makes an extremist, an extremist.

So giving a new Tafsir aka Interpretation will only serve by giving moderates an excuse. Then moderates can say, okay the teaching is rough interpretation in the ancient way, but i follow this Teaching. And then an extremist can use the same excuse and say he also follows that stream of the teaching. Thus that is not a water tight solution as it can even be used against you ones created.



The Insanity of Political Correctness



And WHO do our governments take advise from?



Muslim Leader Chowdhury Mueen Uddin Sentenced To Death In Bangladesh http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/11/03/chowdhury-mueen-uddin-dea n 4207835.html

A British-based Muslim leader has been sentenced to death in Bangladesh for war crimes.

Chowdhury Mueen Uddin helped set up the Muslim Council of Britain,

was the director of Muslim Spiritual Care in the NHS

as well as a number of other charitable and community roles.

But now he has been sentenced to hanging in his native Bangladesh.

Mueen Uddin was sentenced in his absence at a special war crimes tribunal after refusing to return to Bangladesh to face trial, the Associated Press reported.



Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin (left) with Prince Charles in 2003

He was found guilty of abducting and murdering 18 people including nine university teachers, six journalists and three physicians in December 1971, during the country's fight for independence against Pakistan.

The court also convicted Ashrafuzzaman Khan, who is currently in New York.

Bangladesh says Pakistani soldiers and local collaborators killed 3 million people and raped 200,000 women during the war. The Home Office was unable to confirm if an extradition request had been made for Uddin.

A spokesman said: "As a matter of long standing policy and practice the UK will neither confirm nor deny whether an extradition request has been made or received until such time as a person is arrested in relation to that request." Uddin did not want to comment on the sentencing today. When contacted on his mobile telephone, he hung up after saying: "I'm not taking any calls."

Uddin and Khan were members of Islamic party Jamaat-e-Islami during the 1971 war. The party is allied with the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party headed by former prime minister Khaleda Zia, a rival of current prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Sheikh Hasina formed a special tribunal in 2010 to try war crimes suspects. According to the Chowdhury Mueen Uddin website, which describes itself as Uddin's official site, he was director of Muslim spiritual care provision in the NHS and has also been chairman of the multi-faith group for healthcare chaplaincy.

He helped set up the Muslim Council of Britain and is former deputy director of the Islamic Foundation. His other involvements include having been the chairman of Muslim Aid and vice chairman of the East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre, and he has also served on the board of housing associations, according to the website. It says he is married and lives in London, having begun his career as a journalist in Bangladesh after studying at the University of Dhaka.



INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL BANGLADESH

http://icrfoundation.org/home/ictbd-12-case-updates/

Chowdhury Mueen Uddin And Ashrafuzzaman Khan



Chowdhury Mueen Uddin

Ashrafuzzaman Khan

Current Location: Absconded Investigation Update: Completed Indicted? Yes/No: Yes, 11 Charges Which Tribunal: ICTBD-2

Guilty: For the charge/s: 1,2,3,4,5,6,6,8,9,10,11

Not guilty: for the charge/s: none

Verdict & Punishment from Tribunal: 03-11-2013

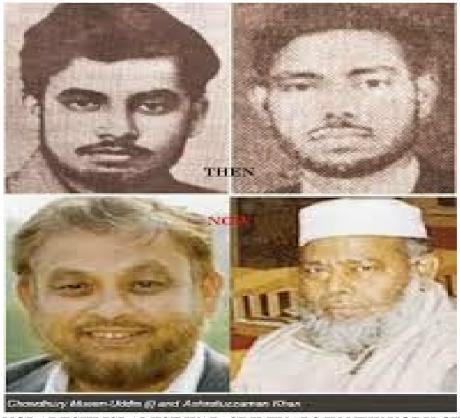
Death sentence for the charge/s: 1-11

Life Sentence: none Jail (Only certain year/s): none Jail Until Death: none

Appellate Division Update [AD]: Absconded so did not appeal Review Petition [RP]: N/A

Final update:

Absconding. Chowdhury Mueen Uddin fugitive in UK & Ashrafuzzaman khan in USA.



BANGLADESHI ISLAMIST WAR-CRIMINALS IN NEW YORK CITY

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/01/25/bangladeshi-islamist-war-criminals-in-new-york-city/



Bangladeshi war-criminal Ashrafuzzaman Khan now hiding in New York City.

About 30 Bangladeshis protested on December 22 outside the headquarters of the Islamic Circle of North America in New York. The demonstrators are demanding the deportation of a former senior ICNA official that has been indicted in Bangladesh for war crimes. The protest was organized by the New York chapter of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee. It was founded in 1992 by the late Jananara Imam, a progressive female Muslim seeking justice for atrocities committed during the Bangladesh Liberation War with Pakistan.

ICNA, meanwhile, is mobilizing to convince the U.S. government to demand that Bangladesh stop prosecuting leaders of the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami group for war crimes. Uncoincidentally, ICNA is a derivative of Jamaat-e-Islami.

ICNA the US Islamist Group is hiding Bangladeshi war-criminals

ICNA is telling its membership to call the White House and State Department to protest the Bangladeshi government's execution of Abdul Quader Mollah, a leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami group, for committing war crimes during Bangladesh's war for independence from Pakistan.

His group's call-to-action failed to mention an inconvenient fact: One of its former leaders, Ashrafuzzaman Khan, is among those Jamaat-e-Islami leaders that are being tried for war crimes.

Khan was charged by the Bangladeshi tribunal in October 2012 for being the "chief executioner" in at least 18 murders in 1971. His targets were intellectuals in favor of Bangladesh's independence bid. Three eyewitnesses recall seeing him at murder scenes.



Islamist War-criminal Ashrafuzza Khan.

When Khan was asked about the tribunal, he told a reporter, "I don't know what is happening in Bangladesh. I am not a citizen of Bangladesh" and ended the interview.

A group of 30 Bangladeshis protested ICNA on December 22 and specifically demanded the deportation of Khan. One of the organizers, Saleem Noor, told the Clarion Project that Bangladesh does not have an extradition treaty with the U.S. "The Bangladeshi community felt obligated to stage that protest in front of ICNA to bring attention to the ears and eyes of the U.S. government so it takes the proper action to send Khan back to Bangladesh," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) reportedly told the Bangladeshi government that he'd try to get the Obama Administration to expatriate him. Noor explained that Khan has been in New York City since the early 1970s and was "involved in establishing many Islamic religious organizations here in North America that are preaching the fundamentalist ideology."

In July, it was discovered that Khan was still listed as a "Shura member" of ICNA-NY's executive board. He was also listed as the **President of the North American Imams Federation and the director of its New York regional office**. His name has since been deleted by both organizations.

And this doesn't only happen in the UK or USA. I'm Dutch and in the Netherlands we had similar experiences, not using judged War Criminals. But we Dutch used Extremists as informers in our Police organizations as well.

Amsterdam's Corrupt Police 25 Min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Tj2Po-at3M

Our Politicians and even Police clerics really have no idea about the ideology that their dealing with! And their ignorance is putting us civilians in great danger as you must understand after reading this.

This is just a small piece of the research that I am currently working at which will be a 2000 paged PDF. In the full research you will get all War Criminals from 1971 and the history of, that i'm working on atm.

Took this part out for those not willing to read 2000 pages.

I will make a linked index in it so you can skip pages and go to points your interested in.

So will be a huge PROPER research that will take a couple of months to get completed.

But as you see I am again digging up some information that has an influence on many things in our daily life.

Hope that it educates some who read it, so we can finally start to work on ending it.

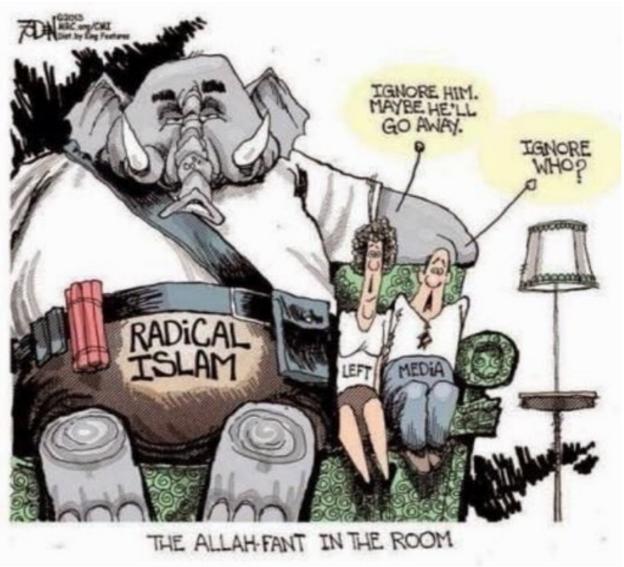
I made it my goal to inform the world about these things since I have the time to do the hard research.

But with the amount of friends that I have on social media I can not start an action against it.

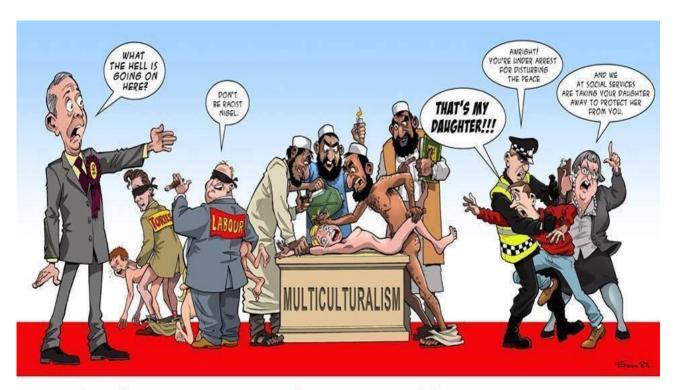
So I hope I motivate readers to share on the things that I teach you.

Then more people get to know about these things and then we might get some action.

Some more cartoons that say a lot, links under the pictures so you can use em to share em as well.



 $\underline{https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-j08OnCbW6XI/WTk-nPfDcBI/AAAAAAAAAcos/AoDyWpL_Z-4znoQNq1Z-yAggJj15fpY1QCLcB/s1600/AllahPhantInRoom.png}$



THE MOST OFFENSIVE THING ABOUT THIS CARTOON IS THAT IT IS ALL TRUE.

 $\underline{https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-gOcfnsHM7dI/WSIOOTrWXII/AAAAAAAAACfs/i8-p5856Yecyi7y3VdAjTZIH8RNcqi0zACLcB/s1600/Germany-Judges-MultiKultiRapes.jpg}$



 $\underline{https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-yiJ4CHvtuYO/WP72RA4Ww8I/AAAAAAAcJU/QJ1OT-GIgU823_VApX1TQt9itXQfIEZiACLeB/s1600/FrenchElections-TerroristMacron.jpg}$

EMERGENCY PLAN

10 STEPS IN CASE OF A TERRORIST ATTACK IN EUROPEAN CITY





2. FACEBOOK FILTER



3. CRYING ON TV



4. LIGHT UP BUILDINGS





5. CANDLELIGHT VIGILS



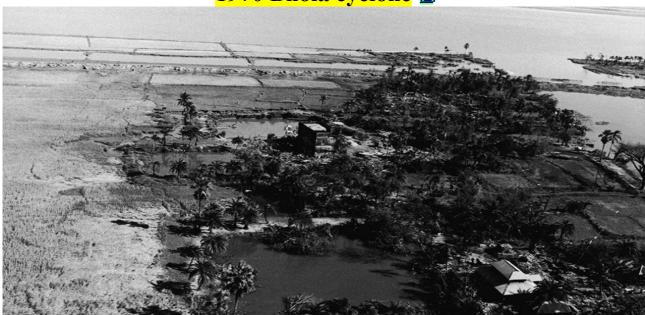
6. MORE REFUGEES



7. CALL THOSE WHO WANT TO STOP IT BIGOTS



8. WAIT FOR THE NEXT ATTACK REPEAT 10. DO NOTHING



The **1970 Bhola cyclone** was a devastating <u>tropical cyclone</u> that struck <u>East Pakistan</u> and <u>India</u>'s <u>West Bengal</u> on November 12, 1970. It remains the deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded and one of the deadliest <u>natural disasters</u>. At least 500,000 people lost their lives in the storm,[1] primarily as a result of the <u>storm surge</u> that flooded much of the low-lying islands of the <u>Ganges Delta</u>.[2] This cyclone was the sixth cyclonic storm of the <u>1970 North Indian Ocean cyclone season</u>, and also the season's strongest.[3]

The cyclone formed over the central <u>Bay of Bengal</u> on November 8, and traveled northward, intensifying as it did so. It reached its peak with winds of 185 km/h (115 mph) on November 11, and made landfall on the coast of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) the following afternoon. The storm surge devastated many of the offshore islands, wiping out villages and destroying crops throughout the region. In the most severely affected <u>upazila</u>, <u>Tazumuddin</u>, over 45% of the population of 167,000 was killed by the storm.

The Pakistani government, led by junta leader General Yahya Khan, was criticized for its delayed handling of the relief operations following the storm, both by local political leaders in East Pakistan and in the international media. During the election that took place a month later, the opposition Awami League gained a landslide victory in the province, and continuing unrest between East Pakistan and the central government triggered the Bangladesh Liberation War, which led to widespread atrocities and eventually concluded with the creation of the country of Bangladesh. This storm as well as the Bangladesh Liberation War and 1971 Bangladesh genocide and the subsequent refugees led ex-Beatle George Harrison and Bengali musician Ravi Shankar to organize The Concert for Bangladesh in 1971 in Madison Square Garden, New York City.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_Bhola_cyclone

George Harrison - Concert for Bangladesh 2:55 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EJvizCVEyc

George Harrison – "Bangladesh" 4:20 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IiWGlGwyc4

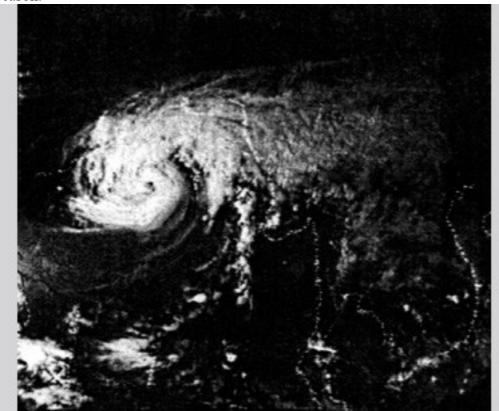
The inside of "Concert for Bangladesh" 8:27 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nc8ZNIWgwE

The Concert For Bangladesh - By George Harrison And Friends

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8CivPhu0fw&index=1&list=PLT-M8iiBQu6YW xhSYHrWcvZfP4jVkpp

1970- The Great Bhola Cyclone

Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) is a densely-populated delta country that sits on sediments eroded from the Himalayan Mountains. Thirty-five percent of the area is less than 6 m (20 ft) above sea level, and over 20% of the entire country is submerged beneath annual river floods in an average year. The 575 km (360 mi)-long coastline is contoured in such a way that it funnels cyclones from the warm waters of the Bay of Bengal into the area. About five tropical cyclones per year enter the Bay of Bengal both before (April-May) and after (October-November) the southwest monsoon season.



A radar image of the Bhola Cyclone as it formed on 11 November, 1970. Source: NOAA

Remnants of a <u>tropical storm</u> in the Pacific contributed to the development of a new depression in the central Bay of Bengal on November 8, 1970. Although there were not direct measurements of the winds of pressure in the storm, satellite imagery suggests that the storm intensified rapidly, becoming a well-defined cyclone with sustained winds between 137-145 km/h (85-90 mph) by 11 November. The system traveled north and intensified, driving into the low-lying delta area overnight on 12 November, during an above-average lunar high tide. With it, the cyclone brought a 6 m (20 ft)-<u>storm surge</u> and average winds in excess of 225.3 km/h (140 mph). Although <u>meteorologists</u> knew of the approaching storm, there was no way to communicate to most of those living in the coastal plain and on the islands of the Ganges River delta. As a result, approximately 300,000-500,000 people were killed (many had been asleep when the storm surge struck), making this storm the deadliest tropical cyclone of all time and one of the deadliest natural disasters in recent history.

The Pakistani government was severely criticized for its handling of relief operations following the disaster. The opposition Awami League gained a landslide victory during general elections held that December in the province, partially a result of the national government's failed relief efforts. Although there was political discord in place prior to the cyclone's strike, the landslide victory and continuing unrest between East Pakistan and the central government triggered the Bangladesh Liberation War, which widened into the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. The war concluded with the creation of the state of Bangladesh in December 1971.



Fast Facts:

- This cyclone was the sixth cyclonic storm of the 1970 North Indian Ocean cyclone season and also the season's strongest. It reached a strength equal to that of a Category 3 hurricane.
- Over \$490 million (USD 2009) of damage occurred. Approximately 85% of homes in the area were destroyed or severely damaged, with the greatest destruction along the coast.
- The <u>storm surge</u> wiped out villages with the most severely affected area, Tazumuddin, losing over 45% of its population (167,000 people) in the district of Thana alone.
- Nearly 46,000 of the estimated 77,000 fishermen of the region perished in the cyclone, and those that survived were severly injured. Approximately 65% of the coastal region's fishing industry was destroyed, in a region where about 80% of the protein consumed comes from fisheries.
- In the 20th century, seven of the nine most deadly weather events in the world were tropical cyclones that struck Bangladesh. On April 30, 1991, another severe cyclone, packing winds of 145-160 mph and another 6 m (20 ft)-storm surge, hit Bangladesh, drowning 140,000 people. By this time, warning and evacuation systems in the area had advanced to the point where several million people could be evacuated ahead of the storm; otherwise, the death toll is predicted to have been much higher.

Sources:

"Bangledesh". In: Library of Natural Disasters- Hurricanes, Typhoons, and Other Tropical Cyclones. 2008. Editor in Chief, Paul A. Kobasa. World Book. Chicago Pp 38-39

Longshore, David. 1998. Great Cyclone of 1970. In: Encyclopedia of hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones. Facts on File, Inc. New York. Pp. 147-149.

Emanuel, Kerry. 2005. The Great East Pakistan Cyclone of November 1970. In: Divine Wind. Pp. 221-225.

Wikipedia- 1970 Bhola Cyclone http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_Bhola_cyclone http://hurricanescience.org/history/storms/1970s/greatbhola/

Natural Disaster | Bangladesh (East Pakistan) | Bhola cyclone | This Week | 1970 24:23 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krtJM0lz4Iw

Typhoon Disaster Aftermath in East Pakistan - 1970 1:08 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5 HPfHW4A8

EAST PAKISTAN DISASTER 1:25

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqVdsLzDqa4

ABC News USA - Report - March 13, 1971 - Bangladesh - CBGR 3:19 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5nfF81OQT4

SYND 21/11/1970 British And American Relief Teams Arrive In East Pakistan-AP Archive 2:27 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLHCo55HFrY

SYND 01/11/70 Nations Send Planes With Supplies To East Pakistan Following Devestating Cyclone 2:00 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHbkAgp-xUs

SYND 19/11/1970 Cyclone Damage And Devastation In East Pakistan 2:20'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qToRll1xK0

Terrible Floods Bangladesh (1970-1979) 5:32 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zt2k5xqfHRI

5 devastating cyclones in Bangladesh-The Daily Star 1:03 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7yrTreU8Z0

Paquistan frente a los cyclones (1971) 5:50 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WirRs8EkB8

The Science

Bangladesh vulnerable to cyclones due to low elevation 0:34 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWkiSLVoZE4

Bhola Cyclone - Superstorm - BBC 3:42 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQIGCrdo0YE



Old Graphics, old audio explains cultural situation, 1970 cyclone hit hard destroying Dhaka City 10:26 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fv2uCxa85Uk

MERCILESS MAYHEM The Bangladesh Genocide through Pakistani Eyes 6:00

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSXrUo24HWg

Since the creation of Pakistan in 1947 the Bengalees of East Pakistan, though being majority, felt exploited and marginalized. In the general election of the constituent assembly in December 1970, Awami League, led by Bengalee leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won absolute majority. But instead of handing over power to the elected representatives, the Pakistan army on 25th March 1971, launched a brutal military crackdown on the Bengalees.

And since then up to the independence of Bangladesh in December, for long nine months, the marauding Pakistan army perpetrated a policy of genocide in East Pakistan. It is assumed that around three million people were killed, more than two hundred thousand women were raped and about ten million refugees had to flee to India. For the Hindus the Pakistan army pursued a policy of ethnic cleansing, that was, to kill or drive away all the Hindus from East Pakistan. The Bengalee military and para-military personnels, the the students formed Muktibahini youth ('Freedom Fighters'), who resiliently fought against the Pakistan army and their collaborators. In December, a war broke out between India and Pakistan, and Bangladesh was finally liberated on 16th December as an independent state.

For the people of Bangladesh the year 1971, for the glory associated with the war of independence, has also remained an unforgettable year, as so many carnages happened around. For them the year 1971 remains, to borrow Charles Dickens's expression "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

1971 | Tanvir Mokammel | Kino-Eye Films I a mega-documentary 3:34:04







Documentary on Operation Trident (1971 Sea War) Why India Invaded History) 17 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CwiEsaZZFY

CIA Documentary in 1971 about Bangladesh (History USA - Pakistan, Communist) 20 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZKx37Uc_xM

Bangladesh's Victory Day: Dec 16, 1971 – (Old News Reports in U.S-History) 44 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMwoseBIBzM

Why Democracy - Dinner with the President, (Musharraf, Law History) 53 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI

The Catch 22 (Circle they live in)

Who do you vote for ?,,,, Mullah, off course https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=19m26s

The Islamic party ordered an end to Media, tv and radio,,, What to do about it ?,,What can be done? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=19m53s

We just hide the taps with music in our truck https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=20m17s

They take one tape, we just use another https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=20m32s

Will you vote for the Islamic party again? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=20m36s

Off course they are from our tribe we have to vote for them https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=20m37s

How look at this as proper? Hypocrisy is considered a necessary side effect of the system!

Why don't you let your woman out? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=20m55s

That is Islamic custom,,So I am not a Muslim?,,Yes you are but the way you wander about is not allowed. We don't let our women work or go out.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=20m58s

If woman were like me, what would be the problem? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=21m14s

That is not possible, they are not educated, haven't been to school https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=21m20s

So if you send your children to school, then they may become like me? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=21m24s

Yes, Different people will turn out differently. You also left your home and work. You are not from somewhere else. Your from here. All workers at our schools are from here. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=21m29s

If you do not have the money to pay education, then you can not get education https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=21m57s

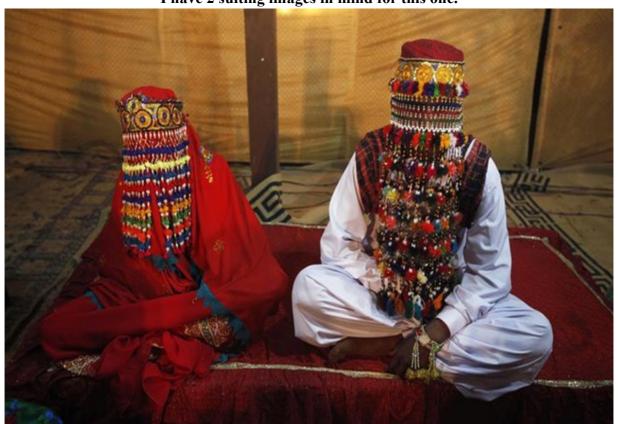
We look at you and wish we could be like you https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=22m05s

Is it not sad?, these people are creating their own problem, because of their own loyalty!

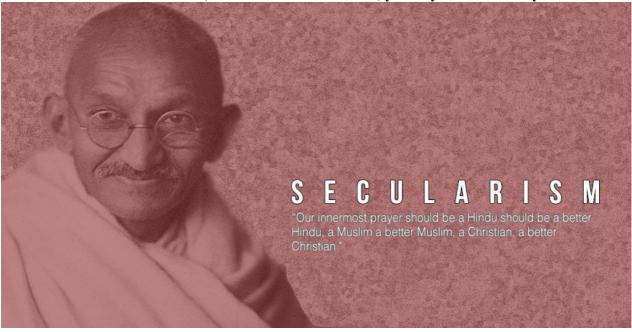
So their even knowing their doing it, but just accept that as a part of life

No wonder many extremists come from that area, they gave up, all that gives hope is religion.

I have 2 suiting images in mind for this one.



Ulum was the Goal, science Islams invention, yet they closed their eyes.



Secularism, God is a personal connection between Lord and follower.

Ones religion becomes a law that humans uphold, It's humans we fear not God!

A religious state is Anti-Religion, as then free choice gets taken away.

And by choosing with free will you prove your God the most respect.

Then you Can, choose others, but still chose HIM!

WHO is the aggressor?

To me this question is very clear, and I do not even understand why there are westerners supporting the Islamist side. Buddhists and Hindus, Christians and Atheist just want to live their life. It is the Islamists who constantly try to setup Islamic States. So it is Islamists that are trying to force their religious ways on their surroundings. All the other side does is defend himself to protect his way of life.

It is Islamists that are trying to force their ways on the other, so it is them who create the trouble in every event that we see.

I understand that some people pity the poor refugees, but if those refugees constantly try to steel land from native inhabitants of countries. Then how can those civilians look at these people differently then as parasites who want to force their ways on their surroundings and take things that belong to the native inhabitants.

How much would you like your guest ones your guest starts to dictate his rules inside your house? Being politically correct is sweet, but if the consequences are that you let others walk all over you, then it is self destructive to stay politically correct!

Then you give up on life, just like the people in the video did. They had a dream of a Religious State, now life the consequences of extremism. Every religious state is an extremist state, as there religion became norm and law.

Here a wise Pakistani explains how the US support for extremists, because of their Russia hatred, completely has messed up their country. How USA created Islamism's rise!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rl&t=27m15s

What does democracy mean to tribal chiefs, reporter gets I tense situation, dares a lot. And the tribal chiefs are very direct and honest as well. The extremists walk away, soldiers come. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=33m14s

Great reporter as she asks the key question, why they also walk away in the end, as they know she is right. WHO will decide what is the right Islam?

Like I said in my own text part, who dares to shame God and say this is how it must be done! Judging is the task of God, else we need to fear humans as judge instead of God.

Judging in Gods name as human is a Crime, and not a crime against humanity but to God!

As back up I will mention that Shari'ah law is different in every other Islamic State. The prophet only wrote 1 Shari'ah him self and that is the constitution of Medina. That had an understanding for other religions as all believes lived together in Medina. Thus every Shari'ah law in every Islamic State is a human interpretation. The constitution of medina has been lost with time, so there exists no god made Shari'ah! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=36m42s

When someone makes up his own rules, he is out of the Quran, the Quran says! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=37m48s

Under the Quran your possition is not right, (She does not wear a Hijab, headware for females) You say you have read the Quran, but you haven't read it correctly,,,That is your interpretation! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=38m15s

The Quran says that a woman must cover her head! "I haven't read that anywhere? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=38m44s



I rather see secularism, but this is not about my wishes but about fact, so concerning this I have to agree with the Tribal chief. Such tribal chiefs should show the verses and then ask. How do you interpret this differently? These points are precisely the points that I have been reasoning about for about 5 years now.

IF you claim to be Muslim then you believe that the Quran is the word of God given to the prophet. So every word in the Quran is a word from God, not a single interpretation by the prophet.

Then does that not mean that moderates are hypocrites?

They do not interpret the words as they are said, but invent their own interpretation to suit their needs. Then you do not believe in that God, as you do not accept or respect this rule, that your God gave. Why follow that God, if you need to cherry pick verses and thus do not trust your Gods way to be the right way? Then we are back at who is judge.

I have these verses saved because these are a good piece to help in the awakening, thus I saved them to be able to show them. Try to give these verses an interpretation where you do not have to wear head ware and can go outside to be equal to males. Then ask yourself the question "If God wants females to be equal, then why does he give these verses, that make it so hard to be equal?

This verse does not say woman are equal, males may even beat them!

(4:34) Men are the protectors and maintainers of women *56 because Allah has made one of them excel over the other, *57 and because they spend out of their possessions (to support them). Thus righteous women are obedient and guard the rights of men in their absence under Allah's protection. *58 As for women of whom you fear rebellion, admonish them, and remain apart from them in beds, and beat them. *59 Then if they obey you, do not seek ways to harm them. Allah is Exalted, Great.

http://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tafheem/sura4-aya34.html

(33:59) O Prophet, enjoin your wives and your daughters and the believing women, to draw a part of their outer coverings around them. *110 It is likelier that they will be recognised and not molested. *111 Allah is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful. *112

http://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tafheem/sura33-aya59.html

Atheist interpretation: Recognized, Not molested ?→GOD expects non Muslims to be molested. Thus, their God does order to terrorize non Muslims, aka "Forced Religion". That is why he warns Muslims to wear it, so they wont be mistaken for the enemy!

No wonder he expects this molestation, because he himself ordered it to be done! This is just anticipating on the consequences of his own made strategy

(8:12) And recall when your Lord inspired the angels: 'I am certainly with you. So make firm the feet of those who believe. I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. So strike at their necks and strike at every pore and tip. *10 http://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tafheem/sura8-aya12.html

(8:39) And **fight against them until the mischief ends and the way prescribed by Allah - the whole of it -prevail** *31 Then, if they give up mischief, surely Allah sees what they do. http://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tafheem-eerab/sura8-aya39.html

And now we get to one of the worst verses, as this verse is the enemy of Secularism!

(9:14) Fight them. Allah will chastise them **by your hands** and will bring disgrace and degradation upon them and succour you against them and soothe the hearts of many believers.

http://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tafheem-eerab/sura9-aya14.html

But back to the head ware verses for females in Islam as there are more then 1 verse. Just had to explain the verses before so you understand the context of the teaching as a whole. Motivations of one verse must suit the other as the teacher should not change character.

As they say follow the money, or as I say, motivation, motivation.

(24:31) And O Prophet, enjoin the Believing women to restrain their gaze *31 and guard their private *32 parts. *33 and not to display their adornment *34 except that which is displayed of itself, *35 and to draw their veils over their bosoms *36 and not to display their adornment except before their husbands, *37 their fathers, the fathers of their husbands, *38 their sons and the sons of their husbands *39 (from other wives), their brothers, *40 their brothers' sons, *41 their sisters' sons, *42 their female associates *43 and those in their possession *44 and male attendants incapable of sex desire *45 and those boys who have not yet attained knowledge of sex matters concerning women; *46 also forbid them to stamp their feet on the ground lest their hidden ornaments should be displayed. *47 O Believers, turn all together towards Allah: *48 it is expected that you will attain true success.

http://guran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tafheem/sura24-aya31.html

(33:53) Believers, enter not the houses of the Prophet without his permission, *95nor wait for a meal to be prepared; instead enter when you are invited to eat, *96 and when you have had the meal, disperse. Do not linger in idle talk. *97 That is hurtful to the Prophet but he does not express it out of shyness; but Allah is not ashamed of speaking out the Truth. And if you were to ask the wives of the Prophet for something, ask from behind a curtain. That is more apt for the cleanness of your hearts and theirs. *98 It is not lawful for you to cause hurt to Allah's Messenger, *99 nor to ever marry his wives after him. *100 Surely that would be an enormous sin in Allah's sight.

http://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tafheem/sura33-aya53.html



Atheist thinking: Why would God put this verse in his teaching that is supposed to be a teaching for the whole world, for generations to come? The prophet was a mortal being, thus this verse would only serve the Muslim community. as long as the prophet lived, and then became useless.

(33:33) And stay in your homes *48 and do not go about displaying your allurements as in the former Time of Ignorance. *49 Establish Prayer, give Zakah, and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah only wishes to remove uncleanness from you, O members of the (Prophet's) household, and to purify you completely.

http://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tafheem/sura33-aya33.html

They wont listen, there is no political awareness, these people who are standing up now are the obstacles. The obsticles are because of the political system here and the leadership. There are maybe 5 or 7 of them, but they are not 10.000, so change will come by popular demand.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=39m38s

Awkward wonder what the bystanders would have done had there been no soldiers, dare by reporter https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4o6Wju3rI&t=40m26s

That was a very good documentary as it dared to ask the hard questions, next

Dateline Bangladesh: Documentary by Gita Mehta 60 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4

Rough Graphics on the documentary!!!

Religion has no meaning to the Pakistan Army, they killed people from every religion also Islam! Important point to mention as this is not like partition of India or Hyderabad, where it was religion https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=4m41s

Lots of information about the Mukti Bahimi and refugees.

Back then the Indian people already looked at the refugees as foreigners. Now 40 years on there hardly is any Indian Hindu left in Bangladesh. So even being moderate does not prevent segregation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=19m22s

Suffering of the babies and Bangladesh population https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=21m57s

What can we do to stop the refugee exodus? Gandhi is asked,,, Stop the massacres, rapes, village burning! But aren't you participating in the refugee influx by supporting the Mukti Bahiri? So what are we to do just let the massacres continue, your own British newspapers have shown the casualties. The massacre came long before there were Mukti Bihari, their reaction not cause.

Same situation as we saw in 1942 Maungdaw, in the Babur Mughal invasions. That we saw in Hyderabad, Indonesia 1965, which we are seeing now in Myanmar.

Now think, follow the money again, who gains?

The extremists are the ones that gain most, they commit the terror their ordered to commit by their God. They scare Hindus away by their town burning so Muslims can later rebuild in their place after enough international pressure perhaps even in their own state then. So burning some of the houses of Muslims as well is collateral damage. Those offers had to be made to reach the end goal that will serve the whole of Islam

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=24m27s

India helped the Mukti to save the Bangladesh people, but were portrait as the enemy by US media. Later I will give you a chapter about the involvement of foreign countries and a bunch of CIA documents that I found during my research that back up those articles https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=27m42s

To further show the involvement of countries like the USA in supporting these extremist nations again and again while abusing these nations as puppets. They did it with the Shah of Iran, with Indonesia in 1965, With Nee Win of Burma, which i'll show later on, incl CIA documents. They did it with Sadam Irak, Their doing it to Assad atm in Syria. Everywhere it is that ole New World Order messing up the political situation in countries, by supporting jihadi that are willing to fight for the NWO cause, and that have governments that allow them to have military bases on their territory.

Pakistan attacks India by bombing various air force bases at the same time, hoping to completely cripple their air force at 3 December 1971.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=29m34s

Karachi harbor (West Pakistan) closed off from the sea https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=32m34s

Pakistan surrenders to India https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=34m49s

At the United Nations the USA accuses India of aggression and they have send in the 7th fleet to block the ocean ports of the Bengali sea port where India was sending in goods to help Mukti. Later on this will also be explained further in the international involvement chapter incl CIA docs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=40m13s

December 16th soldiers of Pakistan begin to surrender https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=46m31s

Arakan is free, Bangladesh is free https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6wH5ofFo4&t=47m47s

Well made documentary that shows the India-Bangladesh connection best. And it gives a look into the Mukti Bahini and why they were supported by India. Imo this topic suits the political atmosphere of the world with this happening in Syria, where I back up Assad while the media in Europe are against Assad and where the EU is even bombing Syria. Next to that we see Catalonia.



Synd 27/4/71 The Pakistani Vice-Consul Defects 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga9JswPdsXQ

Synd 3-11-71: Pakistan Embassy Members Join Bangladesh Cause 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBjf0SpcCD0

Bangladesh Liberation war 1971 [Recognition and Help] 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5bfCm2-nbw

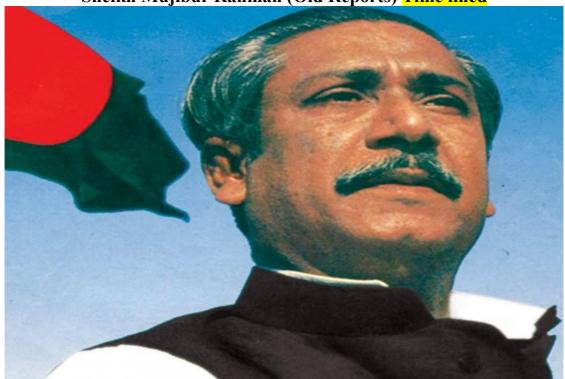
Genocide In Bangladesh , 25 March 1971, DHAKA [Searchlight Start] 4 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8ekAh78CX8

Where are the 1971 mass graveyards, killing fields in Dhaka 4 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3pRHi3Ub1c

The Pakistan Army Cracking Down - Indian Terrorist Dhaka March 1971 C 5 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZZQPCR394c

India - Pakistan Conflict | Eve of the 1971 Hindu vs Muslim | Echo Documentary 11 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOS9ZtJda04

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (Old Reports) Time lined



RR7112A Pakistan: Will The East Break Away? H= History 21 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fijJXamU8Fg

7th March, 1971 Speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman HD 15 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9vUulq4tZI

declaration of independence of Bangladesh-Original Speech by Ziaur Rahman 26 March 1971 4 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_n9AvFWGeA

Press Conference of Sheikh Mujib in London, 8 Jan 1972 (Just set free) 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erkO8la8FaI

RR7203A Bangladesh: Mujib Returns (Back Prison, After war, becomes leader) 10 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIrmBNIQCuo

Bangabandhu - Sheikh Mujibur Rahman - Rare Footage (Back from Jail) 4 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-5HzJZmMHo

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Historic Interview After Independence from Pakistan 26 min H https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0QWIXSXjGE

Assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman - Aug 15 1975 US Media 10 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLeTV7dD1XY

How Mujibur Rahman's Family Was Saved From Pakistani Army By Indian Major 14 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKLW1VDkrbw

killer faruk rashid interview 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dglIcOQtYUk

This message is for the Shameless Razakars (Tarek abou Hasina, Daughter of Rahman) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0J1mHEbRqg

The Frost Interview - Sheikh Hasina: They 'should be punished' Al Jazeera English 48 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7GwCEq3Lpg

Extra Links 🔀

How Bengali Intellectuals Were Killed By The Pakistan Army & Jamaat-e-Islami Razakars In 1971 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VesmNypEumg

Pakistan is BIGGEST ENEMY of Muslims and Hindus | Bangladesh Genocide is PROOF https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R93J4C8Bt0

Genocide 1971 Bangladesh 6:46

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Aka-hX5utY

1971 Bangladesh War documentary photos 21:07 Sad Violin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uogQVu3eEcc

Bangladesh genocide survivors speak out 18 Apr 2008 2:57 Al Jazeera

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVWCcGVHam0

Bangladesh 1971(Guerrilla) 2:21:56

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ud9jeHbckL0

The Simla Agreement

http://storyofpakistan.com/the-simla-agreement

The Bangladesh Trial Observer

https://bangladeshtrialobserver.org/tag/akm-yusuf/

Bangladeshi Islamist War-Criminals in New York City

http://hlaoo1980.blogspot.nl/2014/01/bangladeshi-islamist-war-criminals.html

<u>The list of top collaborators of 1971 & their present whereabouts</u> https://bd1971.wordpress.com/2007/12/18/the-list-of-top-collaborators-of-1971-their-present-whereabouts/

Shariah, Mullahs, and Muslims in Bangladesh

http://hlaoo1980.blogspot.nl/2012/10/shariah-mullahs-and-muslims-in.html

◄ Pro War Crime Tribunal Group ►

Shahbag, 2013 Shahbag protests

Shahbag movement against war criminals in Bangladesh 2:46

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= obcFvWyZOw

How the Shahbag Movement was formed in Bangladesh

https://canterburypolitics.wordpress.com/2015/01/21/how-the-shahbag-movement-was-formed-in-bangladesh/

Bangladesh Massacre Documentary – 2013 15:16 Pro Islami

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEHZ Jmr-fw

Pakistan Genocide - PROMO-Ahlulbayt TV 3:04

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= BwuBJSA8So

Eyewitness Shia Genocide Pakistan Ahlulbayt TV 48:40

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= t0LsQhB13I

ISIS: The Start | Full Documentary-Ahlulbayt: Documentaries

 $https://www.youtube.com/watch?v \!\!=\!\! -QpoQYMrAKk$

In the Name of the Profit. ISIS Oil Trade secrets found in Liberated Syrian Town of Shaddadi 49:07 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD9hrRi5LwQ

Syrian War Report, Southfront

https://www.youtube.com/user/crimeanfront/videos





Shahriar Kabir

Shahriar Kabir (born 20 November 1950 is a Bangladeshi journalist, filmmaker, human rights activist, and author of more than 70 books focusing on human rights, communism, fundamentalism, history, and the Bangladesh war of independence

Shahriar Kabir: There is a difference between Arab uprising & Shahbag movement 16 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnYDpPA-QDs

Sheikh Hasina's Government has been sincere in fighting Islamists - Shahriar Kabir 17 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjBPGQrpjFA

PM Sheikh Hasina has been successful in cracking terror - Bangladesh Affairs Expert 19 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2e4nkYywN8

War Crime 1971-Shahriar Kabir 27 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JURRnMWYpVc

Bangladeshi Activist Shahriar Kabir on his latest Documentary (English) 5 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-ncLwDTV5U

1-3 Portrait Of Jihad - A documentary by Shahriar Kabir 57 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9LiuIZAI5c

- **2-3 Jihad Without Border** Shahriar Kabir's documentary on Militancy in Pakistan 50 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4K9GpCbi8WQ
- **3-3 The Ultimate Jihad'** A documentary by Shahriar Kabir 54 min **Islami UK based now** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlOsAxemyXc



Banaz A Love Story. An Emmy and Peabody winning film by Deeyah Khan 1:08:30 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VepuyvhHYdM

POLICE Failure to defend against honor killings, while they should eradicate monsters!

Freaking incompetent Mfkers that they are, letting monsters in and not protecting us!

JIHAD. The Bafta-nominated film by Deeyah Khan. ©Fuuse Films 49 min

<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_usgevtEppg</u> = offline atm <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q68PyPp-Szw&list=PL4XUjcors4OfwuZla46Av4lv7XYfzHTvq</u>

And the worst thing of this is that you meet nothing but apologists on the net And all they do is invent apologies to justify this extremist barbaric ideology

Jihad: A British story by Deeyah Khan 18:25 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09CVuuO4SN0

"The first targets of extremists are other Muslims" - Deeyah Khan 0:33

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEUjlKPMsmo

'71 India Pakistan War | East Pakistan Liberation 58 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lOscKy 1bc

Declaration of independence of Bangladesh 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vVWn7WkKS0

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Declares Independence of Bangladesh - U.S. Media Reports - March 26, 1971 7 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xl90y37 24

Bangladesh's Victory Day: Dec 16, 1971 - Reports in U.S. Media. 44 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMwoseBIBzM

History of East Pakistan

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_East_Pakistan https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Bangladesh_Liberation_War

Onsalught Probaho

https://mm-gold.azureedge.net/1971/Bangla/onsalught_probaho.pdf

Humanity Assassinated: Ethnic Cleansing of Minorities in Bangladesh Bangladesh Jihad Watch

Bangla Sharia Movie

https://bangladeshwatchdog1.wordpress.com/hilla-movie/

Hilla Movie Part 1 10 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICyw4Ai8b8o

Bitka na Bedru - Battle of Badr

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAvDcAULAAA

Looking back at Bangladesh Genocide (1971)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zky5uS-L-i0

india in bangladesh to Pakistan 1971 1h29m

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQRh8GovtWo&t=1303s

The Liberation Times

Vol 01 : Issue 15

Dated 16th December 1971, Thursday

Rupees 0.25 Paise

Pakistanis in Bangladesh Surrender!

Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora receives Niazi's Surrender in Dhaka

Dec 16 DHAKA The Pakistani forces in East Pakistan have surrendered formally to the Indian Army today. The surrender was signalled by the signing of the surrender document by Lt Gen A A K Niazi, the Army Commander of all Pakistani forces in the of all Pakistani forces in the area. Accepting the surrender from India was Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, the GOC in C., Eastern Army Command. After signing the document at about 4.30pm, the Pakistani Commander handed over his Personal Pistol and Lanyard to Gen Aurora and removed his badges of rank. With that a cheer went up in the Daccarace course and Dacca race course and Dacca became the free capital of a free country, Bangladesh.



The Surrender ceremony was only the conclusion of hectic regotations that went on since the morning of today.

My 14: 1 Y January 1 Today 1 To

sion of the hold in Air operations in the Eastern Sector. This was duely operations in the Eastern Sector. This was duely granted and even the land operations were ordered to cease and by 1.00 pm, the Chief of Staff, Eastern Command, Maj Gen J F R Jacob was in Dacca meeting the Pakistani commanders and showing them the draft of the Surrender Document.

Army battallion already entered Dacca was given a tumultous welcome by the crowd.

The Pakistanis accepted the terms in the Surrender document and was initialled by 2.45pm. As soon as HQ ,

Mukti | Independence Day | Short Film Play (Strategy of Surrender Replayed) 17 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bGdIAf2J k

We were 3000, Pakistan Army 26,000. Win, miracle: Lt Gen(Retd) Jacob (Real Strategy) 22 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z uD OVQ-Lo

Tribute paid to Gen.JFR Jacob | 1971 war Hero (Funeral Lt Gen Jacob) 7 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze3CLMhIQ5U

Synd 18-12-71 Interview With General Niazi In Dacca (Before Surrender) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3r6lBapAnU

General Niazi bbc (Surrender imminent, Flag raised radio station) 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOnQ2gDG1gM

India-Pakistan / Dacca Falls-CBS - Dec 16, 1971, MMR Jalal (Surrender, Danger losers) 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWQsZ2oHUoQ

Pakistan Army Surrender in 1971 and 1999 Rare Video (Razakar Beating) 7 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUDf013OZE4

SYND21/12/71 Pakistani officers ceremonially hand over their arms to Indian forces 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHfz8V6lDsA

Indian Army evacuating 93000 Pakistani Prisoners of War-ep 3 5 min

Already talk about getting the war crime committers to trial https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJOggemfQfs

Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora's interview (1987) (Indian Army loved by civilians) 26 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvJve3djvww

■ Dhaka University Massacre ■ X

Dhaka University Massacre by Pakistan Army (1971) (The Recording) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77tECLm9yyA

Bangladesh Genocide 1971 Khulna University Massacre By Pakistan Army 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DbXvM2FITU

Tale of the Darkest Night based on the genocide in Dhaka University Campus 41 min

Eye witnessess from the university murders

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sd3JFY15ZcY

■ Martyred Intellectuals

Synd 20-12-71 Scenes Of Massacre Of 200 East Pakistani Intellectuals 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euq01keDy2A

14 December 1971 : Martyred Intellectuals Day (Sub titles Razakars who killed who) 14 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0wVE7CTgpA



Biharis Muslims, Bengalis aka Rohingya

The current war crimes trials and 1971 explain why Bangladesh do not want the Rohingya, Bihari So Rohingya probably belong in Pakistan AND this is a motive to think up the new name Rohingya. Bihari were hated as they were seen as traitors, part of the Razakar

Biharis

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biharis

The Forgotten People: Bihari Refugees of Bangladesh (Bihari Refugees, Traitors) & 7 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E0FUhDReQo

Bangladesh, 1970's - Film 4742 Echo Report (Bihari Refugees, Collaborators) & 10 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNU_rC9pUoE

Rr7931a Bangladesh: The Long March 10 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vS -mDmyWh4

Bangladesh: Bihari Refugees Remain Stranded 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II7JZOCfo4E

Bangladesh Liberation war warcrime against bihari 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYlo31XJe94

Razakars of Bangladesh East Pakistan 1971 C 1 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KukutXkiofo

Outbreak Of War In East Pakistan & 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2d872sKV2o

india in bangladesh to Pakistan 1971 1h29m
Bihari, the stranded ones from Pakistan.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQRh8GovtWo

Rr7931a Bangladesh: The Long March August 14th 1979 10 min Bihari refugees

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vS -mDmyWh4



Many more here 1971 archive

Battle Field MohobbotPur (**Mukti Bahini**) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VYu9D1N8u4

Torture on women during 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War by Pakistani (2 Victims) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-1LGe8bkC4

Eyewitness to Genocide - The Jamaat-e-Islami Collaborators Who Got Away (3 Victims) 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCRGhaDtFNI

Chondro Bibi 3 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODh97CxKZ8o

Madhobpur Genocide 4 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9DrZ00tlCo

Hada Pandob 5 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwgAeoV4xyk

Tengratilla 5 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiXxloAfFzY

Noingaon Genocide 5 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DS6QVS-dxBo

Witness Statement of the Driver of Pakistan Army Commander 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHaUVdztGsw

Eye Witness Statement of a Survival from Pakistani Killing 6 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grTxGpA-uaE

Sreepur Killing 7 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDFnIugIANA

The Hidden History of the Birangona Women 8 min

Eyewitnessess from the university murders and rape victims https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvHLUL71UYU

Chatak Bazar Killing 9 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch V-o2jQ3Q

SreeRamsi 10 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpvvI E3aNU

Razakar-Motiur Rahman Nizami's War Crime History In 1971 11 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALpbiX3czjU

Going Back to Pakistan: 70 Years After Partition – Witness 25 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjZXrMmWDTo





Khaled's War – English (Full) *** Bingo 26 min

This completely explains the Buddhist-Hindu point of view and connection with this! Plus all of these rebels are Muslims as well, further prove for it being moderate vs extreme Pakistani defector joined the rebels with his whole brigade incl modern weapons

IF we want Islam to survive then this is what is needed to stop extremism Moderate Muslims who take on the terrorists to end the shame of Islam!

Khaled's War – English (Full), NOT IN MY NAME! ►

X https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsiTQLtIHEI

The incident on 19th Dec 71 led by Kader Siddique (Revenge beating up Razakars) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep8fNT4-A9g

Razakars punished by Mukti Bahini (Revenge beating up Razakars) 30s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6LpRovdNGQ

Synd 20/12/71mukti Bahinis Round Up Razakars In Dacca 1 min S https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpBhN41 PpQ

Synd21/12/71 Razakars Rounded Up In Dacca (Revenge beating up Razakars) 2 min S https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ8oGKvLyNY

> Freedom fighters take oath 1 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLyU7uffO6o

Mukti Bahini in Bangladesh Liberation War (1971 War) (Training) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i CKLPpWtkA

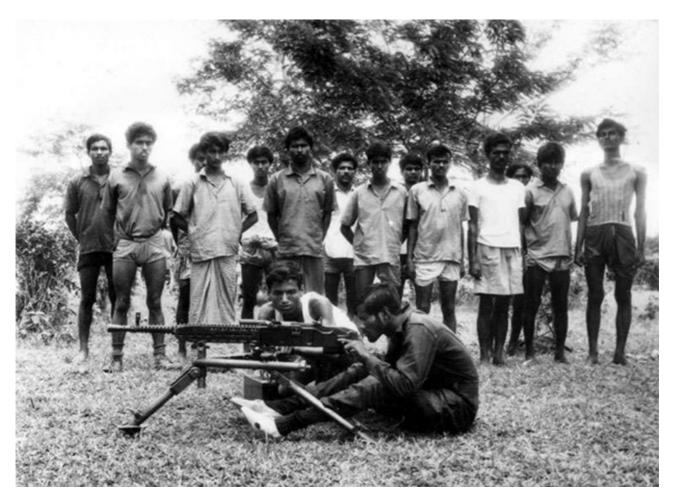
- Synd 22/04/71 Bangladesh Liberation Army Train Volunteers (Training) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSxYgHY9chE
- Synd 14-5-71 Bangladesh Rebels At A Training Center In East Bengal (Training) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQBSEmGXyTQ
 - **Synd 30 11 71 Guerrillas Hold Communications Centre (Activities)** 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOonUv1ktAk
- Synd 2 12 71 Scenes Showing Indian Positions On Border With Pakistan (Indian Army) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoF0b6QJyXQ
 - Lib 12/12/71 Indian Troops Advance On West Pakistan Towns (Indian Army) 5 min S https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgSIvW4xeo0
 - Synd 25-12-71 West Pakistani Airmen Interviewed (Bangladesh Airmen) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEr1rIRwjt0
 - **Synd 21-1-72 Bangladesh Guerrilla Fighters Give Up Arms In Dhaka (Jinabar)** 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jd9J5Vgbkw
 - Synd 17-3-72 Newly Released Footage From The Indo-Pakistan War (Activities) 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHTgXd0Nlko
 - **Synd 18-3-72 Indian Pm Gandhi Arrives In Bangladesh** 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkyP6K7WipE
 - Synd 3 5 73 Indians Hand Over Razakars To Bangladesh (Round Up Razakars) 1 min S https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEhY1FSMYt0

▼ Witness, Analysis ►

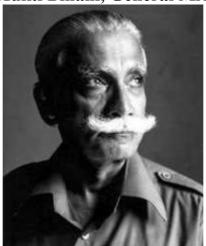
- Bangladesh 1971 Interview of Mukti Bahini or Freedom Fighters (Training) 5 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LV7SQzMNYJ0
 - 1971 Bangladesh war: A fighter's tale-I (Lt Gen Jacob Interviewed) 12 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Grr5oAu6020
 - 1971 Bangladesh war: A fighter's tale-II (Lt Gen Jacob Interviewed) 14 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5TBry0hUm8
 - What did Really Happened in Bangladesh (Mukti Bahini Wives) 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEuHhDd w-E&t=2m37s

Kakon Bibi: Tale of a legendary freedom fighter 42 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxY kMGdbJQ





Leader of Mukti Bihani, General MAG Osmany



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M. A. G. Osmani

Sam Maneckshawhttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Manekshaw

Trained the Mukti Bahini, Major General JFR Jacob https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._F._R._Jacob

Mukti Bahini

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mukti Bahini

Jatiya Rakkhi Bahini

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jatiya Rakkhi Bahini

Razakars (Bangladesh)



Razakars of Bangladesh East Pakistan 1971 (Razakar Organized) © 1 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KukutXkiofo

Bangladesh Liberation war killing by Mukti bahini (Razakars Tortured) & 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-ZB85xBgag

Bangladesh Politics warcrime child was killed by Muktibahini (Razakar Tortured) ← 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zURBOSw894s

Synd 21-4-71 Bengal Spies Arrested (Razakars Arrested) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfbvB7on2cs

Synd 22/11/1971 Bangladesh Launch An All Out Offensive (Activities) 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccXVkVBr7qU

Synd 15 12 71 Indian Troops Advance Towards Khulna (Razakars Arrested) 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ar KhgKtlW4

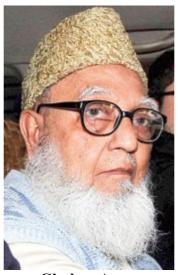
Synd 19-12-71 East Pakistan Troops Surrenders (Razakar Tortured) & 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0kcJh Fenk

"Razakar" Awami point of view - Shaykh Abu Sayeed, Shariah Council UK 11 min Extremist view point, the Religious State fans https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMlxnX1-jaE

Professor Ghulam Azam's Talk at ISNA Conference, USA Sept 1995 (Razakar Leader) 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p bWJpm0VA

gulam azam new york islamic convention (Razakar Leader) 10 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KO2Udk2zNuc

Ghulam Azam Funeral Prayer Goes Smooth, No Indescipline [Sub]-Oct 25,2014 5 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWRcvdfOAFs



Ghulam Azam

Why should you know late Prof. Gulam Azam? by Mamoon Al Azami C 18 min Azam his son after he died, proves extremists, breath religion!

They do not kill out of hatred, but because their convinced, God wants them to!

As you hear this is all about how convinced you are, nothing to do with insanity of a brain

It clearly is the teaching that convinces the ones who do it that they are doing the right thing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o SJH8Q0 t0

Allama sayedee, english speech (Razakar Leader) 10 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUmkgV7LN o

RARE Video of RAZAKAR's statement On NIZAMI's activities in 1971 € 11 min Witness off mass murder by Razakars, Interviews with Razakar soldiers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FN2f7I5IJnY

Razakar in Bangladesh, Rajakar Nizami, Awami League propaganda (Witness) & 9 min This reporter puts words in his mouth

 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8xNzgB-YQY}$

Who speaks truth part-1: Maulana Delowar Hossain Sayidi & 8 min About how Channel 4 manipulated his speaches https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0khqvmOfvN8

Who speaks truth part-2: Maulana Delowar Hossain Sayidi & 8 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCQsuXxwRcU

Who speaks truth part-3: Maulana Delowar Hossain Sayidi & 8 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4EWDtWbp4s

Who speaks truth part-4: Maulana Delowar Hossain Sayidi & 8 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-qKronu_7w

Bangla Waz by Allama Delwar Hossain Sayeedi Chittagong 2003 Day 1 Part 1

Here we see why Delwar is so loved, huge public following next door to Myanmar. And as you hear all visitors sing along when he recites the verses. So he is like a music pop singer to them, being a musician myself, i do understand. It is like a good rapper and a bad one, Delwar has a straight timing, good feel for rhythm. So he changes his notes in a pleasant to the ear way by using a certain tempo and playing with it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWi8 y12u70

Delwar Hossain Sayeedi waz. Super hit Bangla Waz

As you hear same thing here, made me think about the Navi of Avatar singing to heal the doctor. So that lifts the crowd obviously if all sing together like that. And if recited in this way, then you understand why Muslims say that you need to recite it in Arab. As believers they probably think that you can never create these kind of uplifting grooves, if in another language.

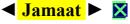
So IF you want to take the challenge of Islam to create your own chapter, Then do not only look at the words, but use such words that it has a groove in it. Ones you made that possible then you might start to convince some

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jh6XZC3 Mf4





Ajmol Masroor, Water Lily, London- 5th march 2013 19 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uso0pT28nXY



Bangladesh Academician blames Jamaat-e-Islami for 1971 war (Ban Wanted) 2 min Secularity Nationalism 2013, ban on the party wanted https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOK5QXqtIo0

Bangladesh academician slams Jamaat over 1971 wartime atrocities (Ban Wanted) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXkySIEz6t4

Former Bangladesh envoy blames Jamaat for wartime atrocities (Ban Wanted) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wON3g-oeZXo

Bangladesh Genocide: what human rights, anti-racist won't tell you Debate-Interview 1h51m Gita Sahgal talks to Dr Ghayasuddin Siddiqui and Asif Munier.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKEHLvMQm-0

How Bengali Intellectuals Were Killed By The Pakistan Army-Jamaat-Razakars In 1971 (Sub) 14 min Razakars crimes in more detail https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sq6eA47fqA



http://ict-bd.org/

Committed Crimes Explained ►

Dispatches - The War Crimes Files 55 min-Channel 4, Mueen-Uddin 55 min ***

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvbotYo-6rI

AL BADR A Killing Squad of Pakistan Army, 1971 Full Documentary (Razakar Crimes) 1h3m https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u6EHLU_Bhs

← Crimes Tribunal

Professor, 1971 war crimes tribunal in Bangladesh on track (Ban on fundementalism) 1 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSFwOJf1gVw

Bangladesh War Crimes Tribunal orders trial of 'Al Badr' members in absentia 15 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6KaRAaWYKc

Inside Story - Bangladesh's war wounds-AJ (CT Protests) & 25 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWITVRPFQDM

Bangladesh: An Attack on Bloggers-101 East-AJ ← 25 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g40csI2ETIQ

The Stream - Bangladesh's rising voices-AJ (CT Protests) C-€ 36 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NUlBwt9gTg

International Crimes Tribunal & Human Rights Violation In Bangladesh (09.04.13) C 14 min How Secularism is pushing extremism away in Bangladesh https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqmcgG8x_Kg

Awami League Tribunal - Rajakar Of Bangladesh - Islam Channel & 22 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jipEgiK14io

Inside Story - What's behind Bangladesh's war crimes trials?-AJ English & 25 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AFen4J1DwA

Talk to Al Jazeera - Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin: 'Not a war criminal' & 25 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9gkuhoV3F4

Looking back at Bangladesh Genocide (1971) - 101 East - Al Jazeera English © 23 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etR8Q-E3rp4

Al Jazeera Listening Post - Bangladesh The Ghosts of 1971: 2nd Mar 2013 & 25 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Do6kWUyZqfM

Do these Muslim view pointers not know Pakistan killed many Muslims too?

The Story evolving X

Before 1971 Bangladesh was like a colony of Pakistan called East Pakistan



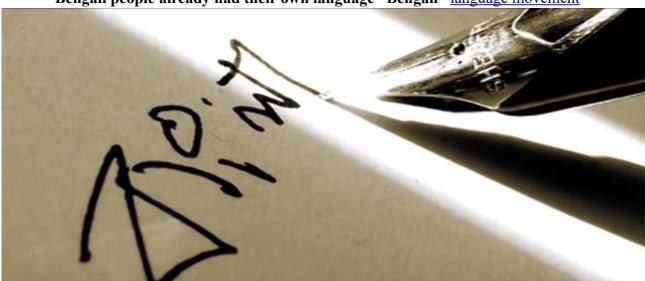
In 1948 the governing Pakistani even wanted to change the state language to Urdu



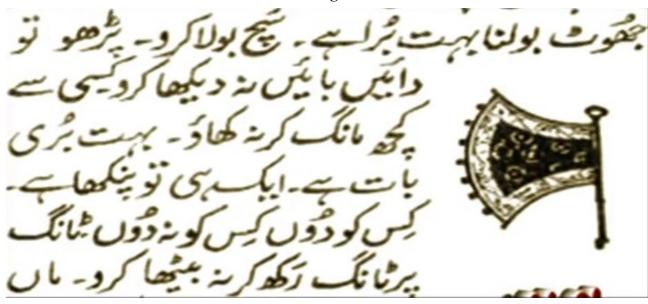
The Bengali people did not like what the Pakistani were forcing on them



Bengali people already had their own language "Bengali" language movement



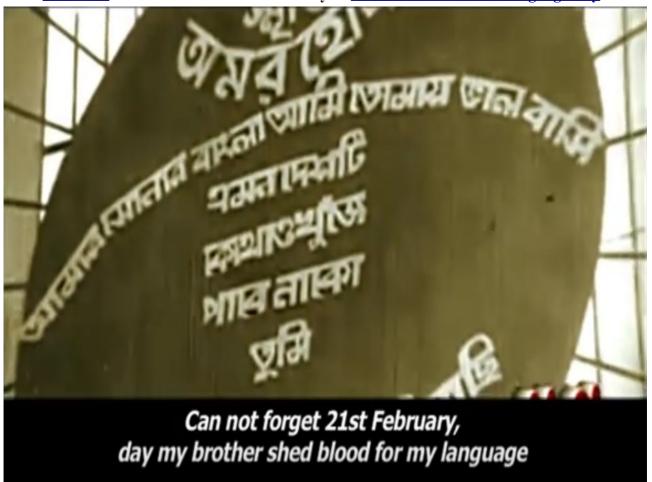
Which is nothing like URDU



So the proud Bengali stood up to this oppression



UNESCO decided to observe 21 February as <u>International Mother Language Day</u>



The rebellion was not limited to language because the Pakistani were not investing as much into East Pakistan as in Pakistan. So the civilians from East Pakistan felt abused by the government. Here are some facts about what Pakistan gave in return to their "Colony"

Year	Expenditure by W (Rupi in m		Expenditure by East Pakistar (Rupi in million)
1950/51-54/55	11,29	0	5,240
1955/56- 59/60	16,55	0	5,240
1960/61 - 64/65	33,55	0	14,040
1965/66 - 69/70	51,95	0	21,410
Total	11334	0	45930
Subject of dis	crimination	Bangladesh	West Pakistan
Revenue exper	nditure	1500 crore TK.	5000 crore TK
Development of	expenditure	3000 crore TK.	6000 crore TK
Foreign aid		20%	80%
Importing fore	ign goods	25%	70%
			85%
Employment in	military	10%	90%
Rice (40 kilogra	ım)	50 TK	25 TK
	-1	30 TK	15 тк
Atta (4 kilogran	n <i>)</i>		
		5 TK	2.50 TK

Here some more figures				
Year	Expenditure by West Pakistan (Rupi in million)	Expenditure by East Pakistan (Rupi in million)		
1950/51- 54/55	11,290	5,240		
1955/56- 59/60	16,550	5,240		
1960/61 - 64/65	33,550	14,040		
1965/66 - 69/70	51,950	21,410		

Subject of discrimination	Bangladesh	West Pakistan
Revenue expenditure	1500 crore TK	5000 crore TK
Development expenditure	3000 crore TK	6000 crore TK
Foreign aid	20%	80%
Importing foreign goods	25%	70%
Employment in central govern	nment15%	85%
Employment in military	10%	90%
Rice (40 kilogram)	50 TK	25 TK
Atta (4 kilogram)	30 TK	15 TK
Mustard oil (per kilogram)	5 TK	2.50 TK
Gold (10 gram)	170 TK	135 TK

The Bengali people were the demographic majority in Pakistan, making up an estimated 75 million in East Pakistan compared with 55 million in the predominately Punjabi-speaking West Pakistan. The majority in the East were Muslims, with large Hindu, Buddhist and Christian minorities. The people of the East were looked upon as second-class citizens.

The civilians were totally fed up with this unequal treatment of the government.

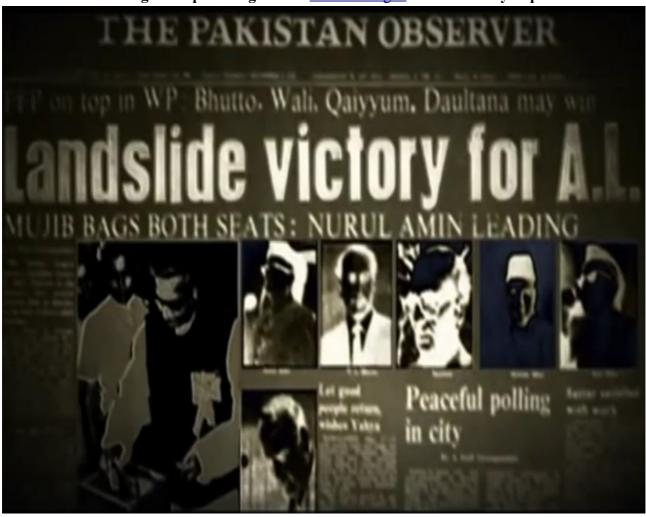
So that language subduing led to a complete revolution



The people stood up against the oppressor in huge numbers



This brought the pro-Bengali A.L. Awami League Political Party in power



That party won their hearts with such a charismatic leader as **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**



this time, the struggle is for freedom ...

Who was even motivated to get independence from West Pakistan



this time it's for independence.

Newzstreet.TV

1952 protest in Dhaka, the capital of East Pakistan, was forcibly broken up, resulting in the deaths of several protesters. Bengali nationalists viewed those who had died as martyrs for their cause, and the violence led to calls for secession.

Newzstreet.TV

Operation Searchlight was a planned military operation carried out by the Pakistani Army to curb elements of the separatist Bengali nationalist movement in East Pakistan in March 1971. Ordered by the government in West Pakistan, this was seen as the sequel to Operation Blitz which had been launched in November, 1970.

What do they say that motivated Pakistan to Attack Bangladesh?

Bihari Muslims Slaughtered by Bengalis in Bangladesh, reason Pakistan attacked Bangladesh

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation Searchlight

Operation Searchlight was a planned military operation carried out by the <u>Pakistan Army</u> to curb the <u>Bengali</u> nationalist movement in the erstwhile <u>East Pakistan</u> in March 1971,[9][10] which the <u>Pakistani state justified on the basis of anti-Bihari violence</u> by Bengalis in early March.[11] Ordered by the central government in <u>West Pakistan</u>, this was seen as the sequel to "<u>Operation Blitz</u>" which had been launched in November 1970. [? Non]

Absolutely no info about Operation Blitz, so I consider that to be made up, non sense.

11. D' Costa, Bina (2011). Nationbuilding, Gender and War Crimes in South Asia. Routledge.
p. 103. <u>ISBN 9780415565660</u>.

If you click the number then you get send to the book and if the page is on preview then you can see the text that they base their conclusions on. Most of these books are commercial products. So you only get a preview and have to be lucky your needed page is in the preview. In this case no info.

Page 103 which we need is not on preview. Tried to find the book for some hours but can't.

But there are more roads that lead to our wanted destination, so I searched on.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution of Biharis in Bangladesh

The <u>Bihari</u> ethnic minority in <u>Bangladesh</u> (also known as <u>Stranded Pakistanis</u>) were subject to persecution during and after the 1971 <u>Bangladesh Liberation War,[1]</u> (called the Civil War in Pakistan)[2] experiencing widespread discrimination.[3] Biharis largely maintained a pro-Pakistani stance, supported the <u>Pakistan Armed Forces</u> and opposed the independence of Bangladesh. Biharis faced reprisals from Bengali mobs and militias[1] and from 1,000[4] to 150,000[5][6] were killed. Bihari representatives claim a figure of 500,000 Biharis killed.[7][8]

As you see many more sources on this article, not all work but here are the 3 functioning ones

Claim: Bengalis killed about 150,000 Bihari

p292 https://books.google.nl/books?id=rOq4XV94wLsC&pg=PA292&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

p 64 https://books.google.nl/books?id=TG2kN033mDkC&pg=PA64&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

 $p148 \ \underline{https://books.google.com.au/books?id=48N-XbOltMEC\&pg=PA148\&dq\#v=onepage\&q\&f=false}$

Conclusion:

Weak prove as it comes from books instead of research articles, book writers can write anything down to create a story. A Muslim will write what his buyers like to read and a Hindu same thing. Ones it is a commercial product then we need to think about Capitalism. So not the kind of prove I would trust. This is not logic! The Bihari were attacked as reaction to them helping Pakistan. So Bihari can not be used as motivation to attack Bangladesh, as that violence started only after the march invasion that Pakistan did. The Mukti Bahini was created and indeed the Bangladesh patriots started to retaliate on the traitors who helped the enemy. Thus the violence against Bihari only started after Pakistan invaded Bangladesh from March 1971 to December 1971

Bihari not welcome in Pakistan

Pakistan | Pls DON'T Blame INDIA for Breakup in 1971 6:14 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFi6DP8Syk4 So that is a non sense excuse, they invaded Bangladesh for the same reason that Spain has attacked Catalonia. Want a link with the Quran? The Banu Qurayza, was wiped out after the Battle of Trench where they attempted to ally themselves with the invading Quraish https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish tribes of Arabia

The prophet has beheaded 800 Jews from the Banu Qutayza, when he thought those Jews were not loyal to him as leader. Islam teaches that the prophet was Al-Alamin, The perfect role model. So I bet you this is how Pakistani justify what they did to fellow Muslims and Hindu-Buddhists.

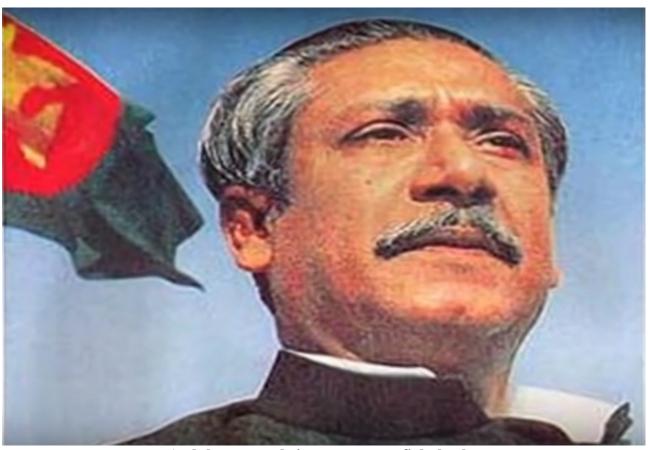
They did not do it to help Bihari Muslims, IF that would be the case, then Bihari Muslims would all be welcome in Pakistan now as their comrades, and not left to rot in refugee camps all these years!



Graphics of the Pakistani executing people in East Bengal



With their great leader to motivate them the people stood up



And they setup their own army to fight back



The Pakistani realized that they were losing the war. So they implemented a plan thought up by the collaborators of the Al Badr group, also known as the Razakar group. And that plan was to cripple the future of the East Pakistani people by executing the intelligent people of the population, so that they could not quickly rebuild their country so would need West Pakistan.



During the nine-month-longBangladesh war for independence, members of the Pakistani military and supporting militias killed estimated between three million people and raped between 200,000–400,000 Bangladeshi women.

Newzstreet.TV

During the nine-month duration of the war, the Pakistani army, with the assistance of local collaborators systematically executed an estimated 991 teachers, 13 journalists, 49 physicians, 42 lawyers, and 16 writers, artists and engineers.

Newzstreet.TV

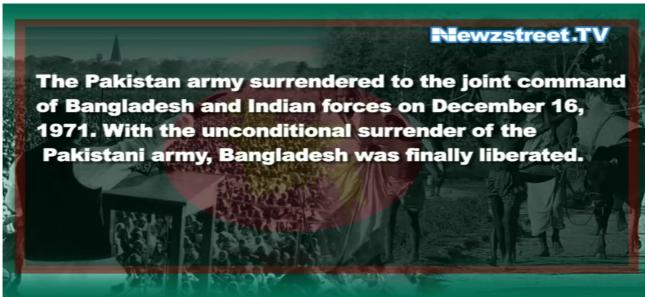
The Mukti Bahini consisted of Bengali military and paramilitary personnel (including entire regiments which defected from the Pakistan Armed Forces) and thousands of Bengali civilians (including people from a cross section of society, especially youth) in response to the Operation Searchlight on March 25, 1971.

Newzstreet.TV

The role of the former Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, in the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 is inseparable. Indira Gandhi, who extended unequivocal support to the people of former East Pakistan.

In March 1971, the Pakistan Army launched
Operation Searchlight to curb the Bengali
nationalist movement in East Pakistan. Lt.
Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora, GOC-in-C of the
Eastern Command, oversaw the Indian ground
forces into battle in East Pakistan. On 16
December, 1971 Lt. Gen A. A. K. Niazi,
Commanding Officer of Pakistan Army forces
in East Pakistan signed the instrument of
surrender in front of Lt. Gen. Aurora.









After the war there were constant efforts to put the collaborators to trail. But military regimes were in power then, some of these collaborators were part of those military regimes. Thus the trails were constantly stopped by the rulers of those regimes. When Sheikh Mujibur Rahman got more influential this changed and she setup the War Crimes Fact Finding Committee





Hard Graphics Documentaries, Not for kids, nothing concerning this topic is child friendly!

1) 1971 Genocide: A Creed for Justice-International Crimes Strategy Forum (ICSF) 9 min 3 million murdered 200 000 woman raped https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUjSiG08 0k

2) Bangladesh 1971 the war crime againest women 18 min

Eye witness of rapes and the war crimes fact finding commission https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0WO3LGkL5A

[2>1] Sheikh Hasina Wazed who made the International Crimes Tribunal (Bangladesh) possible https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0WO3LGkL5A&t=1m44s

[2>2] Right after the war the trails started to get collaborators to justice

But ones the new leader was assassinated military regimes prevented justice in august 1975

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0WO3LGkL5A&t=6m40s

[2>3] Most of those facing trial are from the Islamist party, Nejame Islami https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0WO3LGkL5A&t=9m47s

[2>4] 3 million slaughtered, up to 400 000 raped and 10 million Hindu displaced as refugee https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0WO3LGkL5A&t=10m34s

3) 1971 Bangladesh genocide 2 min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_adGaGNFx-I

Info;

Language Movement https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_Movement

Bangladesh war crimes trial: Key accused http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-20970123

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Bangladesh Awami League https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh Awami League

Sheikh Hasina Wazed https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Hasina

War Crimes Fact Finding Committee
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_Crimes_Fact_Finding_Committee

Rape during the Bangladesh Liberation War https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_during_the_Bangladesh_Liberation_War

Operation Searchlight https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Searchlight

International Crimes Tribunal (Bangladesh)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International Crimes Tribunal (Bangladesh)

The Heroes Of A Forgetful Nation X

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/12/15/the-heroes-of-a-forgetful-nation/



Md Shahnawaz Khan Chandan

In 1947, people of Bangladesh (then East Bengal) voted for Pakistan which resulted in its geographical unison with Pakistan as one state. Their aspiration was to live in an independent and harmonious land with dignity and rights. But soon after the partition of Indian subcontinent, it became evident that Pakistani leaders had other plans on their mind.

The colonialist Pakistani leaders mostly of military background wanted Bangladesh's soil, not its people. By this principle they started to exploit the country ruthlessly. Bangladesh's (then East Pakistan) jute and agricultural harvests adorned West Pakistan's new capital Islamabad, fed its 50 million people, but the majority 70 million people of East Pakistan remained deprived and left out as before. To make matter worse those Pakistani leaders decided to annihilate Bengali culture by inserting and imposing their alien cultural dogma.

Thus a cultural war between Bengalis and West Pakistanis broke out as early as in 1948 when the question of state language was put forward. Bengali scholars, academicians, students, journalists and cultural activists formed cultural groups, organisations and protested against Pakistani's aggression on Bengali culture. The historic language movement led by Bengali intellectual community was the brightest illustration of this cultural war.



So this community of intellectuals who had been working as the guardians of Bengali cultural heritage were blacklisted by the Pakistani military dictators. When Pakistanis finally attacked the Bengalis on March 25th 1971 the first victims of the atrocity were these golden sons of our soil.

One of the prime objectives of Pakistan army's operation searchlight was the occupation of Dhaka University campus, the home of Bengali intelligentsia.

On 25th March, armed with tanks, mortars and armoured vehicles Pakistani military convoy encircled Dhaka University campus from three sides (Witness To Surrender: by Siddiq Salik; Chapter: Operation Search Light-1). After devastating bombardment from tanks and artillery, infantrymen marched into the campus and started the brutal massacre.

On the first night they killed 10 teachers of the university with hundreds of students and other staff.

Professor **Fajlur Rahman** and his two relatives were killed at building 23 situated in Nilkhet Teacher's Quarter. The soldiers called on Professor **Abdul Muktadir** of geology department and shot him at point blank range. His body was found at Jahurul Huq Hall (then Iqbal Hall). Professors **A.R. Khan Khadim** and **Sharafat Ali** of Mathematics department were killed in Dhaka Hall (now Shahidullah Hall). (80 Years of Dhaka University by Professor Rafiqul Islam)



The army then attacked Jagannath Hall with meticulous brutality. The army killed former Provost and famous professor of philosophy department **Dr Gobinda Chandra Dev** with his Muslim adopted daughter's husband. Then they killed **Dr. A.N.M. Manirujjaman**, Professor of Statistics department, along with his son and two relatives. Professor **Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta** the then provost of Jagannath Hall was severely injured by the initial attack and died in the hospital later (Muktijuddhe Shaheed Jagannath Hall by Ratanlal Chakrabarti).

In a video secretly filmed from Jagannath Hall's adjacent Engineering University rooftop, we can still see a part of the dreadful massacre. Some unarmed people were lined up and one of them fell on a soldier's feet and begged for his life. Kicking him off to the line the indifferent soldiers gunned them down and bayoneted the bodies to ensure that they were all dead.

Bangladesh Genocide - Dhaka University Massacre by Pakistani Army 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUD9sNkt2RI

Many teachers escaped the massacre fleeing from their home in the university area. There were also journalists and cultural activists who had been supporting the liberation movement through their diversified activities. So after the purges of 'Operation Searchlight', Pakistan army prepared a blue print to eliminate all of these intellectuals systematically.

Major General Rao Farman Ali prepared a list of those surviving Bengali intellectuals. Pakistan army and its local collaborators were instructed to kill the intellectuals according to the list.

Pakistani civil servant Altaf Gauhar recounted the incident from his memory. One of Gauhar's friends told him that a hit list had been drawn up for elimination of certain Bengalis. A friend of that person was also on the list and he requested Gauhar if he could do something to save his friend.

Gauhar then took the matter to one of his close friends who was a common friend with Major General Rao Farman Ali. Gauhar's friend met with Farman and requested him to drop the name from his hit list. "Farman took, said Gauhar's friend, a diary out of his drawer and crossed the name out.

The name was of **Mr Sanaul Huq** and he was spared." After the war the half burnt diary was recovered from the ruins of the Governor's house. The copy of a page from the diary shows the list of intellectuals from Dhaka University. 14 of them were killed on December 14, 1971. (Mamoon, Muntassir; translation by Kushal Ibrahim (June 2000). The Vanquished Generals and the Liberation War of Bangladesh (First ed.). Somoy Prokashoni. p. 29).

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The Pakistani intention behind this massacre was evident. When they realised that they were going to lose the war, they decided to eliminate the brains behind the liberation movement. They began this job in 25th March and on 14th December they draw the finishing line by murdering most of the intellectuals. They also killed many other scholars and intellectuals who were not at all politically involved. They killed them to wipe out our intellectual resources to quench their racial hatred towards Bengalis.

Unfortunately now it seems that we have almost forgotten their contributions to our nation which ultimately cost their lives in the war. **Dr G C Dev** was one of the leading philosophers from this subcontinent whose works on Idealism and Humanism had been acclaimed around the world. His memoirs The Philosophy of My Life (1960) and his analytical work Parables in the East were of great research value. But apart from academicians very few people of this generation know about this great scholar.

We all know **Altaf Mahmud**'s epic work Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano thanks to the global recognition of **21st February as the International Mother Language Day**. But how many of us know about this great musician who composed for 19 films in Bengali and Urdu? His patriotic songs aired by Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro inspired millions of Bengalis and freedom fighters.

He turned his place at 370 Outer Circular Road into a secret hideout of an elite guerrilla team of the freedom fighters called '**Crack Platoon**'. The house has been destroyed a long time ago. Couldn't we preserve that house to remember the struggle and sacrifice of our freedom fighters?

Jogesh Chandra Ghosh's lifetime effort Shadhana Aushadhalaya, one of the pioneers of alternative medicine in this subcontinent, has been running dimly without any support from the government. Shahidullah Kaiser the journalist and author who had shaken the citadel of Pakistani dictators through his novels and articles is now remembered only occasionally on 14th December.

We can republish his novels and articles. We can translate them into English and other languages to disseminate his spirit of independence to this generation.



Whenever our youngsters hear the name of **Munier Chowdhury** they can only recall two of his plays **Raktakto Prantor** and **Kobor** as they have to read these two to pass the SSC and HSC exams. A large part of our youth doesn't need to utter his name during their entire student life. But this great personality had worked all through his life to shape our people's mind for the struggle of independence.

His literary works such as **Dandakaranya**, **Mir Manash**, **Palashi Barrack** o **Annanya** were the conveyers of the essence of liberation. Many of his books and articles contributed a lot to develop a standard Bengali language and that contribution was vital at that time to protect our language from the cultural aggression of West Pakistan. But nowadays very few people know about those contributions of Munier Chowdhury.

Without Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury's efforts and extensive researches a large part of Bangladesh's folk art would be lost forever. We are losing a lot by neglecting his research on Bengali language, Bengali folk literature and colloquial Bengali linguistics which could teach us a lot about our national culture and identity.

Anwar Pasha was one of the leading literary figures in the history of Bengali literature. His contribution in translation of ancient and medieval Bengali poems is remarkable. His literary works including novels, essays, short stories and poems played a vital role in the rise of Bengali nationalism. But in today's literary festivals or in book fairs, nobody discusses about his works.

All through his life **Jyotirmoy Guha Thakurta**, a renowned scholar of English literature of Dhaka University has tried to instil humanist ideals among his students. But it seems that we have erased his ideals from our mind along with his memories as well. Not only these scholars and literary figures but also many journalists like **Nizamuddin Ahmed**, **Selina Parvin** and **Shahid Saber** sacrificed their lives but did not compromise with the oppressors.

Doctors like **Mohammad Fazle Rabbi** have been killed for providing medical treatment to the freedom fighters. Teachers like **Dr MAM Faizul Mahi** and **Dr Sirajul Huq Khan** have been murdered for helping the freedom fighters.

So forgetful a nation we are that we have almost forgotten many of our intellectual's name and contribution who were killed for their contributions during the liberation war. They are the people who silently worked for our independence and sacrificed their lives. All of them died during the nine months of the liberation war. Even dead bodies of many of these intellectuals could never be found.

Today we have only their names and scholarly works with us. Now it is our duty to disseminate their works among our current and future generations. It is their literary works which once had sparked our movement for liberation and it is their works which actually contained the true spirit of our great liberation war.

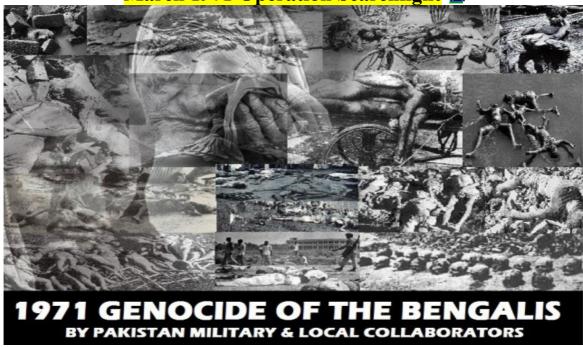
We have been offering floral wreaths to the martyred intellectual memorial on 14th December which we leave in garbage all the year round and clean hastily on the eve of 14th December. But besides offering this symbolic honour we have no noticeable initiative to recognize the contributions of these great sons of our soil.

We shall be able to pay true homage to these heroes if we can keep them alive among our people through their works and ideals.

Old News Broadcast Recording

Genocide In Bangladesh , 25 March 1971, Dhaka-Bangladesh Awami League 4 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8ekAh78CX8

March 1971 Operation Searchlight 🔀



Operation Searchlight-WikiAudio 22:25 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68-ly2bD29I

Operation Searchlight

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation Searchlight

Operation Searchlight

https://gauravmannsm.wordpress.com/2017/04/02/operation-searchlight/

March 25, 1971

On this day 46 years ago, Operation Searchlight was started by the Pakistan armed forces against East Pakistani civilians. Ordered by the central government in West Pakistan, the original plan envisioned taking control of major cities, and then eliminating all opposition within one month. This year, Bangladesh for the first time observed "Genocide Day" to commemorate the brutality carried out by the Pakistan Army in the "Black Night" of March 25, 1971.



What led to the launch of Searchlight?

Operation Searchlight was a ruthless and brutal armed operation undertaken by the Pakistani army on 25 March 1971 in order to curb the freedom movement of the Bengali against the autocratic rule of the Pakistani rulers.

- The purpose of this operation was to arrest or kill the distinguished Awami League leaders, student leaders and Bengali intellectuals in the main cities of the then East Pakistan including Dhaka, to disarm the Bengali personnel's of military, Para military and police forces and to capture armory, radio station and telephone exchange. The ultimate aim was to take over the control of the province of East Pakistan by ruthlessly curbing the non-cooperation movement headed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Operation Searchlight is one of the few post-WWII military operations, which ultimately had been, planned fully against the civilians, just to kill a smart percentage of them and scare the rest, the survivors.
- The original plan envisioned taking control of the major cities on 26 March, and eliminating all opposition, political or military, within one month. **President Yahya Khan** at a conference in February 1971 had said, "Kill three million of them and the rest will eat out of our hands."
- The Pakistani military leaders did not anticipate prolonged Bengali resistance. The main phase of Operation Searchlight ended with the fall of the last major town in Bengali hands in mid-May. The operation also precipitated the 1971 Bangladesh genocide and caused roughly 10 million refugees to flee to India as well as the death of up to 3 million civilians.
- Bengali intelligentsia, academics and Hindus were targeted for the harshest treatment, with significant indiscriminate killing taking place. These systematic killings enraged the Bengali's, who declared independence from Pakistan, to establish the new state of Bangladesh.



Why did Pakistan feel the need for such an operation?

After the **Awami League** had won a decisive majority (capturing 167 out of 313 seats) in the 1970 Pakistan parliamentary elections, the Bengali population expected a swift transfer of power to the Awami League based on the Six Point Programme. On 28 February 1971, Yahya Khan, the President of Pakistan, under the pressure of PPP of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, postponed the national assembly meeting scheduled for March.

- The Pakistan Peoples Party had already started lobbying to weaken the stand of Sheikh Mujib, and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was heard saying that he wanted the Bengalis to stay away. The Awami League, in response to the postponement, launched a program of non-cooperation (largely outlined in the 7 March Awami League rally), which was so successful that the authority of the Pakistan government became limited to the cantonments and government institutions in East Pakistan.
- Clashes between civilians and the Pakistani Army, and between Bengali and Bhiari communities erupted and became commonplace. President Yahya Khan flew to Dhanka to hold talks with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the Awami League, in March, and was later joined by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, then the leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, which had secured the second largest share of seats (81 out of 300) in the elections.
- Unwilling to transfer power to East Pakistan as demanded by Awami League (fearing a transfer of power would weaken or destroy the federation), or to lose face by backing down in face of the non-co-operation movement, the Pakistani generals, most of which including Gul Hassan Khan supported the Pakistan Peoples Party, finally decided on a military crackdown.
- After Yahya Khan postponed the convening of the National Assembly on 1 March, ethnic Biharis in East Pakistan, who supported West Pakistan, were targeted.
- In early March 1971, **300 Biharis were killed** in rioting by mobs in Chittagong. The Government of Pakistan used the "Bihari Massacre" to justify its military intervention in East Pakistan on 25 March, when it initiated Operation Searchlight.



When did the Planning takes Place?

Maj-Gen Khadim Hussain Raza and Maj-Gen Rao Farman Ali drew up the plan in early March 1971, as a result of a meeting between Pakistani army staff on the 22 February.

• Senior Pakistani officers in East Pakistan who were unwilling to support heavy offensive on civilians, Lt-Gen Shahabzada Yakub Khan and Vice Adm Ahsan, were relieved of their duties and flown back to West Pakistan. As replacement of the both came Lt-Gen Tikka Khan to take over as chief marshal law administrator of East Pakistan and the state's governor.

•

- On 17 March, Gen Khadim Hussain Raza was given the go ahead to plan for the crackdown via telephone by Gen Hamid, the then Pakistan Army chief. In the morning of 18 March, Gen Raza and Maj-Gen Rao Farman Ali put the details to paper at the GOC's office at Dhaka cantonment. The plan was written by Gen Farman containing sixteen paragraphs spread over five pages.
- Gen Farman wrote out the operational premises and conditions for success, while Gen Khadim dealt with the distribution of forces and particular tasks of the individual brigades and other units.
- After frequent verification and scrutiny, the amended plan was approved and the operational plan was distributed to various area commanders on the 24 and the 25 March daytime. A group of Pakistani Generals, accompanied by Gen Hamid, Maj-Gen Mittha, the SSG mastermind and mentor, and Col. Saadullah, the principal staff officer, visited the major garrisons via helicopter and personally briefed the various garrison commanders or senior West Pakistani officers on the operation.
- Maj-Gen Aboobaker Osman Mittha, as the chief of the elite Special Services Group (SSG), was tasked with the most dramatic chapter of entire plan, the arrest of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Maj-Gen Qamar Ali Mirza and Brig-Gen. Harrison were later flown to Dhaka from West Pakistan to assist Maj-Gen Mittha, who was also tasked with arranging the logistical details.
- The Operation started on the night of 25 March 1971, Dhaka and other garrisons were to be alerted via phone about their zero hour to start their operations.



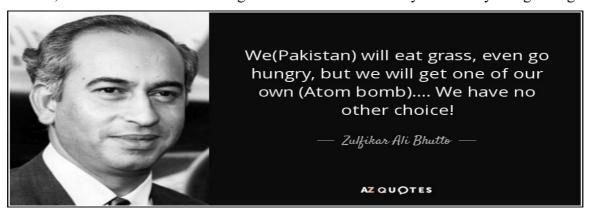
Where were the troops supposed to focus?

The following measures were scheduled to be taken under Operation Searchlight:

- Launch simultaneous attack all over East Pakistan
- Capture the radio and TV stations and cut off all international communication
- Eliminate maximum number of students and political leaders without any discrimination of their race, religion and gender
- Take control of Dhaka and major cities
- Take control of Dhaka University
- Secure the cantonments and disarm the East Bengali troops cantonments and disarm the East Bengali troops
- Terrorize people so that East Pakistan submits to the martial law within April 10, 1971.

On the eve of the genocide on 25 March, President Yahya Khan left Dhaka for Karachi. But Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the president of the Pakistan People's Party, who came to Dhaka for having a dialogue with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, observed the operation from the Hotel Intercontinental of Dhaka. On the day following on the eve of his departure, Bhutto highly appreciated the action of the army on the previous night and commented, "Thanks to God that Pakistan could have been saved".

- All the army officials including Yahya Khan expressed satisfaction with the army action. Even in the White Paper published by Pakistan Government on the following 5 August, the military operation on 25 March was termed as 'inevitable'. The accurate figure of casualty under the operation searchlight on the night of 25 March could not be estimated but the number varies between 300,000 and 3 million.
- Bangladeshi authorities claim that 3 million people were killed, while the **Hamoodur Rahman Commission**, an official Pakistan Government investigation, put the figure as low as 26,000 civilian casualties a figure which is most certainly not true by a huge margin.



Who were the usual targets?

Operation Searchlight continued for the next nine months till Pakistan lost the Bangladesh Liberation War to the combined forces of India and Bangladeshi freedom fighters (Mukti Bahini).

Pakistani Army considered Dhaka University to be the epicenter of the liberation movement, and language to be the central issue.

- The Non-co-operation movement was organised under the banner of "Independent Bangladesh Students Movement Council" from Jahrul Hoque hall of Dhaka University. The students and teachers of this university were murdered throughout the 9 months of Searchlight.
- The Pakistani army convoy that attacked Dhaka University on 25 March 1971 included 18 Panjabi, 22 Pashtun, 32 Panjabi regiment and several battalions. Armed with heavy weapons such as tanks, automatic rifles, rocket launchers, heavy mortar, light machine gun, they encircled Dhaka University from east (unit 41), from south (unit 88) and from north (unit 26).
- At the beginning of Operation Searchlight 10 teachers and 200 students of Dhaka University were killed.
- Tikka Khan, the Governor of Bengal appointed by West Pakistan, ordered department heads to join work from 21 April and the other teachers on 1 June. According to his order, classes must be started from 2 August. All the dormitories were cleaned to remove any signs of destruction to show a 'peaceful' educational environment at the university to the international media. Interestingly, as the forces of war increased until September, attendance in the classes also increased. As many students had joined the Mukti Bahini (liberation force), they blasted hand grenades near the university and quickly entered classes.

Note: Lieutenant-General Tikka Khan was the architect and top planner of Operation Searchlight. Tikka Khan followed the classical "Seek and destroy and Infiltration" method and captured all radio stations in the East Pakistan at the price of systematic killings of Bengali people. He earned the nickname "Butcher of Bengal" for his cruelty in the months leading to Bangladesh's liberation.



How did this Operation Searchlight impact the region and liberation?

These systematic killings served only to enrage the Bengalis, which ultimately resulted in the secession of East Pakistan later in the same year.

- The violence unleashed by the Pakistani forces on 25 March 1971 proved the last straw to the efforts to negotiate a settlement. Following these outrages, **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman signed an official declaration** that read: "Today Bangladesh is a sovereign and independent country. On Thursday night, West Pakistani armed forces suddenly attacked the police barracks at Razarbagh and the EPR headquarters at Pilkhana in Dacca. Many innocent and unarmed have been killed in Dhaka city and other places of Bangladesh. Violent clashes between E.P.R. and Police on the one hand and the armed forces of Pakistan on the other, are going on. The Bengalis are fighting the enemy with great courage for an independent Bangladesh. May Allah aid us in our fight for freedom. Joy Bangla."
- The Bangladesh Forces and Mukti Bahini waged a mass guerrilla war against the Pakistani military. By November, the Bangladesh forces restricted the Pakistani military to its barracks during the night. They secured control of most parts of the countryside.
- The Provisional Government of Bangladesh was formed on 17 April 1971. The plight of millions of war-ravaged Bengali civilians caused worldwide outrage and alarm. The Indian state led by Indira Gandhi provided substantial diplomatic, economic and military support to Bangladeshi nationalists.
- India joined the war on 3 December 1971, after Pakistan launched preemptive air strikes on North India. The subsequent Indo-Pakistani War witnessed engagements on two war fronts. With air supremacy achieved in the eastern theatre and the rapid advance of the Allied Forces of Bangladesh and India, Pakistan surrendered in Dacca on 16 December 1971.

The war changed the geopolitical landscape of South Asia, with the emergence of Bangladesh as the seventh-most populous country in the world. Due to complex regional alliances, the war was a major episode in Cold War tensions involving the United States, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. The majority of member states in the United Nations recognized the Bangladeshi republic in 1972.

Operation Searchlight: Genocide unleashed on Bangalis in East Pakistan http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2017/03/25/operation-searchlight-genocide-unleashed/



Bodies of Bangali students of Dhaka University's Iqbal Hall (now Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall) killed during the Operation Searchlight on March 25, 1971 were kept lying in front of the dormitory the next day. From the report of journalist Simon Dring published under the caption Dateline Dacca in the Daily Telegraph of March 29, it was revealed that 200 students of the hall had been killed by the military during the onslaught

'The operations in Dhaka will have to be a 100% success. To that end Dhaka University shall have to be captured'

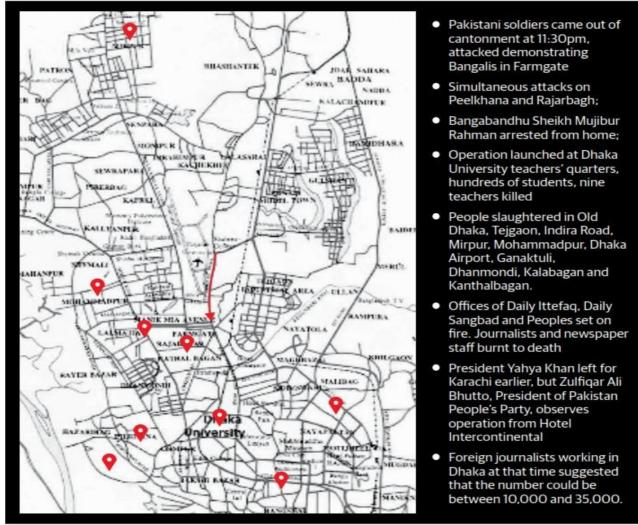
Operation Searchlight was set to be launched at 1pm on March 26, but Awami League President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's proclamation of independence the previous night prompted the Pakistani military junta to start its well-designed massacre 13 hours ahead of the schedule, so that the Bangalis could not put up a strong resistance.

According to a White Paper published on August 5, 1971 by the Pakistan government, the Awami League had a plan to stage an armed revolution early on March 26.

Maj Gen Khadim Hossain Raja, General Officer Commanding of 14th Division and Maj Gen Rao Farman Ali Khan, GOC of 57th Division came to a decision on February 22, 1971 regarding the army expedition named "Operation Searchlight."

Under orders of the Chief of Staff Gen Abdul Hamid Khan on March 17, Khadim Raja finalised the plan of the operation. Rao Forman Ali prepared the five-page operation plan.

For its implementation, Hamid, AO Miththi and Col Sadullah visited different cantonments by helicopter on March 24-25. To make the operation a success, two trusted officers of the military dictator Yahya Khan – Miththi and Maj Gen Iftekhar Janjua – were summoned to Dhaka.



Aims of the Operation Searchlight

* The operation shall start simultaneously in the entire East Pakistan;

- * Maximum number of politicians and student leaders, teachers and "extremist" activists of cultural organisations will be arrested;
- * The operations in Dhaka will have to be a 100% success. To that end Dhaka University shall have to be captured;
- * The security of the Dhaka Cantonment must be ensured;
- * All sorts of domestic and international communications must be disrupted. Telephone exchange, radio, TV, teleprinter service, transmitter in the foreign consulates must be disrupted;
- * The soldiers of the EPR must be disarmed and in their places West Pakistani soldiers shall be deputed to patrol the armoury, and the control of the armoury shall be vested upon them;
- * In the first phase, the operational zones will be Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong, Comilla, Jessore, Rangpur, Syedpur and Sylhet.

Steps taken under the operation

- * 22-Baluch Regiment stationed in Peelkhana shall disarm the 5,000 Bangali EPR soldiers and capture their radio centre;
- * 32-Punjab Regiment shall disarm 1,000 Bangali policemen in Rajarbagh Police Lines which is the main source of armed strength of the Awami League;
- * 18-Punjab Regiment will launch attack on the Hindu majority areas of Nawabpur and in other parts of Old Dhaka;
- * A group of selected soldiers from 22 Baluch, 18 and 32 Punjab Regiment will attack Iqbal Hall (Zahurul Haq Hall), Jagannath Hall and Liaquat Hall of Buet, which are known as centers of strength of the Awami League rebels;
- * One platoon of commando soldiers of special service group will attack the house of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and will arrest him;
- * The field Regiment will control the Second capital and the adjoining settlements (Mirpur-Mohammadpur);
- * In order to show strength, a small squadron of M 24 tanks will be plying on road and will start shelling, if necessary;
- * The above mentioned soldiers will destroy any kind of barricade or resistance on the road, and will launch operation in the houses of listed politicians.

Operation Searchlight 1:33

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RwpGXMZkaI

Brutality unleashed

- * The Pakistani soldiers came out of the cantonment at 11:30pm, launched indiscriminate attack on the demonstrating Bangalis in the Farmgate area, and thus initiated the Operation Searchlight;
- * They launched simultaneous attacks on Peelkhana and Rajarbagh;
- * They arrested Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from his residence;
- * At dead of night, they launched operation at the teachers' residential quarters of Dhaka University and killed a huge number of students and nine teachers;
- * Under the same planning, serious attacks were carried out in Old Dhaka, Tejgaon, Indira Road, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Dhaka airport, Ganaktuli, Dhanmondi, Kalabagan and Kanthalbagan.
- * In the same night, many people were killed and injured in Chittagong by the firing of the army;
- * Under the same plan, the offices of national newspapers like the Daily Ittefaq, the Daily Sangbad and the Peoples were set on fire for supporting the movement of the Bangalis. A good number of journalists and media personnel were burnt to death;
- * On the eve of the genocide on March 25, then president Yahya Khan left Dhaka for Karachi, but Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, then president of the Pakistan People's Party who came to Dhaka for a dialogue with Sheikh Mujib, observed the operation from the Hotel Intercontinental of Dhaka;
- * On March 26, Bhutto on the eve of his departure highly appreciated the action of the army and commented: "Thanks to God that Pakistan could have been saved;"
- * The White Paper published on August 5 termed the operation "inevitable"
- * The accurate figure of casualties in the night of March 25 could not be estimated. But foreign journalists working in Dhaka at that time suggested that the number be between 10,000 and 35,000;

- * From the report of journalist Simon Dring published under the caption Dateline Dacca in the Daily Telegraph of March 29, it was revealed that 200 students of Iqbal Hall (now Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall), teachers and their family members numbering 12 in Dhaka University residential area had been killed on that night;
- * In Old Dhaka, around 700 people were burnt to death.
- * The operation ended with the fall of the last major town in Bengali hands in mid-May.

CIA sensed Bangladesh independence was inevitable X





Flanked by party leaders, Bangabandhu holds a press conference at his Dhanmondi 32 residence in Dhaka on March 3, 1971 after 'talks' with Yahya Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto failed

The CIA recently made available online several thousand documents on Bangladesh's pre- and post-independence events. Today Dhaka Tribune publishes the CIA's early predictions about East Pakistan's emancipation and observations about the strength and weakness of an independent Bangladesh, the second of a series of exclusive stories

As the chances of East Pakistan getting separated from West Pakistan increased sharply following the December 1970 elections which reflected the people's resistance against exploitation and dominance, the CIA observed in early March that Bangladesh's future under the rule of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League would not be a smooth journey either.

The report stated that an independent East Pakistan would begin with some assets, notably in the political realm but also including an ethnically homogenous population.

But it would "face economic problems of staggering proportions because of its dearth of natural resources, its burgeoning population, and its lack of capital, economic infrastructure, and entrepreneurial and technical skills."

The dominant agricultural sector mostly dependent on jute could make little headway unless flood waters were controlled, the CIA said, adding that the process would require considerable capital.

The intelligence memorandum "East Pakistan: An Independent Nation?" dated March 1, 1971 and published online in January this year gives a glimpse of erstwhile East Pakistan's strength and limitations, from agriculture to industrial growth and poor condition of the Bangali army men.

The secret document was prepared by the Office of Current Intelligence and coordinated within the Directorate of Intelligence.

Pre-war East Pakistan:

- Population- around 73-75 million, with 90% living in rural areas
 - Literacy rate 20%
- Average per capita income about \$60 (far below that in West Pakistan and not much higher than the level in 1948)
 - 4.3% engaged in small-scale manufacturing industry
 - 45% of workforce in jute product manufacturing
 - Agricultural sector mostly dependent on jute
 - Flood, drought used to strike often
 - Private investment 25% of national total
 - Capital was in hands of a few wealthy families migrated from Pakistan, India and Myanmar
 - Power shortages and frequent outages
 - Until 1970, the country had only one gas field in Sylhet
 - No easily exploitable coal fields
 - Hydroelectric power possibilities were limited
 - Rooppur nuclear plant was set to be constructed with the support of Belgium
 - In 1965, there were 151 Bangalis in civil service out of 461
 - In 1970, only 11 out of 53 Pakistani heads of missions were Bangalis



Inspired by Bangabandhu's historic speech on March 7, 1971, retired army personnel assembled at Outer Stadium in Dhaka to prepare for the Liberation War

RASHID TALUKDER/ PHOTO SOURCE: MUKTIJUDDHO E-ARCHIVE TRUST

Economic situation

The rapid population growth was mentioned as the top economic factor in the report estimating the number of people to be 73-75 million in East Pakistan, a land area about the size of Florida or Arkansas, with 90% rural population and 20% literacy rate. Based on a conservative growth rate, the CIA predicted that the population would be 115m in 1985 and 180m in 2000.

The average per capita income of East Pakistan was about \$60, far below that in West Pakistan and not much higher than the level in 1948. According to the 1961 census, only 4.3% of the East Pakistani labour force was engaged in manufacturing, almost entirely in small-scale industry.

Private enterprise was generally very inefficient in East Pakistan, where "numerous small, uneconomic shops produce similar products, using outdated methods and without sufficient capital for expansion," the report said. There had been little private investment in East Pakistan in comparison with the West wing, accounting to about 25% of the national total. Capital was largely in the hands of a few wealthy families who had migrated from Pakistan, India and Myanmar.

Much of the managerial class resident of East Pakistan was "composed of Urdu-speaking Muslim refugees [known as Biharis] from India, who have never been accepted by the Bangalis and who would probably move to West Pakistan if the East wing became independent." The CIA underscored the need for more workers with technical skills for the development of an independent East Pakistan.

Jute was the main cash crop at that time while 45% of the total industrial workforce was engaged in manufacturing jute products. But jute products had already started facing competition in the world markets from synthetics, the report said. The agricultural sector used to face massive setback due to annual flooding and drought, while the country was also subject to high salinity and devastating cyclones. The November 1970 cyclone killed at least 500,000 people in coastal areas.

East Pakistan was also facing power shortages and frequent outages due to lack of mineral resources. Until 1970, the country had only one gas field in Sylhet for power generation and producing fertiliser.

"There are no easily exploitable coal fields in East Pakistan ... hydroelectric power possibilities in East Pakistan are limited." A nuclear power plant was set to be constructed at Rooppur of Pabna with the support of Belgium in five years. Lack of adequate transport system was another reason behind sluggish growth in East Pakistan.

Civil service and foreign ties

In 1965, there were 151 Bangalis in the civil service out of a nationwide total of 461, the CIA report said, adding: "Under Mujibur Rahman, however, a civil service might not have as great a role to play."

As of late 1970, only a few government agencies drew as many as half of their employees from East Pakistan. Many Bangalis had held lesser positions in the bureaucracy below the elite civil service level. In 1970, only 11 out of 53 Pakistani heads of missions were Bangalis.

"Mujib is relatively well travelled and has expressed himself on certain foreign policy aspects. He favours the restoration of trade ties with India and the peaceful settlement of outstanding disputes.

The CIA anticipated that the independence of East Pakistan might give rise to dreams among Bangalis on both sides and concern in New Delhi over the formation of a "Greater Bengal."

"The AL does not appear to be particularly sympathetic to communist China, and some AL leaders seem suspicious of Chinese intentions," the CIA document reads. The US is apparently held in high esteem by several senior AL leaders. At the same time, the report stated, "there have been frequent contacts between Soviet diplomats and AL leaders, and Soviet assistance after the cyclone of 1970 was substantial."

Previous stories on the CIA CREST records:

- CIA releases 12m pages of records that include Bangladesh
 - USAID fund was diverted to pay razakars
 - Houses, rail-road were heavily hit by 1971 war
 - Gaddafi was behind coup attempts against Zia, Ershad

CIA CREST records:

On January 17, the CIA published around 930,000 declassified documents to the standalone CIA Records Search Tool (CREST) system online, some of which are about Bangladesh and erstwhile East Pakistan. Earlier, the records were only accessible in person at the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, Maryland and through four computer terminals.

Since 1999, the CIA has regularly released its historical declassified records to the CREST system.

The documents on Bangladesh -1,937 posted in December last year and 95 in January - include views of the CIA and the US' Dhaka embassy about events related to politics, economy and Bangladesh ties with India and other countries.

On the other hand, the database includes 857 posts on erstwhile East Pakistan posted in December and 45 in January.

Pak army's radio messages prove March 25 genocide pre-planned http://daily-sun.com/post/214699/Pak-armys-radio-messages-prove-March-25-genocide-preplanned



1971 GENOCIDE OF THE BENGALIS BY PAKISTAN MILITARY & LOCAL COLLABORATORS

Evidences are available which appear to confirm that the Pakistani army's "Operation Searchlight" in Dacca on March 25 midnight was part of a well-organized plan to carry out genocide in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), reports BSS.

These evidences have certainly proved false the then Pakistani government's claim that its troops had only attacked rebels who offered armed resistance.

The evidences were a transcript of monitored radio messages passed between army units during the early hours of March 25 in 1971. The then temporary government (Mujibnagar Government) of the independent Bangladesh found the transcript and sent its copies to the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) and all heads of government. The transcript of some part of the radio message was published in "The Times" on June 2 in 1971. Here are some extracts from messages exchanged between control room of the headquarters of General Tikka Khan, military governor & army units.

Control room: Well done.

What do you think would be the approximate number of casualties at the University?

88: Wait, approximately 300. Over.

Control: Well done. Three hundred killed. Anybody wounded or captured? Sitrep (situation report). Over.

88: I believe only in one thing 300 killed. Over.

Control: Yes I agree with you. That's much easier. Nothing asked nothing done. You don't have to explain anything. Once again I would like to give you Shabash to all the boys---

77: Latest from 88 that he is making progress. But there are so many buildings that he has to reduce each one in turn. He has so far suffered no casualties but there is firing against him. He is using everything he has got. Over.

Control: Tell him that his big brothers (artillery support) will also be coming shortly. I hope. So those can be utilized for knocking down the buildings. Now on the other side. I think Liaqat and Iqbal (student dormitories) is now quiet----

Control: From Imam (the commanding officer) regarding all Bangladesh flags or black flags. Owners of building flying these must be warned to remove them at once otherwise they will be persecuted. Road blocks anywhere will be a criminal offence. Anyone seen indulging in these must be shot at sight. Houses and building on either side will be demolished.

88: Wilco. Anything else? Over.

Control: Imam is now with Imam 26. If you need further assistance in any matter you can let him know. Regarding the Buxer (demolition squad) elements. They have started from their base position and will be able to help you immediately after first light to help demolish all the obstacle in front of you. Over.

Control: What about the People's daily (the daily people newspaper)? Over.

26: Blasted. I say again, blasted. Our two me seriously wounded been evacuated. Control: Any approximation of the other side's casualties? Over.

26:No. It's difficult to judge at the moment. Places are on fire or have been completely destroyed.

Control: Have you done away police lines also? Over.

26: Police lines on fire. Over.

Control Good show. Out.

Operation Searchlight X

A horrified and shocking chapter in the birth of Bangladesh http://www.conveylive.com/a/Operation Searchlight

We all know about *operation searchlight*, a planned military pacification carried out by the Pakistan Army. The violence resulting from Operation Searchlight led to the war of liberation by the Mukti Bahini against Pakistani "occupation" forces in Bangladesh. Ultimately, fully fledged Indian retaliation resulted in Pakistan Army's unconditional surrender to the joint command of the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini on December 16, 1971.

It started on 25 March to curb the Bengali nationalist movement by taking control of the major cities on 26 March, and then eliminating all opposition, political or military, within one month. Before the beginning of the operation, all foreign journalists were systematically deported from East Pakistan.

On March 25th 1971,in Tejgaon airport, Dhaka, General Yahya, Pakistan's military dictator, before boarding his special aircraft turned to General Tikka Khan, Commander Eastern Command, and ordered "Sort them out!" Operation Searchlight had received the green signal from the highest authority in the land. The operation to "sort out" the Bengali citizens of Pakistan was launched around midnight on that fateful day in the nations turbulent history. Operation Searchlight extinguished the lives of many innocent Bengalis.

According to the Asia Times,"At a meeting of the military top brass, Yahya Khan declared: "Kill 3 million of them and the rest will eat out of our hands." Accordingly, on the night of 25 March, the Pakistani Army launched Operation Searchlight to "crush" Bengali resistance in which Bengali members of military services were disarmed and killed, students and the intelligentsia systematically liquidated and ablebodied Bengali males just picked up and gunned down."

Three correspondents at the risk of their lives managed to stay in hiding and they were Arnold Zeitlin, Michael Laurent, and Simon Dring. On March 31st 1971 the daily Telegraph of London published Simon Dring's eyewitness account of Operation Searchlight. Datelined Dhaka it was called "How Dhaka paid for a united Pakistan"

Dring's account of the army's attack on Dhaka University was horrifying and shocking but vivid and factual. "Led by the American supplied M-24 World War 11 tanks one column of troops sped to Dhaka University shortly after midnight. Troops took over the British Council library (situated within the campus) and used it as a firebase to shell nearby dormitory areas. Caught completely by surprise some 200 students were killed in Iqbal hall head quarters of the militant anti Govt. students union I was told. Two days later bodies were still smoldering in burnt out rooms, Others were scattered outside, more floated in a nearby lake. At another hall reportedly soldiers buried the dead in a hastily dug mass grave, which was then bulldozed over by tanks. People living near the university were caught in the fire too and 200 yards of shanty houses running alongside a railway line were destroyed."

After midnight on March 25th the city of Dhaka resounded with the sound of gunfire and the pungent odor of cordite. Tikka Khan was faced with a massive popular revolution, which he tried to crush with brutal military force and ruthless measures. Dhaka University, the Headquarters of the Police in Motijheel, and the strong hold of the East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) in Philkhana bore the brunt of the army's onslaught. Heavy weapons such as the 105-mm recoilless rifles were freely used.

Major Zia-ur-Rehman the second in command of the East Bengal regiment (EBR) killed all the non Bengali officers in his unit and announced the formation of the Govt. of Bangladesh from the Chittagong Radio station on March 26th 1971.

Residential halls of the University of Dhaka were particularly targeted. The only Hindu residential hall — the Jagannath Hall — was destroyed by the Pakistani armed forces, and an estimated 600 to 700 of its residents were murdered.

The Pakistani army denies any cold blooded killings at the university, though the Hamood-ur-Rehman commission in Pakistan concluded that overwhelming force was used at the university. This fact and the massacre at Jagannath Hall and nearby student dormitories of Dhaka University are corroborated by a videotape secretly filmed by Prof. Nurul Ullah of the East Pakistan Engineering University, whose residence was directly opposite the student dormitories.

Various parts of old Dhaka, including Hindu majority Mahallas such as Shankhari Patti and Tantibazar came under mortar shells. Hundreds of inmates were gunned down. It was estimated that more than 50,000 men, women and children were killed in Dhaka, Chittagong, Jessore, Mymensingh, Kushtia and other cities within the first three days of the genocide beginning from 25 March 1971.

In an editorial, The Daily Star, a leading Bangladeshi newspaper, reproduced some accounts of the day. I quote a few incidents of atrocities from the same source:

- "At Jagannath and Iqbal Halls, students were mown down mercilessly. Other students were forced to dig a large grave and once that was done, they too were shot. All the bodies were dumped into the grave, which was then bulldozed by the army."
- "Soldiers burst into the quarters of the philosopher Gobinda Chandra Dev and murdered him. They also killed the mathematics teacher Rafiqul Islam. And they left Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta, a senior teacher in the English Department of Dhaka University, seriously wounded."
- "Outside the campus, the soldiers razed the Kali Mandir, a Hindu temple inside the Race Course compound, to the ground. In similar fashion, they blew up the Central Shaheed Minar before the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. On the streets, common citizens were murdered at random. Rickshaw pullers died even as they slept on their three-wheelers."
- "The military also set fire to the Ittefaq and Sangbad newspapers, leaving those inside dead or wounded."

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested by the Pakistani Army. Yahya Khan appointed Brigadier (later General) Rahimuddin Khan to preside over a special tribunal prosecuting Mujib with multiple charges. The tribunal sentenced Mujib to death, but Yahya caused the verdict to be held in abeyance. Other Awami League leaders were arrested as well, while a few fled Dhaka to avoid arrest. The Awami League was banned by General Yahya Khan.

The original plan envisioned taking control of the major cities on 26 March 1971, and then eliminating all opposition, political or military, within one month. The prolonged Bengali resistance was not anticipated by Pakistani planners. The main phase of Operation Searchlight ended with the fall of the last major town in Bengali hands in mid May.



Operation "Searchlight" 🔀

https://southasianmonitor.com/2017/03/24/operation-searchlight/

Despite the complex and demanding negotiations during the tumultuous days of March 1971, a positive outcome was possible and seemed near but it came to grief because of the gameplan of extremists of both the sides. The plans for military action to restore the writ of the central authority in East Pakistan was unanimous, finalized by the local military commanders a week before March 25. Given its inevitability only the timing was a surprise.

Operation 'Searchlight' aims were to (1) restore military control over the administration of East Pakistan (2) dismantle the Awami League (AL) by taking Shaikh Mujibur Rahman and his leadership circle into custody and (3) disarm the Bengali troops in the Army, East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) and the police to prevent an organised rebellion.

The fourth aim was to conceal the character and severity of the operations from the West Pakistani population and the international community. All internal and external communications were closed, foreign journalists rounded up and deported. This contributed to force-multiplying the adverse Indian propaganda. Because of the persistent disinformation plan through 1971 the West Pakistani public were mostly unaware of the circumstances availing in East Pakistan, and thus were shocked, at the reasons for the defeat in Dec 1971. It took them and the Pakistan Army personnel (in West Pakistan) many years to come to terms with the truth. Many are still living in self-denial even today.

GOC 14 Division Maj Gen Khadim Hussain Raja briefed Commanders 53 and 107 Brigade in Comilla and Jessore respectively, Commanders 23 Brigade in Rangpur and 57 Brigade in Dacca were briefed separately, GSO-I Intelligence 14 Div Lt Col (later Brig) Muhammad Taj SJ took over command of 32 Punjab and alongwith 18 Punjab was tasked to clear Dacca of all miscreants.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman waited in his house in Dhanmondi for the Army to arrest him. The troops moved out of Dacca Cantonment around 1 am on 26 Mar only after he was taken into custody by SSG. Under explicit orders from Gen Yahya Khan he was not harmed. Mujib had ordered AL's leadership on 25 March to disperse to Dacca old town as soon as the military moved and cross the river to avoid arrest. The majority escaped detention and crossed the border into India.

Teaching in Dacca University being suspended since the beginning of March, most students had returned to their homes. Rokeya Hostel for girls was vacated much before Mar 25. The militants remaining in the hostels were joined by other students from Dacca and surrounding places and by volunteers. EPR Peelkhana and the Rajarbagh Police Lines were also attacked. Soldiers will respond with overwhelming force when fired upon, to civilians even a rifle company's firepower can be awesome to behold.

About Dacca University Sarmila Bose writes "The realty is that there were weapons, and training, and no matter how unequal the firepower, a few Bengalis apparently did put up a fight. The numbers of dead in Jaganath Hall, the hostel for Hindu students, and Iqbal Hall differ widely. The 'victim' story denies them their true role while undermining the creditability of the narrative as a whole as it is contradicted by Bengali eye witness accounts themselves." Rumours of mass graves dug by soldiers the same night in order to hide the dead bodies have strangely never been investigated by the Bangladeshis. Even today (46 years later), a mass grave can throw light on the real number of dead.

Before 25 Mar Bengali officers and men located in East Pakistan comprised about 4,500 regulars in 6 battalions of the East Bengal Regiment (EB) (10 EB being a National Service Battalion), about 1500 in the Regimental Centre (EBRC) at Nutanpara, Chittagong and alongwith 12-15,000 East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) personnel about 45,000 Bengali policemen. While not organized they were numerically superior to West Pakistan. There were enough indicators of an imminent military operation, changing the CO 2EB with CO 32 Punjab (albeit another Bengali officer) only confirmed their worst suspicions.

On the other hand Brig Mazumdar Commandant EBRC sent Capt (later Maj Gen Bangladesh Army) Amin Ahmad Chaudhry to India before Mar 25, Brig Pande IG BSF post-haste sent him by air to New Delhi to meet the Indian PM, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Even though this was not known to the Army Brig Mazumdar was brought to Dacca on the pretext that he was needed to calm down 2 E8 at Joydebpur which had become restive after the removal of their CO.

Thousands of civilians, some of them armed, gathered to side with the Bengali troops. Sarmila Bose says "The disarming of Bengali police and Bengali personnel turned into a bloodbath in many places with casualties on both sides, and many Bengali personnel escaped with their arms, to return to fight another day." The disarming of 3 EB in Rangpur became a bloody affair with many casualties on both sides, "action" in Dinajpur and Saidpur during night of 25/26 March was only partly successful. The disarming in Pabna and Kushtia was botched resulting in massacre of many non-Bengalis.

On 26 Mar after killing the CO and other West Pakistani officers 8 EB momentarily captured Chittagong City, isolating it from the Cantonment. With the naval base in Chittagong having half their personnel Bengali, securing Chittagong harbor was essential for the survival of the Pakistan military. Securing Comilla Cantonment 53 Brigade HQs and 24 FF were tasked to retake Chittagong. Delayed by demolished bridges, it took them until the end of March to recapture the city.

The Army succeeded in reestablishing control over most of East Pakistan by end April 1971 but not before incurring considerable collateral damage. Conversely massive excesses took place against non-Bengalis in isolated communities, most of them women and children, neither can be minimized or brushed aside by either side, neither should they be magnified. Labeling any of this "genocide" is patently wrong and grossly incorrect. Spare a thought and prayer for all those who were killed, non-Bengali and Bengali, still Pakistanis by name till 16 Dec 1971.

The stupidity of our military and political leaders in 1971 (and their selfishness) gave India opportunity to blatantly do what they had been attempting surreptitiously for years, dismember the finest experiment in nationhood of its kind. Officers and men of EB, EPR and police alongwith thousands and thousands of volunteers crossed over to India and were re-organized by them with arms and training as the 'Mukti Bahini'.

Given the complete civil disobedience and numerical military superiority of possible organised resistance, militarily "Operation Searchlight" was necessary as a pre-emptive strike. That an outstanding military success would end in a horrible human catastrophe and an unmitigated political disaster was also inevitable. Has anyone really been held accountable?

A defence and security analyst, the writer acknowledges with gratitude assistance from Dr Bettina Robotka of Humboldt University, Berlin.

Operation Searchlight Planning

https://www.scribd.com/document/70713029/Operation-Searchlight

OPERATION SEARCHLIGHT

BASIS FOR PLANNING

- 1. A.L. [Awami League) action and reactions to be treated as rebellion and those whosupport or defy M.L. [Martial Law] action be dealt with as hostile elements.
- 2. As A.L. has widespread support even amongst the E.P. [East Pakistani] elements in the Army the operation has to be launched with great cunningness, surprise, deception and speed combined with shock action.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESS

- 3. The operation to be launched all over the Province simultaneously.
- 4. Maximum number of political and student leaders and extremists amongst teachingstaffs, cultural organisations to be arrested. In the initial phase top political leaders and topstudent leaders must be arrested.
- 5. Operation must achieve a hundred per cent success in Dacca. For that Dacca University will have to be occupied and searched.
- 6. Security of cantonments must be ensured. Greater and freer use of fire against those whodare attack the cantonment.
- 7. All means of internal and international communications to be cut off. Telephone exchanges, Radio, TV, Teleprinter services, transmitters with foreign consulates to be closed down.
- 8. EP tps [troops] to be neutralized by controlling and guarding kotes and ammunition by WP [West Pakistani] tps. Same for P.A.F. and E.P.R.

SURPRISE AND DECEPTION

9. At higher plane,

it is requested that the President may consider the desirability of continuing the dialogue-even of deceiving Mujib that even though Mr. Bhutto may not agreehe will make an announcement on 25 March conceding to the demands of A.L. etc.

- 10. At Tactical Level
- (a) As secrecy is of paramount importance, preliminary operations given below should becarried out by tps already located in the city:
- i. Breaking into Mujib's house and arresting all present. The house is well-guarded andwell-defended.
- ii. Surrounding the important halls of the Universities lqbal Hall DU [DaccaUniversity], Liaqat Hall Engineering University.
- iii. Switching off telephone exchange.
- iv. Isolating known houses where weapons etc. have been collected.
- (b) No activity by tps in the cantonment area till telephone exchange has been switched off.
- (c) Nobody should be allowed to go out of the cantonment after 2200 hrs on the night of operation
- .(d) On one excuse or the other tps in the city should be reinforced in the area of the President's House,
- Governor's House, MNA Hostel, Radio, TV and Telephone exchangepremises.
- (e) Civilian cars may have to be used for operation against Mujib's house.

SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS

- 11. (a) H Hr-O100 hrs.
- (b) Timings for Move Out
- i. Commando [one Platoon] -Mujib's house-0100 hrs
- ii. Telephone exchange switched off-2455 hr's.
- iii. Tps. earmarked for cordon University--0105 hrs.
- iv. Tps from the city to Rajarbagh Police HQ and other PS [Police station] nearby--0105 .hrs.
- v. Following places surrounded-0105 hrs: Mrs. Anwara Begum's House, Rd No.29 & House No. 148, Rd No. 29.
- vi. Curfew imposed-0110 hrs by Siren (arrange) by loudspeakers. Duration 30hrs initially. No passes for the initial phase. Due consideration to be given only tocases of delivery and serious heart attack etc. Evac by Army on request. Also announce that there will be no newspapers brought out till further orders.

- vii. Tps move out to respective sectors with specific missions-0110 hrs. (For tpalert a drill to be evolved). Halls occupied and searched.
- viii. Tps move to University area-0500 hrs.
- ix. Rd blocks and riverine block estb-0200 hrs.

(c) Operations during the Day Time

- i. House to house search of Dhanmondi suspected houses, also Hindu houses inold city (int to collect data).
- ii. All printing presses to be closed down. All cyclostyling machines in the University, Colleges (T&T) and Physical Training Institute and Technical Institute to be confiscated.
- iii. Curfew imposed with severity.
- iv. Other leaders arrested.
- 12. Allotment of Tps to Tasks

Details to be worked out by B[riga]de Com[man]d[er] (see231-4) but the following must be done:

- (a) Kotes of EP units taken over, including Sig[nal]s and other administrative units. Arms to be given only to WP personnel. Explanation: We did not wish to embarrass the EP tps and did not want them to be used in tasks which may not be pleasant to them.
- (b) Police stations to be disarmed.
- (c) DG [Director General] EPR [East Pakistan Rifles] toensure security of his kotes.
- (d) All Ansar Rifles to be got hold of.
- 13. Info Required
- (a) Whereabouts of the following:

i) Mujib ix) Oli Ahad

ii) Nazarul Islam x) Mrs Motia Chaudhry iii) Tajuddin xi) Barrister Maudud iv) Osmani xii) Faizul Haq v) Sirajul Alam xiii) Tofail

vi) Mannan xiv) N.A. Siddiqi

vii) Ataur Rahman xv) Rauf

viii) Professor Muzaffar xvi) Makhan

and other student leaders.

- (b) Location of all police stations and of Rifles.
- (c) Location of strong points and arsenal houses in the city.
- (d) Location of tr[ainin]g camps and areas etc.
- (e) Location of Cultural Centres which are being used forimparting military trg.
- (f) Names of ex-service officers who are actively helping insurrectional movement.
- 14. Comd and Control-Two commands be established:
- (a) Dacca Area, Comd-Major-General Farman

Staff-Eastern Comd Staff/or HQ ML, Tps - Loc[ated] in Dacca.

(b) The Rest of the Province, Comd-Major-General K H Raja

Staff-HQ 14 Div, Tps -Less those in Dacca.

- 15. Security of the Cantonment, Phase I De-escalate. All arms including PAF deposited.
- 16. Communication
- (a) Security.
- (b) Layout.

ALLOTMENT OF TROOPS TO TASKS

DACCA

Command and Control: Maj.-Gen. Farman with H.Q. M.L.A. Zone B., Troops H.Q. 57 Brigade with troops in Dacca, i.e. 18 Punjab, 32 Punjab (C.O. to be replaced by [Lt.-Col.] Taj, GSO I(In't)), 22 Baluch, 13 Frontier Force, 31 Field Regt., 13 Light Ack-Ack Regt., company of 3 Commando (from Comilla).

Tasks:

- 1. Neutralise by disarming 2 and 10 East Bengal, H.Q. East Pakistan Rifles (2500), Reserve Police at Rajar Bagh (2000).
- 2. Exchange and transmitters, Radio, TV, State Bank.
- 3. Arrest Awami League leaders-detailed lists and addresses.
- 4. University Halls, Iqbal, Jagan Nath, Liaqat (Engineering University)
- 5. Seal off town including road, rail and river. Patrol river.
- 6. Protect factories at Ghazipur and Ammo Depot at Rajendrapur.

Remainder: Under Maj.-Gen. K.H. Raja and H.Q. 14 Div.

JESSORE

Troops:

H.Q. 107 Brigade, 25 Baluch, 27 Baluch, Elements of 24 Field Regt., 55 Field Regt.

Tasks:

- 1. Disarm I East Bengal and Sector H.Q. East Pakistan Rifles and Reserve Police incl. Ansar weapons.
- 2. Secure Jessore town and arrest Awami League and student leaders.
- 3. Exchange and telephone communications.
- 4. Zone of security round cantt., Jessore town and Jessore-Khulna road, airfield.
- 5. Exchange at Kushtia to be made inoperative.
- 6. Reinforce Khulna if required.

KNULNA

Troops: 22 FF

Tasks:

- 1. Security in town.
- 2. Exchange and Radio Station.
- 3. Wing H.Q. East Pakistan Rifles, Reserve Companies and Reserve Police to bedisarmed.
- 4. Arrest Awami League students and communist leaders.

RANGPUR-SAIDPUR

H.Q. 23 Brigade, 29 Cavalry, 26 Frontier Force, 23 Field Regt.

Tasks:

- 1. Security of Rangpur-Saidpur.
- 2. Disarm 3 East Bengal at Saidpur.
- 3. If possible disarm Sector H.Q. and Reserve Company at Dinajpur or neutralise by dispersal Reserve Company by reinforcingborder outposts.

- 4. Radio Station and telephone exchange at Rangpur.
- 5. Awami League and student leaders at Rangpur.
- 6. Ammo dump at Bogra.

RAJSHAHI

25 Punjab

Tasks:

- 1. Despatch C.O.-Shafqat Baluch.
- 2. Exchange and Radio Station Rajshahi.
- 3. Disarm Reserve Police and Sector H.Q. East Pakistan Rifles.
- 4. Rajshahi Universityand in particular Medical College.
- 5. Awami League and student leaders.

COMILLA

53 Field Regiments, 11 Mortar Batteries, Station troops, 3 Commando Batallion (lessCompany)

Tasks:

- 1. Disarm 4 East Bengal, Wing H.Q. East Pakistan Rifles, Reserve District Police.
- 2. Secure town and arrest Awami League leaders and students.
- 3. Exchange.

SYLHET

31 Punjab less company

Tasks:

- 1. Radio Station, Exchange.
- 2. Koeno Bridge over Surma.
- 3. Airfield
- 4. Awami League and student leaders.
- 5. Disarm Section H.Q. East Pakistan Rifles and Reserve Police. Liaise with Sikandar.

CHITTAGONG

20 Baluch, less advance party; company 31 Punjab present ex Sylhet; lqbal Shafi to lead amobile column from Comilla by road and reinforce S.T. 0100 hrs (H hrs) on D-Day. Mobile Column: Brig. lqbal Shafi with Tac H.Q. and Communications; 24 Frontier Force; Troop Heavy Mortars; Field Company Engineers; Company in advance to Feni on evening D-Day.

Tasks:

- 1. Disarm E.B.R.C., 8 East Bengal, Section H.Q. East Pakistan Rifles, Reserve Police.
- 2. Seize Central Police Armoury (Twenty thousand)
- 3. Radio Station and Exchange.
- 4. Liaise with Pakistan Navy (Commodore Mumtaz)
- 5. Liaise with Shaigri and Janjua (C.O. 8 East Bengal) who havebeen instructed to take orders from you till arrival Iqbal Shafi.
- 6. If Shigri and Janjua feel sure about their outfits then do not disarm. In that casemerely put in a road block to town from Cantt. by placing a company in defensive position so that later E.B.R.C. and 8 East Bengal are blocked should the change their loyalties.
- 7. I am taking Brig. Mozamdar with me. Arrest Chaudhry (C.I.E.B.R.C.) on D-Day night.
- 8. Arrest of Awami League and student leaders after above accomplished.

Source: "Witness to Surrender" by Siddiq Salik, The University Press Limited, Appendix-III, p.228-234.

Bangladesh Independence

http://www.bookofdaystales.com/tag/operation-searchlight/



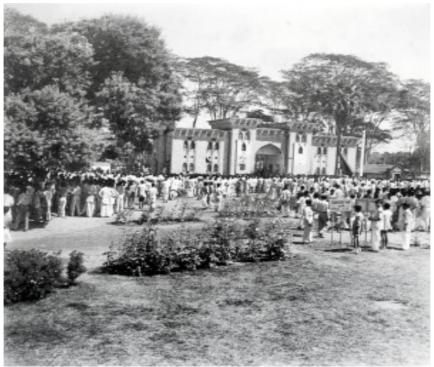
On this date in 1971 East Pakistan declared independence from the state of Pakistan initiating the Bangladesh Liberation War, a revolutionary independence war in South Asia during 1971 which established the republic of Bangladesh. The war pitted East Pakistan (later joined by India) against West Pakistan, and lasted for nine months. It witnessed large-scale atrocities by West Pakistan, the exodus of 10 million refugees and the displacement of 30 million people.

The war broke out on 26 March 1971, when the Pakistani Army launched a military operation called Operation Searchlight against Bengali (Bangladeshi) civilians, students, intelligentsia and armed personnel, who were demanding that the Pakistani military junta accept the results of the 1970 first democratic elections of Pakistan, which were won by an eastern party, or to allow separation between East and West Pakistan. Bengali politicians and army officers announced the declaration of Bangladesh's independence in response to Operation Searchlight. Bengali military, paramilitary and civilians formed the Mukti Bahini ("Liberation Army"), which engaged in guerrilla warfare against Pakistani forces. The Pakistan Army, in collusion with religious extremist militias (the Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams), engaged in the systematic genocide and atrocities against Bengali civilians, particularly nationalists, intellectuals, youth, and religious minorities. A Bangladesh government-in-exile was set up in the city of Calcutta (now Kolkata) in the Indian State of West Bengal.

India entered the war on 3 December 1971, after Pakistan launched pre-emptive air strikes on northern India. Overwhelmed by two war fronts, Pakistani defenses soon collapsed. On 16 December, the Allied Forces of Bangladesh and India defeated Pakistan in the east. The subsequent surrender resulted in the largest number of prisoners-of-war since World War II.

In August 1947, the official birth of two states, Pakistan and India, gave what were supposed to be permanent homes for Muslims and Hindus respectively following the departure of the British. The Dominion of Pakistan comprised two geographically and culturally separate areas to the east and the west with India in between. The western zone was popularly (and for a period of time, also officially) termed West Pakistan and the eastern zone (modern-day Bangladesh) was initially termed East Bengal and later, East Pakistan. Although the population of the two zones was close to equal, political power was concentrated in West Pakistan and it was widely perceived that East Pakistan was being exploited economically, leading to many grievances. Administration of two discontinuous territories was also seen as a challenge. On 25 March 1971, after an election won by an East Pakistani political party (the Awami League) was ignored by the ruling (West Pakistani) establishment, rising political discontent and cultural nationalism in East Pakistan were met by brutal suppressive force from the ruling elite of the West Pakistan establishment, in what came to be termed Operation Searchlight.

The violent crackdown by West Pakistan forces led to Awami League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declaring East Pakistan's independence as the state of Bangladesh on 26 March 1971. Pakistani President Agha Mohammed Yahya ordered the Pakistani military to restore the Pakistani government's authority, beginning the civil war. The war led to a sea of refugees (estimated at the time to be about 10 million) flooding into the eastern provinces of India. Facing a mounting humanitarian and economic crisis, India started actively aiding and organizing the Bangladeshi resistance army known as the Mukti Bahini.



Ethnic and linguistic discrimination was a key factor in the rise of Bengali nationalist sentiment. In 1948, Governor General Mohammad Ali Jinnah declared that "Urdu, and only Urdu" would be the federal language of Pakistan. However, Urdu was historically prevalent only in the north, central and western region of the subcontinent; whereas in East Bengal, the native language was Bengali, the most easterly branch of the Indo-European languages. The Bengali-speaking people of Pakistan constituted over 50% of the country's population. The government stand was widely viewed as an attempt to suppress the culture of the eastern wing. The people of East Bengal demanded that their language be given federal status alongside Urdu and English. The Bengali Language Movement began in 1948, as civil society protested the removal of the Bengali script from currency and stamps, which were in place since the British Raj. The movement reached its climax in 1952, when on 21 February, the police fired on protesting students and civilians, causing several deaths. The day is revered in Bangladesh as the Language Martyr's Day. Later, in memory of the 1952 deaths, UNESCO declared 21 February as International Mother Language Day in 1999.

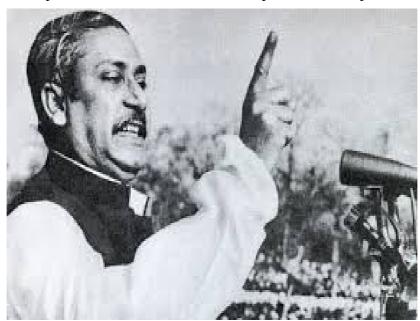
Although East Pakistan had a larger population, West Pakistan dominated the divided country politically and received more money from the common budget. Bengalis were also underrepresented in the Pakistan military. Officers of Bengali origin in the different wings of the armed forces made up just 5% of overall force by 1965; of these, only a few were in command positions, with the majority in technical or administrative posts. West Pakistanis believed that Bengalis were not "martially inclined" unlike Pashtuns and Punjabis; the "Martial Races" notion was dismissed as ridiculous and humiliating by Bengalis. Moreover, despite huge defense spending, East Pakistan received none of the benefits, such as contracts, purchasing and military support jobs. The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 over Kashmir also highlighted the sense of military insecurity among Bengalis, as only an under-strength infantry division and 15 combat aircraft without tank support were in East Pakistan to thwart any Indian retaliations during the conflict.

Although East Pakistan accounted for a slight majority of the country's population, political power remained in the hands of West Pakistanis. Since a straightforward system of representation based on population would have concentrated political power in East Pakistan, the West Pakistani establishment came up with the "One Unit" scheme, where all of West Pakistan was considered one province. This was solely to counterbalance the East wing's votes.

After the assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan's first prime minister, in 1951, political power began to devolve to the new President of Pakistan, which replaced the office of Governor General when Pakistan became a republic, and, eventually, the military. The nominal elected chief executive, the Prime Minister, was frequently sacked by the establishment, acting through the President.

The East Pakistanis observed that the West Pakistani establishment would swiftly depose any East Pakistani elected Prime Minister of Pakistan, such as Khawaja Nazimuddin, Muhammad Ali Bogra, or Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. Their suspicions were further influenced by the military dictatorships of Ayub Khan (27 October 1958 – 25 March 1969) and Yahya Khan (25 March 1969 – 20 December 1971), both West Pakistanis. The situation reached a climax in 1970, when the Awami League, the largest East Pakistani political party, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won a landslide victory in the national elections. The party won 167 of the 169 seats allotted to East Pakistan, and thus a majority of the 313 seats in the National Assembly. This gave the Awami League the constitutional right to form a government.

However, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (a former Foreign Minister), the leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party, refused to allow Rahman to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Instead, he proposed the idea of having two Prime Ministers, one for each wing. The proposal elicited outrage in the east wing, already chafing under the other constitutional innovation, the "One Unit scheme". Bhutto also refused to accept Rahman's Six Points. On 3 March 1971, the two leaders of the two wings along with the President General Yahya Khan met in Dacca to decide the fate of the country. After their discussions yielded no satisfactory results, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called for a nationwide strike. Bhutto feared a civil war, therefore, he sent his trusted companion, Dr. Mubashir Hassan. Mujib decided to meet Bhutto. Upon his arrival, Mujib met with Bhutto and both agreed to form a coalition government with Mujib as Premier and Bhutto as President. However, the military was unaware of these developments, and Bhutto increased his pressure on Mujib to reach a decision.



On 7 March 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (soon to be the prime minister) delivered a speech at the Racecourse Ground (now called the Suhrawardy Udyan). In this speech he mentioned a further four-point condition to consider at the National Assembly Meeting on 25 March:

The immediate lifting of martial law.

Immediate withdrawal of all military personnel to their barracks.

An inquiry into the loss of life.

Immediate transfer of power to the elected representative of the people before the assembly meeting on 25 March.

He urged his people to turn every house into a fort of resistance. He closed his speech saying, "Our struggle is for our freedom. Our struggle is for our independence." This speech is considered the main event that inspired the nation to fight for its independence. General Tikka Khan was flown into Dacca to become Governor of East Bengal. East-Pakistani judges, including Justice Siddique, refused to swear him in.

Between 10 and 13 March, Pakistan International Airlines cancelled all their international routes to urgently fly "government passengers" to Dacca. These "government passengers" were almost all Pakistani soldiers in civilian dress. MV Swat, a ship of the Pakistan Navy carrying ammunition and soldiers, was harbored in Chittagong Port, but the Bengali workers and sailors at the port refused to unload the ship. A unit of East Pakistan Rifles refused to obey commands to fire on the Bengali demonstrators, beginning a mutiny among the Bengali soldiers.



The 1970 Bhola cyclone made landfall on the East Pakistan coastline during the evening of 12 November, around the same time as a local high tide, killing an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 people. Though the exact death toll is not known, it is considered the deadliest tropical cyclone on record. A week after the landfall, President Khan conceded that his government had made "slips" and "mistakes" in its handling of the relief efforts due to a lack of understanding of the magnitude of the disaster.

A statement released by eleven political leaders in East Pakistan ten days after the cyclone hit charged the government with "gross neglect, callous and utter indifference". They also accused the president of playing down the magnitude of the problem in news coverage. On 19 November, students held a march in Dacca protesting the slowness of the government's response. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani addressed a rally of 50,000 people on 24 November, where he accused the president of inefficiency and demanded his resignation.

As the conflict between East and West Pakistan developed in March, the Dacca offices of the two government organizations directly involved in relief efforts were closed for at least two weeks, first by a general strike and then by a ban on government work in East Pakistan by the Awami League. With this increase in tension, foreign personnel were evacuated over fears of violence. Relief work continued in the field, but long-term planning was curtailed. This conflict widened into the Bangladesh Liberation War in December and concluded with the creation of Bangladesh. This was one of the few times that a natural event helped trigger a civil war.



A planned military pacification carried out by the Pakistan Army – code named Operation Searchlight – started on 25 March to curb the Bengali nationalist movement by taking control of the major cities on 26 March, and then eliminating all opposition, political or military, within one month. Before the beginning of the operation, all foreign journalists were systematically deported from East Pakistan.

The main phase of Operation Searchlight ended with the fall of the last major town in Bengali hands in mid-May. The operation also began the 1971 Bangladesh atrocities. These systematic killings served only to enrage the Bengalis, which ultimately resulted in the secession of East Pakistan later in the same year. The international media and reference books in English have published casualty figures which vary greatly, from 5,000–35,000 in Dacca, and 200,000–3,000,000 for Bangladesh as a whole, and the atrocities have been referred to as acts of genocide.

According to the Asia Times,

At a meeting of the military top brass, Yahya Khan declared: "Kill 3 million of them and the rest will eat out of our hands." Accordingly, on the night of 25 March, the Pakistani Army launched Operation Searchlight to "crush" Bengali resistance in which Bengali members of military services were disarmed and killed, students and the intelligentsia systematically liquidated and able-bodied Bengali males just picked up and gunned down.

Although the violence focused on the provincial capital, Dacca, it also affected all parts of East Pakistan. Residential halls of the University of Dacca were particularly targeted. The only Hindu residential hall – Jagannath Hall – was destroyed by the Pakistani armed forces, and an estimated 600 to 700 of its residents were murdered. The Pakistani army denied any cold blooded killings at the university, though the Hamood-ur-Rehman commission in Pakistan concluded that overwhelming force was used at the university. This fact, and the massacre at Jagannath Hall and nearby student dormitories of Dacca University, are corroborated by a videotape secretly filmed by Professor Nurullah of the East Pakistan Engineering University, whose residence was directly opposite the student dormitories.

The scale of the atrocities was first made clear in the West when Anthony Mascarenhas, a Pakistani journalist who had been sent to the province by the military authorities to write a story favourable to Pakistan's actions, instead fled to the United Kingdom and, on 13 June 1971, published an article in the Sunday Times describing the systematic killings by the military. The BBC wrote: "There is little doubt that Mascarenhas' reportage played its part in ending the war. It helped turn world opinion against Pakistan and encouraged India to play a decisive role", with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi herself stating that Mascarenhas' article has led her "to prepare the ground for India's armed intervention".[54]

Hindu areas suffered particularly heavy blows. By midnight, Dacca was burning, especially the Hindu-dominated eastern part of the city. Time magazine reported on 2 August 1971, "The Hindus, who account for three-fourths of the refugees and a majority of the dead, have borne the brunt of the Pakistani military hatred."

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested by the Pakistani Army. Yahya Khan appointed Brigadier (later General) Rahimuddin Khan to preside over a special tribunal prosecuting Mujib with multiple charges. The tribunal's sentence was never made public, but Yahya caused the verdict to be held in abeyance in any case. Other Awami League leaders were arrested as well, while a few fled Dacca to avoid arrest. The Awami League was banned by General Yahya Khan.

The violence unleashed by the Pakistani forces on 25 March 1971 proved the last straw in the effort to negotiate a settlement. Following these outrages, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman signed an official declaration that read:

Today Bangladesh is a sovereign and independent country. On Thursday night, West Pakistani armed forces suddenly attacked the police barracks at Razarbagh and the EPR headquarters at Pilkhana in Dacca. Many innocent and unarmed have been killed in Dhaka city and other places of Bangladesh. Violent clashes between E.P.R. and Police on the one hand and the armed forces of Pakistan on the other, are going on. The Bengalis are fighting the enemy with great courage for an independent Bangladesh. May Allah aid us in our fight for freedom. Joy Bangla [May Bangladesh be victorious].

Sheikh Mujib also called upon the people to resist the occupation forces through a radio message. Mujib was arrested on the night of 25–26 March 1971 at about 1:30 am (as per Radio Pakistan's news on 29 March 1971).



A telegram containing the text of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's declaration reached some students in Chittagong. The message was translated into Bengali by Dr. Manjula Anwar. The students failed to secure permission from higher authorities to broadcast the message from the nearby Agrabad Station of Radio Pakistan. However, the message was read several times by the independent Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro Radio established by some rebel Bangali Radio workers in Kalurghat. Major Ziaur Rahman was requested to provide security of the station and he also read the Declaration on 27 March 1971. Major Ziaur Rahman broadcast announcement of the declaration of independence on behalf of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

This is Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. I, Major Ziaur Rahman, at the direction of Bangobondhu Mujibur Rahman, hereby declare that Independent People's Republic of Bangladesh has been established. At his direction, I have taken the command as the temporary Head of the Republic. In the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, I call upon all Bengalees to rise against the attack by the West Pakistani Army. We shall fight to the last to free our motherland. Victory is, by the Grace of Allah, ours. Joy Bangla.

The Kalurghat Radio Station's transmission capability was limited, but the message was picked up by a Japanese ship in Bay of Bengal. It was then re-transmitted by Radio Australia and later by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

M. A. Hannan, an Awami League leader from Chittagong, is said to have made the first announcement of the declaration of independence over the radio on 26 March 1971. There is controversy now as to when Major Zia gave his speech. BNP sources maintain that it was 26 March, and there was no message regarding declaration of independence from Mujibur Rahman. Pakistani sources, like Maj. Gen. Fazal Muqeem Khan in his book *Pakistan'S Crisis In Leadership*, Brigadier Zahir Alam Khan in his book "*The Way It Was*, and Lt. Gen. Kamal Matinuddin in his book "*Tragedy Of Errors: East Pakistan Crisis, 1968–1971* had written that they heard Major Zia's speech on 26 March 1971, but Maj. Gen. Hakeem A. Qureshi in his book *The 1971 Indo-Pak War: A Soldier's Narrative*, gives the date of Major Zia's speech as 27 March 1971.

26 March 1971 is considered the official Independence Day of Bangladesh, and the name Bangladesh was in effect henceforth. In July 1971, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi openly referred to the former East Pakistan as Bangladesh. Some Pakistani and Indian officials continued to use the name "East Pakistan" until 16 December 1971 when the war ended with Pakistan's surrender.



In Bangladeshi cuisine, some foods are popular across the entire region, while others are specific to a particular area. Rice and pulses (especially lentils) are the staples, and there is a rich palette of









Western Region: Mainly known as Khulna and Jessore areas; and very close to the West Bengal of India (the second highest region of Bengalis in the world). The cuisine of these areas are known as authentic Bengali recipes. Mug dal with hilsha fish head, dalna, chachari, luchi-payesh, hilsha with mustard etc. are very popular in both the part of Bengal.

Northern Region: The Northern part of Bangladesh has a strong influences of Eastern Indian states mainly Assam & Manipur. The main characteristic of this foods is they are mainly sweet and lots of uses of banana throats, raw papaya fruit, raw mango, urad lentils & grilled or smoked vegetables.

Central Region: Capital Dhaka city & its territory region are the central region, where fresh water fishes are much more popular & due to different ruling period the cuisines of this region is versatile. Old Dhaka area is famous for the Nawab Awadhi cuisine. In the Old Dhaka different types of kebabs, nans, bakhar-khani, kachchi & pakki biriyani, haleem, mutton bhuni kichuri & specially mentioned mutton tehari are popular across the country.

Eastern Region: Sylheti's people are mainly rice and fish eaters and their choice and method of cooking is distinctly different to non-Sylheti's. Traditional dishes will include sour dishes such as tengha (or tok) cooked with vegetables such as Amra, Defal, Olives (Belfoi), Dewwaa, Amshi, Mango Choti (Aam Choti), Kul (Boroi), Hatkhora (or Shatkora), Ada Zamir (Ada Lembu), and any other sour lemon-like tasty vegetable. Additionally, it's worth noting that the 360 disciples mentioned earlier, not only brought with them their distinct cultures but also brought distinct cooking styles of their own. These included many types of meat dishes including chicken.

Southern Region: The Southern region of Bangladesh also includes the tribal areas who have their different style of cooking methods & ideas. Other than that the most southern part of this region is mainly influenced by the Arakan cuisine. Dry fish (shutki), bamboo shoots, sea fishes, and many more are the specialty of this region. They also use lots of spicy flavors & coconuts in their food preparations.

One of the most popular Bangladeshi dishes is biryani, rice and meat with an abundance of spices. In truth biryani is found all across South and South-East Asia in one form or another, each region having its own variations. Making biryani from scratch is a long skilled process and few cooks go to such lengths nowadays. But for special occasions, such as weddings, cooks go the whole nine yards. This is a terrific website giving meticulously detailed instructions with pictures for a dish that serves 25. If you are going to make it from scratch you might as well make a lot.







Rural and urban areas across East Pakistan saw extensive military operations and air strikes to suppress the tide of <u>civil disobedience</u> that formed following the 1970 election stalemate. The <u>Pakistan Army</u>, which had the backing of Islamists, created radical religious militias – the <u>Razakars</u>, <u>Al-Badr</u> and <u>Al-Shams</u> – to assist it during raids on the local populace. The Collaborators, volunteers, Traitors. Members of the Pakistani military and supporting militias engaged in mass murder, deportation and <u>genocidal rape</u>. The capital <u>Dhaka</u> was the scene of numerous massacres, including the <u>Dhaka University killings</u>. An estimated 10 million Bengali <u>refugees</u> fled to neighboring India, while 30 million were internally displaced. <u>Sectarian violence</u> broke out between Bengalis and <u>Urdu-speaking immigrants</u>. An academic consensus prevails that the atrocities committed by the Pakistani military were a <u>genocide</u>.

Bangladesh Liberation War

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh Liberation War

Razakar (Pakistan)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Razakar (Pakistan)

Razakar (literally "volunteer") was an anti-Bangladesh paramilitary force organised by the Pakistan Army in Bangladesh during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. Since the 1971 war, it has become a pejorative term (implying traitor) in Bangladesh due to the numerous atrocities committed by the Razakars during the War. The Razakar force was composed of mostly anti-Bangladesh, pro-Pakistan Bengalis & Urdu-speaking migrants who lived in Bangladesh at the time

Al-Badr (East Pakistan)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Badr (East Pakistan)

Al-Badr was constituted in September 1971 under the auspices of General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, then chief of the Pakistan Army eastern command. Members of Al-Badr were recruited from public schools and madrasas (religious schools). The unit was used for raids and special operations the Pakistan army command initially planned to use the locally recruited militias (Al-Badr, Razakar, Al-Shams) for policing cities of East Pakistan, and regular army units to defend the border with India. Most members of Al-Badr appear to have been Biharis.

Despite their similarities in opposing the <u>independence of Bangladesh</u>, the Razakar and Al-Badr had differences; <u>Razakars</u> opposed the <u>Mukti Bahini</u> in general, while Al-Badr's tactics were <u>terrorism</u> and <u>political killings</u>. All three groups operated under Pakistani command

Leaders of Al-Badr

- Motiur Rahman Nizami[10] was convicted of war crimes.
- Mir Quasem Ali was convicted of war crimes and was executed on 3 September 2016
- Ashrafuz Zaman Khan
- Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin
- Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed

Al-Shams (East Pakistan)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Shams (East Pakistan)

The Al-Shams was an anti-Bangladesh paramilitary wing of several Islamist parties in East Pakistan composed of local Bengalis and Biharis that along with the Pakistan Army and the Al-Badr, is accused of conducting a mass killing campaign against Bengali nationalists, civilians, religious and ethnic minorities during 1971. The group was banned by the independent government of Bangladesh, but most of its members had fled the country during and after the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, which led to Bangladesh's independence. Al-Shams is an Arabic word meaning 'The Sun'. Al Shams and Al-Badr were local Bengali and Bihari armed groups formed by the Pakistan Army which were mostly recruited from the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami to fight out and resist Mukti Bahini.

On 25 March 1971, after Operation Searchlight, the exiled leadership of what is now Bangladesh declared independence from Pakistan and armed struggle against the Pakistani Army began. This struggle was spearheaded by elements of Mukti Bahini with strong support from India. As most of the locals were in support of Mukti Bahini and those who were not were killed by Mukti Bahini, the Pakistani Army, composed largely of elements from Punjab, found itself and its cause pretty much alienated from the local populace.

To counter this situation, the <u>Pakistan Army</u> accepted help from <u>Islamic fundamentalist</u> parties including <u>Jamaat-e-Islami</u>, proclaiming <u>Jihad</u> against Indians, to seek unity among the population for the two wings of <u>Pakistan</u>, in the name of religion. It described Bengali nationalism as an Indo-Zionist conspiracy. The <u>PPP</u> played an active role in its formation. It also recruited from the Urdu speaking Bihari population of East-Pakistan. This Jihad was between the Pakistani Army and the liberation forces and their supporters (Indians and Mukti Bahini). To recruit the local populace into fighting the independence movement, two sister organisations Al Badr (literally meaning The Moon, but also has a reference to the famous <u>Battle of Badr</u>) and Al Shams were formed.

The organisations was supported by local wing of Jamaat-e-Islam Pakistan who declared it a Jihad. The organisation worked as the local guides for Pakistan Army supporting the troops providing logistics and information. It arrested suspects and transported them to interrogation centres that used torture. It carried out looting, rape and violence on the civilian population. According to witnesses before the International Crimes Tribunal, the Al Shams was under the command of Fazlul Quader Chowdhury and led on the ground by his son Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in Chittagong. The other important members were former M.P. Syed Wahidul Alam of Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Saifuddin Quader Chowdhury, the younger brother of Saluddin Quader Chowdhury. They used to patrol the neighbourhoods of Satkania, Rauzan, Boalkhali, Patia and Rangunia in a jeep. They would set fire to Hindu houses and arrest anybody they suspected of being supportive towards the Mukti Bahini. The suspects were taken to Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's residence Goods Hill, which had been converted to a torture cell, where they were tortured and killed. Their bodies were disposed off in the Karnafuli.



On 12 December, the Al Shams and the Al Badr leadership jointly prepared the blueprint for <u>killing</u> the intellectuals. The Al Shams and Al Badar leadership met with Major General Rao Farman Ali and finalised the blueprint.

Pakistan Peoples Party

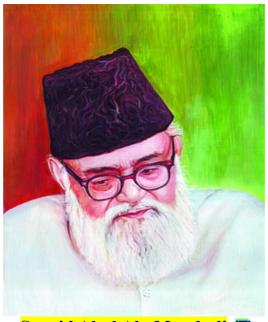
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan Peoples Party

Mukti Bahini, translates as Freedom Fighters, or Liberation Forces https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mukti Bahini

Jamaat-e-Islami

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaat-e-Islami

Jamaat-e-Islami is an Islamic political organisation and social conservative movement founded in 1941 in British India by the Islamist theologian and socio-political philosopher, Abul Ala Maududi. Along with the Muslim Brotherhood, founded in 1928, Jamaat-e-Islami was one of the original and most influential Islamist organisations, and the first of its kind to develop "an ideology based on the modern revolutionary conception of Islam". The group split into separate independent organisations in India and Pakistan - Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan and Jamaat-e-Islami Hind - following the Partition of India in 1947. Other groups related to or inspired by Jamaat-e-Islami developed in Bangladesh, Kashmir, Britain, and Afghanistan. The Jamaat-e-Islami parties maintain ties internationally with other Muslim groups.



Sayyid Abul Ala Maududi 🔀

Maududi was the creator and leader of the militant Jamaat-e-Islami, which became the spearhead of the movement to transform Pakistan from a Muslim homeland into an <u>Islamic state</u>. Though he opposed the creation of Paksitan fearing the liberalism of its founders and the British-trained administrators, he later accepted it as a graudual step to the Islamization of its laws and constitution even though he had earlier condemned the <u>Muslim League</u> for the same approach.

Madudi like the traditionalist <u>ulama</u> regarded the <u>six canonical hadiths</u> and the <u>Quran</u>, and also accepted much of the dogma of the four <u>schools</u> of <u>fiqh</u>. His efforts focused on transforming to a "theo-democracy" based on the Sharia which would enforce things like abolition of interest-bearing banks, <u>sexual separation</u>, <u>veiling of women</u>, <u>hadd penalties</u> for theft, <u>adultery</u>, and other crimes. The promotion of Islamic state by Maududi and Jamaat-e Islami had broad popular support.

Maududi created Jamaat-e-Islami with the objective of making post-colonial India (or a separate Muslim state if the Muslim League got its wish), an <u>Islamic state</u>. Although this would be the result of an "Islamic revolution", the revolution was to be achieved not through a mass organising or a popular uprising but by what he called "Islamization from above", by winning over society's leaders through education and propaganda, and through putting the right people (Jamaat-e-Islami members) in positions of power, incrementally and through legal means.

Mawdudi believed politics was "an integral, inseparable part of the Islamic faith". Islamic ideology and non-Islamic ideologies (such as <u>capitalism</u> and <u>socialism</u>, <u>liberalism</u> or <u>secularism</u>) were mutually exclusive. The creation of an Islamic state would be not only be an act of piety but would be a cure for all of the many (seemingly non-religious) social and economic problems that Muslims faced. Those working for an Islamic state would not stop at India or Pakistan but would effect a sweeping revolution among mankind, and control all aspects of the world's life.

Maududi opposed British rule but also opposed both the anti-colonialist <u>Muslim nationalist Muslim League</u>'s proposal for a separate Muslim state led by <u>Muhammad Ali Jinnah</u>, and the "composite nationalism" (*muttahida qaumiyyat*) idea of <u>Jam'iyyat al-Ulama-ye Hind</u> and <u>Deobandi</u> scholar <u>Husain Ahmad Madani</u> for a united independent India with separate institutional structures for Hindus and Muslims. Although Maududi believed Muslims formed a separate nation from the Hindus of India, he initially opposed the partition of India to create a "Muslim state" circumscribed to Muslim-majority regions, agitating instead for an "Islamic state" covering the whole of India-this despite the fact Muslims made up only about one quarter of India's population.

In his view Muslims were not one religious or communal group among many working to advance their social and economic interests, but a group 'based upon principles and upon a theory' or ideology. A "righteous" party (or community) that had "a clearly defined ideology, allegiance to a single leader, obedience, and discipline", would be able to transform the whole of India into Dar al-Islam. Unlike the fascists and communists, once in power an Islamic state would not be oppressive or tyrannical, but instead just and benevolent to all, because its ideology was based on God's commands.



In 1940, the Muslim League met in Lahore and passed the <u>Pakistan Resolution</u>, calling for autonomous states in the Muslim majority areas of India. Maududi believed the nationalism in any form was un-Islamic, concerned with mundane interests of people and not Islam. In response he launched his own party, Jamaat-e-Islami, founded on 26 August 1941, at Islamia Park, Lahore. Seventy-five people attended the first meeting and became the first 75 members of the movement.

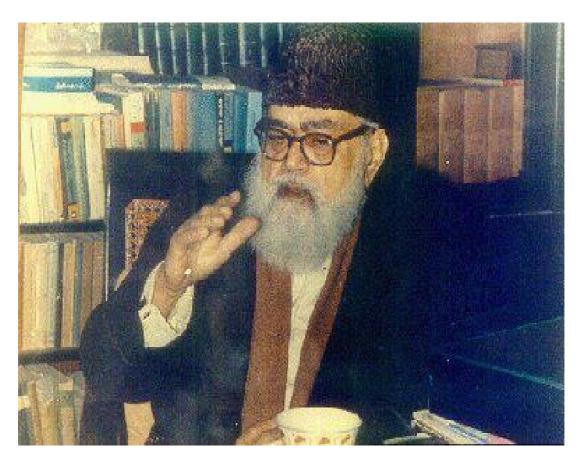
Maududi saw his group as a vanguard of Islamic revolution following the footsteps of early Muslims who gathered in Medina to found the first "Islamic state". Members uttered the Shahada, the traditional statement of conversion to Islam, when they joined, implying to some that Jama'ati felt they had been less-than-true Muslims before joining. Jamaat-e-Islami was and is strictly and hierarchically organised in a pyramid-like structure. All supporters work toward the common goal of establishing an ideological Islamic society, particularly through educational and social work, under the leadership of the emir. Being a vanguard party, not all supporters could be members, only the elite. Below members were/are "affiliates", and "sympathizers" beneath them. The party leader is called an ameer (commander).

Maududi sought to educate the elite of the Muslim community in the principles of Islam and correct "their erroneous ways of thinking" both because he believed societies were influenced from the top down. During the years before the partition of India, Jamaat-e-Islami stood aloof from the intense political fights of the time in India, concentrating on "training and organising" and refining and strengthening the structure of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Who is Sayyid Abul Ala Maududi: Indeed, the Maududi who made the Tafsir http://www.islam101.com/history/people/century20/maududi2.htm

Abul A'la Maududihttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abul_A%27la_Maududi





http://theliberationwar.blogspot.nl/

The Razakars

The Razakars.....should be specially helpful as members of rural communities, who can identify guerrillas (freedom fighters)", an army officer (Pakistan) said...The government says it has already recruited more than 22,000 Razakars of a planned force of 35,000.'-New York Times, July 30, 1971 'To help control of Bengali population, the army has been setting up a network of peace committees superimposed upon the normal civil administration, which the army cannot fully rely upon. Peace committee members are drawn fromBeharis and from the Muslim Leagues and Jamat-e-Islami. The peace committees serve as the agent of army, informing on civil administration as well as on general populace. They are also in charge of confiscating and redistribution of shops and lands from Hindu and pro-independence Bengalis. The peace committee also recruits Razakars.....many of them are common criminals who have thrown their lots with the (Pakistan) army.-The Wall Street Jornal, July 27,1971.

I think, perhaps you remember, Fazlul Kader Chowdhiury ...an honorable person, Sabur Khan, Monayem Khan, Maulabhi Farid Khan of Technaf.... all of them were pro-'Pakistan. They used to see me. All of them". - *Niazi "The Betrayal of East Pakistan"*



The term *Razakar* is originally derived from an Arabic word meaning volunteer. In the context of Islamic history Razakars were volunteers to defend or support Islam. But in Bangladeshi context Razakar means traitors or collaborators of the Paki army who helped them, in our liberation war in 1971, in identifying and killing millions of Bangalees involved in or even supporting the liberation war. The Razakars were mainly the members of Muslim league, Jamat-e-Islam and other Islamic groups and factions. During the liberation war the razakars:

- a. provided intelligence against the freedom fighters, the supporters and sympathizers of the war
- b. abducted, arrested and eventually killed them with the help of the Paki troops and party cadres in various army, concentration camps and killings zones
- c. burnt their houses and looted their properties
- d. kidnapped thousands of Bangalee women and trafficked them to various Paki military camps
- e. raped and molested 450, 000 Bangalee women.

f. How the Razkars were created: Politically Razakar forces were created by the Paki military intelligence (ISI-Inter Services Intelligence, and possibly with active support from CIA) and they were the predecessors of today's Talibans. Members of both the forces, Razakars and Talibans, were recruited, trained and inducted in the same process. They were recruited from lower middle class, semi illiterate, Muslim families mostly from madrasa (parochial Islamic institutes) background. After recruitment they were inducted to Maududi's ideology which prescribes extermination of non-Muslims and liberals. The razakar force was created to serve as a tool of Paki establishment to systematically turn East Bangla (as with Afghanistan) into a mere colony. The first step for the Paki establishment was to destroy in order to take over the textile industries. They did it in 1964 by means of a series of communal riots, incited by the activists of Muslim league and other Islamic parties, forcing the Bangalee Hindu textile owners to migrate. West Pakistani capitalists, not a single Bangalee, took over all the textile mills: the Adamjees, the Bawanis and the Ispahanis. Although missed out on the big bites, the Muslim leaguer and Jamati thugs, however, received the leftovers: the properties (residential and shops) left by the middle class Hindu Bangalees.

g. Once the Bangalee elites were kicked out, razakars were deployed to force out the educated Hindu middle class. The reasons were: Hindu Bangalees were politically conscious and they were the patrons of democracy and liberalism in East Bangla. Communist party where mainly the highly educated and patriotic Hindus congregated were banned and the members were brutally repressed by the police forces (they were even killed in jail). Paki politicians knew very well that they could not fool the Bangalees as easily as they could the Pakis. The Hindu Bangalees were highly competent in parliamentary politics, a competence they learned through anti British movement. The shrewd Paki politicians knew that the only way to counter Bangalees politically was to rid of the Hindu middle class by means of Islamic ideology. For this the razakars came in very handy. They again instigated the common people against the malauns (the heathens, Hindus). Communal riots surged, Hindu houses burnt and women kidnapped. All the decent Hindu families left East Bangla except for the working class and a few die hard patriots like Dhirendra Nath Datta who refused to leave his motherland even for his life. It was a great opportunity for the Muslim Leaguers and razakars. They not only occupied the Hindu assets and properties but also took over their jobs, professions and trades. The janitors of Hindu trading houses became the owners of the business, 6th grade pass peon of schools became the headmaster and that of college became lecturers and principals. The Hindus fought the British for their independence but kicked out of their motherland by the Muslim leaguers and razakars who had no contribution in anti British movement. What an irony of fate. How horrible Islam as an ideology.



h. Towards the end of the liberation war, the *razakars* realizing that they could not stop the liberation (thanks to Russian and Indian support and extraordinary leadership of Tajuddin Ahmed) of Bangladesh, inflicted the deadliest blow against the emergent nation: they killed the top Bangalee intellectuals and professionals. The blueprint for the elimination of Bangalee intellectuals was done even before the start of the war. The blueprint was done by the ISI headed by its Eastern commander Gen Rao Forman Ali in collaboration with the top Jamati / Muslim League leaders (see photo on Genocide page).

i. The Razakars were behind the killing of a total number of 3 million Bangalees and rape and molestation of 450, 000 Bangalee women. After independence the Awami league Government arrested most of them. But due to political pressures from both home (Maulana Bhasani) and abroad (USA, all the Middle Eastern countries led by Saudi Arabia) Sheikh Mujib released the minor Razakars from imprisonment under general amnesty. But Sheikh Mujib never forgave the top Razakars. The leader of Jamat-e-Islam Go-Azam's citizenship was revoked. Motya and other top leaders were in jail under trial. After the assassination of Mujib, the whole political scenario was changed. Zia granted Go-Azam Bangladeshi citizenship, released all the Razakars imprisoned on various criminal charges and by amending the constitution allowed them to be involved in politics (Mujib banned communal politics). Not only that under the banner of his new party BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) he rehabilitated all the notorious Razakars and Muslim Leaguers (awarded premiership to a notorious razakar Shah Aziz)



j. Following Zia's lead his successor Ershad, in the midst of his massive screw ups, kept pampering the Razakars and the Muslim leaguers. As a result of fifteen years of pampering the once loathed Razakars now became the most powerful people of Bangladesh, a country ironically they fought against. Being in power they deliberately destroyed (while the BNP leaders were busy stealing the public money to get rich) the main political / social institutions of Bangladesh and rewrote the history of our liberation war. The 71 episode is banished from the history texts of Bangladeshi schools. Their mentor Zia (an ordinary major in 1971 who even helped Pakis in clearing the weapons later used to gun down Bangalees and changed side only when he realized he was to be disposed after the weapons were cleared) is portrayed as the leader of the liberation war and Mujib is condemned as a traitor who betrayed the infamous Lahore Convention- root of all political evils in Indian sub continent.

k. Since 1947, the *razakars* have been doing the same thing again and again: they are using Islamic ideology to counter democracy and liberalism; with their usual recourse to fascism and violence they are keeping social progress at bay (Islam represents feudalism not capitalism, although created by USA specially the CIA, Bin Laden hates America), they are indirectly helping the capitalist countries to keep Muslim countries as markets.



1. On behalf of the 3 million Bangalees who gave their lives for the liberation war and 450, 000 Bangalee women, raped and molested by the Pakis and the *Razakars*, Muktadhara demands the trial of all the war criminals and *Razakars* of Bangladesh liberation war.

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Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami 🔀



Maulana matiur rahman nizami maulana matiur rahman nizami of pabna district in the north-west of bangladesh, is currently the secretary general and leader of the parliamentary party of the jamaat-e-islami. Nizami carried out a wide range of activities against the war of independence in 1971. At the time he was president of jamaat's youth front, the islami chattra sangha (ics, or islamic st~dent's organisation).

Under his direct supervision, and leadership, the al-badr force was set-up to eliminate freedom fighters. Nizami was the commander-in-chief of the al-badrs. The principal aim of the al-badr, as a para-military force auxiliary to the pakistan army, was to tum the bangalee people into a populace, which would believe in pakistan and the islamic philosophy of life from a cultural and political viewpoint.

Leaders of the AL-badr drew-up the blue-print for the murder of hundreds of bangalee intellectuals across the country. On their orders, hundreds of such prominent men and women of letter and crafts were murdered throughout Bangladesh including Dhaka. Horrifying tales of these killings by the al-badr under nizami's command have been published in many newspapers and journals at home and abroad.

Nizami Exhorted His Followers Through Speeches As Well As Articles In Newspapers. In One Such Article In The Party Mouth-Piece Daily Sangram, He Wrote, "The Day Is Not Far Away When the young men of al-badr, side by side with the armed forces, will defeat the hindu force (enemies) and raise the vi~torious banner of islam all ov~r the world, after the destroying the existence of india"(source:dailysangram,nov. 14, 1971).

On ~pril 12, 1971, nizami joined azam and other leading collaborators such as khan a sabur etc., To lead a procession in dhaka to declare support for pakistan. The procession, under the banner of the "peace committee", ended with a special prayer for the survival of pakistan (daily sang ram, april 13, 1971). In jessore south-west of dhaka, nizami addressed paramilitary troops at the district headquarters of the razakar force, and said, "in this hour of national crisis, it is the duty of every razakar to carry out his national duty to eliminate those who are engaged in war against pakistan and islam" (daily sangram, sept 15, 1971).

People in nizami's home district of pabna have brought allegations of direct and indirect involvement in killings, rape, arson, looting etc. Fvt m (1 -: jlt-l lil cbgr1971.OrgOne Such person is aminul islam dablu of brishlika village under the bera police station (in bangladesh, all administrative units below the level of districts are organised under a police station, hence all sub-districts are called thana, or ps).

Dablu told the commission that his father m sohrab ali was killed on the orders of nizami. Dablu further said other people of the area, including profulla pramanik, bhadu pramanik, manu pramanik and shashthi pramanik were killed on nizami's orders. He said there were several eyewitnesses to those killings. Abdul quddus, a freedom fighter from madhabpur village in pabna, once spent two weeks in an al-badr camp after being arrested. He witnessed plans being discussed and drawn-up by the al-badr men under supervision of nizami, to carry out killings, arson, rape etc.

On nov 26, a razakar commander named sattar guided pakistani troops to the dhulaupara village where 30 freedom fighters were beequently killed. According to quddus, sattar carried out his activities under nizami's orders. Quddus told the commission he was able to attend a secret gathering of al-badr, which was also attended by nizami who gave instructions about elimination of freedom fighters. In that meeting, houses of a wami league supporters and possible b~ses and safe-houses being used by freedom fighters were identified.

Quddus said, nizami gave orders to finish off awami league supporters and destroy bases of the freedom fighters. The day after the meeting, al-badr fore in cooperation with razakars, surrounded the village of brishlika and burnt it to the ground. Quddus said nizami himself bayoneted to death one bateswar shaha in madhabpur village, situated under sathia ps, which is now part of the parliamentary constituency here nizami won a seat in 1991 with a slender majority. Similar allegations against nizami was brought by m shahjahan ali of madhabpur village.

Ali was captured by razakars along with several other freedom fighters. The razakars then proceeded to torture the prisoners with bayonets, finally using long knives to slit their throats. Twelve freedom fighters were slaughtered in that manner, but ali miraculously survived, although he has a deep scar along his throat and is permanently paralysed. Ali said one prisoner was burnt alive after being doused with petrol. He said all these killings of prisoners were carried out on nizami's order.

Mt-11' jnt.111 cbgr1971.OrgMatiur Rahman nizami (motiya dalal) he chiefofoperations of the al-badr (jamati death squad) forces, matiur rahaman nizami i s responsible for the murder of thousands of bengalis involved in or connected to the war of independence. He was also personally involved in murder of hundreds of hindus and confiscation of their asse Ts and properties. By confiscation and extortion oflarge mount of money, jewelry and assets from the wealthy .,T;fi¥·1., • hindu bengalis, nizami became a millionaire.

During the i:fi'~~'"(·~· sheikh mujib government (1971-75) nizami hid himself from public life and engaged himself, like a dormant mice, in conspiracy with his fellow razakar peers lo overthrow the sheikh mujib government. In i976, ns a part of gen zia's razakar rehabilitation project, nizami reasserted himself and became active as a 2ic under the wings ofl1is notorious master gola m azam as zia conferred golam bangladeshi citizenship revoked by the sheikh mujib government.

Nillami is presently the chief of jamat-e-Islam. Besides his involvement in assassination, murder, extortio n and confiscation, nizami is also committed to establish jamati ideological hegemoni (a maudoodi versio n of islamic fundamentalism tinged with maoist militant flair) to perpetuate the islamic fundamentalism in bangladesh. Since 1976, thanks to the political backing of the so-called freedom fighter gen zia and financial generosity of the islamic countries like saudi arab, iran and libya, nizami and his gang invested millions of dollars to open hundreds of islamic kindergartens around tlle country.

The syllabi and curricula of those kindergartens are based on the precepts of maudoodi, the spiriguru of jamat-e-islam. This network of schools enabled jamat-e-islam to sustain a huge number of their cadres as employees of tl10se schools. From organizational point of view, those schools are a big success for jamat-e-islam: it secured them a sustaining source of income (education is the most thriving business in bangladeshi cities) and employment for its cadres in education industry.

But intellectually those schools cripple its students forever as they teach pre copernican /ptolemic world views, o rient them to alien arabic culture and emotionally invest them with jejune islamic sentiments. Jamal's goal to render intellectual bankruptcy is not confined to pre school stage only. Nizami successfully expanded its mission to the tertiary level as well. Nizami's wife founded an english medium college in the most aristocratic resident ial area in dhaka city. The college boasts of having international educational standard as its name indicates" manarat International college".

The off-springs of the muslim bangladeshi elites swarm into that so-called english medium college. Manarat is an english medium college in the limited sense that it disseminates its knowledge in english language. But what constitutes its epistem ological corpus? Koran and all forms of arabic medieval precepts. The graduates from manarat college are apparently smart (as the definition of Smart in bangladesh means ability to speak trash in english) but intellectually aNd attitudinally medieval: perfect elements for islamic fundamentalism.

Politically golam azams and mainucldins are feared monsters, but culturally nizami's and said i's are more corrosive a and their impact on society far reaching. Some facts about nizami's criminal past: t. Du~n~ the liberation war in jessore, nizami addressed paramilitary troops at the distract headquarters of the razakar force, and said, "in this hour of national crisis, it is the duty of every razakar to carry out his national duty to eliminate those who Are e ngaged in war against pakistan and islam' (daily sangram, sept 15, 1971).

2. L:'~ople

M n1zamt's home distract ol l:'abna have, brought allegations ol tlirect and_ mdirect involvement in killings, rape, arson, looting etc. One s u ch person is ammul islam dablu of brishlika village. According to dablu his father m sohrab ali ~as kil~ed on the orders of n izami. Dablu further said other people of the area, mcludmg profulla pramanik, bhadu pramanik manu pramanik and shwashati praman.ik were killed on nizami's orders. He said there were several eyewitnesses to those killings.

J. Abdul quddus: a freedom fighter from madhabpur village in pabna, once s~ent two weeks m an l-badr camp as their captive. He witnessed plans being discussed and drawn-up by the al-badr men under s upervis ion of nizami to carry out killings, arson, rape etc. ' 4 . On nov 26, a razakar commander named sattnr guided pakistani troo ps to the dh~laupara village where jo freedom fighters were subsequently killed. According to q~ddus, sattar carried out his activit ies under nizami 's orders.

Q~ddu.S Also said he was able to attend a secret gathering of al-badr which n1zarm p~es1ded and gave inst~uctions about elimination of freedom fighters. In that meeti_ng, houses of awam1 league supporters and possible bases and safe houses bemg used by freedom fighters were identified. Quddus said nizami gave o rders to finish off awami league supporters and destroy bases of the freedom fighters. The day after the meeting, albadr forces in cooperation with razakars, surrounded the village of brishlika and burnt it to the ground. 5.

Quddus said nizami himself bayoneted to death one bateswar saha in ma~habpur village, situated under sathia ps, which is now part of the par!Ia?1enTAry Constituency where nizami won a seat in 1991 with a slender ma.Ionty. 6. In pabna nizami led the killing of a young freedom fighter latif and his group.

Latif was only 19 years old and a first year student of pabna edward college. Latifs small ~ro~p was captured by the pakistani occupation army in a front c?Mha~ at d.1,ml.Mn. They were ~hen handed over to nizami's gang for exec~llon. N1zam1 s lieutenants publicly slew latifs co- fighters with daggers speciall_y used for slaughtering bulls for sacrifice (during islamic festival called korb~n~) as a part of islamic ritual.

Tile bastards in nizami's group celebrated the .killmg of the captured .freed?m _fighte~ wi~ cannibalistic zeal. They gouged latifs ~yes, c~opped offh15 gemtaha and tied his dead body on a stick at shanth1a. Latifs father sufian paramanik is an witness to his son's brutal murder and the razakars' ecstatic outburst of pleasure in killing the brave sons of the soil. Latifs brother shahjahan, a freedom fighter himself, nearly met the same fate. ~er slaughtering shahjahan, along with his co-fighters, in islamic manner, n1zam's people left him taking him for dead. But shahjahan was a die hard ~reedom fighter.

The slayer's knife could not take his life. Deadly wounded, shahja han lay on ground for hours. Foxes smelled at him, dogs bit h im. Fortunately his relatives came by before it was too late and saved his life nizami's knife could not take sha hjahan's life, but took away his vocal c~rd. 7.

Shahjaban ali also said one prisoner was burnt alive after being doused with petrol. He said all those killings of prisoners were carried out on nizami's order. Verifiable lis t of people killed by n izami and his gangs: m sohrabali monu pramanik latif profullapramanikshwashatipramanik jo freedom fighte rs in latifs group bhadu pramanik bateswar saha cbgr1971.Org



Is it true that many of the Pakistani troops in 1971 were Bengali?

https://www.quora.com/Is-it-true-that-many-of-the-Pakistani-troops-in-1971-were-Bengali

Pakistan's internal political situation in 1969 and its negative effects on the Pakistan Army. It appears that, had not Ayub Khan alienated the East Wing by his pro West Pakistani elite policies and also had not alienated the West Pakistani and East Pakistani populace by his self-serving policies, there would have been no East Pakistan problem which resulted in Pakistan's breakup in 1971 or any anti-Ayub agitation in both the country's provinces of East and West Pakistan that finally led to the fall of the Ayubian system of government in March 1969.

The East wing versus West wing rivalry had been constitutionally resolved through the passing of the 1956 Constitution, once the representatives of the East wing had most large heartedly accepted the principal of 50 % parity in the country's legislature despite the fact that their actual ratio in the country's population entitled them to 54% seats in the assembly! Both the wings now started coming closer since issues were settled inside the parliament rather than by subversion or agitation. However Ayub in league with the president Iskandar Mirza repeatedly conspired to derail democracy and in league with Iskandar Mirza finally usurped power in the country by imposing the first Martial Law in October 1958. He sidelined Mirza in less than a month and imposed a one-man rule on the country.

Ayub despised the East Pakistanis and as Army C in C had stopped more raisings of infantry battalions of East Pakistanis. The East Pakistanis on the other hand were anti-Ayub and resented Ayub's policies of allocating a predominantly large part the resources of the country on the development of the West Wing. Further during the Ayub era, the strategic doctrine that defence of East Pakistan lay in concentrating the bulk of the Pakistan Army in the West wing was developed. This further alienated the East wingers since there was an unofficial ban on recruitment of Bengalis in the fighting arms of the army and the expanded army increasingly became a West Pakistani army, instead of being a national army. [See Page-136- Sher Ali –Op Cit, for the development of the strategy "defence of East Pakistan lies in West Pakistan". In 1963 the Bengali representation in the army was just 7.4% in the rank and file and 5.0% in the officer corps. (Refers-Government of Pakistan, National Assembly of Pakistan, Debates, March 8, 1963 as reported on pages-30 & 31-Pakistan Observer- Dacca-Issue dated 27 June 1964.]

In all fairness one cannot but admit that, Yahya Khan, sincerely attempted to solve Pakistan's constitutional and inter provincial/regional rivalry problems once he took over power from Ayub in March 1969. The tragedy of the whole affair was the fact that all actions that Yahya took, although correct in principle, were too late in timing, and served only to further intensify the political polarisation between the East and West wings. He dissolved the one unit restoring the pre 1955 provinces of West Pakistan, promised free direct, one man one vote, fair elections on adult franchise, a basic human right which had been denied to the Pakistani people since the pre independence 1946 elections by political inefficiency, double play and intrigue, by civilian governments, from 1947 to 1958 and by Ayub's one man rule from 1958 to 1969. However dissolution of one unit did not lead to the positive results that it might have lead to in case "One Unit" was dissolved earlier. Yahya also made an attempt to accommodate the East Pakistanis by abolishing the principle of parity, thereby hoping that greater share in the assembly would redress their wounded ethnic regional pride and ensure the integrity of Pakistan. Instead of satisfying the Bengalis it intensified their separatism, since they felt that the west wing had politically suppressed them since 1958. Thus the rise of anti West Wing sentiment in the East Wing, thanks to Ayub Khan's anti East Wing policies, had however reached such tremendous proportions that each of Yahya's concessions did not reduce the East West tension.

Yahya announced in his broadcast to the nation on 28 July 1969, his firm intention to redress Bengali grievances, the first major step in this direction being, the doubling of Bengali quota in the defence services 36.

It may be noted that at this time there were just seven infantry battalions of the East Pakistanis. Yahya's announcement although made with the noblest and most generous intentions in mind was late by about twenty years!

Yahya cannot be blamed for the muck that had been accumulating for more than two decades. Yahya's intention to raise more pure Bengali battalions was opposed by Major General Khadim Hussain Raja, the General Officer Commanding 14 Division in East Pakistan, since the General felt that instead of raising new purely Bengali battalions, Bengali troops should be mixed with existing infantry battalions comprising of Punjabi and Pathan troops.

Such was the strength of conviction of General Khadim about not raising more pure Bengali battalions that once he came to know about Yahya's orders to raise more East Pakistani regiments, he flew to the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi to remonstrate against the sagacity of raising more pure Bengali units. Khadim's advice that Bengali troops could not be relied upon in crisis situations should have been an eye opener for all in the GHQ. No one at least at that time took his advice seriously. It appears that the generals were convinced that the Bengali was too meek to ever challenge the martial Punjabi or Pathan Muslim.

The Bengalis were despised as non martial by all West Pakistanis. However much later an interesting controversy developed in which the Punjabis and Hindustanis blamed each other for doing so! The Hindustanis blaming Aziz Ahmad etc and the Punjabis blaming many Hindustani ICS old foxes of the 1950s! There is no doubt that this exercise in Bengali degrading was neither totally or exclusively Punjabi led but a a true for all West Pakistanis business!

Bengalis were despised as a non martial race from the British times. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan a Hindustani Muslim and an eminent Muslim leader of the North Indian Muslims in late 19th century made open fun of Bengalis in his various speeches, notably the one delivered at Lucknow in 1887. I.H Qureshi another prominent Hindustani Muslim and a post 1947 cabinet minister declared in a roundabout manner that the Bengalis were an inferior race. Ayub made various remarks implying that the Bengalis were an inferior race in his memoirs written in 1967. [Shaukat and Siddiq Salik criticised Yahya's decision to raise more pure Bengali units with the benefit of hindsight; i.e. Salik doing it eight years after the war and Shaukat leisurely doing so some twenty years later. I remember as a school student in the period 1969-70 in Quetta where my father was a grade two staff officer of operations in the 16 Division in Quetta, that even schoolchildren (most of them being sons of army officers, Quetta being a very large garrison town) used to joke about Bengalis, bragging that one Punjabi/Pathan was equal to ten Bengalis! This was common thinking at that time and what was later branded as Yahya's blunder, much later after the 1971 fiasco, was an indisputable assertion believed as a common fact in 1970! The foreign reader may note that Bengalis were despised as a non martial race from the British times. For Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's anti Bengali views see Page-308-Aligarh's First Generation – David Lelyveld- Oxford University Press-New Delhi-1978. For I.H Qureshi's views see Page-28-Ethnicity and politics in Pakistan-Dr Feroz Ahmad-Oxford University Press-Karachi-1999. For Ayub's remarks see Page-187-Friends not Masters- Ayub Khan-Oxford University Press-Karachi-1967.]

The "Martial Races Theory" in reality was an Imperial gimmick to boost the ego of the cannon fodder. Various British writers like Philip Mason frankly admitted that the real reason for selective recruitment was political reliability in crisis situations which the Punjabis had exhibited during the 1857-58 Bengal Army rebellion. [Page—314, A Matter of Honour—Philip Mason, Jonathan Cape—London-1974.]

In August 1947 the British Indian Army was divided into the Pakistani and Indian armies. Two divergent recruitment policies were followed in both the armies. The Indians broadened their army's recruitment base, officially declaring that recruitment was open to all Indian nationals. Thus the post 1947 Indian Army drifted away from being the pre 1939 Punjabised army.

In Pakistan, Mr Jinnah the politician-statesmen who created Pakistan almost single-handedly, as the country's first Head of State, adopted a sensible policy, to make the army a national army. Jinnah ordered immediate raising of two infantry battalions of Bengali Muslims in 1948 reversing the anti Bengali policy of the pre 1947 British colonial government.

Jinnah's far sighted as well as just policy of bringing Bengalis in the fighting arms of the Pakistan Army was discontinued by General Ayub Khan who was the first Pakistani Muslim C in C of the Pakistan Army and became the Army Chief in January 1951. Ayub although allegedly guilty of tactical timidity in the WW Two in Burma had a low opinion about the Bengalis and discontinued the expansion of the East Bengal Infantry Regiment from 1951 to 1966. Thus by 1966 the Pakistan Army was a predominantly West Pakistani (Punjabi dominated) army. In addition the vast bulk of it except one infantry division was stationed in West Pakistan in line with the strategic concept evolved in Ayub's time that the defence of East Pakistan lay in West Pakistan. Thus the "Martial Races Theory" was carried on till 1971 and in 1971 the vast bulk of West Pakistanis really felt that they were a martial race. This superiority complex played a major part in the wishful thinking in the Pakistani High Command that somehow the Indians would not invade East Pakistan in strength or even if they did so, the troops of this martial race (which was subdued by an 8% Sikh minority from 1799 to 1849, till it was liberated by the English East India Company!) would frustrate the Indian Army, despite all the tangible numerical and material Pakistani inferiority.

Foreign Secretary Sultan Khan's memoirs are full of the existence of this irrational belief in the Pakistani High Command. Whatever the case at least the 1971 War proved that the real reason for the Indian Army's martial fervour or relatively better performance was the British factor, keeping in mind the net total available resources of British Empire or its allies in the two world wars.

Almost all army chiefs of Pakistan Army were selected primarily because they were perceived as reliable as well as pliable! In Addition ethnic factors Vis a Vis prevalent political considerations played a part in their selection. Thus Liaquat the first premier selected a non Punjabi as the army's first C in C since in 1950 Liaquat was involved in a political confrontation with Punjabi politicians of the Muslim League and had established a Hindustani-Pathan-Bengali alliance to sideline the Punjabi Muslims. Thus the most obvious nominee for the appointment of C in C i.e. Major General Raza, a Punjabi Muslim was not selected. Instead Ayub an ethnic Pathan, and one who already had been superseded and sidelined, and with a poor war record was selected as the first Pakistani Muslim army C in C.

Similarly Ayub selected Musa simply because Musa was perceived as loyal despite not being competent! Yahya as Gauhar Ayub's closest adviser and confidant admits, as earlier mentioned, was selected because he had hit the bottle hard; i.e. was harmless, and was loyal, and thus no danger to Ayub! In other words Gauhar advances a theory that Ayub selected Yahya (Gauhar's subjective judgement) simply because it was politically expedient for Ayub to have this particular type of man as army chief! Gauhar judgement of Yahya has little value since it was highly subjective but Ayub's reasons for selecting his army chief, as Gauhar describes it speaks volumes for the character of Ayub and I would say the orientation of all Pakistani politicians, both civilian and military!

In third world countries every army chief is a military politician! The process was carried on and continues to date but this chapter deals with only 1965-1971, so more of this later!

By January 1971 the Pakistan Army was a reasonable military machine. Its main battle tank was the Chinese T-59 which was almost as good as any Indian tank. Its strategic reserves had the potential to deter any Indian aggressive military move. It was on its way to becoming a really national army since Yahya's announcement of 1969 to allow recruitment of Bengalis in the fighting arms. Organisationally the command was coherently and logically distributed in corps and divisions and the organisational imbalances of 1965 had been totally removed. Yahya Khan had not failed as the C in C.

The Indian Army was numerically larger but the advantage was not overwhelming since the Indian Army was divided between the Chinese Border West Pakistan and East Pakistan. Technically the Indians had relatively better Soviet tanks but numerically the Pakistani armour was larger than Indian armour and possessed more higher organisational flexibility by virtue of having two full fledged armoured divisions as against one Indian armoured division.

Later events of 1971 clouded the Indian military dilemma was a possible three front war with the Indian Army divided between West Pakistan East Pakistan and the Indo Chinese border. The Pakistani defence problem was a two front war with its army divided into two parts i.e one defending the East Pakistan and the major part defending West Pakistan. The Pakistani planners had evolved a clear-cut strategy to overcome this dilemma.

The Indian strategy as it was later applied in 1971 war was based on a choice of time which reduced the likely threats that it faced from three to two since the December snow effectively nullified chances of Chinese intervention and enabled release of Indian Mountain Divisions earmarked for the Chinese Border to participate in a war against Pakistan. Even then the final Indian plan was a gamble and would have failed if Pakistan had launched a preemptive attack in October 1971. The C in C Indian Western Command admitted this fact. General Candeth who was C in C Western Command states in his book that "the most critical period was between 8 and 26 October when 1 Corps and 1 Armoured Division were still outside Western Command. Had Pakistan put in a preemptive attack during that period the consequences would have been too dreadful to contemplate and all our efforts would have been trying to correct the adverse situation forced on us".

There were however major shortcomings in both the armies at the higher leadership level. These pertained to the "Intangible aspects of military leadership". The mercenary origins of the pre 1947 Indian Army had resulted in the creation of an orders oriented machine! This was true for both Indian and Pakistani Armies. These shortcomings had their origin in the pre 1947 British era and were common with the post 1947 Indian Army.

The Indian Army's military worth was retarded and downgraded because of a civilian leadership which viewed the army as a reactionary entity consisting of mercenaries who had collaborated with the British rulers. This attitude was revised once India suffered serious loss of prestige in the Sino-Indian Border War of 1962. However changes in military spirit of an army occur very slowly and by 1971 Indian Army was still trying to recover from many teething problems. The Pakistan Army in 1947 had consisted of relatively talented as well as spirited officers. The Rawalpindi Conspiracy of 1951 had however started a witch-hunt and many dynamic officers were removed or sidelined. This conspiracy against originality and boldness had intensified when Ayub Khan started manipulating extensions from politicians and the army was reduced to a personal fiefdom of Ayub during the period 1951-1969!

In the process the Pakistan Army lost the services of many more experienced officers simply because they were sidelined through political supersession or were retired. The gap between the two Indo Pak armies in quality of experience may be gauged from the fact that the first Indian C in C was eight years senior to Ayub in service and the course mate of Musa, the second Muslim C in C of the Pakistan Army i.e Manekshaw became the Indian C in C eleven years after Musa! This may have worked positively for the Pakistan Army had Musa been a man with an independent outlook! Musa on the other hand as Gul Hassan's memoirs revealed lacked independent judgement dynamism or talent! The Pakistan army during the period 1951-71 became a highly orders oriented machine! Smart on the drill square, tactically sound but strategically barren and lacking in operational vision! One whose first Pakistani C in C was more interested in political intrigue and industrial ventures than in the basics of higher military organisation or operational strategy!

The only major difference despite all other differences between the Indian and Pakistan Armies was that the Indian Army was numerically larger than the Pakistan Army was. In quality of higher military leadership both the armies by virtue of being chips of one pre 1947 block were little different from each other!

Both the Indian and Pakistan Armies of 1971 were like the Austro-Hungarian armies of 1809. They consisted of perhaps equally brave junior leaders but were severely handicapped since rapid expansion since the Sino-Indian war of 1962 and since the 1965 war. Having more corps and division despite being impressive on paper had not made the Indian or Pakistani military machine really effective because of poor training at divisional and brigade level. Both numerically larger than they were in 1965, but were organisationally ineffective beyond battalion level, having dashing young leaders but tactically and operationally inept brigade divisional and corps commanders from the older pre 1947 commissioned generation whom were initially supposed not to go beyond company level, had the transfer of power not taken place in 1947.

The strike corps was a new concept and the Indian 1 Corps which was shortly created before the 1965 war was a newly raised formation whose corps commander and armoured divisional commanders were about to retire in 1965 when war broke out. The Indian commanders beyond unit level, as was the case with Pakistan Army, consisted of men who had experience of infantry biased operations in WW Two and did not understand the real essence of armoured warfare. It was this lack of understanding that led to the failures in achieving a decisive armour breakthrough in both sides. It was a failure of command as well as staff system where even the staff officers on both sides were too slow for armoured warfare and worked on yards and furlongs rather than miles.

Their orientation was position oriented rather than mobility oriented and their idea of a battlefield was a typical linear battlefield. Their Burma or North African experience where the Japanese and Germans frequently appeared in their rear had made them extra sensitive about their flanks. These were men who thought in terms of security rather than speed. Conformity rather than unorthodox dynamism, having been trained in the slavish colonial orders oriented British Indian Army was the cardinal script of their life. It was this British system in which every senior commander was more interested in doing the job of those one step junior to him that led to the lack of dash and initiative at brigade and battalion level. They were trained that way and their behaviour as far as the timidity at brigade and divisional level has to be taken in this context. Yahya was not a superman who could clean up the Pakistani political system and reform Pakistan Army within an year or two! He started the job of reorganising and reforming the Pakistan Army but had to leave it half way once he was forced to clean up the political mess in 1969. He made an admirable attempt to clean the political garbage which had accumulated since 1948 but was overtaken by the tide of history which in 1971 was too powerful to be manipulated by any single man!

Most Bengali troops remained initially quiet, and the lack of communication among scattered insurrectionists and between them and Bengali political leaders, do not support the thesis of a comprehensive plan for insurgency. Rather, mutual mistrust, fed by incoming news and rumours, created fluid situations that led troops, even within units, to watch each other suspiciously, a situation that could last for days or even a week locally.

Some people was an anti-Bangladesh paramilitary force organised by the Pakistan Army in Bangladesh during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 called **Razakar**. Local collaborators known as Razakars also took part in the atrocities.

The Razakars, the main collaborators with the Pakistanis, were of two categories: the Mujahids, who were partly armed with obsolete rifles and guns; and the Ansaris, who were armed only with lathis and spears. The Mujahids were almost wholly composed of Bihari or other non-Bengali Muslims; the Ansaris were mainly Biharis but also contained some Bengalis - who of course defected to a man when the uprising started.

The Mujahids remained staunch henchmen of the Pakistanis throughout the genocide campaign and during the operations: they were responsible for innumerable acts of savagery and brutality under Pakistan Army's orders and were used on an organised scale to abduct young women for Pak officers and men. The Ansaris were not nearly as fanatical and, during the operations, large numbers gave up to the Indian Army.

E. Pakistan Razakars Ordinance

The Government of East Pakistan has issued an Ordinance providing for the constitution of a voluntary force in the province known as Razakars, reports APP.

The Ordinance known as "the East Pakistan Razakars Ordinance, 1971." repeals the Ansara Act, 1948 and all properties, movable and immovable, funds, liabilities and records of the Ansar organisation shall on the commence (Continued on page 8 col. 8)

Ordinance

(Continued from page 1)

ment of this ordinance stand transferred to and vested in

Razakar organisation.

The persons recruited as Razakars shall be trained and equipped in such manner as may be determined by the Provincial Government and the Razakars shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as may be prescribed.

The Provincial Government, as laid down in the Ordinance, may by notification in the official gazette order the embodiment into the provincial police force of all Razakars or such number of them as it may determine for a specified period which may be extended from time to time.

When so embodied they shall be subject to the Police

Act. 1861.

The administration of the Razakars shall under the general control and direction of the Provincial Government, be vested in the Director.

They were not driven by any ideology, but by money, opportunity to grab property and hobnob with the military authority to intimidate their neighbours. Unfortunately, the great majority of these mischief makers could not be brought to justice after liberation as they blended very quickly with the masses.

Ziauddin M. Choudhury, author of "Fight for Bangladesh" (2011)

At the initial stage, the razakars were subordinate to the local peace committees. By the promulgation of East Pakistan Razakar Ordinance on 1 June 1971, General Tikka Khan converted the Ansars into Razakars who were recognised as the members of the Pakistan army through an ordinance of the Ministry of Defence promulgated on 7 September.

The tenure of the primary training of the Razakars was 15 days. General Ameer Abdullah Khan niazi, chief of the eastern command of the Pakistan army, took salute at the closing parade at Savar on 27 November 1971 on completion of the training of the first batch of the company commanders of Razakar force. Subsequently, the Razakar force was elevated to the status of a separate directorate.

While villagers critique the alliances between elite liberation fighters and Razakars, the reasons for poor and illiterate people to be Razakars were often very nuanced [subtle differences in meaning]. Many became a Razakar in order to prevent torture, to relieve economic need, or to prevent reprisals against their family. When I visited the home of a man who was known to be a collaborator, I found that he and his wife readily acknowledged that he worked as a Razakar during the war. He added that there was no work and that they had to eat, so he hung around with the military and guarded bridges. Similarly, a Hindu fisherman told me that Muslim families had to be on both sides to save their skins. So, in one family, there would be both Razakars and liberation fighters in order to ensure security. Sharika Thiranagama & Tobias Kelly

During the liberation war of 1971, Pakistani occupation army led by General Yahya Khan and his colleagues in collaboration with the anti liberation forces (Jamat, Muslim League, and other religious political parties) of Bangladesh killed a total of 3 million unarmed Bengalis, molested and raped about 450,000 Bangalee women and, on the eve of the independence, murdered hundreds of leading intellectuals to spiritually cripple the nation. A crime far exceeds, in its atrocity and inhumanity, the crimes of Hitler, Melosevich, the nazis and the fascists.

In early March 1971, 300 Biharis were slaughtered in rioting by Bengali mobs in Chittagong alone. The Government of Pakistan used the 'Bihari massacre' to justify its deployment of the military in East Pakistan on 25 March, when it initiated its infamous Operation Searchlight. When the war broke out in 1971, the Biharis sided with the Pakistani Army. Some of them joined Razakar and Al-Shams militia groups and participated in the persecution and genocide of their Bengali countrymen, in retaliation for atrocities committed against them by Bengalis,[143] including the widespread looting of Bengali properties and abetting other criminal activities. It is alleged that Awami League-aligned militias carried out large scale massacres of Biharis and other ethnic groups.

The East Pakistan Razakar Ordinance promulgated on 1 June 1971 by the Governor of East Pakistan, Lieutenant General Tikka Khan. The Ordinance stipulated the creation of a voluntary force to be trained and equipped by the Provincial Government. This was to add to the government's forces to suppress the rebellion of people who wanted independence for the region. It is also alleged that Razakars were recruited by the Shanti Committee, which was formed by several pro-Pakistani leaders including Nurul Amin, Ghulam Azam and Khwaja Khairuddin. The first recruits included 96 Jamaat party members, who started training in an Ansar camp at Shahjahan Ali Road, Khulna.

Many of those killed were the victims of radical religious paramilitary militias formed by the West Pakistani Army, including the Razakars, Al-Shams and Al-Badr forces. The Razakar forces violated Geneva Conventions of War by killing, raping, murdering and looting the Civilians.

The Razakars were paid by the Pakistan Army and Provincial Government. ["Razakars pay revised upwards". *The Pakistan Observer.* 20 November 1971.] Leading supporters of a united Pakistan urged General Yahya Khan to increase the number of Razakars and given them more arms to extend their activities in East Pakistan.

Rural and urban areas across East Pakistan saw extensive military operations and airstrikes to suppress the tide of civil disobedience that formed following the 1970 election stalemate. The Pakistan Army, which had the backing of Islamists, created radical religious militias – the Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams – to assist it during raids on the local populace. Members of the Pakistani military and supporting militias engaged in mass murder, deportation and genocidal rape. The capital Dhaka was the scene of numerous massacres, including the Dhaka University killings.

Bengalis accused non-Bengalis [usually referred to as Biharis] comprising a large part of the razakars, however, in reality many razakars were Bengalis, particularly in rural areas. This means that the conflicts divided the Bengali communities. <u>Christian Gerlach</u>

At first, resistance was spontaneous and disorganised, and was not expected to be prolonged. However, when the Pakistani Army cracked down upon the population, resistance grew. The Mukti Bahini became increasingly active. The Pakistani military sought to quell them, but increasing numbers of Bengali soldiers defected to this underground "Bangladesh army". These Bengali units slowly merged into the Mukti Bahini and bolstered their weaponry with supplies from India. Pakistan responded by airlifting in two infantry divisions and reorganising their forces. They also raised paramilitary forces of Razakars, Al-Badrs and Al-Shams (who were mostly members of the Muslim League and other Islamist groups), as well as other Bengalis who opposed independence, and Bihari Muslims who had settled during the time of partition.

The most extreme cases of targeted killing of intellectuals took place during the last few days of the war. Professors, journalists, doctors, artists, engineers and writers were rounded up by the Pakistani Army and the Razakar militia in Dhaka, blindfolded, taken to torture cells in Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Nakhalpara, Rajarbagh and other locations in different sections of the city to be executed en masse, most notably at Rayerbazar and Mirpur. Allegedly, the Pakistani Army and its paramilitary arm, the Al-Badr and Al-Shams forces created a list of doctors, teachers, poets, and scholars.

To Yahya Khan, the East Pakistani version of Islam was not good enough, the people of a mixed race from the Hinduinised population, not 'pure' Muslims. Not quite human. So easy to kill, subhumans. <u>Abu Zubair</u>, author of "The Silent and the Lost" (2011)

The war criminals of Bangladesh liberation war were never tried and they have never apologized for their crimes to the nation:

- 1. Killing of 50,000 Bengalis in Dhaka on 25 and 26 March, 1971 under the military operation code named "operation searchlight". and ruthless massacre of 3 million unarmed Bengalis over nine months of armed occupation by Pakistani military.
- 2. Senseless and wanton loots, rapes, arson and killings in Bangladeshi countryside during the course of the "sweeping operations" following the military crackdown.
- 3. Pre Planned killings of intellectuals and professionals like doctors, engineers, civil servants, students and social workers and burying them in mass graves over nine months occupation to spiritually cripple the Bengalis.
- 4. Rapes and molestation of 450,000 Bangalee women by the officers and soldiers of Pakistani occupation army as a deliberate act of revenge, retaliation and torture. Use of thousands of Bangalee women as sex slaves and comfort girls in military camps and bunkers by the members of all ranks of Pakistani occupation army.
- 5. Ethnic (Hindu) cleansing. Forced pregnancy of Hindu women and deliberate killing of Hindu males to exterminate Bengalee Hindus as a race.

Bangladeshi conventional forces attacked border outposts. Kamalpur, Belonia and the Battle of Boyra are a few examples. 90 out of 370 BOPs fell to Bengali forces. Guerrilla attacks intensified, as did Pakistani and Razakar reprisals on civilian populations. Pakistani forces were reinforced by eight battalions from West Pakistan. The Bangladeshi independence fighters even managed to temporarily capture airstrips at Lalmonirhat and Shalutikar. Both of these were used for flying in supplies and arms from India. Pakistan sent another five battalions from West Pakistan as reinforcements.

The Indian Army of 1971 was much larger than the Indian Army of 1965! It was many times superior strategically and operationally to the 1965 Indian Army in terms of material strength, technological strength and numerical strength. The Pakistani defence problem was far more complex in 1971 than in 1965. Even in terms of foreign policy Pakistan had just been ditched by one superpower in 1965.

The situation in 1971 was far more worse since India had been adopted by another superpower which, unlike the Naive half hearted, American Village maiden, was resolutely poised to go with India through thick and thin! Yahya made unique and brilliant moves to bring the USA and China together and vainly hoped that the Americans would help him! Unfortunately the US betrayed a country which had been loyally served US interests since 1954! Foreign Secretary Sultan Khan's memoirs recognise Yahya's contributions and dismiss many myths about Yahya having gone out of his way to annoy the Soviets. This aspect is however beyond the scope of this article.

This war is known in Bangla as **Muktijuddho** or **Swadhinata Juddho**. [*Historical Dictionary of Bangladesh*, Page 289] This war is also called the **Civil War** in Pakistan. [Moss, Peter (2005). *Secondary Social Studies For Pakistan*. Karachi: Oxford University Press. p. 93. ISBN 9780195977042. Retrieved 10 June 2013.]

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Did Pakistanis actually kill 1 million Bengalis in 1971?

https://www.quora.com/Did-Pakistanis-actually-kill-1-million-Bengalis-in-1971

I want to answer this question and simultaneously issue a internet apology to my Bangladeshi brethren about this ghastly crime against Humanity which the Pakistan Army perpetrated from March 26th 1971 till Dec 16th 1971.

Here is a detailed link to that colossal crime against humanity: <u>Bangladesh Genocide Archive</u>



If I was a Pakistani Prime Minister, then, I would have visited this monument and knelt down in contrition like this man (Willi Brandt) did at the Warsaw Ghetto memorial in Poland and utter the following words after learning to say them clearly in Bengali.

Under the oppressive weight of recent history, I need to do what people do when words fail them.

In this humble way I on behalf of the people of Pakistan, commemorate the millions of murdered people Of East Bengal and apologize on behalf of the people of Pakistan to the people of Bangladesh.



As a conscientious Pakistani from the Punjab province of Pakistan, (people from this province constituted a large number of Pakistan army personnel in 1971.) I wish to say that, to deny this monstrous crime which was perpetrated against the East Bengali people by the Pakistan Army, or to say that it is exaggerated, is a renewed, shameless and remorseless attack on the dignity of the people of East Bengal.

At the same time I would also like to add that the backlash which was felt by the Biharis and Pakistani army personnel was also tremendous and humanity on the whole suffered greatly during that year - 1971 in East Pakistan which later became independent as the nation of Bangladesh.

So the answer to this question is an emphatic YES and there is an article in wikipedia also about this. 1971 Bangladesh genocide

What ? 1 million, I agree that a lot of Kashmiris are killed in roits since 1948,but I don't think that death toll in kashmir will be one million ,the death toll in kashmir is much lower , which also include millitants .

What about kashmiri Pandits?

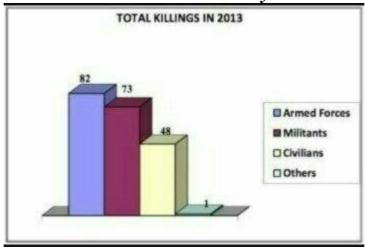
All the kashmiri hindus were forced to leave the valley and the ones who goes against the separatists were killed.



After 1990–1991 there were 160,000-170,000 kashmiri pandit living in the Kashmir valley from a total of 7 to 8 lakh. The left kashmiri pandits were also forced to leave the kashmir. Further there were much more declining in population of kashmiri pandits.



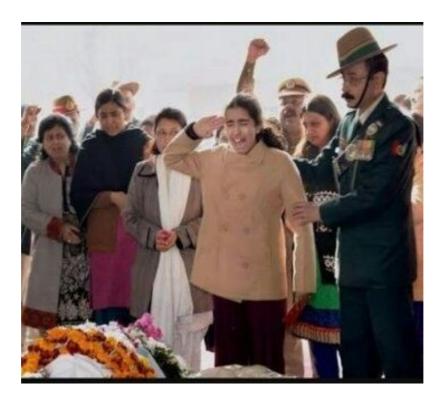
What about Indian army?



More no of Armed forces were killed as compared to millitants and civilians in 2013.

Have a look at these pictures.







Do you still think that life of kashmiri separatists is more important than our army officers?

It is easy to ignore those who suffered fates that were worse than death ie the women and children. The Pakistani army indulged in mass rapes of Bengali women and children. I recently came across a blog called 'Anushay's Point' on WordPress which has mind numbing personal accounts of women during the war. It was too disturbing to read. The Pakistani army was given orders to eliminate all intellectuals and leave their 'seed' behind, which they did with impunity. Rape is institutional in Islam, even the Quran justifies the rape of 'captured' slaves. Recently, a Pakistani woman Qandeel Baloch was raped and murdered by her own brother.

Australian Dr.Geoffrey Davis who was called in after the war has written in his account that over 400,000 women and children were raped by the Pakistanis. More than 100,000 abortions were carried out after the war. Dr.Davis himself suffered mental health issues owing to the sheer volume of carnage and suffering he witnessed. Geoffrey Davis (doctor) - Wikipedia

Pakistan was largely illiterate back in 1971 and not much has changed in 40 years. They have continuously denied participating in mass rapes though the numbers are quite clearly in front of us. Obviously, poor uneducated people are easier to brainwash. Pakistanis are doing the same to minority Hindus and Baloch even to this day. Let the world know this so that countries like Pakistan are never allowed to develop. No matter what they achieve, their DNA will not change. I'm a Pakistani woman who was lucky enough to leave my country several years ago. Pakistan's history and past deeds make me feel really ashamed.

Every time this question pops up, our Bangali and Indian brothers just pick up the calculator and start solving the math puzzles. My dear brothers and sisters, the genocide is not a math equation. Its not an arithmetic problem to be solved on paper and calculator. There were 3 million people killed, 400k ladies raped (As per your claim), If that is true, or even 40/50% of this hoax is true, There must be fields full of bodies, mass graves, Hidden slaughter houses all over Bangladesh, even Hitler with his organized mass killing and ethnic cleansing capabilities and with the gas chambers was not able to achieve this figure.

Whenever this issue is discussed, why do our Indian and Bangladeshi friends start to argue about the possibilities and probabilities of this act? If such massacre occurred, you don't need calculators and paper pencils and multiplication/division to prove this. How many independent researchers, journalists back this figure provided by Bangla Bandhu??

So my dear Indian and Bangali friends, stop using paper and pencils to prove it, this massive number of killing and rape can not remain hidden from the world, If there is evidence, show it to the world, and I will be the first one to apologize and curse Pakistan Army..

And now some facts. BEHIND THE MYTH OF THREE MILLION By Dr. M. Abdul Mu'min Chowdhury http://www.storyofbangladesh.com...

Myth-busting the Bangladesh war of 1971 P.S. I am not claiming that there was no killing at all.

I wonder where this figure came from. There surely were killings but to say that Pak Army killed 3 million is a blatant lie/extreme exaggeration.

I'll suggest the following books written by prominant Indian journalists and military officers that will make you get a clear picture of the situation there.

1. 'Dead Reckoning' by Sharmeela Bose; a journalist of Indian Bengali origin.

She says in her book;

"During the research of war in 1971, Bangali people provided me most important information which helped me. But most uncanny truth is that I couldn't find any testimony that neither women had been raped and nor any child victimized by PAK ARMY. That clearly shows how the propaganda had been created on large scale to fulminate Bengali people against the state (Pakistan)"

2. 'Mission R&AW' by the ex Indian Intelligence Officer RK Yadav. In this book he exposes India's Anti-Pakistan activities during the '71 war and explains how it created hatred among the Bengali people against the state.

On Page 231, he writes:

"Since the Indian Army was not prepared and well-equipped for an immediate army action at that point (March 1971), it was planned to raise and train a guerrilla outfit of the Bengali refugees of East Pakistan by R&AW which would harass the Pakistan Army till the Indian Army would be ready for the final assault to the liberation of East Pakistan. She (Indira Gandhi) then asked R.N. Kao, Chief of R&AW, to prepare all possible grounds for the army for its final assault when the clearance from General Maneckshaw was received for its readiness for the war."

3. "Courage and Courage" by General V K Singh, a politician and retired four star army general. In the book he reveals that that the Indian Army soldiers disguised as Mukti Bahini fought against the Pakistan Army and carried out chaos missions to discredit the Armed forces during the Bangladesh 'liberation' war. He further goes on to claim credit for India which he claims created Bangladesh.

Besides this, as a friend here referred that those who give this number should better take 10th grade math course. The operation search light lasted for about 9 months. Now, just calculate how many people were killed each day by Pakistani army.

(3,000,000/(9*30) = 11111.111111

This means that Pakistani Army killed approximately 11 000 people each day! You only need to have common sense to understand.

First of all the 3 million figure and the 200,000 rape figure, which has now been inflated to 400,000 in one comment is false, even the highest possible number is very far from the 3 million figure, here is a copy and paste which proves it, needless to say any number of Bengalis killed/raped is not something to be taken lightly. The genocide of the Biharis should not be ignored and the notion that Bengalis were unarmed/victims is also false many where equipped and had weapons on par with the Pakistani Army imported from India even before the military operation. Many Bangladeshi freedom fighters did not have the stomach when it started. Bangladeshis also destroyed properties of Pakistanis and attacked and looted Pakistanis even before the military operation.

Where ever the 3 million figure is mentioned it's said to be from Bangladesh or Indian sources which where heavily biased during the war. Since the creation of Bangladesh it has been propagated that Pakistan Army killed more than 3 million Bengali's and raped 200,000 Bengali women in 1971. Tracing the origin of the myth of killing of 3 million, it is revealed that the figure first appeared as on December 23, 1971 in an editorial piece of Pravda, well known then for anti Pakistan postures of the Kremlin. This "figure", was endorsed by Mujib in his interview with BBC's David Frost on January 18, 1972 while he was intoxicated.

Here is the first testimony from Serajur Reman, the former deputy head of the BBC Bangla Programme in the UK contesting Mujib's claim. In a letter to The Guardian on May 24, 2011 he wrote, "On 8th January 1972, I was the first Bangladeshi to meet independent leader Sheikh Mujibur-Reman after his release from Pakistan I [Serajur Rehman] explained that no accurate figure of the casualties was available but our estimate, based on information from various sources, was that up to "Three lakh" (300,000) died in the conflict. To my surprise and horror, he told David Frost later that "three million of my people "were killed by the Pakistanis. Whether he mistranslated "lakh" as "million" or his confused state of mind was responsible, I don't know, but many Bangladeshis still believe a figure of three million is unrealistic and incredible"

Sayyid Karim, Bangladesh's first foreign secretary, as reported by David Bergman, a Bangladesh based British Journalist in 2011, wrote, "As for the number of Bengalis killed in the course of the liberation war, the figure of 3 million mentioned by Mujib to David Frost in January 1972, was a gross overstatement. This figure was picked up by him from an article in 'Pravda' the organ of the communist party of the Soviet Union".

In order to cherry pick proof for the plucked-out-of-thin-air 3 million figure, Mujib constituted a Commission on January 29, 1972 to locate mass graves or other verifiable evidence. Chowdhary Abdul Mumin in his book Behind the Myth of Three Million, published in 1973, reported that this Commission comprised representatives from the Army, Border Security Force, Rangers, Police and Civil Administration. Despite their best efforts, this Commission completely failed to locate any mass graves or other evidence of any kind. The Commission gave a newspaper advertisement offering 1,000 Taka to anyone who comes forward with figures of the dead. Only 38,000 came forward. The Commission then conjured up a figure of a 56,743 deaths. Mujib showed great displeasure at the Commission's findings and disbanded it, stating, "I have declared three million dead, and your report could not come up with three scores thousands! What report you have prepared? Keep your report to yourself. What I have said once shall prevail".

Western independent sources too solidly rubbish this 3 million figure. The Peace Research Institute in Norway along with Uppsala University of Sweden in their findings in 1972, estimated that about 58,000 people died in 1971. In addition to this, in June 1972, William Durmmond in the LA Times reported that "...... the figure of 3 million deaths is an exaggeration so gross as to be absurd no more than 25,000 people died." On March 1st, 1973, Swedish journalist Ingvar Oja reported in Dagens Nyheter, the largest daily of Stockholm: "The allegation regarding the killing of 3 million people is highly exaggerated, not more than 50,000 people died in East Pakistan". Sarmila Bose the famous Bengali Indian writer and Research Associate at Oxford University, in her book, Dead Reckoning in 2011, writes ".... the number 3 million appears to be not more than a gigantic rumor". She estimated that around 50,000 – 100,000 people including Bengali's, Beharis and West Pakistanis may have perished in the conflict in East Pakistan.

The repeated claims of 3 million killed and the rape of 200,000 Bengali women were stopped after a tripartite agreement between Pakistan, India and Bangladesh in April 1974. During the regimes of Gen Zia, Gen Husain Mohammad Ershad and later Khaleda Zia, the Bangladesh government was more pragmatic and made friendly overtures to Pakistan. However, the present government of Haseena Wajid of Awami League continues to use this exaggerated lie of 3 million killed to hatemonger if not to evoke the baser emotions of its electorate to cultivate support and also to court favors from India.

Even basic arithmetic, which seems to be beyond the grasp of the Bangladeshi establishment, shows the unabashed absurdity of the 3 million killed and 200,000 women raped myths.

Also the army action started in 26 March and lasted till 16 December 1971 - a total of 262 days. This implies that about 11,450 Bengali's would need to have been picked-up, killed and buried every day. When compared to the 2nd World War for instance, the 6 million Jews killed by Nazi Germany in 6 years comes to 2,740 killed every day.

The other myth regarding 200,000 Bengali Women raped by Pakistani Army in 1971 was also investigated by the above Commission. This time they had offered 3,000 Taka for any informant of rape. Only 2,680 cases came forward. The Commission rounded it to 25,000 victims. This was also not acceptable to Mujib. This estimate 200,000 rapes has also been rejected by an Austrian based academic, Bina D'Casta, who had researched this area and who believes that the number is too high. Further, Tajamul Hussain, Bengali freelance journalist in his book "Bangladesh victim of Black Propaganda Intrigue and Indian Hegemony", writes that General Manikshaw was seriously felt embarrassed at the figures and thinks that 3 million killed and 200,000 women alleged to have been violated seem fictitious, baseless and far removed from the truth.

Here is a very common opinion in Pakistan:

"The operation search light lasted for about 9 months. Now, just calculate how many people were killed each day by Pakistani army.

(3,000,000/(9*30) = 11111.111111

This means that Pakistani Army killed approximately 11 000 people each day! You only need to have common sense to understand. There definitely were mass killings but not upto 3 million. Those Indians or Bengalis who give this number should better take 10th grade math course."

Edit: The answer which I wrote first (before it was collapsed due to the number of downvotes) is written with the apostrophes above.But some people don't want to accept the truth.This is a solid fact. But still there are people who have nothing inside there heads.

I have the right to express my opinion as long as I maintain the boundaries set by Quora or those on ethics. You see, truth hurts more when it is revealed late. And of-course, people have the right to hate me, by calling me a terrorist or whatever! But they can't cut the facts. By no means they are able to reduce a zero from 11000 to make it look more probable.

Debunked

The fantastic figure of three million Bengalis massacred by west Pakistani army has been debunked by series of journalists and historians but with Hasina Sheikh now hinting at declaring March 25 as the "Genocide Day" this figure is back in news – at least in Bangladesh and to a lesser degree in India. Let us think for a few moments about the implications of believing in a massacre of 3 million Bengali Muslims at the hands of the Pakistani armed forces in 1971. Was such a massacre possible, could it have remained hidden? or is it even conscionable – to believe that the Pakistan armed forces – numbered around 26,000 in March 1971 – were capable of perpetrating, on their own country folk, a genocide so heinous that it would put Emperor Leopold II at shame and draw cheers from the Nazis. It defies common sense and rationality and there is ample proof that it did not happen. The notorious Dr. Joseph Goebbels has been credited with saying something along the lines of; "if you tell the same lie enough times, people will believe it; and the bigger the lie, the better. "This quote truly encapsulates the designs of the Bangladeshi establishment -once again under Hasina Sheikh, and under Indian tutelage – in their efforts to endlessly benefit from the tragedies of 1971 at the expense of Pakistan. Goals are also to control Bangladeshi politics and to sow seeds of hatred between future generations of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

Yes that number was either killed, or repeatedly raped, or fled as refugees to India. It was one of the most brutal genocides the world has seen. Living in Calcutta, I could see the poor, almost starving men, women and children spending life on the streets. The US knew about it all along, their consulate in Dhaka kept informing President Nixon about the goings-on. But in his sick mind, South Asians were beggars and barbarians, and he had to use Pakistan's inter-mediation in achieving the historic detente meeting with Mao in China.

What nonsense is this asking such funny question s here. Gentleman whom you are calling Indians? All Kashmiris are Indian than who killed whom?

Only the genocide (which also is doubtful), happened in Kashmir was killing of Kashmiri pandits by Kashmiri Muslims that also the toll can't be 1 million because total population is Kashmir valley presently is also about 69 lakhs means 6.9 million.

And all these nonsense against India started after Pakistan,s incrusion in J&K . You should have asked this question about Pakistanis and not Indians.

Sheikh Mujib was the first guy to say that "3-million people were killed or raped in 1971 war". Because, he mistranslated 'lakh' as 'million'. "Lakh" is a subcontinental unit where 'million' is a British unit.

Thereby he started the era of a great lie which is still haunting Bangladesh. 1 million = 10 lakh.

Jamaat, other anti-liberation forces and war criminals of 1971 https://mm-gold.azureedge.net/1971/English/war criminals.html





Ms. Farida Banu, younger sister of Dhaka University teacher Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed filed a case with Ramna Police station on 24 September 1997, about kidnapping and killing of his brother. This case could very well be one of the routine FIR that Ramna police receives daily but in reality, it was not. A sister demanding justice for his slain brother filed it after long twenty-six years of the incident. Her brother was a victim of 1971 genocide. All over the country, still there are, like her, relatives of other three million or so similar victims of genocide, who are still waiting for acknowledgment and accounts.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which swung into action immediately, believes he was killed "under the same blueprint" as all other intellectuals, at the fag end of the liberation war. The Investigators, according to press reports, have assumed Chowdhury Mueen Uddin, Ashrafuzzaman and others behind this killing. Chowdhury Mueen Uddin, whose picture was printed in the newspaper as the principal Al-Badar killer over Bangladesh after independence, was also investigated by the British television, Channel Four, in a program 'War Crimes File' in 1995.

The German writer Jurgen Fuchs once said to Adam Michnik, a leader of the Polish opposition to communist rule about crimes committed during the communist regime in East Germany that "if we do not solve this problem in a definite way, it will haunt us." The past has a curious habit of coming back, again and again, if a proper strategy is not followed by the successor governments. In Bangladesh, past has never left even after its twenty-six years as the burden of the past could not be shaken off if no justice is done.

Tormented societies cannot forgive and forget and go on to the order of a new day unless ways are found to bring the society to come to terms. Filing of Ms. Banu's case and the police investigation exemplifies that in Bangladesh, past has, as yet, remained to be solved.

The purpose of this article is to find out the strategies, in general, for a nation to cope with its past. It then intents to examine the process adopted in Bangladesh to deal with the past, in this case, 1971 genocide. Finally, some conclusions to devise appropriate ways to live with the past will be made, which batters the society daily.

Criminal Prosecution:

By bringing action against perpetrators, their superiors and collaborators, a new regime can signal to victims and to the whole community that the state no longer considers the victims to be outcasts. The judicial process itself can also permit individual survivors and relatives and friends of victims to tell their stories, to document the torment and the suffering and to ventilate the feelings and emotions that have remained pent-up inside.

Another important reason for prosecuting those who commit and those who order genocide is that those who have been the direct victims will then see that justice has been done. For victims, seeing their tormentors brought to justice can have a strong therapeutic effect. Punishing the perpetrators of the old regime advances the cause of building or reconstructing a morally just society. Justice be done to put back in place the moral order that has broken down. Justice be done as a moral obligation to the victims of the repression. Post- genocide justice serves to heal the wounds and repair the private and public damage done. It also acts, as a sort of ritual cleansing process. A country in which such cleansing remains unfinished are plagued by continuous brooding and pondering.

Criminal prosecutions also strengthens fragile democracies. Survival of the successor regime depends on swift and firm action against the perpetrators and their following. If the prosecution issue remains untouched, other forms of social and political disturbance may be triggered, with perhaps a risk of vigilante justice with summery executions. It may also give birth to conspiracy theories in which the leaders of the successor regime are labeled as the hidden agents of the old order that they are treating in a too soft and ambiguous way.

Failure to prosecute may generate in the populace cynicism and distrust toward the political system. Unless the crimes of the defeated are investigated and punished, there can be no real growth of trust, no i

mplanting of democratic norms in the society at large, and therefore no genuine consolidation of democracy. Prosecutions are seen as the most potent deterrent against future abuses of human rights. A civilized society must recognize the worth and dignity of those victimized by abuses of the past. This has been the official policy toward collaborators in all West European countries which, during World War II, were occupied by Germans.

After Hitler's occupation and genocide, the slogan in occupying countries were; "no place left for those who had betrayed their country." The number of unpatriotic citizens who suffered punishment in one or another form was about 100.000 in Belgium, 110.000 in The Netherlands, and 130.000 in France. The figure was remarkably high in Belgium and The Netherlands, which had in 1945, population of 8.3 and 8.8 million respectively. The number of death penalties was 6.763 in France, 2.940 in Belgium, and 152 in The Netherlands. Various prison sentences were awarded to 53.000 in Belgium, 49.000 in The Netherlands, and 40.000 in France. Imprisonment was almost always accompanied by other sanctions: a fine, confiscation of personal goods, police supervision after the end of the prison term, the obligation to reside in a specific town. In Belgium, damages had to be paid to the state, out of marital goods or from their heirs if necessary. Tens of thousands of Dutchmen suffered the loss of nationality. In Germany, international community put the principal perpetrators of holocaust on trial, and others were tried too.

Disqualification:

Disqualification of the perpetrators, of their agents or of other willing participants, is a second way to address the question. The idea being, those who have acted against the people or have collaborated, forfeited some of their rights, including political and civil rights, sometimes disqualification accompanies a criminal conviction, as occurred in post-war Belgium, France, and The Netherlands. These countries also introduced some form of `national indignity', which implied a series of civic disqualifications and a prohibition of some kinds of professional activity. In other instances, as in most of the post-communist countries of East and Central Europe, disqualification has been preferred as a way to sidestep criminal prosecution.

Amnesty:

Post-genocide traumatized society often has to make a dichotomous choice between two perilous options, should the perpetrators be prosecuted or should they be amnestied in the interests of national reconciliation? For purely politically motivated crimes, granting of unconditional amnesty could be an option. In some instances, the outgoing government unilaterally award themselves self-amnesty. In other instances impunity, is the outcome of negotiations between old and new leaders.

Amnesty endangers the inculcation of codes of conduct based on rule of law. It is discriminatory application of criminal law, privileging certain defendants, which bread cynicism toward the rule of law. Moreover, States have the duty to prosecute violations of international law like genocide. Such crimes cannot be unilaterally forgiven; even a victim society cannot forgive crimes against humanity.

Truth Commission:

Amnesty, but not amnesia, is the substance of the fourth strategy. The first goal of such a commission is to investigate the fates, under the occupying regime, of individuals and of the nation as a whole. A truth telling operation, including full disclosure of human rights abuses, ensure that "the facts" are not forgotten but remain alive in the memory.

The perpetrators come out openly, reveal all the facts and face the victims publicly and see the results of their actions. Recent examples are the Chilean National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation (1990), the United Nations sponsored Truth Commission in El Salvador and ongoing Truth Commission in South Africa. However, for some, general knowledge of the truth is not enough. An official recognition of the injustices that have been suffered is necessary.

Reparation:

For the families of victims and survivors, compensation serves as immediate public recognition of their pain and trauma. The most concrete form of reparation is monetary compensation. Financial constraints may not permit large-scale payments, but it is still important to provide financial compensation to the victim family either individually or the whole community. Examples are abound, Germany's reparation to Jews and Israel, Japan's to Korea.

Permanent Reminders:

Establishment of permanent reminders of the past, such as monuments, museums, public holidays, and ceremonies together with support group, provide a channel of non-violent _expression of pain, frustration and anger.

Public Airing Of Grievances:

The public airing of grievances in a non-criminal context could possibly promote an atmosphere in which some kind of national reconciliation would be feasible. Publicly acknowledging the torment and suffering of victims and survivors can help in the recovery of their social and political well being as it helps them psychologically and contributes to defusing potential cycles of revenge and victimization.

Documentation:

It is very important to establish a permanent historical record that would inform and educate future generations to prevent similar atrocities. Future generations must be taught about the dangers of repeating the past.

Thus, documentation of genocide and identification of the violators in some kind of public record at the national or at the international should be done. Oral histories of survivors and other witnesses can be collected. Testimonies of perpetrators and their superiors can be recorded. Findings of the Commissions, trial transcripts, or the perpetrators own documentations should be published.

Voices Of The Victims:

Another avenue of redress could be forums with opportunities for survivors in communicating their stories. First hand testimonies of survivors could be incorporated into programs in military and police courses, medical and law schools. Similarly, they could be invited to lecture in primary and secondary schools, in history and social studies classes, and in university in various relevant courses. In press and broadcasting, victims perspectives are particularly pertinent.

Bangladesh: Botched Strategies

Bangladesh had to deal with the aftermath of genocide soon after the perpetrator's defeat. It became an inescapable task for the new democracy. The incidents of private revenges began to be noticed, and the state quite rightly made choices to prosecute the perpetrators and the collaborators.

It was expected that by applying the law firmly and fairly, the state will avoid vigilantism. But the new government, it transpires, did not have a well thought out strategy to deal with the post-genocide society. In Bangladesh, the genocide was carried out by the Pakistani government and its army, alongside the war of occupation. In Pakistan, the leadership and the elites, mostly migrated from India, were essentially racist, held "superior race" view vis-à-vis Bangladeshis. This was epitomized by General Ayub Khan, when, as early as 1954, he jotted down his thoughts that Bangalees "have all the inhibitions of down-trodden races and have not yet found it possible to adjust psychologically to the requirements of the new-born freedom." (Mohammad Ayub Khan, Friends No Masters: A Political Biography, 1967, page 187).

Pakistani leadership mixed racial chauvinism with religion, and the resultant cocktail was the basis of genocide. The politics just triggered off the genocide mechanism. Pakistanis were led to believe both by their political and religious leaders, about the "imported" nature of Islam in their part of Pakistan and as such "purer" than "converted" Bangladesh Muslims from lower caste Hindus.

In 1970, when the people of Bangladesh overwhelmingly voted for virtual autonomy to run their own affair and not to remain a market for overpriced Pakistani products and source of capital for Pakistan's development, Pakistani military and political elites jointly drew-up two plans, firstly, to unleash unimaginable terror, killings and destructions, to cow the people and then to "cleanse East Pakistan once and for all of the threat of secession" and planned to "kill off two million people and ruling the province as a colony for 30 years." The combination of racial hate, religion and politico-economic interests converged and formed classic background for a genocide. Hitler too believed Jews to be `unclean' plague and threat to German Aryan race. He was weary of Jews growing hold over economy who conspire against Germany.

Pakistanis too never trusted Bangalees where it mattered most, in power. Bangalees fought back, first, in defense and then to get the country free from Pakistani occupation. The war started and the Pakistanis began a loosing battle. Pakistanis too, on one front, faced the valiant Freedom Fighters, guerrillas and regular sorts and on the other hand, meticulously carried out genocidal plan. The result: total destruction of infrastructure and economy of Bangladesh, ten million people driven out of the country, twenty million people internally displaced, fifteen million houses set ablaze, three hundred thousand women raped and three million killed. The new government, within six weeks of victory, introduced laws, the Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunals) Order, 1972 (P.O.No.8 of 1972), to deal with the collaborators who had "participated with or aided or abetted the occupation army in maintaining, sustaining, strengthening, supporting or furthering the illegal occupation of Bangladesh by such army." The Collaborators Order did not contain punishment for planning or organizing genocide, which took over a year and half to produce.

In July,1973, the parliament passed the International Crimes Act (Tribunals) Act,1973 (Act No. XIX of 1973) to provide for detention, prosecution and punishment for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes under international law.

The Act was to set-up a Tribunal with power "to try and punish any person irrespective of his nationality who, being a member of any armed, defense and auxiliary forces commits or has committed, in the territory of Bangladesh, crimes against humanity, crimes against peace, genocide and war crimes, whether before or after the commencement of this Act." The law, at last, provided forums to prosecute the principal perpetrators and planners of genocide, the army and the members of paramilitary organizations like, the Razakars, Al-Badars, Al-Shams etc.

Thus, the government chose to put the collaborators, mainly the local people, who participated or aided the occupation army in maintaining illegal occupation, on trial first, instead of the principal planners and perpetrators of genocide. A number of them were picked up and faced the Special Tribunals. However, in November, 1973 the government decided to release, under an amnesty order, all those held and convicted under the Collaborators Order for national reconciliation. The amnesty was massively misconstrued and widely abused. In the end, all the collaborators of genocide were freed.

As the later events showed, not a single individual was finally prosecuted and tried for genocide in Bangladesh. The new elites this botched strategy of criminal prosecution for genocide failed. It did not do any justice to the victims who died, did not satisfy people like Ms. Farida Banu, immediate families of the victims. Finally, it failed to generate any reconciliation between the perpetrators and the victims because the government acted alone in deciding the strategy and then granting amnesty.

The victim families and the nation at large was not consulted in any manner. The high principles of rule of law was s acrificed. Questions began cropping up, if one was not punished for crime like genocide of three million, then what crime merited punishment?

Secondly, Bangladesh also tried "disqualification" strategy again not in any cohesive manner. Disqualification was not to be a part of criminal prosecution as there were not much prosecution to start with. Even disqualification was not practiced independently of criminal prosecution. As such, the collaborators did not forfeit any civil or political rights despite their collaboration. No one was disqualified from exercising civil and political rights in a new country whose birth they opposed in participating in genocide.

The government, instead, prohibited politics based on religion. Article 12 of the newly adopted Constitution declared: "The principle of secularism shall be realized by elimination of (a) communalism in all its forms; (b) the granting by the State of political status in favor of any religion; (c) the abuse of religion for political purposes; (d) any discrimination against, or persecution of, persons practicing a particular religion." However, Article 12 of the Constitution of Bangladesh containing fundamental state principles of secularism was removed by General Ziaur Rahman through Martial Law Proclamation Order No. I of 1977.

Thus, however commendable, this strategy to deal with genocide failed too. Government's compensation scheme for the victim families has not worked either nor other attempts of reconciliation, rather the fault-line has expanded to divide the society right in the middle.

Ways Ahead:

Finally, Bangladesh must now devise appropriate strategy to deal with the past from various alternatives. The worst solution would be to try to ignore the problem; the cost of cover-up are simply too big as the last twenty-six years have demonstrated. But the leaders should never forget that the lack of political pressure to put these issues on the agenda does not mean that they are not boiling underground, waiting to erupt. They will come back to haunt. There are some who believe economic development will be the panacea. They are wrong. Developed countries like Germany, France, Germany are still struggling to come to term with the past despite building affluent societies. Social harmony, peace and human rights are necessary ingredients for human and economic development and without justice, there cannot be harmony, piece and human rights.

Reconciliation is seen as a crucial prerequisite for the consolidation of a young democracy. To some analysts, reconciliation can only be produced if the successor elite refrain from prosecuting the previous regime. Others, however, argue that impunity precludes the coming of reconciliation. In Bangladesh, lack of prosecution has failed to bring reconciliation or the strengthening of democracy.

In post-genocide Bangladesh, the religious fanaticism, extremism and fundamentalism have made solid inroad into the society. Successive governments have, for political convenience, compromised and on occasions cajoled Islamic fanatics. The Collaborators, even after amnesty, continued activities to throttle down the spirits of liberation, which has given rise to demands for new laws to curb the activities of Islamic fundamentalist and communal elements. These Islamic parties propagate same brand of Islam which resulted in genocide in 1971, the communal, sexist, hate and violence.

Hence, for justice and reconciliation, some prosecutions must go ahead. No new laws, however, are required. The Collaborators Order, though has since been repealed, the International Crimes Act,1973 still remains a valid law. The Act is a complete law in itself. It provides setting-up a Tribunal to try four specific offenses, namely, crimes against humanity and peace, genocide and war crime; with provisions for prosecution, investigation, procedure of trial and appeal. Under Section 21, a person convicted and sentenced shall can appeal to the

Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Under the Act, those who were members of the auxiliary forces in 1971, either structured or shadowy, should be investigated and then brought to justice. People like Mueen Uddin should be tried under International Crimes (Tribunals) Act,1973 for genocide and not under the conventional penal law. These people are not the usual criminals, but, planners and executioners of genocide and should, therefore, be punished for committing genocide. The investigators have reportedly said, they would try to deal with the killings of all the intellectuals as all of them were killed under the same blueprint by the same group. The blueprint was that of genocide and as such, the investigators should press charges under the International War Crimes Act.

Successive governments have also failed to obtain any reparation from Pakistan for genocide and destruction caused in 1971. No Pakistani leader has yet offered any apology to the people of Bangladesh. Even the Queen of The Netherlands has recently apologized to the people of Indonesia for the atrocities committed during the colonial period. So also the Japanese king and the President of Germany. Instead, the average Pakistanis are still being fed with concocted history. Few Pakistanis have any idea how their best army, composed of martial races, lost to ragtag irregular Freedom Fighters and to inferior Indian forces. The modern technology has offered us the opportunity to put our side of the story directly to Pakistani people via Internet, and create opinion based on true facts. Pakistani government is, under international law, obliged to try the war criminals and perpetrators of genocide, besides payments of compensation.

In 1971, the genocide, which was carried out while the war was on, also has international ramifications. The government of the United States of America was at the time helping the genocidal regime of Yahya Khan. It is, therefore, necessary to find out more of the official role of the United States government to determine how much US government was aware of genocidal plans and what, if any, was done to stop it. In this regard, a campaign for a US Congress hearing, in line with the Cambodian hearing, should be launched and the members of the Bangladesh community in United States could take lead in this matter.

As already observed, in Bangladesh, the liberation war and genocide have often been equated, though both occurred pari passu, liberation war and genocide were separate events. The fallen heroes of the liberation war are rightly honored when the nation ceremonially pays its respect on Independence and Victory days, but, three million victims of genocide are not remembered in the same fashion on a given day.

A day, on the other hand, is observed as "Buddhijibi Hotta Dibosh" in December to mark the killings of the intellectuals, which could easily be expanded to include all the victims of genocide and the day could be observed instead as "Gonohotta Dibosh," as a remembrance day of all the genocide victims. In fact, killings of the intellectuals was the final chapter of Pakistani genocidal plan to deprive the nation of its finest brains and thus, it became a total genocide.

When a regime ends violently because of war against an occupying army or a civil war or genocide, anomia is inescapable. But the duty of the successor government is to strike a balance and draw up the strategy that delivers justice.

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The politics of 1971



http://archive.thedailystar.net/forum/2007/december/politics.htm

Afsan Choudhury makes the case that parties opposed to the Liberation War have no place in independent Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, history has become party politics. The source of this attitude may be in the nature of the political leadership that we have had since 1972 who feel anything is justified if it leads to political power. Of the three main politically contesting histories, each party now has its own version. It means the AL, the BNP, and now the Jamaat version of 1971.

We, in general, also refuse to contest obvious factual oddities and occasional absurdities because we are afraid that our national consciousness may be challenged by what is found. In the last 36 years we have lost our confidence to face history.



Given such weak nerves and even weaker intellectual muscles, how can people expect to cope with the demands of history, both in writing and practice? The failure to write a credible history of 1971 has allowed parties who opposed the birth of Bangladesh to control the political destiny of the country. The case of Jamaat-e-Islami is a typical one of inadequate academic history writing becoming a political problem.

Civil war and other wars

Whether it is the Indian historian Sarmila Basu or a Jamaat or any other pseudo-Islamic extremist cadre, 1971 is usually a "civil war." The argument is, Pakistan was one country and both were warring sides on a shared soil. Another argument is that the war was between 1ndia and Pakistan, and Bangladesh was a hyphenated part of history, a sub-text. Even Benazir Bhutto while talking to us -- Mohiuddin Ahmed, Muntasir Mamoon and I when we visited Pakistan -- called the Bangladeshis partisans "Indian supporters" or perhaps something more.

The civil war argument doesn't work because Bangladesh's Independence Day was March 26, 1971. Bangladesh came into being as a state on that day and the Pakistani forces became an occupation army. So the question of civil war doesn't arise: it was a war between two states, one occupying another.

Pakistanis may claim that this was a civil war but it is neither logical nor can be proven in law. The "civil war" argument applies only if people refuse to accept March 26, 1971 as the day of Bangladeshi independence. Those in Bangladesh denying this are denying the fact of Bangladesh coming into being. Maybe this argument can be made in Pakistan, logical or not. In that case, one may also argue that those who wish to argue the Pakistan way may go there.

Indo-Pak war or Bangla-Pak war?

Another argument is that it was an Indo-Pak war and so all were part of one mega-war. This argument arises from a lack of knowledge of the events, and not just of this war but any war.

Rarely, if ever, is a singular war fought. In the case of 1971, several wars were being fought, but the primary war was fought between Pakistani and Bangladeshi forces. It is not "patriotism" to say so -but all wars flowed from this war. This war was followed by other wars, including the Indo-Pak war which was the by-product of the Bangla-Pak war. It couldn't have arisen without the event of March 26, so everything that happened after March 26 was contingent to this principal war.

There were several subsidiary wars going on within all the sides. Bangladesh forces also fought the Maoists, who were also fighting two wars, one against Pakistan and another against the Awami League. There were internal wars happening, like the factional wars within AL leadership and India, which had its roots in Cold War Politics. There was conflict between India and Bangladesh, part of which was manifested by the raising of the Mujib Bahini manned by Bangladeshis, but controlled by Indian military. Many Mujib Bahini members even fought with the general Mukti Bahini members as well.

The US and the USSR were opponents as well and both worried that they would be dragged into a wider South Asian war. In the final days, they even had a show of armed fleets in the Indian Ocean. The ethnic militant groups of North-East India fought the central Indians because of their own nationalism. The ethnic minorities of Bangladesh fought their war with Pakistan, the repressive state, although they were outside the Bengali nationalist movement which spawned the war.

In other words, there were many wars, but the principal war was the Bangladesh-Pakistan war. It was also the first war. Every war and conflict that occurred in that time period was "subsidiary," or a result of that war. This war was between two states, Pakistan and Bangladesh, which became a state on March 26, 1971 and was occupied by Pakistan till December 16 of that year. This, in a nutshell, is the history of 1971.

There is no scope for calling this a civil war, nor for locating the Bangladesh war within the Indo-Pak war, even if the forces of some parties were much bigger. Size has nothing to do with facts.

Social collaboration: Impact, action, and consequence

Those who were with the forces supporting Pakistan army were enemies of the Bangladesh state. How does one identify them?

Pakistan set up "Peace Committees" all over the country to help fight the Bangladesh forces that they called "miscreants." From the village level to the national level, these committees represented the spirit and will of the Pakistan state. Anyone who was a member swore allegiance to Pakistan and promised to do everything to sustain the state. Similarly, the Razakar Bahini was also set up to counter the Mukti Bahini and help the Pakistan army reach into the deep of Bangladesh.

Although today the term Razakar has become generic term meaning "traitor," in 1971 it was a job analogous to that of the Ansars of today. Most of the people who joined came from the poorest class and looked upon being a razakar as a job which apart from a salary also allowed them to loot and steal with impunity. Several historians have noted that most of these razakars were not ideological at all, and most joined as an economic and not an ideological choice.

Razakars were also the largest band of organised criminals in 1971. In areas where they were active, public hatred towards them was very high. In most cases, in most villages, most razakars were dealt violent justice, from lynching to head shaving to beating, etc after the war was over. In case where rapes were reported, the punishment was expectedly severe.

However, in many cases, the Razakars also supported the Muktis in lieu of money, because they were rarely if ever ideological. They were criminalised by war, but were not supporters of Pakistan, though their actions were in compliance with the objective that Pakistan had adopted.

The rural Peace Committees were manned by people who were village-centric conservatives, often more interested in controlling the village than fighting the war. This control had been upset after the nationalist movement peaked and Sangram Committees were formed, which were mostly led by AL partisans. So while the village Shanti Committees were mostly opposed to the Sangram Committees, they were half supporters of Pakistan at best, and were more part of village politics. Many actively supported the Pak army and Razakar actions. Support to the Bangladesh forces was also there because the village fighters mostly came from the same rural elite.

In all cases, the members of the political parties supporting Pakistan lent a violent hand, and these were people who didn't need to be coaxed into supporting or opposing. They did it by choice and they belonged to the parties who were defeated in the 1970 elections, the traditional cross-Pakistan parties like JI, ML, PDP, etc



Both the Shanti Committees and the Razakars were in the end located within the Pakistani defensive strategy applied to an occupied land. All those who supported Pakistan should have been subjected to a review after 1971. Maybe the state did not do or was unable to do so because of compelling pressures. However, at the grassroots level, social scrutiny by the villagers and leaders was made, and in many cases action taken. Even if the central authorities and the national political leadership were unable or unwilling to act against collaborators, many villages did. In many cases, such reviews led to violent acts which are inevitable in such cases.

Political collaboration: Who opposed Bangladesh?

However, social collaboration is different from political collaboration. While social acts may be sourced in local conditions and not directly linked with state policies, political collaboration is primarily an act of upholding the state. This involves political constructs like parties applying political policies to strengthen the state. The premier instrument of political construction in occupied Bangladesh was the National Peace Committee comprised of various parties that wanted Pakistan to prevail. The political parties who were members of that body were making a political commitment to Pakistan.

The other source of their commitment to Pakistan was participation in the by-election of 1971. This by-election threw out the results of the 1970 election which was the legal basis of the independence declaration of Bangladesh and legitimacy of all acts thereafter. Those who became members of the National Peace Committee and participated in the elections acted against Bangladesh state in strengthening the state of Pakistan. On that ground, all the parties and all the people involved should be guilty of acting against the state of Bangladesh.

Such people or parties should not be part of the political structure of a state whose inception they opposed and who even supported the actions of a military force to kill that state. It is argued that Bangladesh was not fully formed and the forces were "rebel" forces. This point is not valid because that state came into existence on March 26, 1971 and the rebel forces were actually the national force.

It was for this reason that all the opposing parties were banned in 1972 as they were enemies of the state, in the clearest sense of the term. This statement is not an emotional one at all, like those who are feeling enraged at what Jamaat leadership and supporters have said about the 1971 war. It is simply not possible to constitutionally tolerate those who had opposed the circumstances of its coming into being and hope to succeed as a state. Where else are such forces tolerated?

We need facts but do we want to look for them?

The issue of war crimes is irrelevant here because that depends on personal liability and specific law, backed by evidence. That may or may not exist because nobody has bothered to collect evidence all these years. Before embarking on another example of a misguided legal attempt, like the effort to strip Gholam Azam of his citizenship, Jamaat and other anti-Bangladesh parties should be banned on the grounds of not having wanted Bangladesh in the first place. They have no legal right to participate in Bangladeshi politics.

The reason they were allowed is because our quality of politics is so bad that our leaders consider allowing anti-Bangladesh parties into politics as a simple way to manage state politics. It could only happen in a state that politically fails almost at inception.

The engine of failure roared loudly when one-party rule was established and gained momentum when the constitutional pillars were taken away and increased even further when one religion was made the state religion. They are indicators of failure, because the constitution was tampered with on grounds of personal or a party political benefit. Maybe the entire leadership associated with such decisions deserve to be tried in a constitutional court.

The case against individual leaders is another matter and its best to set up a committee to peruse and explore existing evidence. It is no use screaming, if nothing can be proven in court; no use saying that three million were killed if there is no credible survey to say how many really died and how.

Had the events around Bangladesh's birth and history turned into a rational discourse and not an issue of religion and taboo, we not only would have known more, but we would not have had the leaders who opposed the birth of Bangladesh flourish in that very country.

It is interesting that Jamaat or Muslim League, which never had a chance in East Pakistan politics from 1947 to 1971, have now shared state power in Bangladesh. We don't mind that, apparently, because our rulers and their parties have violated the constitution so many times in letter and spirit. Within that framework, the Awami League, the BNP, and the Jamaat-e-islami are blood brothers.

What a Pakistani military officer said about Bangladesh's Jamaat-e-Islami https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/soc.culture.sri-lanka/16LyyRyNlJI



http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=9188

Accounts of the occupation force members too bear out how Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and its paramilitary wings styled Razakar, Al Badr, and Al Shams Bahini worked fervently against the country's war of independence. For instance, Siddiq Salik, who was serving the Pakistan army as a major in Bangladesh in 1971, in his book 'Witness to Surrender' recounts the anti-liberation role of Jamaat, Muslim League and Nizam-i-Islam.

He observed that Jamaat leaders collaborated with them [Pakistan army] not only to advance their ideals of Pakistan as an Islamic state, but also to wreak vengeance on people they were at enmity with. Referring to the drives against Bangalee freedom fighters, he wrote,"These operations were only a partial success because the West Pakistani troops neither knew the faces of the suspects nor could they read the lane numbers (in Bengali).

They had to depend on the cooperation of the local people. The Bengalis, by and large, still cherished the hope of Mujib's return and assumed an attitude of passive indifference." He continued, "The only people who came forward were 'the rightists like Khwaza Khairuddin of the Council Muslim League, Fazlul Qader Chaudhry of the Convention Muslim League, Khan Sobur A Khan of the Qayyum Muslim League, Professor Ghulam Azam of the Jamaat-e-Islami and Maulvi Farid Ahmed of the Nizam-i-Islam Party."

Describing his experience working with the Bangladeshi collaborators, the book reads, "They had all been defeated by the Awami League in the 1970 elections and carried little appeal for the Bengalis. The people generally felt that they were outdated coins being given currency by the Army once again.

"But the Army, out of sheer necessity, valued their presence and followed their advice. I suggested in one of the meetings that instead of propagating the statements of this 'outdated coins,' it would be better to seek the cooperation of teachers, lawyers, artists and intellectuals who command respect in their respective fields."

Salik began his career as a lecturer after graduating in English literature and international affairs from Punjab University. He had been in journalism before joining the army as a public relations officer. He came to Bangladesh in January 1970 on a tour of duty that ended with the defeat of Pakistan on December 16, 1971. He was taken as a prisoner of war (POW) in India and was released after two years. He was in the army until his death in 1988. Published by University Press Limited, Salik's book is the detailed professional account of the war. It deals mainly with his days during the war and as a POW in India.

Talking about how some members of the Pakistan army conducted themselves during the war, he said, "During these operations, some troops, to the shame of all, indulged in looting, killing and rape. Nine cases of rape were officially reported and the culprits were severely punished, but the damage had been done. How many cases there were in all, I do not know....

"The stories of these atrocities naturally alienated the Bengali population. They were not very fond of us before, but now they hated us bitterly. No serious effort was made to arrest this trend or diminish the hatred. Hence there was no question of mass co-operation by the Bengalis. Only those people joined hands with us who, in the name of Islam and Pakistan, were prepared to risk everything."

On the collaboration groups, Salik said, "These patriotic elements were organised into two groups. The elderly and prominent among them formed Peace Committees, while the young and ablebodied were recruited as Razakars (volunteers). The committees were formed in Dacca as well as in the rural areas and they served as a useful link between the Army and the local people.

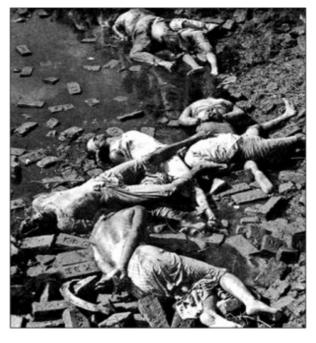
"Razakars were raised to augment the strength of the West Pakistani troops and to give a sense of participation to the local population. Their manpower rose to nearly 50,000 as against a target of 100,000." The chapter named 'Insurgency' reads, "In September a political delegation from west Pakistan complained to General Niazi that he had raised an Army of Jamaat-e-Islami nominees. The general called me to office and said, 'From now on, you will call the Razakars, Al-Badr and Al Shams to give the impression that they do not belong to one single party."

Referring to the 'dedication' displayed by the collaborators, it adds, "The Al Badr and Al Shams groups were a dedicated lot, keen to help the army. They worked hard and suffered hard. About 5,000 of them or their dependent suffered at the hands of the Mukti Bahini for the crime of cooperation. Some of them displayed a sense of sacrifice comparable to the best troops in the world."

In the chapter titled 'An Opportunity Lost', Salik wrote, "Some of them were genuinely interested in the integrity of Pakistan and they risked their own lives to cooperate with the Army, but a few of them also used their links with the Army to settle old score with pro-AL people."He continued, "For instance, a rightist politician arrived one day in Martial law headquarters with a teen aged boy. He met me by chance on the Veranda and whispered in confidence that he had some vital information to impart about the rebels.

"I took him to the appropriate authority where he said that the boy, a nephew of his, had managed to escape from a rebels' concentration in Keraniganj across the Burhi Ganga river. The boy added that the rebels not only harassed the locals but also planned to attack Dacca city at night. "A 'cleaning operation was' immediately ordered. The commander of troops was briefed. The field guns, mortars and recoilless rifles were readied to 'soften' the target in a pre-dawn bombardment. The troops were to make a pincer move to capture it at day-break.

"I watched the progress of the action in the operations room where the gunfire was clearly audible. Soon some automatic weapons also joined the battle. Many people feared that the attacking battalion might not be able to bag all the 5,000 rebels reported in the locality. The operation was over after sunrise. It was confirmed that the target had been neutralised without any casualties to our troops." To stress the point once again that the Bangladeshi collaborators had purposes other than pursuing the ideology of an Islamic state, Salik recollects, "In the evening I met the officer who carried out the attack. What he said was enough to chill my blood. He confided. 'There were no rebels, and no weapons. Only poor country-folk, mostly women and old men got roasted in the barrage of fire. It is a pity that the operation was launched without proper intelligence. I will carry this burden on my conscience for the rest of my life'."



Jamaat-e-Islami Epitomizes Bangladesh's Collaborators & Criminals Of 1971 🔀

http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=9117

History speaks up, By Julfikar Ali Manik and Emran Hossain

After 36 years of independence Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh now denies its anti-liberation role when history speaks volumes about how its leaders and workers collaborated with the occupying Pakistan forces in mass killings, rape, looting and numerous other atrocities. The remarks that Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed made to the press after the electoral talks with the Election Commission Thursday has left people across the country stunned.

Former chief justice and chairman of the Law Commission Mostafa Kamal yesterday told The Daily Star, "Now it is being said that no war criminal exists in the country. Maybe after some time it would be said that the Liberation War never took place. All this will mean we will be deprived of the real history." The war criminals have dared to make the audacious claim thanks to years of indifference to the demand for action against them, many observed.

Jamaat's active role against the independence has been documented in different publications including those by Jamaat itself during the war in 1971. Thousands of people still bear the scars of war crimes by Jamaat-e-Islami and their student front Islami Chhatra Shangha (now known as Islami Chhatra Shibir), and some other groups such as Muslim League and Nizam-e Islami. The incumbent Jamaat secretary general on Thursday told reporters, "In fact, anti-liberation forces never even existed." At a rally in observance of 'Badr Day' on November 7, 1971, Mojaheed, who was president of East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Shangha, came up with a four-point programme that included 'wiping Hindustan off the face of the earth'.

He said, "Move forward with your head held high and with the Quran in heart to materialise the programme. If necessary we will march up to New Delhi and fly the flag of greater Pakistan." Many research works, academic studies of history, accounts of both victims and collaborators, and publications including newspapers reveal that Mojaheed, who headed the Al Badr Bahini in Dhaka then, led the killings of the intellectuals only two days ahead of the victory of Liberation War. He used to collect funds, organise armed trainings for Razakars, and persuade students and youths to join the paramilitary force designed to eliminate the freedom fighters.

Addressing a function of the Chhatra Shangha in Faridpur on September 15, 1971, he said, "Razakars and Al Badr forces and all other voluntary organisations have been working to protect the nation from the collaborators and spies of India. But unfortunately we observe that a section of political leaders like ZA Bhutto, Kawsar Niazi, Mufti Mahmud and Asghar Khan have lately been making objectionable remarks about the patriots." 'Razakar Bahini' was established under supervision of former Jamaat secretary general Moulana Abul Kalam Mohammad Yousuf while 'Badr Bahini' was comprised of the Islami Chhatra Shangha members.

Professor Dr Anisuzzaman, one of the nine-member committee formed by the government for making "Bangladesher Swadhinata Judhha Dalilpatra" (History of Bangladesh's War of Independence), told The Daily Star, "The documentary evidence that Jamaat had opposed the Liberation War is found in black and white in the then newspapers." The committee assigned by the information ministry on behalf of the Bangladesh government has compiled and published documentary evidence of the Liberation War in 15 parts. Anisuzzaman said, "Al Badr and Al Shams (both the organisations collaborated with the occupation force) were formed following the initiative of Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Shangha. There is no room for doubt that they had killed many of our sons of soil including intellectuals."

Ironically, the 1971 publications of The Daily Sangram, a newspaper known as the mouthpiece of Jamaat-e-Islami, carry enough evidence to expose Jamaat's anti-liberation role. Study of history reveals that 'Razakars' would organise drives against the freedom fighters, repress their families and carry out arsons while the 'Badr Bahini' would hunt down the people seeking freedom and kill them.

The 'Badr Bahini' also organised seminars and distributed pamphlets in futile attempts to make Bangalis "believe in ideals of Pakistan and Islami philosophy of life from cultural and political view point." The September 8, 1971 issue of the Daily Sangram carried a news item headlined "Chhatra Shangha activists will protect each inch of Pakistan's land". Matiur Rahman Nizami, the incumbent Aamir of Jamaat and the then president of Shangha, said that Islami Chhatra Shangha activists were pledged to protect every inch of Pakistan. They were even ready to attack the mainland Hindustan [India] to protect united Pakistan, the report read.

Another issue of the Sangram published on September 15 quoted Nizami, who was also the commander-in-chief of Al Badr then, as saying, "Every one of us should assume the role of a soldier of an Islami country. With assistance of the poor and the oppressed, we must kill those who are engaged in war against Pakistan and Islam."The same newspaper on the third page of its September 16 issue ran another item headlined "No force on earth will be able to destroy Pakistan." In the news report Nizami called on the people to face conspiracy of the so-called Banga Daradi (Lover of Bengal).

Nizami's predecessor former Jamaat-e-Islami Aamir Golam Azam was the brains behind Jamaat's anti-liberation efforts. Statements that Golam Azam had made in different publications show how instrumental he was in Jamaat's mission to thwart the independence movement and in helping the Pakistan army to commit massacres and other war crimes. Golam Azam had held several meetings with the then Pakistani military ruler Yahia Khan, other policymakers including governors and politicians to streamline the campaign to resist the liberation forces. A photograph of the meeting held to form 'Peace Committee', which helped the occupying forces in committing genocides, shows Golam Azam with Pakistani leaders and military personnel.

Immediately after independence he fled to Pakistan and returned after the brutal killings of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family in 1975. In 1981, people threw shoes at him when he went to attend a namaz-e- janaza at Baitul Mukarram. A total of three million people were killed and at least a quarter million women were violated during the nine months of war. Despite public demand for punishment to the war criminals and collaborators, successive governments did nothing to that end. Only the government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took some initiatives to try the war criminals.

In January, 1972, Bangabandhu had formulated the Collaborators Act to try the collaborators and war criminals. The Act covers those individuals or organisations, who helped the Pakistani army in mass killings, conducted crimes against humanity, unleashed torture on men, women and children, destroyed property, or fought against the People's Republic of Bangladesh siding with the occupying forces. It also explained how 11 tribunals would be set up to punish them. There is a view prevalent among a section of people that asking for trial of war criminals is irrelevant as the Awami League government had granted a general amnesty for all. This was said time and again that none pardoned Pakistani war criminals.

The Collaborators Act that was published in a gazette notification on November 30, 1973 however says none of the war criminals had been pardoned. The same was true for Golam Azam. Section two of the Act said, "Those who were punished for or accused of rape, murder, attempt to murder or arson will not come under general amnesty under the section one." Out of 37,000 sent to jail on charges of collaboration, some 26,000 were freed after announcement of the general amnesty.

Around 11,000 were still in the prison when the government of Justice Sayem and General Zia repealed the Collaboration Act on December 31, 1975. After the scrapping, those behind bars for war atrocities appealed and eventually got released. In the early 90s, a mother of martyrs, Jahanara Imam, launched a movement for trial of war criminals. Though it won overwhelming public support none of the governments had bothered to take notice of it. At that time, the People's Inquiry Commission was formed to investigate the activities of the war criminals and the collaborators.

Led by eminent poet Sufia Kamal, the commission comprised renowned academics, litterateurs and other professionals. On March 26, 1994, it unveiled accounts of the war crimes committed by 16 persons. The war criminals are former acting aamir of Jamaat Abbas Ali Khan, Matiur Rahman Nizami, senior assistance secretary general of Jamaat Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim, Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, Maulana Abdul Mannan, Anwar Zahid, Abdul Kader Molla, ASM Solaiman, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Maulana Abdus Sobhan, Maulana AKM Yousuf, Mohammad Ayen Ud Din, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, ABM Khaleq Majumder and Dr Sayed Sajjad Hossain.

What Jamaat leaders said in '71 Hasan Jahid Tusher and Ashfaq Wares Khan

http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=9116

Jamaat-e-Islami was directly involved in war crimes in 1971 as part of the Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams groups and peace committees, inciting killings of Liberation War supporters and collaborating with the Pakistani occupation force, according to speeches and writings in 1971 by the then Jamaat leadership and the party's current amir and secretary general.

In 1971, Golam Azam was the Jamaat amir while Motiur Rahman Nizami, the present amir, was the president of Islami Chhatra Shangha and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, the present Jamaat secretary general, led its Dhaka unit. Their speeches and writings published in Jamaat's mouthpiece, the daily Sangram, during the Liberation War in 1971 chronicle their direct involvement in supporting the Pakistani occupation force, their leadership in collaborating with the army, and their activities to incite and encourage annihilation of the liberation forces.

On Thursday, Mojaheed denied Jamaat's involvement in war crimes and with the Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams groups. He claimed that Jamaat did not work against the Liberation War in 1971 and that there is no war criminal in the country. "In fact, anti-Liberation forces never even existed," Mojaheed told reporters after Jamaat's dialogue with the Election Commission on electoral reforms.

As a response to the Jamaat secretary general's claims, following are selections from the reports published in the daily Sangram and documents of the then West Pakistan government: Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, president of Dhaka unit of East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Shangha (ICS), directed his party workers to build Al- Badr Bahini to resist freedom fighters, according to a "Fortnightly secret report on the situation in East Pakistan" the political section of the then East Pakistan home ministry used to send to the head of the government General Yahya Khan.

Mojaheed at a meeting of the ICS in Rangpur on October 17 directed the party workers to build the Al-Badr Bahini. He told the meeting that anti-Islamist forces must be resisted. He also emphasised organising youths to join Al-Badr. Al-Badr day was observed in Dhaka on November 7, 1971 and Mojaheed announced a four-point declaration that said, "We do not believe in any map of Hindustan on earth. We will not rest until the name of Hindustan is erased from the world. "From tomorrow, you will not be allowed to sell, publicise or keep at libraries books either written by Hindus or written in their support," according to a report published in the daily Azad on November 8, 1971.

The Al-Badr was assigned a variety of combat and non-combat tasks, including taking part in operations, spying against the Muktibahini, interrogation, working as guides for the regular army, assassination, detecting and killing Bangalee intellectuals, looting and supplying women and children to rape, according to Wikipedia.

NIZAMI

According to the secret report, the current Jamaat ameer addressed an ICS meeting in Jamalpur as chief guest on June 14, 1971 and directed his party workers to assist the Pakistani army to save Islam. On April 12, the Nizami-led ICS and Jamaat brought out a procession, chanting "Long live Pakistan".

The Sangram reported on April 13 that Nizami, the then Pakistan ICS president, Golam Azam and other collaborators also led a procession on April 12 under the banner of "Peace Committee of Dhaka" with a special prayer for the survival of Pakistan and to declare their support for Pakistan.

On August 2, Nizami addressed a seminar in Chittagong organised by the local Muslim Institute, where he said, "If the patriotic people had come forward since March 1 to confront the assailants, this situation would not have taken place in the country. Allah has given the faithful Muslims the duty to protect His beloved Pakistan, but when the Muslims failed, Allah protected Pakistan through the military."

The next day Sangram quoted Nizami as saying, "The Pakistani soldiers are our brothers...It is not a matter of personal dignity or partisan interest, it is a matter of Pakistan's survival. "The only way the Muslims can survive here is Pakistan's survival," he said, adding, "With the chaos the miscreants and Indian agents had created since March 1, no one could hope that Pakistan and Pakistani Muslims would be able to survive as independent entities." Lamenting the victory of Awami League in the 1970 elections, Nizami said, "Divisions within the Pakistani and Islamic leaders allowed them to win and cause havoc in this country.

"I pray to Allah for the success, courage and sacrifice of the military brothers in facing external and internal attacks," he said. He blamed the rulers for misleading and misinforming students on Islam and said, "We forgot our identity after achieving Pakistan. When India attacked our country in 1965, we became self-aware but we were confused as soon as the war ended. Allah punished us. Now we have become self-conscious again, but if we make the same mistake again, maybe Allah will not give us another chance."

On August 16, the Sangram reported that Nizami said, "Those who want to secede from Pakistan want to uproot Islam from this country."

On September 4, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Sreshtha Matiur Rahman described Matiur as an "Indian agent".

On September 8, Sangram reported Nizami as saying, "Every member of the Islami Chhatra Shangha is committed to protect every inch of Pakistan. We are even ready to attack Hindustan to protect Pakistan."

On September 9 Nizami said in Jessore, "Allah has punished those who conspired to destroy Pakistan...Those who said Pakistan is a graveyard have not been accepted by the land. The funeral pyres in Calcutta and Agartala are all they got.

"The way we have come forward risking death, the same way the government should build Pakistan in a purely militaristic manner," he said. Addressing a gathering of Razakars in Jessore the next day, Nizami said, "Every single one of us must identify ourselves as soldiers of Islam and we have to use all our forces to destroy the people who are involved in an armed conspiracy against Pakistan and Islam," Sangram reported on September 15.

The next day Nizami urged his followers to "confront and reveal the true identity of the so-called Bengali-lovers". While visiting an Al-Badr camp on September 22, Nizami said, "Only the patriotic youths of East Pakistan can effectively annihilate the Indian infiltrators and their local agents."

Celebrating the Badr day on November 14, 1971, Nizami wrote an editorial in Sangram, saying, "Hindu forces are far stronger and capable than us. Unfortunately, a number of infidels have taken their side and are trying to weaken us from within. We have to foil their conspiracy and protect the existence and ideal of Pakistan. This is not possible only by defensive action...It is our luck that the Islam-loving youths of this country have been able to form the Al-Badr unit with the help of the Pakistani military...The youths of Al-Badr have renewed their pledge on this occasion...to stand next to the army to defeat the Hindu forces and annihilate Hindustan and hoist the flag of Islam all over the world."

GOLAM AZAM

At a meeting of the Jamaat in Khulna on August 4, 1971, the then Jamaat ameer described Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a separationist. He told the meeting that Mujib had been misleading the country's people and urged party workers to be united to destroy the separationists, according to secret document No. 482/158-PL.S(I).

Golam Azam at the party council of Kushtia district unit in the second week of August 1971 described the freedom fighters as criminals and directed the party workers to resist them. He also directed formation of Shanti Bahini (peace committee) in every village of the country. He told the meeting that very soon the Razakars, Mojaheed and police would be able to resist the "criminals", said document No. 549 (159)- PL.S(I) signed by the then home secretary MM Kazim on September

Try proven collaborators, demand war heroes By Rashidul Hasan



http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=9115







Top Liberation War heroes said yesterday a number of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders are proven collaborators in the genocide in 1971, and demanded they be brought to justice immediately. Blasting Jamaat for its anti-liberation role, they said this party is now denying established historical truth, and demanded banning it. The renowned freedom fighters were talking to The Daily Star in reaction to Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed's claim that they did not work against the Liberation War and that there are no anti-liberation forces and war criminals in the country. The war heroes include the deputy chief of liberation forces and sector commanders in the Liberation War. Maj Gen (retd) AKM Shafiullah, who was commander of sector-11, said, "There is enough evidence to prove that they (Jamaat) were against the Liberation War."

Had they not been an anti-liberation force, so many people would not have to die in the war, said the former army chief. "This is time to make them face trial." Lt Gen (retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, commander of sector-5, said, "Ali Ahsan Mojaheed is just trying to befool the people. Everybody in this country suffered in the hands of anti-liberation forces like Jamaat." "If anti-liberation forces never existed (as Mojaheed claimed), then he should ask his conscience why 30 lakh people were martyred and three lakh mothers and sisters lost dignity during the war," he posed the question to the Jamaat leader. Shawkat further asked, "Who were the 'AL-Badr' and 'Al- Shams' (involved in genocide) and who were their leaders?"

Retired Air Vice Marshal AK Khandakar, deputy chief of the liberation forces, said, "They (Jamaat leaders) cannot deny history by telling lies. The people have rejected their false claims." Alleging that Jamaat is denying a "historical truth," he urged the government to ban the party. Lt Col (retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, commander of sector-7, said "To defeat these forces, all pro-liberation ones must unite to come to power in the next elections. We have to do this ourselves."

Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta, commander of sector-4, said those who worked against the liberation forces, including Jamaat, must face trial now. Former army chief, Lt Gen (retd) Harun-ur-Rashid said, "Jamaat leaders' claims now have once again proved how important it is to make them face court." Commander of sector-8 Lt Col (retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury condemned the Jamaat claim saying, "A thief never admits he is a thief. So, Jamaat leaders must be brought to justice."

"We tried former Jamaat chief Golam Azam at the people's court (gono adalot), we also formed national people's inquiry commission headed by poet Sufia Kamal that found a large of Jamaat leaders' involvement in anti-liberation activities." Abu Osman said "Nizami (Jamaat chief Matiur Rahman Nizami) was commander of Al-Badr and Mojaheed was its Dhaka unit chief." "They (Jamaat leaders) dare to make false claims because of the silence of the nation's top political leaders, "he said. "Their claims only prove how big liars they are."

Bangladesh Liberation War 1971 X

http://liberation1971.blogspot.nl/2009/09/history-about-liberation-war-of.html

History about the Liberation War of Bangladesh

http://www.bangla2000.com/Bangladesh/Independence-War/zafar iqbal 1971 english.pdf

History about the Liberation War of Bangladesh Country

Of all the feelings that people have, the most beautiful is surely love. And of all the things that one is capable of loving in the world, the most intense love has to be for one's own country, one's motherland. There is nobody as unfortunate as the person who has never felt love for their motherland. We are very lucky that the war we fought for independence of our motherland has a history of supreme sacrifice, unbelievable bravery and valor and great achievement. When people hear about this history, then they not only feel deep love and compassion, but they are also filled with pride at the thought of what this country's people have achieved.

Early History

A story must always be told from a little earlier than when it starts, and so Bangladesh's history can be told from the British period. The British have mled this region for approximately two hundred years. Thousands and thousands of people have been killed, imprisoned and exiled in their attempts to be free. In 1940 the 'Lahore Resolution' [1] declared that the two areas that had the most Muslims would become two countries and the remaining area would become a separate country. But on the 14th of August, 1947 the two areas that had the most Muslims became one country, Pakistan, instead of two, and on the 15th of August the remaining area became a different country, India. And so a very strange country was born; the two parts of the country were in two different places.

What is now Pakistan was known as West Pakistan and what is Bangladesh was known as East Pakistan. There is a two thousand kilometer distance and an entire country – India – between them! Division, Discrimination, Exploitation, and Conspiracy East and West Pakistan were two thousand kilometers apart. Even the people were way apart in their looks, language, food, clothes, culture and their heritage. The majority of the population had only one thing in common and that was religion. If a bizarre country like this was going to survive, a little bit of extra effort had to be put in, but the Pakistani rulers did not do this. During the partition, West Pakistan's population was twenty million and East Pakistan's was forty million, so it would have made sense to have two people from East Pakistan for every one person in West Pakistan in everything education, business, police, government. But in reality it was just the opposite – there were eighty to ninety percent of West Pakistanis in everything.

75% of the budget was spent on West Pakistan and 25% on East Pakistan, even though 62% of the revenue income was from East Pakistan. Most frightening of all was the number of armed forces – West Pakistan had 25 times as many as East Pakistan!

Language Movement

Much worse than economic oppression is oppression on a country's language, of its culture and heritage, and that is exactly what West Pakistan's rulers started to do. Pakistan was born in 1947 and in 1948 Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, went to Dhaka and announced that Urdu would be Pakistan's national language. [3] The people of East Pakistan immediately started to protest. The movement intensified and reached its peak on the 21 51 of February, 1952. Rafiq, Salam, Barkat, Jabbar and many others were shot and killed by the police. But even that couldn't stop the movement, and in 1956 Pakistan's rulers were forced to recognize Bangia as a national language. [4] Our beloved Sbaheed Minar was created where the language martyrs were killed, and the 21 51 of February is now a special date not only for Bangladesh, but for the whole world, as International Mother Language Day.

Military Rule

From the very beginning, Pakistani rule was a conspiracy, in disguise and the biggest player behind was the army. 60% of the country's budget was spent on the army, (5) and they were not willing to give up their luxurious way of living and let a civilian government take over. Using political unrest as an excuse, in 1958 Pakistan army chief Ayub Khan took over power. He didn't rule for a day or two, rather he ruled for eleven years. Military rule can never bring about anything good. In the history of the world, there is not a single example of military rule moving a country forward, and it was no different for Ayub Khan.

Six Points

The country was under military rule and the people of East Pakistan were being severely deprived – the Bengalis were not willing to accept this. In 1966, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the spirited leader of the Awami League (Bangladesh's largest political party) announced his six-point [6] demand for autonomy. This was an extraordinary document demanding freedom from economic exploitation, deprivation and oppression [7]. It was an extremely brave move, considering what kind of oppression and persecution the Pakistani political leaders were suffering at the time. As soon as this was announced, almost all of Awami League's important leaders were arrested and put in jail. Also, to teach him a lesson, Bangabandhu was accused of treason under a case called the Agartala Conspiracy. [8]

The East Pakistanis refused to accept this and protests sprang up all over the country. Imprisonment, torture, gunfire from the police and EPR (East Pakistan Rifles) – nothing could stop them. Students led these movements; they had an eleven-point demand. [9] Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani had not been imprisoned and he came forward also. The movement became a mass revolt – who dared to stop it? The bright yongg teenager Motiur died in this movement in 1969, as did Dhaka University student Asad – after whom Ayub gate was then renamed Asad Gate. The Pakistan army was finally forced to free Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the other leaders. Also, the mighty President Ayub Khan handed over power to the Pakistan's army chief General Yahya Khan. The date was the 25th of March, 1969 – nobody knew then that exactly two years later on the same date, one of the world's most horrific genocides would be committed.

Pakistan's First General Election

As soon as General Yahya Khan was in power, he announced the first general election in Pakistan's history, which was scheduled to take place on the 7th of December, 1970. On the 12th of November one of the world's worst natural disasters occurred on the coast of East Pakistan – almost a million people died in the devastating cyclone. The Pakistani government did not come forward as they should have after such a huge disaster. Those who had survived the cyclone started to die from lack of food and water. [10] The Bengalis of East Pakistan were enraged at Yahya Khan's neglect and cruelty towards their people. At a public meeting, a furious Maulana Bhashani demanded that East Pakistan be free. [11]

On the 7th of December, 1970, Pakistan's first General Election was carried out in a fair manner. The generals of the Pakistan army had no respect for the political leaders. They assumed that a single political party would not obtain a majority, so they would all just fight amongst themselves. The army could use this as an excuse to remain in power and plunder the country. [12] So General Yahya Khan was shocked to see the results of the election – which were unbelievable. Out of 162 seats in East Pakistan, Bangabandhu's Awami League got 160. Along with the selected female candidates out of 313 seats of Pakistan National Assembly. East Pakistan's Awami League got 167, West Pakistan's Zulfikar Ali Bhutto got 88, and other parties together got the remaining 58.

Put simply, for the first time Pakistan would be ruled under East Pakistan's leadership. Bangabandhu clearly stated that people cast their votes in favor of his six points, he would formulated the constitution based on these six points, and the country would be ruled by these six points. The Pakistan army then decided that no matter what, the Bengalis could not be allowed to rule Pakistan. Unknowingly, General Yahya Khan had begun the creation of a new nation, Bangladesh.

Conspiracy

The largest collaborator in the generals' conspiracy was the army ruler, Ayub Khan's one time Foreign Minister, West Pakistan's People's Party Chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. All of a sudden, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto invited Yahya Khan to Larkana to "hunt ducks." All the key generals also joined them to "hunt ducks". Presumably, this is when they began to design the 'blue print' how to stop the Bengalis from taking power. [13] Even though a conspiracy was being planned, General Yahya Khan was careful not to let this be known. So on the 13th of February he announced that on the 3rd of March there would be a session of National Assembly in Dhaka. Everyone began to eagerly await that day.

On the 21st of February that year, martyrs day was commemorated with a different kind of fervor. There was a massive number of people at the Shaheed Minar, people beginning to dream of independence. When the Pakistan army saw all these people, what little doubt they may have had went away. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had a minority number of seats and had no reason to share any power at all, but he became desperate to be in power anyway. On the 1st of March, he postponed the proposed session of National Assembly. It was as if all the anger the Bengalis had been holding inside them exploded; the people of the country were absolutely furious.

March Turmoil

When the postponement of the Assembly was announced on the radio, the Commonwealth Eleven was playing against Pakistan at the Dhaka Stadium. Instantaneously the people erupted in protest; Dhaka Stadium became a battlefield. Schools, offices, stores - everything were shut down immediately. Thousands of people took to the streets; Dhaka became a city of processions. The people began t.o chant slogans for independence: "Joy Bangia," "Bir Bangali Ostro Dhoro, Bangladesh Swadhin Koro" (Brave Bengalis, take up arms to liberate Bangladesh).

Bangabandhu called a five-day hartal and an indefinite noncooperation movement in Dhaka and the whole country. Through this nonviolent movement, Bangabandhu said that the Pakistani administration was not to be cooperated in any way, and his words brought all of East Pakistan to a standstill. To control the situation, a curfew was imposed – the students and the public broke the curfew and took to the streets. There were processions, slogans, rage everywhere, people dying under the army's gunfire – but nobody stopped.

On the 2nd of March at the Dhaka University's historical banyan tree, the flag with Bangladesh's map was hoisted. On the 3rd of March at the Paltan Maidan, the Students' League meeting decided that Rabindranath Tagore's "Amaar Sonar Bangla" would be Bangladesh's national anthem. [14]

After the five-day hartal on the 7th of March, Bangabandhu went to today's Suhrawardy Uddayan to deliver a speech. By then all of East Pakistan was following his rule. Tens of thousands of people came to hear his speech; Suhrawardy Uddayan was literally a sea of people. Bangabandhu announced in this famous speech, "This time the fight is our fight for liberation. This time the fight is fight for independence." [15] There have been few speeches of this type in the history of the world. The speech brought together all the people and gave them the courage they needed to sacrifice their lives for the independence of their motherland.

On Bangabandhu's call, while the nation started a non-cooperation, the Pakistan military were killing people, by the hundreds, in every comer of Bangladesh. The people put up barricades to stop the Pakistani military. All over the country, along with black flags, the flags of an independent Bangladesh were flying. Young people began to train for a war. In a speech at the Paltan Maidan on the 9th of March, Maulana Bhasani announced that West Pakistan should make their own constitution, because East Pakistan's people would create their own independent country and have their own constitution. [16]

Right around this time General Yahya Khan was preparing to start the genocide. General Tikka Khan, known as the Butcher of Baluchistan, was sent to East Pakistan as governor, but none of the Justices in East Pakistan agreed to swear him in. Yahya Khan went to Dhaka on the 15th of March and pretended to have discussions with Bangabandhu while troops were secretly being brought in. War-ships with arms and ammunition tried to dock at the Chittagong port, but the people wouldn't let them. Bhutto joined the conspiracy on the 21st of March and came to Dhaka to pretend to have discussions.

On the 19th of March the Bengalis rebelled at Joydebpur. Countless people died in the fight that ensued when forces were sent from Dhaka to stop these Bengalis. The 23rd of March was Pakistan Day, but besides the army cantonment and the Government House, a single Pakistani flag could not be seen anywhere in Bangladesh. [17] At Bangabandhu 's house in Dhanmondi that day, the free Bangladesh flag was raised while 'Amaar Sonar Bangla' was played. [18]

The next day was the 24th of March. There was an ominous feel in the country – it was as if the whole country's earth, sky, and air knew what was about to happen and was holding its breath wait. The Beginning of Genocide: Operation Searchlight General Yahya Khan picked the 25th of March for his genocide because he thought it was a good day for him. Two years ago on that day, he had taken power from Ayub Khan and become Pakistan's President. On the 25th of March, he gave the order for one of the cruelest genocides in the history of mankind. General Yahya Khan had said to his army, kill three million Bengalis and they will eat out of our hands! [19] The genocide had been planned for a long time, and the blueprints were called 'Operation Searchlight',[20] where it was clearly stated how pretenses of a discussion would be used to stall for time, how the Bengali forces would be wiped out, how the Dhaka University would be attacked; simply put, how a nation would be destroyed.

There were barricades on every street. Since it would take a long time to get where they needed to go, the Pakistan army started Operation Searchlight slightly ahead of schedule, at 1 1.30 pm and started one of the world's most heinous massacres. To ensure that there would be no witnesses to this, all foreign journalists had been sent out of the country. But one extremely brave journalist, Simon Dring, risked his life to hide in Dhaka city and send news to the rest of the world, through the Washington Post, of what was happening in Bangladesh. [21]

Before attacking the innocent people in Dhaka city, the Pakistan military had either killed or arrested all the Bengali officers in the army and disarmed the rest. The EPR at Pilkhana had been disarmed, but they still fought all night with whatever they had. The military had been unable to disarn the Rajarbag police unit, and they were the first to engage in actual battle. After suffering a lot of damage, the Pakistan army retreated to bring in tanks, mortars, heavy arms and machine guns, with which they managed to overpower the Rajarbag police line. [22]

There was no end to the terror of the 25th of March. The Pakistan army went to Iqbal Hall (what is today Sergeant Johurul Haq Hall) and Jagannath Hall and murdered all the students there. Before the students were murdered, they were told to dig a bole in front of the dorms in which they would be buried after they were killed. BUET's Professor Nurul Ula managed to film this massacre from the window of his house, and this video is now on the Liberation War archives on the internet, and can be seen by anyone. [23] Not only the students of Dhaka University were killed – the staff and the teachers were murdered also. The nearby slums were set afire and their people killed. They then attacked the Hindu areas of old Dhaka, destroying the temples and burning down the houses.

Anyone who tried to escape was shot. On the 25th of March-Dhaka was like a scene from hell, with only flames to be seen and the sounds of gunfire and people screaming to be heard. The main objective of Operation Searchlight was to arrest Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. A commando team of the Pakistan Army went to his house and arrested him. He had heard of what was happening and warned all the leaders of his party to stay away, then waited in his house for what would certainly be his death.

Free Bangladesh

Before the commando team took him away, Bangabandhu had declared that Bangladesh was independent and called together the people to free the country from the hands of the Pakistan army. His declaration was transmitted with the EPR's transmitter from Dhaka to Chittagong to the rest of the country. [24] When the announcement was made, it was after midnight on the 25th, and so the 26th of March is our Independence Day. The country called East Pakistan was removed from the map of the world forever, and in its place came Bangladesh. But that Bangladesh was still battered and full of pain; the monsters of the Pakistani army were still on her land.

Resistance and Resistance

After committing one of the world's most terrible genocides in Dhaka, the curfew was lifted from eight in the morning to three in the afternoon on the 27th March, and thousands of terrified men, women and children fled Dhaka city towards rural areas for safe abodes. General Tikka Khan thought that he would be able to occupy the whole country by the 10th of April just like he had occupied Dhaka city, but the reality proved to be very different. Although they were totally unprepared the Bengali armed forces regrouped in different areas, and along with the students and people, they put up an incredible resistance. The armed forces and EPR in Chittagong rebelled and took control of a large part of the city. On the 27th of March, from Chittagong 's Kalurghat radio station,

Major Ziaur Rahman read the declaration of independence once again on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. [25] At that time this speech created a new inspiration among the people. To take control of Chittagong city the Pakistan army had to attack from their ships and planes, and it wasn't until the l5th of April that they managed to take control of the city from Bengali fighter. They initially occupied Kushtia and Pabna, but the Bengali forces defeated them completely and held on to these cities till the middle of April. The same thing happened in Bogra and Dinajpur – the Bengalis reclaimed the cities that had been occupied by the Pakistani soldiers. In Jessore, the Bengali forces rebelled when they were being disarmed, and even though almost half of them lost their lives to the Pakistani army, the rest of them managed to escape from the cantonment. The Pakistani army had control of Camilla, Khulna, and Sylhet, but the Bengali forces persistently fought them. [26]

During this time the Pakistan army had brought in two divisions from Pakistan to Bangladesh, as well as countless militia and aims and ammunition by ship. With their massive air fleet and huge supply of weaponry, the Pakistan army started to spread all over Bangladesh. Ultimately, by the middle of May, they had taken control of all the major cities. [27] On the 11th of April the government of Pakistan sent General A. A. K. Niazi to take the responsibility of the armed forces from Tikka Khan. The freedom fighters were then starting to prepare for the next stage of war – guerrilla battle.

Refugees

While nobody in Bangladesh was safe after the 25th of March, the Pakistan army was the most furious at Hindus and those who were associated with the Awami League. Young people who might take part in the War of Liberation were also targets. Young girls were in the most danger of all. Along with the army, Bangladesh's Bihari population joined in the destruction and because of their torture, a massive number of people took refuge in India. According to the United Nations and Newsweek, the total number of refugees was ten million. At that time the population of Bangladesh was only seventy million- which meant one out of every seven people had left their own country and home to be a refugee in another country. [28] India gave refuge to this massive number of people, but was under a lot of pressure because of the cost of feeding and sheltering them.

It may seem unbelievable but there were more refugees than the residents at Agartala! The refugees lived terribly, with not enough food or space to live and widespread disease. People died of cholera and diarrhea. The highest toll was on young children and the elderly. At the end of the war, it was seen that in several refugee camps, there was not a single living child left!

Bangladesh Government

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had given the people hope for a sovereign nation, but at the time of the liberation war he was imprisoned in Pakistan. The person who took charge of this movement for freedom was Tajuddin Ahmed. He left his family to fend for themselves and crossed the border to India on the 30th March. There were no other leaders with him at the time: he contacted everyone later to form the government of the People ??s Republic of Bangladesh. On the 17th of April the historical Proclamation of Independence was announced at Mujibnagar. This proclamation morally and legally established Bangladesh as an independent country. In this new country, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the president and Syed Nazrul Islam was the vice president and acting president in Bangabandhu's absence, and Tajuddin Ahmed was the prime minister. On the 17th of April in Mujibnagar (Meherpur's Baidyanathtala) Bangladesh's first government was sworn in before national and international journalists, and ceremonially started its journey. [29] Their first responsibility was to lead the armed struggle against the Pakistan army and drive them out of Bangladesh.

Fight Back

In the beginning, the battles that took place were disorganized and unplanned. But slowly the freedom fighters grouped together and began to fight back. The position of Commander in chief of the Bangladesh armed forces was given to Colonel (Retired) M. Ataul Ghani Osmani, Chief of Staff to Lt. Colonel Abdur Rob and Deputy Chief of Staff to Group Captain A.K. Khandaker. Bangladesh was divided into eleven sectors. The first sector (Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracks)'s commander was at first Major Ziaur Rahman and later Major Rafiqul Islam. The second sector (Noakhali, Camilla.

South Dhaka, part of Faridpur)'s commander was at first Major Khaled Musharraf, later Captain Abdus Salek Chowdhury and lastly Captain A.T.M. Haider. The third sector (North Dhaka. North Sylhet and parts of Mymensingh)'s commander was at first Major K.M. Shafiullah and then Major A.N.M. Nuruzzaman. The fourth. fifth, and sixth sectors' (South Sylhet, North Sylhet, and Rangpur and Dinajpur respectively) commanders were Major C.R. Datta. Major Mir Shawkat Ali and Wing Commander M.K. Bashar. The seventh sector (Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna)'s commander was Major Nazmul Haque; he died in a car crash and then Major Qazi Nuruzzaman took over.

The eighth sector (Kushtia, Jessore, Faridpur)'s commander was at first Major Abu Osman Chowdhury and then Major M. A. Manzoor. The ninth sector (Khulna, Barisal)'s commander was Major M. A. Jalil. The tenth sector was for the naval areas, it was under direct control of the commander-in-chief. This sector had no officers, so the naval commandos fought under the commander of whichever sector they were in at the time. These naval commandos carried out an incredible mission called Operation Jackpot on the 15th of August in which they blew up several ships with mines in Chittagong [30].

The eleventh sector (Tangail, Mymensingh)'s commander was Major M. Abu Taher; he held this responsibility until he was injured in a fight in November. Besides these eleven sectors, Ziaur Rahman, Khaled Musharraf, and Shafiullah were in charge of three brigades, named the Z force, the K force and the S force after the first letter of their names respectively. Also, in Tangail, Abdul Kader Siddiqui led a regional team. Not only did he lead this extremely well-organized team of fighters called the Kaderia Bahini to fight, he also put together a team of volunteers to help them. [31]

At the end of the war the Bangladesh air force joined the armed forces, and this air force has the credit of being the first to carry out a bombing in the war. [32] A courageous group of young guerrillas called the Crack Platoon captured international attention by carrying out an extremely dangerous guerrilla operation right under the Pakistani military's noses in Dhaka city. [33]

Bangladesh Liberation war truly was a people's war. Countless students, farmers, workers and people from all spheres of life took part. The indigenous people from the plain land and hill also joined the liberation war. They had no shoes on their feet or clothes on their backs and no necessary weaponry – they didn't even have any time to train. In the words of Khaled Musharraf, the battlefield was their training ground. They had unbelievable courage and deep compassion for their motherland. While Bangladesh's regular armed forces fought the Pakistani military, the guerrilla teams attacked the Pakistani military from the underground, forcing their movement to be restricted to their own camps.

There is no end to the stories of bravery of these freedom fighters. One small story from a book written by a Pakistani army official goes like this: 'A young freedom fighter was arrested by the Pakistani army in Rohanpur area of Rajshahi in June 1971. Despite terrible torture, he refused to disclose any information. A Pakistani major finally held a stengun to his chest and said, answer my question or I'll kill you right now.

The fearless young freedom fighter bent down and kissed the ground of his motherland for the last time, stood up straight and said, I'm ready to die. My blood will free this country.' [34] This is what is patriotism, valiance and bravery. The Pakistani army saw these young fighters and knew they would never be able to defeat them. Sooner or later, they would have to admit defeat and leave the country.

The Swadheen Bangla Betar Kendro may not have fought with arms, but it was like a real soldier in the Liberation War all the same. With the help of our poets, writers, artists and the cultural activist, the radio station continually encouraged the people and gave the freedom fighters courage. Songs from that time still inspire people today. This history would be left incomplete if women's role in the freedom of Bangladesh was not mentioned. Only because of their help could the freedom fighters move safely through the country. The women took part in cultural activities that encouraged the freedom fighters, provided medical services to the injured, and even went to armed battle.

Traitors

The Pakistan army had no friends in Bangladesh – except for a few traitors. The people of Bangladesh rejected these traitors completely during the election; the Council Muslim League's Khwaja Khairuddin, the Convention Muslim League's Fazlul Qader Chowdhury, the Qayyum Muslim League's Khan A. Sobur Khan, the Jamaat-e-Islami's GolamAzam and the Nizam-i- Islam's Moulvi Farid Ahmed. [35] Out of these, the Jamaat-e-Islami political party is worth special mention. To help the Pakistan army, these traitors created the team of rajakars – which was mainly made of the armed cadres of Jamaat-e-Islamis.

In September a political delegation from West Pakistan complained to General Niazi that the entire rajakar group consisted of Jamaat-e-Islamis. General Niazi then ordered that the rajakars be called Al-Badr and AI-Shams. [36] These rajakars/Al-Badr/Al-shams had neither the strength nor the courage to face the freedom fighters directly, [37) but as puppets of the Pakistan army they carried out unspeakable torture and oppression on the Bangladeshi people. The Pakistan army did not know the people of this country, it was the Al-Badr, Al-Shams and the Razakars who helped identify them. Whatever the word Razakar might mean literally, there is no phrase that is hated more by the Bangladeshi people.

Fighting Outside the Country

During the freedom movement Bengalis who lived outside the country were of an immense help. They raised money for the freedom fighters and the Bangladesh government. alerted the world about Pakistan's genocide and formed public opinion in favor of Bangladesh's freedom. Especially noteworthy were Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, Architect F. R. Khan, Professor Muhammad Yunus, and Professor Rehman Sobhan. It was not only the Bangladeshis that helped - on the 1st of August in New York's Madison Square Garden, Ravi Shankar, George Harrison, and many other artists conducted one of the largest concerts of that time, that captured the attention of the entire world. The American poet Allen Ginsberg wrote a beautiful poem about the refugees' suffering, "September on Jessore Road," that still moves people to this day. [38]

Countries For and Against

When the world began to find out about the Pakistan army's genocide, most countries' sentiments were for Bangladesh, but two very important countries – the United States of America and China worked on Pakistan's side, against Bangladesh's freedom. In 1971, even though mostly Muslims were being killed in the name of Islam, almost all of the Muslim countries sided with Pakistan to try and stop our movement for freedom. Even if the American government was on Pakistan's side because of political reasons, the people of America stood by Bangladesh.

When he came to know about the genocide, the US Consul General at that time, Archer K. Blood, was livid; the telegram he sent to the State Department is known to be the harshest letter ever written in the diplomatic world. Near the end of the war, America sent warships of their Seventh Naval Fleet and the Soviet Union sent their nuclear armed naval fleet to the Bay of Bengal. As hard to believe as it may be, because of Bangladesh's freedom movement, two of the world's largest superpowers came up against each other with their nuclear weapons. [39]

At the very end of the war, when victory for the joint Bangladeshi and Indian army was certain, America tried to stop it by repeatedly sending ceasefire proposals to the United Nations Security Council, and the Soviet Union vetoed these proposals every time, clearing the road for our victory. But the country that played the most important role in our achieving freedom was India. This country took on the responsibility of feeding and sheltering a hundred thousand refugees and supplied our fighters with arms, training, and shelter. After India recognized Bangladesh as a country, they joined forces with the freedom fighters. One and a half thousand Indian fighters died in this war. [40]

Joint Forces

Around July the freedom fighters began to fight back in an organized manner, and by October they bad become strong and confident. They began to systematically attack and take over the Pakistan army border outposts. The guerrilla battles also began to be more and more daring. The Pakistan army's response to these battles was to go into villages with the rajakars to bum down houses and kill the people. By that time the Pakistan army's morale was beginning to weaken and they no longer wanted to go outside of their camps. [41]

The Pakistan army's situation in Bangladesh started to get so bad that, not being able to find any other solution, they attacked India on the 3rd of December. The intent was to attack suddenly and destroy the Indian air force, but this did not work at all. India immediately announced war against Pakistan, joined the Bangladeshi forces, and entered Bangladesh with their army. Pakistan then had five infantry divisions in Bangladesh. According to conventional rules of war, the Indian army should have taken in three times as many, that is, fifteen divisions, but because the freedom fighters were with them they took in only eight. [42] The freedom fighters themselves bad managed to stop the movement of the Pakistani army. It wasn't only the freedom fighters; all the general people of the country were also in the war with the joint forces.

The fighting lasted only thirteen days. At the very beginning and after bombing all the airports, the Pakistani pilots fled to Pakistan. After the few ships left in the ocean bad been sunk, only their ground forces remained. The Pakistani army was very skilled at killing innocent people – the freedom fighters and Indian army were eager to see if they were equally skilled when it came to actual fighting. After the fight started the Pakistani camps fell apart rapidly – they somehow managed to desperately hold on to a small area of land. The Indian army and the freedom fighters passed them by and rapidly approached Dhaka. The Meghna river didn't have a bridge, so the common people used their boats to take the armies and their weaponry across the river! [43]

In Dhaka, General Niazi and his generals were relying on two very strange things to keep them going in the war. Firstly, they thought that in West Pakistan, they would defeat India so bad! y that India would have no choice but to retreat from Bangladesh. And secondly, they thought that China would help from the north and America would help from the south. Both these ideas were entirely wrong. The Pakistanis themselves were completely defeated in West Pakistan, and no Chinese or American soldiers provided any assistance at all! [44]

Surrender

The freedom fighters and Indian soldiers surrounded Dhaka and demanded that the Pakistani army surrender. Because the Governor House bad been bombed, Governor Malik and his ministers took refuge at Hotel Intercontinental (today's Sheraton). The Indian air force dropped thousands of leaflets: "Surrender to us before the freedom fighters get you." [45]

Dhaka's powerful and mighty(!) Pakistan army then decided to surrender. When he saw that the surrender documents had something about surrendering to the joint leadership of 'Bangladesh' and India, a Pakistani general weakly tried to suggest that the name 'Bangladesh' be removed from the document, but nobody paid attention to him; there was no way to deny the truth of history! [46] On the 16th of December in front of thousands and thousands of people at the Racecourse Maidan, General Niazi signed the surrender document that forced him to bow his head and leave a free Bangladesh. The victory that the 70 million people of the country had been awaiting for nine long months was finally came to them who lost their loved ones during the war. It was the 22nd of December by the time the rest of the Pakistani soldiers had surrendered all over Bangladesh.

Cries of Anguish in the Joy of Victory

Before the people could begin to truly celebrate the surrender of the Pakistan army, a terrible piece of news came to them. In the first week of December when everyone began to understand that Pakistan's defeat was inevitable and Bangladesh would actually become a sovereign country, then the traitors of this country, the Al-Badr - captured three hundred of the country's teachers, doctors. engineers, journalists, artists, poets, authors and scientists. When the people desperately began to try to rescue them, their ravaged bodies began to be found in the Rayer bazaar killing field and elsewhere. The traitors wanted to ensure that even if the country would be free, it would never be able to stand up with its head held high, and so they calmly murdered the strongest and most talented of the country's individuals. Involved in the murders of the intellectuals were the Jamaat-e-Ilslami's student group, the Islami Chhatro Shongho 's central committee member Chowdhury Moinuddin, Ashrafuzzaman Khan [47], Motiur Rahman Nizami {chief of Al-Badr, East Pakistan) (48], and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid (central organizer of Al-Badr. East Pakistan). [49]

Our Pride

The earth that we stand on today, the sky we see when we look up, and the air in our lungs when we take a breath; we owe it all to our freedom fighters. This is a debt we will never be able to repay, but the Bengalis have been given the opportunity to express their gratitude through the honors of valiance. Of the people who have received these awards, the highest honor of Bir Shreshtho has been given posthumously to seven freedom fighters. They are Mohiuddin Jahangir, Hamidur Rahman, Mostafa Kamal, Ruhul Amin, Matiur Rahman, Munshi Abdur Rouf, and Nur Mohammad Sheikh. Until recently, Birsreshtho Matiur Rahman's body was in Pakistan and Birshreshtho Hamidur Rahman's body was in India. They have both now been brought back to Bangladesh. They are now kept with a deep love in our country with the other Birshreshthos and countless martyrs of the war.

Of those given these honors on the 15th of December, 1973, female freedom fighters were also included. These women not only provided shelter and assistance to the freedom fighters, but fought by their side too. [50]

The Shame of War

Any kind of war is a crime against humanity – innocent people who are not involved in the war in any way always end up having to give their lives. This happened in our country too. During the war, the Biharis who lived in Bangladesh sided with the Pakistani army

and carried out unspeakable brutalities like violence, oppression and killing on the Bengali people. In response to their brutality before, after, and during the Liberation War, many Biharis were murdered, among which were women, children, and completely innocent people. Almost all of the Bibaris wanted to go back to Pakistan, but the Pakistani government did not welcome them, and so this unfortunate group of people have been living sub-human lives in the Geneva camps for many years.

The Statistics of Genocide

During the liberation war in Bangladesh, there were about eighty thousand Pakistani soldiers, twenty five thousand militia, twenty five thousand civilian forces, and fifty thousand rajakars, Al-Badr, and Al-Shams members. On the other side there were about one hundred and seventy five thousand freedom fighters. Near the end of the war another two hundred and fifty thousand Indian soldiers joined the freedom fighters. At the end of the war after the surrender, about ninety one thousand Pakistani prisoners were transported to India. [51]

During the war, two hundred and fifty thousand women were violated by the Pakistani army and their group of traitors. About ten million people left the country to take refuge in India – it is unbelievable and yet true that if they had not left, it is very likely that they would have all been murdered in Bangladesh. How many people were killed in Bangladesh is not known for sure - there are several different estimates in the media. According to the 1984 World Almanac, it is a million. According to the New York Times (22nd December, 1972), it is between half to one and a half million. According to the Compton's Encyclopedia and the Encyclopedia Americana, it is three million. [52] The exact number may never be known. In Bangladesh today, the number is said to be three million.

After Independence

When the liberation war was taking place in Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was imprisoned in Pakistan. General Yahya Khan had given him the death sentence and a grave had been dug for him in jail. After the Pakistani army was defeated in Bangladesh, Bangabandhu was freed, and he returned to his country on the lOth of January, 1972. [53] By the 15th of March, the Indian army had left Bangladesh.

It got more and more difficult for the new Bangladesh government to immediately fulfill the people's dreams that had been created with the joy of victory and Bangabandhu's return. The people who had taken responsibility to run the governent had no experience doing so. The Pakistani army had destroyed all the roads and factories at the last moment, the country's economy was completely ruined. There were hints of a conspiracy in politics too – a distance began to grow between Bangabandhu and Tajuddin Aluned, who had led the country during the war. Conspiracies started not only inside the country but outside also, when there started to be a shortage of food in the country, rice-bearing ships heading towards Bangladesh suddenly turned away. [54]

People started to be hungry - famine took over the country. There was political unrest, which was attempted to be quelled by the Rakkhi Bahini. All together, anarchy began to take over, and at that point the Awami League government created 'Bakshal' and tried to establish a one-party rule which may have been acceptable right after the independence but was not so at all four years later. There were disappointment and anger everywhere. Taking advantage of this situation, a few young officers of the army assassinated Bangabandhu and his entire family, not even leaving out the newly married wives or the young child. Also four of Awami League's most senior leaders, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M. Mansur Ali, and A. H. M. Qamruzzaman were put in jail where they were killed. As if this is not a civilized place – rather a nation of barbarous people.

A dark time began. Bangabandhu 's government had issued a general amnesty and forgave a group of the traitors, but those war criminals who had murdered, tortured, raped and burned down houses were not forgiven;. These eleven thousand war criminals were imprisoned to be tried. After the assassination of Bangabandhu and his family, on the 31st of December 1975, Jutice Abu Sadat Mohammad Say em and General Ziaur Rahman's government forgave them. [55) The war criminals then began to be rehabilitated by the military government and dictatorship. The beautiful constitution that had been created in 1972 was slowly modified until the fundamental ideals like secularism was essentially removed. [56] Religious fanaticism and communalism began to take place in the government and in society. After fifteen long years and many movements, the country went back to democracy in 1990. Since then, Bangladesh has been attempting to stand on its feet with a democratic government.

Last Words

This country that has suffered so much grief is a country we deeply love. We are eternally grateful to those who have given their lives for this country. And those despicable traitors and war criminals for them we have nothing but hatred. Even after thousands of years from now – or as long as Bangladesh survives- they will never be forgiven. We hope that the new generation will feel the passionate joy that comes with loving one's motherland. We hope they will travel all over the country to find the freedom fighters and touch their hands to say, you have given us a free country, we give you our love. We hope they will look into the freedom fighters' eyes and say softly. we give you our word, we will work to create the Bangladesh that you dreamt of. We promise, we will pay back your debt of blood.

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The demons of 1971



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Thirty-five years ago, on <u>December 16, 1971</u>, the Pakistan army unconditionally <u>surrendered</u> to the Indian Army at the Dhaka Racecourse in Bangladesh. With the stroke of a pen, Bangladesh was born. That birth, however, came at an enormous cost. Before the Pakistan army and its local collaborators were finally subdued by the Indian Army, they had slaughtered up to 3 million Bengalis in nine months of madness.

This is the story of that slaughter. This is the story of genocide in Bangladesh. In 1971, Bangladesh, then called East Pakistan, was part of a geographical monstrosity created by the British in 1947. Pakistan, as created by the British, consisted of West Pakistan and East Pakistan, separated by the vast expanse of the Indian land mass in the middle. East and West Pakistan spoke different languages and were culturally distinct. East Pakistan accounted for the majority of Pakistan's population, yet it was economically exploited and politically marginalised by West Pakistan.

Bengalis, the people of East Pakistan, were also persecuted for speaking their native language and for being either Muslims who had converted from Hinduism or for being Hindus. Pakistan, translated as 'The Land of the Pure', was intolerant of Bengalis because they were not 'pure' Muslims. The tension between East and West Pakistan began to boil over in 1970 after West Pakistan's minimal response to the devastation wreaked by the cyclone of 1970 in East Pakistan. Nearly half a million Bengalis died as a result of the cyclone and the indifferent response by the Pakistani government.

In the midst of the tension, the Pakistani military rulers decided to hold the first democratic elections in Pakistan's history. The Awami League, representing Bengalis in East Pakistan, won the <u>majority</u> of seats in the National Assembly. However, the military leadership of West Pakistan refused to allow the Awami League to form a government. The siege of East Pakistan by the Pakistan army had begun. War was now inevitable. On March 7, 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the Awami League, gave a <u>speech</u> at the Dhaka Racecourse that mobilised the Bengali nation for resistance. He began the speech with a call to arms:

On March 25, 1971, the Pakistan army launched <u>Operation Searchlight</u> to 'eliminate' the Awami League and its supporters in East Pakistan. The goal was to 'crush' the will of the Bengalis. The <u>killing</u> began shortly after 10 pm. In the first 48 hours the orgy of killing had ravaged Dhaka city. The Hindu population of Dhaka took the brunt of the slaughter. Dhaka university was targeted and Hindu students were gunned down. Mujib was arrested shortly after declaring Bangladesh independent. The rest of the Awami League leadership went into hiding and those that survived eventually fled to India. The genocide had just begun.

On February 22, 1971 the generals in West Pakistan took a decision to crush the Awami League and its supporters. It was recognised from the first that a campaign of genocide would be necessary to eradicate the threat: 'Kill three million of them,' said President Yahya Khan at the February conference, 'and the rest will eat out of our hands.' (*Robert Payne, Massacre [1972], page 50.*)

On March 25 the genocide was launched. The university in Dhaka was attacked and students exterminated in their hundreds. Death squads roamed the streets of Dhaka, killing some 7,000 people in a single night. It was only the beginning. Within a week, half the population of Dhaka had fled, and at least 30,000 people had been killed. Chittagong, too, had lost half its population.

All over East Pakistan people were taking flight, and it was estimated that in April some 30 million people were wandering helplessly across East Pakistan to escape the grasp of the military. (*Payne, Massacre, page 48*.) Ten million refugees fled to India, overwhelming that country's resources and spurring the eventual Indian military intervention. (The population of Bangladesh/East Pakistan at the outbreak of the genocide was about 75 million.) But the will of the Bengali people was not broken on the night of March 25, 1971. On the contrary, while Dhaka burned, so did the illusion of a united Pakistan. At 7:45 pm on March 27, 1971 Major Ziaur Rahman, leader of a rebel army unit in East Pakistan, <u>broadcast</u> Bangladesh's independence on Mujib's behalf. With the following words, the armed resistance to the Pakistan army began:

This is Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro [Free Bangla Radio]. I, Major Ziaur Rahman, at the direction of Bangobondhu Mujibur Rahman, hereby declare that the independent People's Republic of Bangladesh has been established. At his direction, I have taken command as the temporary Head of the Republic. In the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, I call upon all Bengalis to rise against the attack by the West Pakistani Army. We shall fight to the last to free our Motherland. By the grace of Allah, victory is ours. Joy Bangla.

Major Zia's broadcast from a small radio station in Chittagong was picked up by a Japanese ship in the Bay of Bengal. It was later rebroadcast by Radio Australia and the BBC. Yahya Khan and the Pakistan army planned their genocide well. Yahya Khan aimed to crush the Bengali spirit once and for all. Before the crackdown all foreign journalists were expelled from East Pakistan. Only a handful managed to evade the Pakistani army. One of them was Simon Dring. On March 30, 1971 he filed a chilling report of the massacre that took place in Dhaka on the night of March 25. Dring reported that in 24 hours of killing, the Pakistan army slaughtered as many as 7,000 people in Dhaka and up to 15,000 people in all of Bangladesh.

The Pakistan army employed tanks, artillery, mortars, bazookas and machine guns against the unarmed population of Dhaka. Their targets were students, local police, intellectuals, political leaders, Awami League supporters, Hindus and ordinary citizens. They carried out their ruthless killing spree with military precision.

Dring described the attack on Dhaka University as follows:

'Led by American-supplied M-24 World War II tanks, one column of troops sped to Dacca University shortly after midnight. Troops took over the British Council library and used it as a fire base from which to shell nearby dormitory areas. 'Caught completely by surprise, some 200 students were killed in Iqbal Hall, headquarters of the militantly anti-government students' union, I was told. Two days later, bodies were still smoldering in burnt-out rooms, others were scattered outside, more floated in a nearby lake, an art student lay sprawled across his easel.

'Army patrols also razed nearby market area. Two days later, when it was possible to get out and see all this, some of the market's stall-owners were still lying as though asleep, their blankets pulled up over their shoulders.' The 'old town' quarter of Dhaka city was singled out for destruction by the Pakistanis because of strong Awami League support there and because there were many Hindu residents in the area. Here is how Simon Dring described the attacks on unarmed civilians: 'The lead unit was followed by soldiers carrying cans of gasoline. Those who tried to escape were shot. Those who stayed were burnt alive. About 700 men, women and children died there that day between noon and 2 pm, I was told.

'In the Hindu area of the old town, the soldiers reportedly made the people come out of their houses and shot them in groups. The area, too, was eventually razed. 'The troops stayed on in force in the old city until about 11 pm on the night of Friday, March 26, driving around with local Bengali informers. The soldiers would fire a flare and the informer would point out the houses of Awami League supporters. The house would then be destroyed -- either with direct fire from tanks or recoilless rifles or with a can of gasoline, witnesses said.'

After having massacred 15,000 unarmed civilians in a single day, the Pakistani soldiers bragged about their invincibility to Simon Dring:

"These bugger men," said one Punjabi lieutenant, "could not kill us if they tried."

"Things are much better now," said another officer. "Nobody can speak out or come out. If they do we will kill them -- they have spoken enough -- they are traitors, and we are not. We are fighting in the name of God and a united Pakistan."

In the name of God and a united Pakistan, genocide had just begun. The Pakistanis began their killing spree in the major cities of Dhaka, Chittagong and Comilla. However, as terrified Bengalis fled to the countryside, the Pakistani army followed. Pakistan began to fly in additional troops into Bangladesh to continue the genocidal campaign. The goal was the extermination of the Bengali nation.

Hindus in particular were targeted for extermination. Bengali Muslims, however, did not escape the Pakistani killing machine since Bengali Muslims were considered 'tainted' by their Bengali/Hindu culture. In the face of the ongoing massacres, a guerilla army formed under the leadership of rebel Bengali military officers and organised student activists. This guerilla army, known as the Mukti Bahini in Bengali, fought a war of attrition with the Pakistani army until December 16, 1971. The Mukti Bahini received training and support from the Indian government as it resisted Pakistani occupation. The Pakistani army was constantly harassed by Bangladeshi resistance. In response the Pakistani army slaughtered more Bengalis.

The killing continued unabated throughout the summer of 1971. The army moved methodically from village to village, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. In June the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sydney Schanberg filed a number of eyewitness accounts from Bangladeshi towns for *The New York Times*. In response, the Pakistan army expelled him from the country on June 30, 1971.

Schanberg <u>described</u> the systematic subjugation and killing of Bengalis:

'Army trucks roll through the half-deserted streets of the capital of East Pakistan these days, carrying "antistate" prisoners to work-sites for hard labor. Their heads are shaved and they wear no shoes and no clothes except for shorts -- all making escape difficult. 'Street designations are being changed to remove all Hindu names as well as those of Bengali Moslem nationalists as part of a campaign to stamp out Bengali culture. Shankari Bazar Road in Dacca is now Tikka Khan Road, after the lieutenant general governor of East Pakistan and whom most Bengalis call "the Butcher."

'Since the offensive began the troops have killed countless thousands of Bengalis -- foreign diplomats estimate at least 200,000 to 250,000 -- many in massacres. Although the targets were Bengali Moslems and the 10 million Hindus at first, the army is now concentrating on Hindus in what foreign observers characterize as a holy war. 'Of the more than six million Bengalis who are believed to have fled to India to escape the army's terror, at least four million are Hindus. The troops are still killing Hindus and burning and looting their villages.' When the burden of the killing became too much for the army, the Pakistanis enlisted and trained paramilitary units made up of non-Bengali Muslims and Bengali collaborators from right-wing religious parties. These paramilitary units, the al-Badr and al-Shams, worked as informers and assassins to augment the military's gruesome task of killing Bengalis. In June 1971 Sydney Schanberg reported on the formation of these units:

'Throughout East Pakistan the Army is training new paramilitary home guards or simply arming "loyal" civilians, some of whom are formed into peace committees. Besides Biharis and other non-Bengali, Urduspeaking Moslems, the recruits include the small minority of Bengali Moslems who have long supported the army -- adherents of the right-wing religious parties such as the Moslem League and Jamaat-e-Islami.

'Collectively known as the Razakars, the paramilitary units spread terror throughout the Bengali population. With their local knowledge, the Razakars were an invaluable tool in the Pakistani Army's arsenal of genocide.' At the end of June 1971, Schanberg visited the town of Faridpur and reported on the persecution there: 'The Pakistani Army has painted big yellow "H's" on the Hindu shops still standing in this town to identify the property of the minority eighth of the population that it has made special targets.

'The campaign against the Hindus was -- and in some cases still is -- systematic. Soldiers fanned through virtually every village asking where the Hindus lived. Hindu property has been confiscated and either sold or given to "loyal" citizens. Many of the beneficiaries have been Biharis, non-Bengali Muslim migrants from India, most of whom are working with the army now. The army has given weapons to large numbers of the Biharis, and it is they who have often continued the killing of Hindus in areas where the army has eased off.

'However, army commanders in the field in East Pakistan privately admit to a policy of stamping out Bengali culture, both Muslim and Hindu -- but particularly Hindu. 'In Faridpur -- and the situation was much the same throughout East Pakistan -- there was no friction to speak of between Hindu and Muslim before the army came.

'The army tried to drive a wedge between them. In April, as a public example, two Hindus were beheaded in a central square in Faridpur and their bodies were soaked in kerosene and burned. 'Still, there is no sign of a hate-Hindu psychology among the Bengali Muslims. Many have taken grave risks to shelter and defend Hindus; others express shock and horror at what is happening to the Hindus but confess that they are too frightened to help.' For his part in exposing Pakistani atrocities in Bangladesh, Schanberg was promptly expelled from Bangladesh.

The Pakistan army and the Razakars did not stop at simply massacring Bengalis. They also took to raping Bengali women. During nine months in 1971, over 200,000 Bengali women and girls were raped. Many were taken as sex slaves and raped multiple times by the Pakistani army. By December 1971 the genocide had decimated Bengali society. On December 3, 1971 the Indian Army formally joined the war. In 13 days the Indian Army delivered a humiliating defeat to the Pakistan army in Bangladesh. The army that had committed mass murder against an unarmed civilian population was decisively routed in less then a fortnight.

The Pakistan army, on the verge of defeat, was determined to wipe out Bengali culture in one final act of barbarism. On December 14, 1971, the Pakistan army unleashed the paramilitary units al-Badr and al-Shams to exterminate Bengali intellectuals. The goal was to find and kill Bengali political thinkers, educators, scientists, poets, doctors, lawyers, journalists and other intellectuals. The al-Badr and al-Shams fanned out with lists of names to find and execute the core of Bengali intellectuals. The intellectuals were arrested and taken to Rayerbazar, a marshy area in Dhaka city. There, they were gunned down with their eyes blindfolded and their hands tied behind their backs.

On December 16, 1971 the Pakistan army in Bangladesh formally surrendered. At the cost of three million dead the nation of Bangladesh was born. It was the most concentrated act of genocide of the 20th century.

Thirty-five years after the birth of the nation, many have forgotten the sacrifices of those who are no longer with us. But for those of us who survived, for our parents who kept us safe through the months of terror, there is no erasing the horrors of 1971. Bangladesh today has yet to exorcise the demons of 1971. Many of the Razakars who collaborated with the Pakistan army and murdered countless Bengalis have today returned to Bangladesh. Some of the Razakar leaders from 1971 today lead the Jamaat-e-Islami party. Still others live freely in the United Kingdom and the United States. None of these Razakars have yet to face justice for the crimes they committed in 1971.

Today the secular Bangladesh that was born from the ashes of 1971 is under threat. It is under threat from the same anti-liberation forces that helped perpetrate the genocide of 1971. The future of a secular Bangladesh hangs in the balance today. In 1971, Bangladeshis learned the evils of both racism and religious extremism. It is a lesson we forget at our own peril.

Mashuqur Rahman is a Bangladeshi blogger living in the suburbs of Washington, DC with his wife and daughter. He blogs about foreign policy and Bangladesh. He was a child during the 1971 genocide. Like most Bengali families, his family fled to the countryside during the war. They returned to Dhaka toward the end of the war to escape Pakistani military raids on their village. Like thousands of other Bengalis he was witness to the Pakistan army's surrender in Dhaka on December 16, 1971. He was perched atop his father's shoulders while Lieutenant General A A K Niazi signed the instrument of surrender with the Indian Army.

The Mathematics of a Genocide Abul Kasem X



https://mm-gold.azureedge.net/new site/mukto-mona/Articles/kasem/mathematics genocide.html



Pic: Dumped dead bodies: victims of Pakistani holocaust

President Yahya said, "Kill three million of them and the rest will eat out of our hands". (Robert Payne, Massacre, The Tragedy of Bangladesh and the Phenomenon of Mass Slaughter Throughout History; P50; New York, Macmillan, 1973)

A few Neo-Razakars and some Pakistanis are in the devious game again. They are trying to sow the seed of doubt in the minds of new generation of Bangalees about the severity of 1971 Genocide. One of these Neo-Razakars even had the audacity to say that only about few hundred thousand (150 000 - 250 000) people were killed in Bangladesh. We know why these people are suddenly active again when the Bangladesh election is just a month away. One Pakistani even said that it is nearly impossible for the 90 000 Pakistani soldiers to kill 3 million Bangladeshis in just 9 months time. Let us do some calculations to refute their well design plan. Let us take our calculator and do some calculations based on international data. We shall do this calculation and compare that with those of Cambodia, another land of genocide.

Bangladesh

In 1981, UN's declaration of Universal Human Rights writes; "Among the genocides of human history, the highest number of people killed in lower span of time is in Bangladesh in 1971. An average of 6000 (six thousand) to 12 000 (twelve thousand) people were killed every single day........This is the highest daily average in the history of genocide's." The occupation army of Pakistan committed this holy act for an approximate period of 260 days (from the night of 25 March,1971 to their surrender on the 16th. December, 1971). Using UN's figures multiply them with 260 days. What figures do we get? Please take a calculator and check this one out.

- (1) Lower limit of Bangalee killed = $6\,000 \times 260 = 1\,560\,000$ (1.56 million) Higher limit of Bangalee killed = $12\,000 \times 260 = 3\,120\,000$ (3.12 million) We can take an average value of 2 340 000 (2.34 million)
- (2) In 1971 there were around 75 million people in Bangladesh. The average size of a Bangalee family was around 5 (five) at that time. Divide 75 million by 5 which gives 15 million families in Bangladesh in 1971. Number killed per family = 0.16 (2.34 million divided by 15 million) Number of families affected with at least one family member killed = 6.4 (15 million divided by 2.34 million).

This is 42.7% (6.4 multiplied by 100 and divided by 15) of families. For simplicity, let us use a round figure of 40%. This means that 40% of Bangalee families were affected with the loss of at least one family member. Of course, there were thousands of families where the loss of family members was more than one. In many cases, the entire family excepting a lone survivor was wiped out. If these facts are taken in to consideration then the average percentage affected (40%) will change.

- (3) Numbers killed by each Pakistani soldier = 26 persons (2.34 million divided by 90 000 soldiers) in 260 days. I have excluded the Razakars who joined the Pakistani soldiers later. An approximate number of Razakars will be around 50,000 to 60,000 or may be more. No one knows the real data). Do your own calculations if you want to include the Razakars.
- (4) Numbers killed by each Pakistani soldier per day is 0.1 person. (26 divided by 260).

That is, one Pakistani soldier killed at least one Bangalee in every ten days. Is that an impossible job? Are these numbers unbelievable? The 3 million people killed by the Pakistani soldiers is not at all impossible. The above calculations clearly demonstrate this fact. That was exactly what happened in Bangladesh. In fact, the September 1972 issue of National Geographic clearly writes that more than 3 million people were killed in Bangladesh. This fact was revealed almost after a year of the carnage. Therefore, the records are surely more authentic and free from bias.

Cambodia

Let us now look in to another genocide, which has no match in human history. This is the genocide by Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Official figure of genocide toll is 1.7 million (many sources quote a figure of around 2 million. But let us work with the 1.7 million figure). This was not done in 260 days (like Pakistani soldiers) but within a period of Khmer Rouge rule of 4 (four) years (from 1975 to 1979). Cambodia's population in 1970 was 6.94 million and its population in 1988 was 7.87 million. The average population growth in Cambodia can be taken as 2.3% (Source: Book of Vital World statistics; by The Economist Books (page 16). Published by Hutchinson Business books Ltd. London, 1990). Using this population growth rate we can calculate the following.

The population of Cambodia in 1974 (genocide year) would have been around 7.6 million (1.023 raised to the power of 4 then multiplied by 6.94 million). Number of Cambodians killed = 1.74 million. Therefore, % of population killed = 22.8% (in Cambodia) % of population killed in Bangladesh = 4% (using the 3 million figure) I do not have the data for the average family size in Cambodia. So, using the same assumption as in Bangladesh (5 members per family). Numbers of families in Cambodia in 1974 = 1.52 million Numbers of people killed per family in Cambodia in 1974 = 1.14 Number of people killed per day (for 4 years) = 1192

Now, let us assume that the Khmer rouge squeezed the time of killing to 260 days instead of 4 years. Then the number of people killed per day (in 260 days) would have been around 7000 (seven thousand per day). This figure is not very far off from the daily killings in Bangladesh.

We can conclude the following

The figure 3 million is not a pie in the sky figure. It is quite an accurate estimate of the people killed in Bangladesh in 1971. 90,000 Pakistani soldiers can and did kill the 3 million Bangalees in approximately 9 months time. It was not an impossible task as suggested by some Pakistani. In terms of severity and the density of people killed per family, the Cambodian genocide is far worse than Bangladesh genocide. (1.14 per family in Cambodia vs.0.16 per family in Bangladesh). In reality, the density of killing in Cambodia was about 7 times more ferocious than in Bangladesh. Approximately 40% families in Bangladesh lost at least one family member. Every family in Cambodia lost more than one family member. In terms of speed of killing, Bangladesh genocide is the worst in history.

An average of 9000 (mean of 6 000 and 12 000 of the U.N figure) people killed per day for 260 days versus approximately 1200 people killed per day (for 4 years) in Cambodia. The big difference between the Bangladesh genocide and the Cambodian genocide was this. Cambodia set up a People's Revolutionary Tribunal in August 1979 to try Pol Pot and Ieng Sary. They were tried in absentia (at least). This was the first genocide trial based on UN policy. No such trial ever took place in Bangladesh. Do our politicians have the guts to do what the humble Cambodians did for justice? To my mind, the answer is simply 'no'. All our politicians are impotent. They are still hooked on 'Islamic brotherhood. The people must revolt and establish their own tribunal to bring justice. This tribunal should also try our impotent, gutless politicians for failing to deliver justice when they were in power. Is this possible in Bangladesh?

Some afterthoughts

The gratuitous and wanton killing of astronomical number of unarmed Bangalees by marauding soldiers of Pakistan should not go unpunished. We ask the International Tribune on Human Rights to look into this crime against humanity seriously and do the needful. Some of the officers are still in theirs sixties and seventies. Time is running out. Some of these killers are respectable citizens of Pakistan who are collecting their pension sitting in the comfort of their home. These killers should be apprehended and bring to International Court of Justice in The Haque, The Netherlands.

THE NUMBER-GAME OF 3 MILLION fatemolla

The number-game has popped up again about our martyrs of 1971. While there are killer Maolanas and corrupt politicians (almost al of ours) to play with this, I prefer not to take any NFB-writer as any of them. While trust on our writers is important, distortion or simply presentation of information has profound impact on the result. Far from being a musician I am trying to clarify this with basic music-math, to address an accredited musician-writer in his language of mind (mine too!).

One change of NISHAD from "KOMOL" to "SHUDDHO" changes Malkosh to Chondrokosh, an altogether different Raag with complete different taste. One change of "KOMOL GANDHAR" to "SHUDDHO GANDHAR" changes Bagesree to Ragesree, again a very different Raag with different taste. Small changes in Raag Mollar create Meghmollar, Surmollar, Notmollar, Mia-Ki-Mollar, Ramdashi-Mollar (there are others, don't remember now) etc, all with very different impressions and impacts. Inclusion of NISHAD to Raag Abhog transforms it to Bagesree, exclusion of KORhI-MA (MA as a whole) could not stop Bhupali from being included in the KOLLYAN-THAAT.

Without any note-change, if the SA of Bhupali is shifted to its own PA, then the Sargam changes from SA RE GA PA DHA SA to SA RE MA PA DHA SA, which is nothing but Raag Durga, again with a very different impact. EVEN WITHOUT ANY CHANGE OF NOTES (information), ONLY DIFFERENT MOVEMENT (presentation) OF THE TUNE CHANGES RAAG DARBARI TO JOUNOPURI, AND RAAG BHUPALI TO DESHKAAR. Please correct if this non-musician is wrong.

The spirit of 1971 has been victimized form all the angles of the examples given above, by our own people. So the spirit did the very right thing, it just evaporated. The recent number-game of 3-million resulted in confusion in people's mind. We do have figures from World Bank, foreign Universities, Newspapers and other establishments like National Geographic, even from the UN-Human Rights Department, ranging from 0.25 to 3 million, thanks to Mukto-Mona, (NOT so called "Murkho-Mona", Sir! Let us break the nasty prison of name-calling and get out of it, all of us.) That is a huge span, never academically addressed. These figures, though from accredited institutions, do not enjoy the support of any documented research in our vast villages.

Without any backing of formal research and survey, "3-million" always remained vulnerable though it went unchallenged for many years and got its wide acceptability. Nobody, except a character of Humayun Ahmed's TV-Drama, took the initiative of such an important follow up of number-count of our genocide. Now as the wind has changed its direction, there are innocent academic / ill-motivated efforts to verify / challenge it. We must realize that it is only natural, unless our Govt. gives the job to an International Institution (Uuuups! His Excellency The Mottya-Razakar & Co. is right there sitting in our Parliament!). Now we can only speculate, "debate" endlessly, and get more confused about the seriousness of the genocide. Keeping in mind that the criminals of 1971 and their supporters want that, the only healthy way left for us now is to take "3 Million" as not an absolute but as an arbitrary number, because we need a number to address the issue of genocide. All Numbers Are Not Absolute, We Do Use Arbitrary Numbers Extensively All The Time In Our Lives.

In the Qura'an when God changes his oneness to plurality, uses "WE" or "US" for Himself, the expression is only "SHOMMANARTH-E BOHUBOCHON", He is still one. When the young Prince criss-crosses Seven Seas and Thirteen Rivers in search of the life-bird of the demon, he only travels from horizon to horizon. When we pardon "SHAAT KHOON" of our dear ones, we never mean seven killings. "PONCHO BYANJON" may not be exactly five dishes; "PONCHOBOTI" may have fifty "Bot"-trees. "SHOPTODINGA" is only one huge boat. "DOSH NEKI" or "SOTTOR SAWAB" is far from real numbers. "SHOPTO ASMAN" does not exist at all. There are not seven but twelve different notes in each "SHOPTOK" of a harmonium or keyboard, "CHALSHE" also may happen before or after 40 years of age.

You could buy "ASHEE" mangoes in fifties in the mango market, which was really a hundred, and during the "NEEL"-time of British Bengal the ignorant peasants actually had to pay 25 bundles of their produce to meet the "KURhI" of the system. "3 million" today is like the existence of god. If one does not believe in it, there are "proofs". If one believes in it, there are stronger "proofs". While it is so, in the absence of a Judge why must we be lost in this endless debate where none but only the killers win?

I repeat, we need a number to address the issue of 71's genocide. We may get an all-acceptable number if and when the criminals will be dragged to the court and a formal investigation will be done. Until then our best option is to regard "3 million" as not an absolute but an arbitrary number.

Jamaat-e-Islam and its anti-liberation role in 1971

http://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-10538

Shamsuddin Ahmed

The comments made by former bureaucrat Shah Abdul Hannan, coming as they did on the heels of similar comments from the Jamaat-e-Islam Secretary-General Mohammad Mujahid, on our glorious Liberation War of 1971 should have triggered a tsunami across the political land mass of Bangladesh by now for the simple reason that there would have been no Bangladesh today had there been no Liberation War in 1971. There should have been country-wide agitation, with people protesting their remarks. We heard a judiciously guarded patriotic comment from former chief justice Mostafa Kamal, and a soldierly, patriotic outburst from Maj Gen Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, a retired valiant freedom fighter, through the courtesy of The Daily Star.

Why this audacity from the anti-liberation forces? This needs a bit of explaining. Thanks to our rulers, for whom capturing political power has been the be-all and end-all of their lives, the true history of our Liberation War, the finest hour of our history and the brightest star on our national firmament, has not been put across to our people, particularly the post-independence generations. Our politicians have been too busy with who declared the independence of Bangladesh and who raised the flag of Bangladesh first, and who should be lionised for this. I wish they could stop here. But no. From Ziaur Rahman onward all our rulers, without exception, have soft-pedaled with regard to the defeated anti-liberation political forces of 1971 in general and the Jamaat-e-Islam in particular.

It was none other than a valiant freedom fighter like late Ziaur Rahman who, in his bid to capture and consolidate political power, picked up from the dustbin of history all the anti-liberation forces, particularly the Jamaat-e-Islam, which was banned as a political outfit soon after our liberation, and gave them political space in order to counter and whittle down the Awami League, the dominant political force at that time. Many of those who opposed our independence and our Liberation War in 1971 were made senior minister, prime minister and cabinet ministers by Zia ur Rahman. He, on advice from these politicians, changed the constitution by supplanting secularism as one of the four guiding principles of the constitution by religion based politics in the country. He allowed the Jamaat-e-Islam chief Golam Azam, who had gone into hiding in Pakistan, to return to Bangladesh. Ershad, the dictator, picked up the thread from Zia and took many steps to appease the anti-liberation forces. Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of this sovereign nation, was too busy planning her political future, and chose not to touch the anti-liberation forces. And Khaleda Zia, true to her late husband's political doctrine, threw open her slender arms and embraced the Jamaat-e-Islam and all other anti-liberation forces as partners in governing this country.

This is how Jamaat-e-Islam has gained enough political clout and muscle over the years to reach a stage where its leaders like Mujahid, and like-minded Shah Hannan, could dare throw down the gauntlet and say openly that what we proudly called our glorious Liberation War was nothing more than a civil war, and that no war criminals ever existed in 1971, nor do they exist now.

Let us not forget that soon after Zia politically rehabilitated Jamaat-e-Islami, its official stance was that the party did not make any mistake in 1971, and that it did what it considered right at that time by upholding the ideology of a united Pakistan. This did amply imply that Jamaat-e-Islam did not recognise our Liberation War and our independence from Pakistan in 1971. Like Pakistan, Jamaat-e-Islam slandered our heroic fight for independence as an Indian engineered conspiracy to break Pakistan. But the Jamaat leadership, at any level, never said so emphatically and so openly as it has done now that there was no Liberation War in 1971 and that no war criminals ever existed in 1971, nor do they exist now.

Let there be no mistaking that Jamaat-e-Islam has adopted a well thought out posture vis-à-vis our glorious Liberation War of 1971. It did not recognise our Liberation War in 1971. Nor does it recognise it now, even after 36 years of our existence as an independent country. What we call, and often proudly refer to as, our glorious War of Liberation of 1971 was, and still is, a civil war in the political history of Pakistan. True, from the Pakistani perspective it was a civil war fought between the Pakistan nationalist forces led by the Pakistan armed forces and the dissident secessionist nationalist forces of East Pakistan represented by the Mukti Bahini and the freedom loving people of this country, minus a paltry number of Jamaat-e-Islam cum Muslim League adherents who aligned themselves with and swore their allegiance to Pakistan.

It is an irony of fact, but it is true, that while all the defeated anti-liberation political forces of 1971 in this country in general, and Jamaat-e-Islam in particular, have been enjoying full political freedom in this country, they continue to show their trans-border loyalty and allegiance to Pakistan by toeing the Pakistani policy of calling our Liberation War a civil war and denying that a genocide was committed by the Pakistan occupation forces in 1971, while the whole world witnessed the saga of our heroic war for liberating this country from the Pakistani bondage and the Pyrrhic victory we achieved in the end. It is a shame that a section of our own people, coming from this soil hallowed by the blood of the best martyred manhood of our nation, should find it fit to distance themselves from the mainstream of our freedom loving people, gloat over being the collaborators of the Pakistani occupation army in committing heinous war crimes like genocide and dishonouring of our women folks, and belittle the heroic resolve and sacrifice of millions of our people for freedom from Pakistani bondage.

As a citizen, and as a man with a humble contribution in our glorious War of Liberation, I fully endorse the sentiments expressed by Gen Muhammad Ibrahim in his write up on this issue. I would only wish to add a footnote to what he has so eloquently and so poignantly suggested to address this problem of paramount national importance. A wound like this the presence of anti-liberation political elements in the body politic of this country will only keep festering if we do not administer proper treatment to cure it permanently. I am hundred percent sure that our major political players would not like to touch this wound and cure it. It has to be done by this non-political, pro-people and pro-democracy interim government, with the full backing by the rejuvenated civil administration, the new look judiciary, the valiant armed forces, and the freedom loving people of this country, particularly the surviving freedom fighters.

In the preamble to our constitution, it has been mentioned in unambiguous terms that the fundamental principles of the constitution inspired our heroic people to dedicate themselves to, and our brave martyrs to sacrifice their lives for, the war of national independence. It has also been clearly stated that the people of Bangladesh, having proclaimed their independence on March 26 1971, established the independent, sovereign People's Republic of Bangladesh through a historic war for national independence. There is therefore no way for any one to deny the War of Independence or Liberation of 1971. Nor is there any scope for any one to deny that our brave martyrs did sacrifice their lives in the War of Independence or Liberation. Nowhere in the constitution does it say that civil war was fought in this country leading to emergence of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign country in 1971.

Therefore, those people who deny our War of Independence/Liberation of 1971, in fact, deny the very legitimacy of their claim as citizens of this country. So, my humble suggestion to this government and to our Election Commission is as follows:

- * Enact a law stipulating that any political party or any person denying our War of Independence/Liberation of 1971 and calling it a civil war and denying the existence of war criminals in the country in 1971, shall be debarred permanently from taking part in any parliamentary election or any local government election or from being a minister or advisor or from holding any office of profit in the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- * Enact a law forbidding any political party or any person known to have opposed actively or in any other manner our War of Independence/Liberation, and of having collaborated actively with the Pakistan occupation army in committing acts of violence or war crime like wanton killing of civilians and rape of women folks in 1971, from participation in any parliamentary election or any local government election.

It is a pity that we, the freedom loving people of this country, particularly the freedom fighters, have splintered while the need was to close our ranks. This has helped the anti-liberation political forces to move from strength to strength. We have to fight these forces, not merely because they have denied the very existence of our glorious Liberation War and our sacrifice to attain independence in 1971 but also because their Taliban like obscurantist politics represent a potential threat to peace and harmony in this tiny Muslim majority country and in this region as a whole.

Brig Gen Shamsuddin Ahmed is a former Military Secretary to the President of Bangladesh.

What Jamaat leaders said in '71 http://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-9116

Hasan Jahid Tusher and Ashfaq Wares Khan

Jamaat-e-Islami was directly involved in war crimes in 1971 as part of the Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams groups and peace committees, inciting killings of Liberation War supporters and collaborating with the Pakistani occupation force, according to speeches and writings in 1971 by the then Jamaat leadership and the party's current amir and secretary general. In 1971, Golam Azam was the Jamaat amir while Motiur Rahman Nizami, the present amir, was the president of Islami Chhatra Shangha and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, the present Jamaat secretary general, led its Dhaka unit. Their speeches and writings published in Jamaat's mouthpiece, the daily Sangram, during the Liberation War in 1971 chronicle their direct involvement in supporting the Pakistani occupation force, their leadership in collaborating with the army, and their activities to incite and encourage annihilation of the liberation forces.

On Thursday, Mojaheed denied Jamaat's involvement in war crimes and with the Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams groups. He claimed that Jamaat did not work against the Liberation War in 1971 and that there is no war criminal in the country. "In fact, anti-Liberation forces never even existed," Mojaheed told reporters after Jamaat's dialogue with the Election Commission on electoral reforms. As a response to the Jamaat secretary general's claims, following are selections from the reports published in the daily Sangram and documents of the then West Pakistan government:

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, president of Dhaka unit of East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Shangha (ICS), directed his party workers to build Al-Badr Bahini to resist freedom fighters, according to a "Fortnightly secret report on the situation in East Pakistan" the political section of the then East Pakistan home ministry used to send to the head of the government General Yahya Khan. Mojaheed at a meeting of the ICS in Rangpur on October 17 directed the party workers to build the Al-Badr Bahini. He told the meeting that anti-Islamist forces must be resisted. He also emphasised organising youths to join Al-Badr. Al-Badr day was observed in Dhaka on November 7, 1971 and Mojaheed announced a four-point declaration that said, "We do not believe in any map of Hindustan on earth. We will not rest until the name of Hindustan is erased from the world.

"From tomorrow, you will not be allowed to sell, publicise or keep at libraries books either written by Hindus or written in their support," according to a report published in the daily Azad on November 8, 1971. The Al-Badr was assigned a variety of combat and non-combat tasks, including taking part in operations, spying against the Muktibahini, interrogation, working as guides for the regular army, assassination, detecting and killing Bangalee intellectuals, looting and supplying women and children to rape, according to Wikipedia.

NIZAMI

According to the secret report, the current Jamaat ameer addressed an ICS meeting in Jamalpur as chief guest on June 14, 1971 and directed his party workers to assist the Pakistani army to save Islam. On April 12, the Nizami-led ICS and Jamaat brought out a procession, chanting "Long live Pakistan". The Sangram reported on April 13 that Nizami, the then Pakistan ICS president, Golam Azam and other collaborators also led a procession on April 12 under the banner of "Peace Committee of Dhaka" with a special prayer for the survival of Pakistan and to declare their support for Pakistan.

On August 2, Nizami addressed a seminar in Chittagong organised by the local Muslim Institute, where he said, "If the patriotic people had come forward since March 1 to confront the assailants, this situation would not have taken place in the country. Allah has given the faithful Muslims the duty to protect His beloved Pakistan, but when the Muslims failed, Allah protected Pakistan through the military." The next day Sangram quoted Nizami as saying, "The Pakistani soldiers are our brothers...It is not a matter of personal dignity or partisan interest, it is a matter of Pakistan's survival. "The only way the Muslims can survive here is Pakistan's survival," he said, adding, "With the chaos the miscreants and Indian agents had created since March 1, no one could hope that Pakistan and Pakistani Muslims would be able to survive as independent entities."

Lamenting the victory of Awami League in the 1970 elections, Nizami said, "Divisions within the Pakistani and Islamic leaders allowed them to win and cause havoc in this country. "I pray to Allah for the success, courage and sacrifice of the military brothers in facing external and internal attacks," he said. He blamed the rulers for misleading and misinforming students on Islam and said, "We forgot our identity after achieving Pakistan. When India attacked our country in 1965, we became self-aware but we were confused as soon as the war ended. Allah punished us. Now we have become self-conscious again, but if we make the same mistake again, maybe Allah will not give us another chance."

On August 16, the Sangram reported that Nizami said, "Those who want to secede from Pakistan want to uproot Islam from this country."

On September 4, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Sreshtha Matiur Rahman described Matiur as an "Indian agent".

On September 8, Sangram reported Nizami as saying, "Every member of the Islami Chhatra Shangha is committed to protect every inch of Pakistan. We are even ready to attack Hindustan to protect Pakistan."

On September 9 Nizami said in Jessore, "Allah has punished those who conspired to destroy Pakistan...Those who said Pakistan is a graveyard have not been accepted by the land. The funeral pyres in Calcutta and Agartala are all they got.

"The way we have come forward risking death, the same way the government should build Pakistan in a purely militaristic manner," he said. Addressing a gathering of Razakars in Jessore the next day, Nizami said, "Every single one of us must identify ourselves as soldiers of Islam and we have to use all our forces to destroy the people who are involved in an armed conspiracy against Pakistan and Islam," Sangram reported on September 15. The next day Nizami urged his followers to "confront and reveal the true identity of the so-called Bengali-lovers".

While visiting an Al-Badr camp on September 22, Nizami said, "Only the patriotic youths of East Pakistan can effectively annihilate the Indian infiltrators and their local agents." Celebrating the Badr day on November 14, 1971, Nizami wrote an editorial in Sangram, saying, "Hindu forces are far stronger and capable than us. Unfortunately, a number of infidels have taken their side and are trying to weaken us from within. We have to foil their conspiracy and protect the existence and ideal of Pakistan. This is not possible only by defensive action...It is our luck that the Islam-loving youths of this country have been able to form the Al-Badr unit with the help of the Pakistani military...The youths of Al-Badr have renewed their pledge on this occasion...to stand next to the army to defeat the Hindu forces and annihilate Hindustan and hoist the flag of Islam all over the world."

GOLAM AZAM

At a meeting of the Jamaat in Khulna on August 4, 1971, the then Jamaat ameer described Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a separationist. He told the meeting that Mujib had been misleading the country's people and urged party workers to be united to destroy the separationists, according to secret document No. 482/158-PL.S(I). Golam Azam at the party council of Kushtia district unit in the second week of August 1971 described the freedom fighters as criminals and directed the party workers to resist them. He also directed formation of Shanti Bahini (peace committee) in every village of the country. He told the meeting that very soon the Razakars, Mojaheed and police would be able to resist the "criminals", said document No. 549 (159)-PL.S(I) signed by the then home secretary MM Kazim on September 14.

The loss continues to haunt us, Md. Asadullah Khan Point-Counterpoint

http://archive.thedailystar.net/2005/12/14/d512141501115.htm

Just two days before the victory, the most heinous, cruel and sinister crime was committed by the occupation army and their collaborators, the Al Shams, Al Badr and Razakars. These were deliberate, calculated, and cold-blooded assassinations aimed at crippling the very backbone of the nation struggling for freedom from the clutches of the Pakistani hordes. The Pakistani army and its collaborators systematically rounded up the country's top intellectuals at the time including doctors, engineers, lawyers, litterateurs, academicians, journalists, also top bureaucrats and business elites, and killed them in cold blood.

After being subjected to more than two decades of exploitation and humiliation and with the ultimate brutality inflicted on a sleeping nation in the night of March 25, 1971, the people, although unarmed, rose in rebellion against the brute perpetrators. The founding premise of Pakistan ideology as also the objective of keeping the two parts of Pakistan intact through the jargon of religion even when the exploitation was at its worst was shattered. Islam cannot countenance the practice of Muslims brutalising and annihilating other Muslims. But the stark reality of the demons of radical religious forces raising ugly faces surfaced in the form of torture and killing of the people in the then East Pakistan. The way the whole country meaning the then East Pakistan inhabited by Bengali speaking people suffered and witnessed torture, rape and massacre nothing could stop its 75 million people from going the separate way after that fateful night of March 25, 1971.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the fiery leader, was rounded up from his house that night and flown to West Pakistan. The ambition of Pakistan's then President and Martial Law Administrator Gen Yahya Khan to preserve his own position and supremacy of Pakistan led him to order his army commanders in the eastern wing to start the cleansing process. Major Gen. Tikka Khan, Governor and Martial Law Administrator of East Pakistan, ordered his army commanders to start the cleansing process, wiping out the Bengali intelligentsia and valiant Bangalee nationals demanding equitable share in business, finance, and educational opportunities.

The victims had been listed during the days from March 7 to March 25 and now the so-called patriotic army of Pakistan was extracting a terrible vengeance. It is pertinent to recall what some top brass in the Army in the 16th Division headquarters at Comilla said at that time: "We are determined to cleanse East Pakistan once and for all of the threat of secession even if it means killing two million people and keeping the province as colony for 30 years." People in the country still recount those dark days with shock and trepidation as the marauding Pak Army carried on its "kill and burn" missions. The horrifying acts of killing, rape, and destruction continued with little let up.

If blood is the price of independence, then the people of Bangladesh have paid it fully during the nine months long war against the tyrannical occupation forces of Pakistan. At the cost of three million lives the nation got its cherished freedom. But just prior to the victory the nation's invaluable intellectuals, academicians, and men of letters in the field of science, literature, even physicians were picked up, shot or stabbed to death, and thrown into the marshes at Rayerbazar and Mirpur by the death squads comprising local operatives like Al Badr, Al Shams, and Razakars.

The victims' mutilated bodies were later discovered from these marshes. Similar heinous acts were carried out in other places as well outside Dhaka. Their crime was that they were Bangalee and enlightened. They after all represented the main driving force of the nation. They were also ardent patriots who believed that some day the nation would be free. They advocated the creation of an independent secular state as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman articulated in his historic address at Race Course Maidan on March 7, 1971. By all reckoning, the nation became poorer at the loss of those best sons of the soil who were our pride.

Only days before the Pakistan Army faced defeat, the Al Badr, Al Shams and Razakars with their faces masked, broke into the houses of famed personalities in the country and picked them up and killed them in cold blood. These operatives including their mentors apprehended that their days were numbered and a humiliating defeat imminent. In such a precarious moment of their existence, they resorted to the last heinous attack on the nation's intelligentsia. As the freedom fighters were advancing to the capital city destroying every form of resistance the Pak Army put in, the capital city was virtually coming under the control of guerillas. Finding all their grand ambition falling into pieces, the vile murderers made the most cowardly design to rob the nation of the best brains so that a big void in the field of education, science, journalism, medicine, etc. would remain for a long time.

Quite realistically the occupation forces reasoned that intellectuals were a major threat to them. It was here that the seeds of rebellion had been sown. It was from here that the voices of protest got the loudest and from here that the courage to defy authority stemmed. So if the source of strength could be cut off, the remaining task of keeping them under subjugation would be easier. With such a diabolical plan, the assassins worked and to a great extent succeeded. Now after 34 years since that terrible day, we not only mourn the loss of those brilliant minds, but also the intellectual and psychological void created by their untimely deaths.

According to documents released after the liberation war, more than 100 intellectuals belonging to different levels of the society were murdered. The plot to eliminate the intellectuals was drawn by Gen. Rao Forman Ali who was assisted by Brig. Bashir and Captain Qaiyum along with Bangalee masterminds like Ghulam Azam and Moulana Mannan, to name a few. Around November, 1971, it was knowledgeably learnt, the occupation forces with its sub-zonal Martial Law Administrator headed by Brigadier Bashir began briefing the Al-Badr, Al-Shams about their plan. From December 4 curfew and blackouts were imposed to facilitate the plan. From December 10 the operations were in full swing.

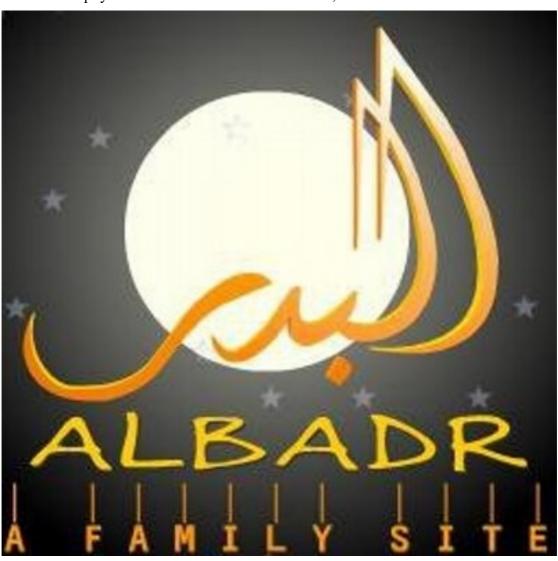
The Al-Badr during the blackouts went from house to house capturing the listed intellectuals and taking them away, never to be seen again by their loved ones.

The Al-Badr group led by Chaudhury Mainuddin, a Bangalee clandestine character along with his criminal associates did the most nefarious job. Dressed in black, they captured the intellectuals, put them in concentration camps in Mohammadpur Physical Training Centre, Dhanmondi High School and MLA Hostel. After inflicting merciless torture these people were taken to a brick field at Rayerbazar and a killing field at Mirpur to be brutally executed.

Occasions like Victory Day and Martyred Intellectuals Day, despite being recurring annual events, are far from a repetitive experiences, and each year they carry an emotional load. Not only did we win the freedom, we paid an enormously high price for it and proved to the world that we are capable of exacting our freedom from an absolutely tyrannical regime.

Thirty-four years since that day now the hour of reckoning for this nation has arrived once again. Unhappily, the saga written in blood and enormous sacrifice has not been faithfully commemorated. Distortions were made, falsifications introduced and myths and false heroes were invented with every passing year. And this doctoring of history has been going on till date.

Through half-hearted homage paid to the liberation heroes and fallen martyrs, the significance of the liberation is not properly maintained, but rather greatly minimised. Official insincerity is flagrantly demonstrated when it comes to recognising and honouring those who survived but are permanently consigned to the wheelchair. They symbolise in their persons the price that has had to be paid for our freedom. Our best tribute to the martyred intellectuals can only be paid through whole-hearted upholding of the spirit of liberation in both words and deeds. Md. Asadullah Khan is a former teacher of physics and controller of examinations, BUET.



BANGLADESH DOCUMENTS 1971-PART - III

The Dacca Gazette Extraordinary **Published by Authority**

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1971

Part IIIA- Ordinances promulgated by the Governor of East Pakistan

GOVERNMENT OF EAST PAKISTAN LAW (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT East Pakistan Ordinance No. X of 1971.

THE EAST PAKISTAN RAZAKARS ORDINANCE, 1971 AN **ORDINANCE**

to provide for the constitution of a voluntary force in East Pakistan.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the constitution of a voluntary force in East Pakistan and matters ancillary thereto;

Now, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the Proclamation of the 25th day of March, 1969, read with the Provisional Constitution Order, and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the Governor is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:-

Short title, extent and

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the East Pakistan Razakars Ordinance, 1971.

commencement

- 2. It extends to the whole of East Pakistan.
- 3. It shall come into force at once.

Definitions.

- 2. (1) In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-
- (a) "Director" means the Director of Razakars appointed under section 8;
- (b) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Ordinance.

Constitution of Razakars

3. There shall be raised in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance a voluntary force to be called the Razakars.

Recruitment

- 4. Any citizen of Pakistan who satisfies the prescribed conditions may be recruited as a Razakar in the prescribed manner.
- 5. The persons recruited as Razakars shall be trained and

equipment

equipped in such manner as-may be determined by the Provincial Government.

Duties of Razakars.

6. The Razakars shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as may be prescribed.

Embodiment of Razakars into Police Force.

- 7. (1) The Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, order the embodiment into the Provincial Police Fore of all Razakars or such number of them as it may determine for a specified period which may be extended from time to time.
- (2) When so embodied, they shall be subject to the Police Act, 1861.

Act. V of 1861

Director of Razakars.

- **8.** (1) There shall be a Director of Razakars who shall be appointed by the Provincial Government on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.
- (2) The administration of the Razakars shall, under the general control and direction of the provincial Government, be vested in the Director.
- (3) To assist the Director in the performance of his functions, the Provincial Government may appoint such officers and staff as it may deem fit on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.
- (4) The Director and other officers appointed under this section shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed or as may be directed by the provincial Government.

Delegation of power.

9. The Provincial Government may delegate all or any of its powers, other than the powers under sub-section (1) of sections 8 and section 10, to the Director or to an officer nominated by it to officiate for him or to the Deputy Commissioners within their respective jurisdictions.

Power to make rules.

- **10.** (1) The Provincial Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.
- (2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:-
- (a) the recruitment, training and discharge of the Razakars;
- (b) the organisation and discipline of the Razakars;
- (c) the terms and conditions of service of the Razakars;
- (d) the rates of pay and other conditions of service of the Razakars in the event of their embodiment for full time

BANGLADESH DOCUMENTS 1971-PART

service;

(e) the terms and conditions of service of the Direction other officers and staff;

(f) the powers and functions of the Director and other officers; and

(g) any other matter necessary for the maintenance of the Razakars.

Repeal.

11. The Ansars Act, 1948, is hereby repealed.

E.B. Act VII of

Abolition of post.

12. (1) If, as a consequence of the repeal of the Ansars Act, 1948, any post is abolished or its designation changed, the person who held the post may, if found fit, be appointed to such corresponding or other suitable post, if any, in the organisation set up under this Ordinance on such terms and conditions as the Provincial Government may determine.

1948 E.B. Act VII of 1948

- (2) If there be no corresponding or other suitable post in the organisation set up under this Ordinance to which any person mentioned in sub-section (1) may be appointed, then notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other enactment, rule, or contract, the service of such person shall stand terminated on the abolition of the post or change of designation thereof.
- (3) If the service of any person stands terminated under the provision of sub-section (2), such person shall be paid the gratuity and pension to which he may be entitled under the rules of his service or, where he is not so entitled, such gratuity or pension as the Provincial Government may determine.

Properties, funds etc.

13. All properties, movable and immovable, funds, liabilities and records of the organisation set up under the Ansars Act, 1948, shall on the commencement of this Ordinance, stand transferred to and vested in the Organisation set up under this Ordinance.

E.B. Act VII of 1948

TIKKA KHAN LIEUTENANT GENERAL Governor of East Pakistan

Dacca; The 28th May, 1971

By Order of the Governor,
MAAHAD
Deputy Secretary to the Government of East Pakistan

GAZETTE REGARDING RAZAKARS ORDINANCE, 1971

Ministry of Defence Rawalpindi, the 7th September, 1971 Government of Pakistan

No. 4852/543/PS-IA/3659/D-2A, In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 (Act No. XXXIX of 1952) the Central Government is pleased to direct that -

- (a) all the provisions of the said Act shall, so far as may be, apply to the Razakars raised under the East Pakistan Razakars Ordinance, 1971 (East Pakistan Ordinance No. X of 1971);
- (b) the officer of the Pakistan Army under whose command any member of the Razakars is placed shall exercise the same powers in relation to that member as he is authorised to exercise under the said Act in relation to a member of the Pakistan Army placed under his command;

PAY & ALLOWANCES FOR RAZAKARS

HQ ASMLA JESSORE C/O. Pak ABPO Tele: Mil-94 ML 17/A 30 Aug 71

To: Deputy Commissioner

Jessore

President Dist. Peace Committee

Jessore

Subject: Pay of Razakars.

Please confirm that the pay of Razakars are being regularly paid.

Sd/- Mohammad Amin, Major, ASMAL

Memo No. 224)8)

Dated: 7-9-71

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to: Chairman Town Peace Committee Jessore.

> Sd/-For - President, Dist. Peace Committee, Jessore

SECRET

HQ ASMLA Chuadanga

Tel: 186 28 Oct, 71

DOCUMENTS ON RAZAKARS, THEIR TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONS

To: HQ 18 Punjab

OC 'B' Coy

Subj: Fresh Trg Razakars.

Copy of HQ 9 Div Ltr No G/15242/ Trg of 23 Oct 71 and copy of HQ Eastern Comd Ltr no. 418/48/GS (T) of 19 Oct 71 along with Gen instrs, block syllabus, detailed syllabus and trg programme (Anx 'A' 'B' & 'C') for the Sec Comds Cadre Razakars, are fwd herewith for your info and nec action please.

Sd/- Major ASMLA (Zain -ul- Malook)

SECRET

Copy of HQ 9 Div Itr No. G/15242/Trg of 23 Oct. 71

Subj : Fresh Trg Razakars

Further to our G/15242 Trg dated 06 Oct 71 refers.

The trg of Razakar Comd will be org as under : -

- a. Sec Comd Trg
 - 1. Each unit having Razakars in its area will org cadres of ten days duration for sec comds.
 - 2. One third of total requirement of sec comds to be trained in each cadre at the scale of one sec comd from each pl.
 - 3. First sec comds cadre to start wef 25 Oct 71 the latest.
 - 4. Syllabus for the sec comds trg is att.

Copy of HQ Eastern comd Dacca Itr No. 418/48/GS (T) of 19 Oct. 71.

Subj : Sec Comd's Cadre - Razakars.

- 1. Gen instrs, block syllabus, detailed syllabus and trg programme for the above cadre are sent herewith.
- 2. The trg is to be org at unit/ ASMLA level. Fmm coulds are requested to ensure proper utilization of the trg programme.

Copy to anx 'A' to HQ Eastern Comd. Itr No. 418/48/GS(T) of 19 Oct. 71.

HQ EASTERN COMD RAZAKAR SEC COMDS CADRE BLOCK SYLLABUS

SI No.	Subject	Period Allotted		
		Lecture/Demo	Practical/Ex	Total
1	Drill	-	6	6
2	Wpn Trg	1	14	15
3	Fd Engineering	3	3	6
4	Fd craft	6	13	19
5	Tacs	20	20	40
6	Ldrship	1	-	1
7	Adm	4	-	4
8	Misc	1	-	1
		1	Total	100

RESTD HQ EASTERN COMD SEC COMDS CADRE - RAZAKARS GEN INSTRS

- 1. Aim. To train selected Razakars as sec comds in order to inprove op officiency of Razakars.
- 2. Standard to be achieved.
 - a. Be able to motivate, train, and lead his sec efficiently.
 - b. Acquire basic mil knowledge i.e. drill, use of inf pl wpns, fd craft, Vos, cam and concealment, adv handling of wpns and handling/ disarming of mines and booby traps.
 - c. Be able to deploy his sec for def of a loc, br or installation.
 - d. Const/ estb anb maint a rd block.
 - e. Plan an conduct a raid and ambush.
 - f. Be able to operate at ni.
 - g. Dev initiative to carry out any other msn given to his sec.
 - h. Hygine, sanitation and first aid.
- 3. Trg period
 - a. A total of 10 working days will be utilised for this cadre.
 - b. Daily periods. 10 periods of 45 mins incl 4 periods in the afternoon/ni.

- 4. Block syllabus, Detailed Syllabus and Trag programme. Att as Anx. A B and C respectively.
- 5. Ref Publications.
 - a. Inf Trg Vol IV Inf Pl in Battle 1969
 - b. Inf Trg Vol IV Trg for Ni Ops- 1968
 - c. Cords of Comd for drills and ceremonials 1970
 - d. Relevant Pamphlets on SAs, mines and booby traps.
 - e. Guerilla and artisan pwar fare Chapter 2 1961
 - f. Elms of First Aid.

HQ Eastern Comd Dacca Cantt Tel: 212 418/48/GS (T) 19 Oct 71

Sd/ Commander Col General (Main Haffez Ahmed)

Distr: List 'B' ser 1-5 & 7 MLA Zone 'B' DG Razakars

> Anx 'B' to HQ Eastern Comn Ltr 418/48/GS (T) of 19 Oct 71

HQ EASTERN COMD SEC COMD CADRE - RAZAKARS DETAILED SYLLABUS

Sl No.	Subject	Period Allotted				
		Lecture/Demo	Practical/Ex	Total		
1	Drill					
	a. Drill with arms	-	2	2		
	b. Drill without arms	-	2	2		
	c. Taking a squad	-	2	2		
2	Wpn Trg					
	a. Holding, aiming and firing of rifle	-	2	2		
	b. Handling of Sten and LMG	-	2	2		
	c. Stripping & assembling of rifle sten & LMG	-	2	2		
	d. Prep of range eard	1	-	1		
	e. Firing - day	-	4	4		
	f. Firing - ni	-	4	4		
3	Fd Engineering					
	Trenches and wpn pits, siting and dimensions	1	1	2		
	b. Mine-types, laying, disarming and lifting	1	1	2		
	c. Booby traps type, laying and disarming	1	1	2		
4	Fd Craft					
	a. Cam and concealment	1	2	3		
	b. Use of ground and cover	1	1	2		
	c. Fd Sigs	1	1	2		
	d. Sec fmns	1	2	3		
	e. Individual stalk by day & ni	1	3	4		
	f. Selection of line of adv and move by day	1	3	4		
5	Tac					
	a. Issue of VOs	1	1	2		
	b. Ptls					
	Types of ptl	1	-	1		
	2. Ptl ldr's orders	1	1	2		
	Planning, rehearsal and conduct of;					
	a. Recce Ptl	2	-	2		
	b. Fighting Ptl	2 .	-	2		
	4. Ex in patrolling	-	4	4		
	c. Ambush					
	1. Selection of site	2		2		
	2. Parties and their tasks	2	_	2		
	3. Planning and orders	2	-	2		

BANGLADESH DOCUMENTS 1971-PART - III

Sl	Subject	Period Allotted				
No.		Lecture/Demo	Practical/Ex	Total		
	4. Fd ex raid	-	4	4		
	d. Raid					
	Parties and their tasks	2	-	2		
	2. Planning and orders	2	-	2		
	3. Fd ex raid	-	4	4		
	e. Rd Blocks					
	1. Characteristics	1	-	1		
	2. Covering / Def of rd block	1		1		
	3. Fd ex- constr/ manning a rd	-	2	2		
	block.		Toshioli			
	f. GW Interoduction to GW and anti	1	1 - 10 - 10	1		
	guerilla ops		- gargan			
	g. Def.					
	 USe of ground and F of Fs 	2	1012069191	2		
	All round def, listering posts	2	/ · URMA	2		
	and alarm system		Pulse - Delog			
	Def of a small br or instl	2		2		
	4. Sentry duties	2	L C 2 5 1	2		
	5. Fd ex - def	-	4	4		
6	Ldrship					
	Ldrship	1		1		
7	Adm					
	a. Care of arms, ammo and eqpt	2	- 11011	2		
	b. Hygiene, sanitation, first aid and	2	no les non	2		
	disposal of cas		1000			
8	Misc					
	Org of rifle pl	1	121138	1		

directed to accompany him

Sd/ Illegible District Adjutant of Razakars Tangail

Memo No. 512- (2) Raz, dated 2.10.71 Copy forwarded to:......

OATH OF RAZAKAR

Anx 'A' to HQ MLA Zone B Itr No 1200/3/ML -2 of 02 oct 71

SCHEDULE B form of Oath (Razakar) (Rule 16)

I Abul Kasim S.O Hasan Ali Mullah address. Vill. Modhopur P.O. Baghotia Dist. Jessore do solemnly declare that from this moment I shall faithfully follow the injunctions of my religion, and dedicate my life to the service of my society and country. I shall obey and carry out all lawful orders of my superiors. I shall bear true allegiance to the Constitution of Pakistan as framed by law and shall defend Pakistan, if necessary, with my life.

Signature/ Abul kasim
Oath taken in my presence this 31st days of Oct 1971

Sd/- Illegible Deputy Commandant Narail Sub- division Jessore District.

RAJAKARS 1971 BANGLADESH WARCRIMINAL'S 🗶 **BANGLADESHS BRIEF HISTORY**



http://razakar1971.blogspot.nl/2009/07/rajakars-1971-bangladesh-warcriminals.html

People of Bangladesh, situated in Eastern part of South Asia, can be proud of a developed civilization that dates back many centuries. For years, lush green of riverine plane of Bengal attracted tourists, traders and conquerors. Bengal culture assimilated all these influences while retaining its own distinctions. Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam have left their own marks in developing a tolerant society and secular liberal culture. Bengal is also an abode of a few tribal enclaves with distinct language and culture.

Bangladesh carries a rich heritage of folklore music that always propagated humanism and tolerance. Spread of modern education, influence of European renaissance, Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and others deeply influenced Bengalee society. Begum Rokeya pioneered education among conservative Muslim women.

During Pakistan period, cultural struggle for national identity of Bengalee, starting from language movement of 1952, has always been integral part of national struggle.

Emergence of Bangladesh

In the backdrop of national struggle against British colonial rule in India, since mid 40's, Hindu-Muslim communal tension lead in 1947 to partition of India and Pakistan was created as separate homeland for Muslims. East Pakistan inhabitated by Bengalee nation with distinct language and culture was separated from West Pakistan by thousands of miles. So, Pakistan was an unrealistic state from the very beginning.

Since, the very inception, Pakistan rulers denied democratic and national rights, declared itself as Islamic Republic in 1956 and military rule was imposed from 1958. Rulers tried to subjugate Bengalees politically, culturally and economically with resultant united popular struggle for democracy, autonomy and for upholding secular cultural identity.

In first-ever national parliamentary election held in 1970, Bengalee nationalist forces lead by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won landslide victory and his Awami League became majority party in whole Pakistan. But military regime refused to accept electoral verdict; this lead in March '71 to non-cooperation movement in East Pakistan.

Then, in an attempt to crush the nationalist movement in East Pakistan, from the fateful night of 25th March 1971 Pakistan military initiated systemic genocide against Bengalee people. In this heinous attack rulers received support from handful of local religious fundamentalists.

In worst ever genocide, since Second World War, estimated 3 million were killed, some 200000 women were raped and 10 million had to take refuge in neighbouring India.

In this background, independence of Bangladesh was declared and elected representatives of 1970's election from East Pakistan formed Bangladesh government on 10th April. Students and youth took military training and these Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters) fought back occupation forces under Sector Commanders. International condemnation of Pakistan atrocities came from governments, public leaders, cultural personalities and media. Unfortunately Nixon administration of United States and China supported Pakistan government, more from global strategic interests, while India and Soviet Union supported Bangladesh cause.

On 4th December, after Pakistan attacked western part of India, allied command of Indian armed forces and Bangladesh Freedom Fighters started armed assault. On 16th December 1971, Pakistan armed forces had to surrender to this allied command and independent Bangladesh was born as democratic secular state.

Evolution of Fundamental Principles of 1972 - Bangladesh Constitution

Bengalee nation struggled for democracy, secular values and national rights for years. Military rulers of Islamic Republic of Pakistan tried to deny democracy and national aspiration of Bengalees and even carried out systematic genocide in the name of religion. As a result, struggle of Bengalee people from language movement of 1952 to armed resistance in 1971, lead to emergence of Bangladesh as secular democratic nation state. So, following fundamental principles of Bangladesh constitution of 1972 evolved through experiences of this popular struggle.

- Democracy
- Nationalism
- Secularism

(Socialism was other fundamental principle. However this principle was generally considered for social justice particularly for the disadvantaged.) Bangladesh people are still continuing the struggle to retain these principles against many odds.

■ Bangladesh 1971 the war crime againest women 18 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0WO3LGkL5A

Most of those facing trial are from the Islamist party, Nejame Islami https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0WO3LGkL5A&t=9m47s

3 million slaughtered, up to 400 000 raped and 10 million Hindu displaced as refugee https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0WO3LGkL5A&t=10m34s

Rape of bangladesh by pakistani army 1971 5 min

How the Bangladesh Islamic jihadi helped the Pakistani, Jamaat, Muslim League, Nejame Islami, (killed = 3 million in 9 months) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpTVEH-3vOc

• Atrocities committed by Pakistani & Razakars 10 min

Razakars are Islamic Jihadi as we learned, so this was a Hindu Genocide! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6iLiUD9yqY

C 1971 Bangladesh Genocide NEVER Happened. No Killings, No Rape 7 min Muslim Propaganda version to motivate jihad https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0DCg9hGatc





https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/12/15/and-then-i-fainted-survivors-remember-rape-during-bangladesh-war/



Salil Tripathi

Editor's note: Rape has always been part of war. During the 1971 war that led to the birth of Bangladesh, rape was not just widespread, but it was also systematic. Numbers are impossible to ascertain. Some were raped once, some multiple times, some made into sexual slaves. After the war, the government of Bangladesh called these women birangonas or the brave ones.

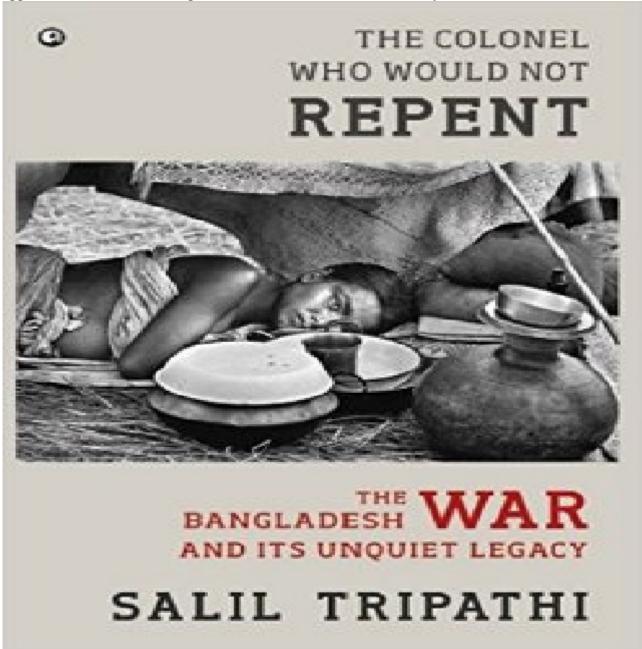
But the honorific did not necessarily erase the stigma. In his book The Colonel Who Would Not Repent about the Bangladesh war and its legacy, Salil Tripathi devotes a chapter to the stories of the birangonas and their testimonies. Here is an excerpt.

In December 2012, on another visit to Bangladesh I went to Kumarkhali, a small town near Kushtia, where Sikha Saha runs the local branch of Nijera Kori (We Do It Ourselves), a women's rights awareness group. Saha set up her centre in 1980 where she provides women training and education, particularly raising awareness, including dealing with violence and how to claim their rights.

Some human rights lawyers represent them for free. I met more birangonas there. 'We made this country free—and how do we live now?'

MK was nineteen and a mother of three children in 1971. She and her husband helped the freedom fighters by carrying their weapons. Her husband would take refugees or the freedom fighters to India in his boat; MK would cook for them. From her window, MK could see what was happening in the street. One day in October, the army came to her village. She took her sons and escaped. When she heard that the army had left, she made her way back to her home.

But she saw the military coming. MK was sitting with her three-month-old son in her lap. The soldiers snatched away the child. They threatened to throw him away and MK pleaded with them for his life. Then two Razakars and the soldiers took her with them. Her mother fell at their feet, but they loaded their guns. They saw that they had a farm with goats and chickens, so they asked for eggs. Her mother was shaking with fear. The officers took MK away and set her home on fire.



At that time, her husband was looking after some Hindu families. The river behind his home was a busy route for freedom fighters, so the military always kept an eye on the riverfront. Her husband frequently helped freedom fighters—to flee, to hide, or to help take them across wherever they wished to go. He wanted to join them, but he had married recently and thought it would not be right for him to leave his wife alone.

His business was trading ilish, the traditional Bengali river fish. He would buy the fish from fishermen and sell it in the market. He was aware that a Shanti Committee, as pro-Pakistani local committees were known, was active in his village. He was quietly helping refugees who wanted to cross the river from the village to the other side and go to C'pur, across the River. 'I would take 8-10 refugees at a time in my boat,' he said.

<u>Biharis</u> had been burning homes in H'pur, and a friend told him to escape. He heard that Biharis were tying fishermen in their fishing nets and then burning them. 'I was too scared to go back at such a time,' he said.



On the day the army reached his home, her husband was at the river, buying fish. He heard sounds of shooting. A man whose son was a freedom fighter rushed to him, saying he must take him across the river so that he could hide. He took them across and helped them set up a camp.

When he returned to his shore, a cousin told him the news about the attack on his house. He rushed home and found MK lying unconscious. He comforted her. 'I could understand what happened to her and accept it,' he told me. 'If I were in the house at that time, I know I would have been killed, so I have nothing more to say about what happened,' he added. A school teacher in his village explained to him that whatever had happened was not MK's fault. 'Eventually he accepted everything,' MK said.

In December, MK's husband remembers seeing the sky filled with Indian planes, and then bombing at the Pakistani camp. 'I felt very happy,' he said. 'We made this country free—and how do we live now? Nobody values us, no one honours us. We are made fun of,' MK said.

'They then attacked me, but I fought back. I punched them, I kicked them. I was bleeding but I fought them. I was to give my life away, but not my respect.'

DN remembers well the night about a dozen freedom fighters came to her father's home. They were hungry, but they did not have rice at home. She was twenty and pregnant. The freedom fighters had planned to attack the Pakistani army the next morning.

Her husband left with the young men to hide their weapons by wrapping them in plastic and keeping them besides the river in the mud. DN was with her mother-in-law and her sister-in-law. Several Pakistani soldiers came and raped the sister-in-law first (she later committed suicide). 'They then attacked me, but I fought back. I punched them, I kicked them. I was bleeding but I fought them. I was to give my life away, but not my respect. By that time my husband also came, and he too fought,' she said.

'The incident (as she refers to her rape) had already happened, but I kept fighting them. Then I ran away to save my life. They were more powerful,' she said. They left her husband nearly dead. He was in coma, and after the war he died.



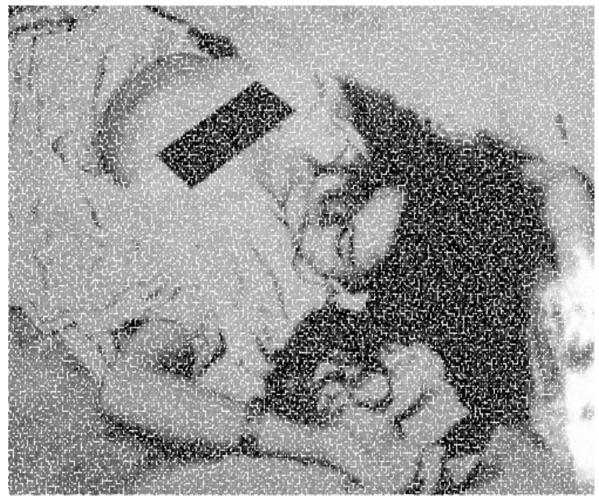
Her voice softened when I asked her the name of her sister-in-law. She no longer remembered her name; she had been married only recently. One of her sons works as a rickshaw driver. One daughter is a homemaker. Of all the women, she received some direct benefit from the government. Hasina Wajed gave her 50,000 takas and 4 kathas land, which she has distributed among her children. She is on a list of freedom fighters and guards her photographs with Hasina carefully.

She showed me fragile sheets with evidence of her suffering. 'Bangladesh is free, but what about us? We did so much for Bangladesh. What did Bangladesh do for us?'

I had asked simple questions to start with, asking them about their lives, how old they were in 1971, leading up to the day. I could then only ask 'and then what happened?' Many of the women were animated and friendly when they began speaking, but as our conversation entered the room, or the field, or the riverbed where they were attacked, their voice would get softer.

There were often long pauses. Some looked down. Some stared back at me. Some said it, matter-of-factly, that they did not remember anything. And many used the euphemism that they had chosen to describe the rape—they had fainted. I did not probe further. It is only after I let them complete the sentences, the thoughts, it is only after they had let the memory of those soldiers and Razakars leave their minds, as they once left their rooms, that their faces became animated again.

Some sobbed; some turned angrier in their tone. In all this, they were generous to me. They willingly told me intimate, painful details of their lives, expecting nothing in return. I had promised to cover the costs of their journey from their villages and back, and the lunch that was provided. But I was not going to offer them any money to hear their stories. It would violate a specific journalistic ethic; it would also demean the value of what they told me—it was incalculable; it was impossible to assign a monetary value to their time, their trust, and their honesty.



And I decided to tell the story of each woman I met, because each experience taught me something new. It is easy to talk of 'a quarter million rapes' and think that each violent encounter was the same. It never is. Each story has a different background; each woman finds herself in the complex situation because of unique circumstances; and most important, the response of each woman is different.

I owed them the decency, the courtesy, of recognising that and not to see them as an undifferentiated mass. The dilemma I had was whether to name them. Not naming them would perpetuate the idea that somehow there was some shame associated with what had happened, as though their name needed to be hidden. Naming them would respect their agency, their right—they hadn't told me to anonymize them; by deciding for them, I would deny them their agency.

I asked women's rights activists and feminists—lawyers and academics advised me not to name them; journalists and writers, including a few feminists, suggested I should. Eventually I decided not to name them because as per the laws of the land where I was born—India—and the laws of the land where I live now—England—it is illegal to name a rape victim in a legal case. Indeed, some have gone on camera and given interviews, and I respect that. But they hadn't told me if I could name them, and I didn't think I had the right to decide that on their behalf—too many men have taken decisions on their behalf over the past forty years. I didn't want to add another number to that.

The interviews were uncomfortable. Once the stories multiplied, and the scale of the horror became more vivid, I felt subdued and numb. By the time the interviews ended, I felt powerless and angry. Later that evening in Bogura, Shamuna and Farhana, who had travelled with me from Dhaka, decided to go for a walk along the river before meeting me for dinner. I was too distraught to go with them; too disturbed to enjoy the dinner later. I made my excuses and left early for bed.

1971 Rapes: Bangladesh Cannot Hide History **▼**

 $\underline{https://anushayspoint.com/2012/05/21/1971-rape-bangladesh-cannot-hide-history/}$



Worth a Thousand Words: Bina D'Costa Tracked Down the Australian Doctor Who Performed Late-Term Abortions on 1971 Rape Survivors. Image Credit: BDNews

The post-Liberation War generation of Bangladesh know stories from 1971 all too well. Our families are framed and bound by the history of this war. What Bangladeshi family has not been touched by the passion, famine, murders and blood that gave birth to a new nation as it seceded from Pakistan? Bangladesh was one of the only successful nationalist movements post-<u>Partition</u>. Growing up, stories of the <u>Mukti Bahini</u>, (Bengali for "Freedom Fighter"), were the stories that raised us.

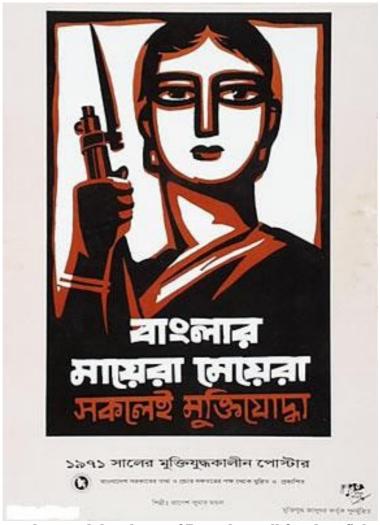
My mother told me in 1971, you would send out the men in your family to look in large public parks for the bodies of loved ones who had "disappeared," picked up by Pakistani soldiers. Despite the endless killings and torture, she still says, "There was a feeling in the air that you could do anything. Everyone knew Independence was only a matter of time."

But the one thing we did not hear about as much as we heard about the passionate fighting that defeated the Pakistani Army, were the rapes that took place in 1971. Many academics state that the first time rape was consciously applied as a weapon of war was during the Bangladesh War of Independence.

Yet growing up, those are the stories that were missing from the narrative the post-war generation were told. While the role of women as fighters and supporters of the war are highlighted, the stories of rape camps and war babies are largely ignored.

But we all know that as hard as you try, history cannot be rewritten. The truth exists, and ultimately comes out. In recent years, the shame is slowly lifting from this part of Bangladesh's Liberation War as more scholars ask questions, and more feminists demand the truth.

Each time I go home to Bangladesh, a relative, usually male, takes me aside and whispers stories to me about the "piles, and piles of bodies of rape victims" you would find under bridges in mass graves. "How many women were raped and killed in the hands of Pakistani soldiers," my uncle tells me as his voice whimpers. "You cannot imagine, *Ma*."



"The mothers and daughters of Bengal are all freedom fighters," Reads a Liberation War Commemoration Poster. Image Credit: Wikipedia

But a Bangladeshi scholar wants us to do just that. In fact, as a country we all owe a great deal to Bina D'Costa who went and tracked down the Australian doctor, Geoffrey Davis, brought to Dhaka by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the United Nations. Davis was tasked with performing late-term abortions, and facilitating large scale international adoption of the war babies born to Bangladeshi women.

D'Costa's conversation with Dr. Davis was recently <u>published</u> in a Bangladeshi publication, and is worth reading in its entirety. The stories of women being tied to trees and gang raped, breasts hacked off, dumped in mass graves, being held in Pakistani rape camps are all detailed.

When asked if the usual figures of the number of women raped by the Pakistani Army, 200-400,000, are accurate, Dr. Davis states that they are underestimated:

...Probably the numbers are very conservative compared with what they did. The descriptions of how they captured towns were very interesting. They'd keep the infantry back and put artillery ahead and they would shell the hospitals and schools. And that caused absolute chaos in the town. And then the infantry would go in and begin to segregate the women. Apart from little children, all those were sexually matured would be segregated..And then the women would be put in the compound under guard and made available to the troops...Some of the stories they told were appalling. Being raped again and again and again. A lot of them died in those [rape] camps. There was an air of disbelief about the whole thing. Nobody could credit that it really happened! But the evidence clearly showed that it did happen.



Haunted By This Headline. Image Credit: BD News

Dr. Davis talks about how <u>Sheikh Mujibur Rahman</u> labeled the rape survivors as "war heroines" to help them reintegrate into their communities, but the gesture largely did not work. After being assaulted and impregnated by Pakistani soldiers, the Bangladeshi women were completely ostracized by society. Many were killed by their husbands, committed suicide, or murdered their half-Pakistani babies themselves.

Some women were so scared to go back home after being held captive in Pakistani rape camps, they begged their Pakistani captors to take them back to Pakistan with them.

As I was reading through the article, I found myself simultaneously looking up sources online. This <u>video</u> of a NBC reporter who found a shelter where many women impregnated by Pakistani soldiers stayed until they delivered makes you remember that when we talk about the large-scale violence against women that took place in 1971, often we are talking about young *girls*, sometimes just 13 years old.

As I struggled through my emotions to keep reading, I stopped and sat back in my chair. "What am I doing this for?" I asked myself. "What is the point of digging up all this horror?"

That is when I realized that the pain is exactly the point. The shame that the women of Bangladeshi who survived the war carry should be shared with all of us. Why should they suffer in silence? They probably bore the greatest burden of the war, and out of respect we must recognize them. We must find honor in their experience.

Yes, we are a "conservative" country. Yes, we are a Muslim country. Yes, we can use a lot of excuses as to why we want to close our eyes to this painful and horrifying part of 1971. But by doing that, we are denying a huge part of our history to exist. As D'Costa says, we are intentionally suffering from "historical amnesia."

After Bosnia, the Rome Statute officially recognized rape as a weapon of war. While these survivors are still alive, Bangladesh must honor their testimonies and have these crimes prosecuted in the <u>War Crimes Tribunal</u>, finally set up in Bangladesh forty years after Independence.

The question that keeps haunting me though is where can the vibrant women's movement in Bangladesh go if we have a such a massive historical wound to heal from? We must look to the past and bring justice to these women, to all the survivors of the sexual violence of the 1971 war, if we really want to move forward.

*This post of mine was also published on Forbes Woman & the Huffington Post.



https://anushayspoint.com/2016/03/25/bangladeshs-birangonas-world-must-acknowledge-1971-rape-survivors/

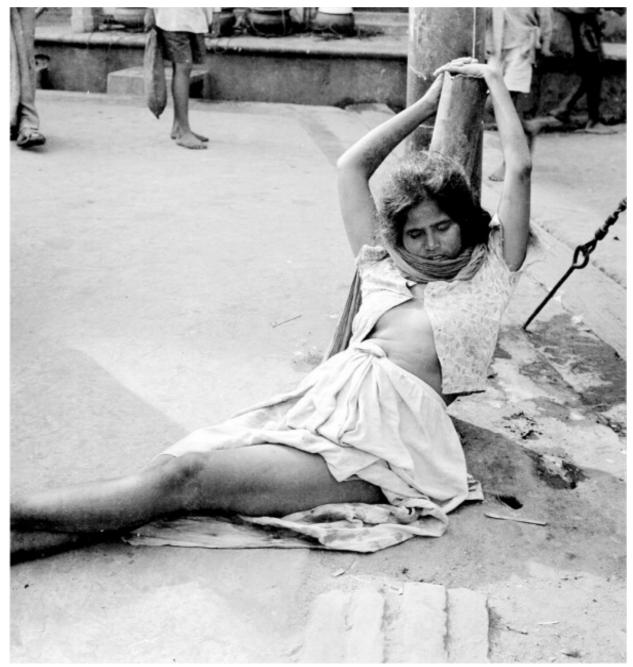


This post of mine is also published on Women in the World/New York Times.

One of my earliest memories about Bangladesh's 1971 War of Independence is a story my mother told me about the bodies Pakistani soldiers would dump across the capital, Dhaka. She said you would go to search the mass graves in certain parts of the city for the dead bodies of loved ones and male family members who had "disappeared" after being picked up by Pakistani soldiers. "Despite the endless killings and torture, there was a feeling in the air that you could do anything," my mother still says. "Everyone knew independence was only a matter of time."

But the stories that captivated my imagination were about how Bangladeshi women took up arms and fought alongside the men. While the role of women as fighters and supporters of the war are shared and celebrated, the stories of almost 400,000 Bangladeshi women and girls who were raped and tortured at the hands of the Pakistani army in rape camps, and the war babies they gave birth to, remain largely unknown to the world. Growing up, those were the voices that were missing from the narratives told to the post-war generation.

"In the 1971 genocide by Pakistan, Bangladeshi women played a huge role," said Dr. Nusrat Rabbee, a survivor of the war whose father, Dr. Fazle Rabbee, was a martyred intellectual of the war. She translated stories from the Bengali book, Ami Birangona Bolchi (The War Heroine Speaks) by Dr. Nilima Ibrahim, and learned that "Women served as soldiers but were also abducted, tortured and raped in concentration camps by the Pakistani army who set up rape camps in all towns and villages they went to. It was part of a systematic plan to disempower and destroy the vertebrae of Bengali society — similar to the targeted killings of Bengali intellectuals. Many of the hundreds of thousands of girls and women were killed or later rejected by their families; their children borne out of the rape were forcibly taken and adopted by foreign nationals. Most of these women eventually died of neglect and without recognition."



Dr. Rabbee went on to state that despite academics' acknowledgment that rape was used as an official war strategy during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, Bangladesh and the international community have yet to adequately acknowledge, confront and prosecute rape and gender violence as weapons of war and genocide in the country.

"There is an erasure of the 1971 history of genocide committed by Pakistan in Bangladesh in the world holocaust archives," Dr. Rabbee said. "It is important to record that this is one of the world's earliest and most heinous genocides, where perhaps the largest number of women were targeted by systematic rape, torture and subsequent execution."

According to the <u>Women Under Siege Project</u>, run by the Women's Media Center, a US-based organization founded by Gloria Steinem, which investigates how rape and sexualized violence are used as tools of war and genocide, women and girls from as young as 8 years old to 75-year-old grandmothers were abducted and held in Pakistani military barracks where they were subjected to mass rape, often followed by mass murder. Women Under Siege also cites interviews with survivors who describe how young girls were "strapped to green banana trees and repeatedly gang-raped. A few weeks later, they were strapped to the same trees and hacked to death."



When Bangladesh won her Independence, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation, gave the rape survivors the title of "Birangonas," which translates to war heroine in Bengali, in an attempt to respectfully reintegrate the women into society. Sadly, the gesture largely failed. After being assaulted, mutilated and impregnated by Pakistani soldiers, rape survivors in post-liberation Bangladesh were shunned by society, and the word Birangona became synonymous with dishonored and violated women — spoils of the 1971 war

After the war in Bosnia, the world recognized rape as a war crime. Although Bangladesh finally set up war crimes tribunals in 2011, 40 years after independence, 5 years into its controversial existence, its verdicts and process are condemned by the international community. It is unlikely the tribunal will be the platform to finally deliver justice to these women, many of them still alive today.

Nevertheless in 2015, 41 Birangonas were finally officially recognized by the state and given the status of Freedom Fighter by the Bangladesh government, which affords the women the same benefits as all Freedom Fighters, such as a monthly stipend, medical services and reserved quotas for their children and grandchildren in public recruitment and enrollment in educational institutions.



But on the world's stage, the stories of Bangladesh's Birangonas have been given too little attention. Despite the genocide and atrocities being publicized and debated even at the time, today experts are still examining why superpowers like the U.S. did not intervene in the Bangladeshi genocide. The world still has difficulty placing Bangladesh's atrocities at the same level or stature as Rwanda's, Bosnia's or even the Armenian Genocide. Why?

It is shocking that despite the mounting testimonies and evidence that is recorded, we do not place the 1971 war in Bangladesh amongst the world's most horrific genocides. More specifically, why is much of the world, outside of academia and policy circles, largely unaware that sexualized violence on a mass scale was used as a weapon of war as East Pakistan seceded from West Pakistan?

On the eve of Bangladesh's 45th birthday on March 26th, the country's Birangonas should be recognized all over the world. We must find honor in their experience, and be just as proud of our Birangonas as we are of all of our Freedom Fighters. They all paid for their country's freedom with their lives.

Bangladeshi feminists, especially, have an obligation to save Bangladesh's Liberation War from historical amnesia, especially while these women are still alive. After all, as the saying goes, when a Birangona dies, her story dies with her. How can Bangladesh's vibrant women's rights movement move forward if we do not recognize and remember the unspeakable sacrifice and contributions women made to the birth of our country?

This post of mine is also published on Women in the World/New York Times.

The continuing rape of our history

Mashuqur Rahman demolishes Sarmila Bose's revisionist history of 1971

http://archive.thedailystar.net/forum/2007/december/rape.htm



Genocide denial is a phenomenon that crops up to challenge almost every accepted case of genocide. The genocide committed by the Pakistan army during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 is no exception. Because of the scale of the atrocities in 1971 against a civilian population of 70 million people, it has proved impossible for genocide deniers to claim that the atrocities did not occur. Instead, they have focused on two tactics used to deny most genocides: that the magnitude of the killings was not that great, and that the Pakistan army had no systematic policy of genocide.

The grim numbers of 1971: Genocide versus denial

Most estimates of the 1971 genocide put the death toll between 300,000 and 3 million Bangladeshis, with between 200,000 to 400,000 women raped. R.J. Rummel, in his book *Statistics of Democide: Genocide and Mass Murder Since 1900*, puts the death toll at around 1.5 million. Gendercide Watch terms the 1971 genocide as one of the most concentrated acts of genocide in the twentieth century. Susan Brownmiller, in her book *Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape*, puts the number of women raped by the Pakistan military and their local collaborators, the *razakars*, between 200,000 and 400,000. According to Brownmiller, the Pakistani army raped Bengali girls as young as eight and grandmothers as old as seventy-five.

After the War, the Pakistan government produced a report -- the Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report -- on the actions of the Pakistan army in 1971. While the report acknowledged that the Pakistan army had indeed committed atrocities in Bangladesh, it downplayed the extent of the atrocities and denied that there was any systematic policy of genocide. The report put the death toll from the genocide at 26,000, based on "situation reports submitted from time to time by the Eastern Command to the General Headquarters."

The Pakistani report's estimate of 26,000 dead stands in stark contrast to every other estimate of the death toll of between 300,000 to 3 million. The report was an attempt by the Pakistan government to dictate the narrative before the true extent of the genocide became evident to the world. The Pakistani report has, nonetheless, stood as the document of last resort for most 1971 genocide deniers.

Sarmila Bose's (questionable) claims

Following up on her 2005 paper denying the extent of the 1971 genocide, published in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, Sarmila Bose has now published a paper denying the extent of the rape of Bangladeshi women by the Pakistan army and the razakars. In her paper titled "Losing the Victims: Problems of Using Women as Weapons in Recounting the Bangladesh War," she states:

"That rape occurred in East Pakistan in 1971 has never been in any doubt. The question is what was the true extent of rape, who were the victims and who the perpetrators, and was there any systematic policy of rape by any party, as opposed to opportunistic sexual crimes in times of war."

At the very beginning of her paper, she lays down the two tactics familiar to all genocide deniers: she questions the extent of the rape and questions whether there was any systematic policy of rape. Ms. Bose argues that claiming "hundreds of thousands" were raped trivialises "the possibly several thousand true rape victims" of the war. She, however, does not offer a good explanation as to how she reached the "several thousand" number, other than saying that so many rapes would not be possible because of the size of the Pakistani army in 1971. She also, unsurprisingly, quotes the Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report to support her assertion that so many rapes could not have occurred.

To try to bolster her argument, she claims that the size of the Pakistani army in Bangladesh was only 34,000 men. Then she asserts: "For an army of 34,000 to rape on this scale in eight or nine months (while fighting insurgency, guerrilla war and an invasion by India), each would-be perpetrator would have had to commit rape at an incredible rate."

The actual number of Pakistani forces at the end of the war, and taken POW by the Indians, was 90,368, including over 54,000 army and 22,000 paramilitary forces. It is not unreasonable to conclude that a force of 90,000 could rape between 200,000 to 400,000 women in the space of nine months. To rape 200,000 Bangladeshi women a Pakistani force of 90,000 would have to rape 2 to 3 women each in nine months. Not only is this scale of atrocity possible by an army engaged in a systematic campaign of genocide, it also has parallels in other modern conflicts (for example, the rape of between 250,000 to 500,000 women in Rwanda within 100 days).

The Pakistan army: Gentlemen in uniform at a time of war

Ms. Bose also paints a picture of the Pakistan military as a disciplined force that spared women and children. Citing her field research she writes: "Bangladeshi participants and eyewitnesses described battles, raids, massacres and executions, but told me that women were not harmed by the army in these events except by chance, such as in crossfire. The pattern that emerged from these incidents was that the Pakistan army targeted adult males while sparing women and children."

However, her field research is contradicted by all available evidence. From the early days of the war, women and girls were targeted for rape and killed. On March 30, 1971, the American Consul General in Dhaka, Archer Blood, sent a telegram to the State Department recounting the Pakistani atrocities in Dhaka. In it he wrote about the massacre at Rokeya Hall at Dhaka University where, according to Blood, the building was "set ablaze and girls machine-gunned as they fled the building."

On March 31, 1971, Archer Blood sent another telegram which recounted atrocities against girls. Blood wrote: "Six naked female bodies at Rokeya Hall, Dacca U. Feet tied together. Bits of rope hanging from ceiling fans. Apparently raped, shot and hung by their heels from fans."

The reports from the American Embassy in Dhaka give us a small window into the systematic killing spree that was Operation Searchlight, the code name the Pakistani army gave to the first stage of the genocide operation.

Throughout her paper, Ms. Bose continues to paint the Pakistan military as a disciplined force not capable of systematic rape. She cited a memo written by General Niazi that reminds his officers that they have a "code of honour" and as "gentlemen and officers" they should abide by it.

She then writes that Pakistani officers she spoke to were "indignant" at charges of large-scale rape and claimed that these charges were false. Ms. Bose follows a similar pattern throughout her paper. She gives credence to the stories told to her by the Pakistani military, the perpetrators of the rapes, and dismisses as "alleged" and not credible the accounts of the rape victims. However, contemporaneous news reports from 1971 tell a different story. For example, an October 25, 1971, a Time Magazine article, detailing the Pakistani military atrocities, reports on women and girls held captive and raped at Pakistani military headquarters in Dhaka:

"One of the more horrible revelations concerns 563 young Bengali women, some only 18, who have been held captive inside Dacca's dingy military cantonment since the first days of the fighting. Seized from Dacca University and private homes and forced into military brothels, the girls are all three to five months pregnant. The army is reported to have enlisted Bengali gynecologists to abort girls held at military installations. But for those at the Dacca cantonment it is too late for abortion. The military has begun freeing the girls a few at a time, still carrying the babies of Pakistani soldiers."



A problematic methodology

Having portrayed the Pakistan military as a benevolent force, Ms. Bose then attempts to discredit a handful of accounts of rape victims as a way of casting doubt on the rapes committed during the 1971 genocide.

She begins by trying to cast doubt on an eyewitness, named Rabeya Khatun, whom she dismisses as illiterate, to rape at Rajarbag. Ms. Bose then dismisses accounts of two other corroborating witnesses because their testimony was similar to Ms. Khatun's and they, too, were illiterate. Ms. Bose declares the witness's testimony not credible because, "the language is not what would be used either by illiterate sweepers or by educated Bengalis in everyday conversation."

She then finds refuge in the account of a Pakistani Lt. Col. Taj who, unsurprisingly, "categorically denied that any molestation of women had taken place at Rajarbag by his men." Ms. Bose then informs us Lt. Col. Taj was not actually present at Rajarbag after the first night of military action. Yet, she felt the need to inject him as a fact witness.

night of military action. Yet, she felt the need to inject him as a fact witness. Then, she dismisses Ms. Khatun's account as "highly dubious," declaring "until and unless other, credible witnesses come forward, the hellish account attributed to one illiterate woman simply will not suffice."

Dismissing witnesses simply on the grounds of illiteracy is a serious methodological fallacy. Eyewitnesses do not need to read or write to know what constitutes sexual violence. The Pakistan military did not discriminate between illiterate and literate classes in its campaign of killings and rape against Bangladeshis.

Ms. Bose then tries to cast doubt on the account of rape victim Ferdousi Priyabhashini, an educated woman and well-known sculptor. Ms. Bose's argument here is somewhat muddled, but it appears that she is claiming that Mrs. Priyabhashini was less of a rape victim and more of a willing participant.

Ms. Bose writes: "It is highly unusual for someone of her background to admit to having been a rape victim, especially in the conservative societies like Bangladesh." Ms. Bose goes on, "According to her own account, in 1971, Ferdousi Priyabhashini was a mature woman, a divorced mother of three, working for many years."

After a muddled discussion of Ms. Priyabhashini's account of rape by Pakistani soldiers, Ms. Bose concludes that there is an "inconsistency" in Ms. Priyabha-shini's account because she feared she would be killed by the freedom fighters. Ms. Bose declares: "Only those who were perceived to have willingly fraternised with the Pakistani regime were at risk of the wrath of freedom fighters, not victims of the regime." It appears Ms. Bose is asserting that since Ms. Priyabhashini feared for her life, she must have consented to having sex with Pakistani soldiers.

In the legal sense, rape is an act of sexual intercourse carried out "against a person's will by means of force, violence, duress, menace, or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury on the person or another." The calculated rationale of the act of war-time rape constitutes a political act, and an attack on the collective political identity of the group of females under attack, not necessarily on their individual identities. Rape during genocides is not exclusively an attack on the body -- it is an attack on the "body politic." Its primary goal is not to maim or kill a person (though that does, in fact, happen, in great numbers) but to control an entire socio-political process by crippling it.

Put another way, during genocides, rape has been used as a weapon of social control and cultural destruction, of devaluation and commodification.

Genocidal rape is not rape out of control, it is rape under control. All existing evidence points to the fact that the Pakistani military specifically targeted Bengali women and girls. This targeting was not a by-product of war, but a systematic campaign of genocidal rape. The historic Akayesu trial in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda established that rape constitutes an act of genocide, and an egregious violation of international law, when it is committed to destroy a targeted group. Given the scale and systematic way in which Bangladeshi women and girls were subjected to rape and sexual violence in 1971, even a rudimentary understanding of the effect of rape on the victim casts doubt on Ms. Bose's argument.

Ms. Bose goes on to try to cast doubt on the account of Akhtaruzzaman Mandal -- a freedom fighter who accompanied Indian soldiers as they took control of a Pakistani position. There, Mr. Mandal states, he saw the corpse of a Pakistani captain lying beside a dead Bengali woman who showed signs of rape. Mr. Mandal also states that four naked women were discovered locked in a building, and one of the women was six months pregnant. Another 16 women were also discovered locked in an adjacent high school, some showing signs of torture.

In discounting Mr. Mandal's account, Ms. Bose writes that she interviewed Pakistani officers who told her that the dead captain was "humane" and had only recently arrived at the location. She accuses Mr. Mandal of "character assassination of an officer who had died defending his country, and therefore, cannot speak in his own defence."

Ms. Bose, once again, is ready to accept the word of the Pakistani soldiers, the perpetrators of rape. However, there are many cases of rapists in this world who appear to be "humane" to those who know them.

In critiquing accounts of seven rape victims describes in Neelima Ibrahim's book *Ami Birangona Bolchhi*, Ms. Bose notes that four of the seven women were abducted by Bengalis and one by a Bihari before being handed over to the Pakistan army. Some of the women were raped by their initial abductors before being handed over to the Pakistan army, to be held in barracks and raped again. Ms. Bose neglects to mention that those who abducted the women were local collaborators, *razakars*, working with the Pakistani military. Nonetheless, she makes the bizarre observation that since the *razakars* had already raped the women, "for the majority of these women, therefore, even if the Pakistan army had done nothing, they would still be rape victims."

The point, of course, is that the Pakistani army *had* done something -- they had raped these women. Whether their initial abductors had also raped the women does not make the Pakistani army any less complicit in their rapes.

An apologia

In this latest paper Sarmila Bose tries mightily to diminish the atrocities committed by the Pakistan military in 1971. She, however, offers very little of substance to back up her assertion that the existing research and documentation of the 1971 genocide overestimates the death toll and the rapes. Her claim that, in her words, the "unsubstantiated and implausible" claims of hundreds of thousands of rape victims distracts attention from the "true rape victims" and "insult the true victims by trivialising their suffering" is itself an insult to the victims of rape in Bangladesh. The number of rape victims does not diminish the suffering of any individual rape victim; the vast number of rapes only demonstrates the heinous magnitude of the Pakistani campaign. If there is any insult, it is that there is no acknowledgement of all the victims of the Pakistan army's rapes; rather, there is an attempt to dismiss the experiences of rape victims by asserting that these rapes did not take place.

In her attempt at denial, Sarmila Bose relies on the Pakistan government's report on the atrocities and the accounts of Pakistani soldiers, the perpetrators of the genocide. She overlooks news reports from the time, eyewitness accounts, academic works, and case studies. Instead of addressing the issue of genocidal rape in 1971, Ms. Bose tries to deconstruct and discredit a handful of accounts of rape. She targets personal narratives, such as that of Ms. Priyabhashini's, to try to prove the victims were not raped. She does not engage the issue of the number of rapes in any substantial way, or address how her assertions of "several thousand rapes" can be reconciled with numbers put forward by international agencies or independent reports, nor does she engage the discussion of genocidal rape as a war strategy.

In the end, her paper is neither scholarly nor neutral. It is an apologia for the Pakistan army and for the genocide it perpetrated against the Bangladeshi people in 1971.

Notes:

- 1. Sarmila Bose's paper: "Losing the Victims: Problems of Using Women as Weapons in Recounting the Bangladesh War" can be found on the Internet at http://www.Epw. Org. in/uploads/articles/11060.pdf
- 2. An expanded version of this article can be found on the Internet at http://www.drishtipat.org/blog/2007/10/10/the-continuing-rape-of-bangladesh.

Artworks by **PABLO**

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Cover Story: The violence of history: 1971 and the silencing of women

https://www.dawn.com/news/689976/cover-story-the-violence-of-history-1971-and-the-silencing-of-women



IF the 1971 war is remembered at all in Pakistani political culture, it is as a conflict between India and Pakistan, as an episode in the continuing saga of antagonism between the two nation states. Bangladeshis are simply forgotten, except as betrayers of Pakistan, collaborators with India against Pakistan, or at best as brainwashed victims of India's plot. The tropes — such as 'Bengali betrayal' and 'Indian designs' — deployed to explain away the secession of East Pakistan serve as devices and convenient frameworks to stunt any meaningful reflection on (West) Pakistan's own conduct during and before the war. Silence ensues, and endures.

Yasmin Saikia's book, Women, War, and the Making of Bangladesh: Remembering 1971, is an important intervention in the discourse around 1971. It examines and demonstrates clearly the brutality of war as experienced by various marginalised groups, especially women, and the ongoing routine violence of the silencing of their voices. Saikia documents women's voices and highlights their agency and the multiplicities of their role in the conflict. The book includes not only the narratives of women upon whom violence was visited by men — Pakistani and Bangladeshi, proliberation and pro-Pakistan — but also of the women who fought as rebels against the Pakistan army and the discrimination they endured during and after the war at the hands of their fellow Bangladeshis. She explores the post-war experiences of women through the narratives of those who worked as caregivers and social workers to 'rehabilitate' the survivors of rape and aided in the nascent patriarchal state's abortion and adoption programmes.

Saikia argues that the Bangladeshi nation state also has a vested interest in preserving a certain memory of the past in order to continue to legitimise itself. As is the case with Pakistan, the forgetting of the episodes and stories that complicate the official history is a part of the process by which the state creates and sustains collective memory to keep its raison d'étre fresh.

The official Bangladeshi narrative rests on a singular focus on Bengali victimhood and Pakistani oppression. A Bengali is always the oppressed man who fought valiantly and ultimately triumphed in liberating his nation from the Pakistani colonial boot. The dead are supposed to consist of victims of the Pakistan Army only and collaborators include only opportunists and monsters but not political actors acting out of a legitimate political viewpoint. In Saikia's words, "the Bengalis claim 1971 and the trauma of violence as an exclusive experience. Public memory is replete with stories of the suffering of Bengali people, but there is no space to remember the experience of other groups."

Saikia brings our attention to the fact that common people committed atrocities as they took sides with ethnic or political groups and that "it is almost impossible to distinguish victims from perpetrators." Pakistani military administrators, Indian politicians, Bengali leaders, and those following the aforesaid classes "reduced their enemies into abstract numbers and demographic units, categorising us and them. The abstraction of humans to fit ethnic, religious, and national labels opened the space for a cold, inhuman purpose for one human being to violate another human being. Bounded communities saw themselves as enemies of other bounded communities." A diverse population was reduced to mere labels — such as Hindu, 'Hindu-like' Bengali, Indian agent, Bihari, razakar and collaborator — and violence unleashed.

The Pakistanis believed that the war would be quickly won as Bengalis being "weak and unmartial, and cowardly," would quit their rebellion. This "myth of power" over Bengalis held sway over rank and file Pakistani soldiers, whose martial "manliness of bravado," and ignorance of Bengali society, language, people and even body language made for a destructive brew. At checkpoints, young Bengali men were forced to remove their lungis (sarongs) in front of their elderly and womenfolk to see whether they were circumcised and thus Muslim. The Pakistan Army killed Bengali Hindus simply for being Hindus, as they were readily assumed to be either Indians or Indian agents crossing into East Bengal to attack the Pakistan army.

On the other hand, the Bengali nationalists targeted Biharis for violence and pogroms. Differences in language and economic conditions, and the Biharis' perceived natural loyalty to Pakistan, transformed them into an outcast community suspected of being collaborators and/or razakars. As Saikia points out, "the rajakar Other is not an easily identifiable category but generally pro-Pakistan Bengalis and ordinary Urdu-speaking people, who are commonly referred to as Bihari due to their affinity with Urdu-speaking Pakistanis, are, by and large, deemed rajakars." While the Pakistan military did nothing to stop the massacres of Biharis as they unfolded, it later used the atrocities as war propaganda to legitimate its own dirty colonial war in the East. After the war, Biharis became "stateless refugees," and were kept, in Saikia's words "in a state of exception, and by controlling their lives and deaths the state of Bangladesh has transformed them into bodies for killing and destruction."

ALL facets of the 1971 conflict and the subsequent nation-making processes had a devastating impact on women, including rapes, exile, migration, camp-life, loss of family, social ostracism, financial insecurity, and the consequent exploitation and silencing of their voices.

The racialised discourse that deemed Bengalis as Hindu (or Hindu-like), polluting and destroying the nation from within, made the purging of the Bengali essential to restoring the nation to its original purity. In Saikia's words, "Muslim Pakistani (read: Pure) men assumed that the sacrifice of the Hindu women was necessary to undo the malaise."

Saikia surveys Bangladeshi literature produced about the war and finds that it silences the memory of women and renders them absent as agents and subjects of history. A unity between the Bengali woman, land, and nation is forged in the liberation-war centred Bangladeshi narratives, whereby the rape of the Bengali woman "stood for the rape of Bangladesh." Thus the raped woman even as her voice is systematically silenced and her story purged from collective memory becomes a rallying cry for nationalists to call for revenge against Pakistanis and their razakar collaborators. This Saikia calls "the national male heroes using rape as a weapon, once again to make gains for themselves."

Birangona (brave women) is the only way women's experience of the war is remembered. The term birangona marked women who came to be increasingly seen as fallen or loose, impelling women to hide their experience. What birangona narratives do exist are doctored and engineered by their sponsors, and become "external, almost pornographic stories about women's loss of honor. Not surprisingly birangonas, although projected as female heroes, are also viewed as being complicit in the crime of rape." This, then, justified denying women their voice and the nation forgetting their experience and suppressing their memory from history. Such cultural, political, and epistemic silence, Saikia shows, is instrumental to the production of official national histories in the service of nation-making. Silenced by processes of nation-making, the voices and stories of women's experience of the 1971 war must be heard.

PERHAPS the most important insight to emerge from a critical examination of the 1971 war is the need to recognise and affirm our shared humanity with the 'other' which breaks down in times of conflict, leaving us with no vocabularies other than the ones coughed up by ideologies, rendering us unable to see the 'other' except through decontextualised and homogenised social identities, as the contest for power plays out and the society brutalised.

Saikia also talked to Pakistani military men like Amin and Alam who explained away their violence as normal and considered themselves to have been merely performing their duty. She also writes about rank and file soldiers like Malik, who described himself as a "troubled soul" for the violence he saw his fellow soldiers commit; for not having done anything to stop his higher official from raping a woman as he stood guard at the door; and for looting Bengali villages to obtain food provisions for his company.

It is the narratives of the repenting perpetrators and their recognition of guilt that can bring some solace to the victims. Men like Malik "haunted by the memory of the Other" tell of their crimes and by that speech act "deliver a justice to their victim that no tribunal, state, or court of law can deliver, and in that same gesture they make us aware that their existence as human rests on the Other [...] the truth lies with the survivors — perpetrators and victims — who let us enter a murky world of memories and show us the possibility of moving beyond it towards closure." The denial of their own violence exists in the three sub-continental nation states — a willed collective amnesia regarding 1971 that is constructed through nationalist narratives, be it the Bengali betrayal for Pakistan, the innocent victim-warrior mukti-jodha for Bangladesh, or the savior, white knight triumphalism for India. But if we are to break the cycle of violence, a space needs to be opened up for people like Mohammad, a soldier who sought Saikia out to tell her his story as a Pakistani soldier who was told that Bengalis had killed a large number of Biharis and was sent to raze a Bengali town. Mohammad pleads that "it is important that Pakistan and Bangladesh governments must talk. I am ready to testify to my victims in Bangladesh and seek their understanding and forgiveness."

Will we let them speak? Will we listen?

Women, War, and the Making of Bangladesh: Remembering 1971 (HISTORY) By Yasmin Saikia Oxford University Press, Karachi ISBN 9780199064762 324pp. Rs675

Research' on Bangladesh War

https://mm-gold.azureedge.net/1971/English/critique sarmila bose.pdf

The girl who lies among forgotten 1971 martyrs X

Decaying 1971 mass grave needs urgent attention

http://www.thedailystar.net/footages-1971-liberation-war/killing-grounds/the-girl-who-lies-among-forgotten-dupchanchia-massacre-martyrs-1395226



At least 20 people including nine of a family were buried in a mass grave near Chowdhurybari's Shyam Sarobar at Chowdhurypara village in Dupchanchia upazila of Bogra on April 23, 1971. (3rd-R) The Chowdhurybari, ravaged in time, remains as the only proof of the massacre of 13 people. Photo courtesy Amit Kumar Kundu Rajib

Sukanta Parthib

If she were alive, she would have been living with the pride of our glorious Liberation War like any of us. But on April 23, 1971, at the age of five, Kakoli was brutally killed by Pakistani military. Chest speared by a bayonet, her blood splattered on the floor. At the end, the killers threw her body down the stairs muffling her cries. Kakoli along with her parents took refuge in her grandparents' house in Dupchanchia Chowdhurypara village after their place in Bogra was attacked by the invading army.

READ more: Killing fields of 1971 - Our grief, our strength

This heart wrenching incident took place at a suburb 20 kilometers away from Bogra town. Rajakar Abdul Majid, Majibor Rahman and their aides directly helped the West Pakistani army in pillage, rape and genocide. Rajakars, the notorious native collaborators of the Pakistani army, vandalised temples and houses. They torched the dispensary of local veteran politician Dr Anwar Hossain and many houses in the locality. Around 13 people, including nine of Kakoli's family, were killed by the Pakistan military at Chowdhurybari with the help of Rajakars on that day, said an eyewitness Jayanta Kumar Kundu, 71, a retired headmaster of a local school.

After Pakistani army took control of Bogra on April 22, 1971, Kakoli's grandfather Manmath Kundu and his family took shelter in his relative Khitish Chowdhury's house. But that was not enough. The Pakistan army killed them by brushfire. Kakoli's mother Tripti Rani was injured but pretended to be dead lying on the ground. Rani, also the daughter of Kundu, was later gang raped by the military and Rajakars.

Before leaving the spot, the military vandalised entrances of several temples and Chowdhurybari's main gateway. They smashed the antique sculptures created by renowned sculptor Nalini Mohon Kundu, the grandfather of Jayanta Kundu. Jogendranath Chowdhury, also known as Khitish Chowdhury, Manmath Kundu, Durga Kundu, Kalachand Kundu, Santosh Kundu, Kanailal Podder, Brajomahan Saha, and Kakoli and many unnamed people lost their lives in that massacre.

The Pakistani military also killed Union Parisad dafadar Tahiruddin Shah, businessman Satish Chandra Basak, Sharot Majumder, Akshay Kundu and the family members of a manager of Muslim Commercial Bank in separate places on the same day.

For two days no one came to recover the bodies and arrange a proper funeral in fear of the military.



"The list in the plaque should be corrected as names of a few martyrs have been dropped and some are misspelled."

Bodies of around 20 people were later buried at a nearby land beside a pond locally known as Chowdhurybari's Shyam Sarobar. Nimaisundor Chowdhury, Ananta Mohon Kundu, Birendranath Chowdhury and Jayanta Kundu came to Chowdhurybari and took part in digging the mass grave.

Rajakar Abdul Majid and Majibor Rahman, who were involved in the killings, were punished by locals led by freedom fighter ABM Shahjahan and his fellow-fighters on December 14, 1971.

Mass grave of martyrs in negligence

With the help of others, Jayanta Kundu and his father Ananta Mohon Kundu, an anti-colonial activist, Nimaisundar Chowdhury, retired teacher of a local school, marked the burial ground by building a boundary wall with bricks after the end of the Liberation War.

But over the years, the wall got destroyed in natural disasters. In 2012, a plaque on the martyrs was placed at the graveyard by upazila administration and Muktijoddha Sangsad. Freedom fighters who are still alive and locals demanded for a road at the graveyard for making the place accessible to visitors.

Yet to get a place in history

This mass killing in Dupchanchia is yet to get any official recognition from concerned authorities as it was not documented properly in the Liberation War history. It has been over 46 years since independence and nothing much happened to safeguard such crucial history of the land. The government has not given any direction yet to preserve the mass grave, said Shahed Parvez, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Dupchanchia. "If the government gives us direction to preserve the mass grave, we will take necessary steps in this regard," he added

Abdul Mazid, commander of upazila unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad said, "The government should take necessary steps to build a monument at the mass grave of martyrs. The list in the plaque should be corrected as names of some martyrs have been dropped and some are misspelled."





Sukanta Parthib

Today is April 23. On this day in 1971, the Pakistani occupation army aided by their local collaborators Rajakars went into an orgy of massacre and pillage at Chowdhurybari in Dupchanchia thana (now upazila) headquarter area, 20 kilometres from Bogra town.

Jogendranath Chowdhury (popularly known as Khitish Chowdhury), Manmath Kundu, Kalachand Kundu, Santosh Kundu, Durga Kundu, Kanailal Poddar, Brajomahan Saha and several unnamed people lost their lives during the carnage.

READ more: The girl who lies among forgotten 1971 martyrs

The brutal forces also killed five-year-old Kakoli and gang-raped Manmath Kundu's young daughter.

Local union parisad dafadar Tahiruddin Shah, businessman Satish Chandra Basak, Sharot Majumder, Akshay Kundu and the family members of the then manager of Muslim Commercial Bank were also killed by the occupation force that day. The Pakistani army riddled with bullets the artistic sculptures created by renowned sculptor Nalini Mohon Kundu while Rajakars vandalised and looted temples and houses in the area. Several houses were torched too.

Two days later, the bodies were buried in a mass grave near Chowdhurybari's Shyam Sarobar as locals could not perform the religious rite in fear of the barbaric forces. The upazila administration and Muktijoddha Sangsad in 2012 arranged setting a plaque of martyrs at the mass graveyard.

"The government should take necessary steps to build a monument at the mass grave of martyrs. The list in the plaque should be corrected as names of a few martyrs have been dropped and some are misspelled," said Abdul Mazid, commander of upazila unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad.

"If the government gives us direction to preserve the mass grave, we will take necessary steps in this regard," said Shahed Parvez, upazila nirbahi officer of Dupchanchia.

Pakistan military started 'genocide' of 1971: Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina http://indianexpress.com/article/world/pak-military-started-genocide-of-1971-bangladesh-pm-sheikh-hasina-4855895/

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina reiterated her call to stop supplying arms to the terrorists and to stop terror financing, besides settling all international disputes peacefully.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the United Nations General Assembly, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017, at the U.N. headquarters. (AP/PTI Photo)

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has hit out at Pakistan, saying its Army launched a "heinous" military operation in 1971 which triggered a "genocide" during the liberation war, killing 3 million innocent people. In her address to the UN General Assembly yesterday, Hasina said her country's parliament had recently declared 25th March as 'Genocide Day' to pay homage to the victims.

The war in 1971 broke after a sudden crackdown at midnight on March 25, 1971 in the erstwhile East Pakistan by the Pakistani troops and ended on December 16.

The same year Pakistan conceded defeat and unconditionally surrendered in Dhaka to the allied forces comprising the freedom fighters and the Indian soldiers. Officially three million people were killed during the nine-month long war.

"In the 1971 war of liberation, we endured an extreme form of genocide. In the 9-month-long war of liberation against Pakistan 3 million innocent people were killed and more than 200,000 women were violated," Hasina said.

"The Pakistan military launched the heinous 'operation searchlight' on 25th March which was the beginning of the 1971 genocide. The 1971 genocide included targeted elimination of individuals on the ground of religion, race and political belief. The intellectuals were killed brutally," Hasina said.

Exercising its right to response, Pakistan rejected Hasina's statement.

"Prime Minister for our Bangladeshi brothers and sisters, let me add that they have to come out of the narrative of hate and dispel the twisted notions of history. There are no takers for their contentions," Pakistan said late last night.

"The issues of 1971 agreed were and settled under the budget agreement of 1974 which was signed by India and Bangabandhu of Bangladesh. Hate berates hate. We have to move on," Pakistan said.

Hasina also said that terrorism and violent extremism had become a major threat to peace, stability and development.

"Terrorists have no religion, belief or race. Having been a target of a number of terrorist attacks myself, I personally empathise with the victims of terrorism and appreciate their need for protection. We denounce the use of religion to justify violent extremism," she said.

Hasina reiterated her call to stop supplying arms to the terrorists and to stop terror financing, besides settling all international disputes peacefully.

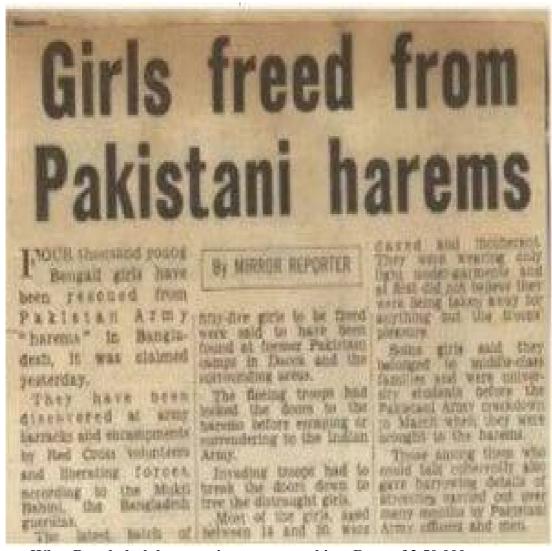
"I also urge the UN to address the growing threats emanating from the cyber space to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing and other transnational organised crimes," she said.

Why did the Pakistani Army commit the genocide of the Bangladeshi people in 1971? https://www.quora.com/Why-did-the-Pakistani-Army-commit-the-genocide-of-the-Bangladeshi-people-in-1971

West Pakistanis thought they were pure breed(or pure Muslims) thats why the people from west Pakistan did a lot of discrimination to East. They weren't given high positions anywhere, they were treated like second grade citizens in their own land. When protests started which were actually happening from late 60s.

Pakistan army made harems for mass rapes so that the girls give birth to pure offspring. A 7 year old girl to 80 year old girl. No one was spared. Some young girls were kept tied to trees and they raped them many times a day.

The woman who were married and were disowned by their families and they did mass suicide. I could add the pictures but that would be chilling. When red Cross reached to aid after India won 1971 war, they did abortion of many girls and they were given respect in society as brave ladies.



What Bangladesh has seen is nerve wrenching. Rape of 2,50,000 woman.



When raped women and war babies paid the price of a new nation An official estimate of 200,000 to 400,000 women were raped by the Pakistani military and the supporting Bihari and Bengali Razakar and al-Badr militias. ■ The support of the price of a new nation with the nation with the nation with the price of a new nation with the new nation with the nation with the nation with the nation with

https://indianexpress.com/article/research/birth-of-bangladesh-when-raped-women-and-war-babies-paid-the-price-of-a-new-nation-victory-day-4430420/



As Bangladesh celebrates yet another anniversary of victory day, it might be useful to remember those women and children who paid the heaviest price for the birth of the new nation. (AP Photo)

A truck came to a halt in a deserted, dark spot and opened up to produce a pile of barely conscious beaten women tied up to each other. The women must have numbered in the hundreds. Soon thereafter the army assembled them in queues and segregated them in age groups. The ones considered infertile were shot on spot, while the ones considered capable of bearing children kept aside, to reside in a rape camp for the next several months to come. The army commander gave out an order to his soldiers, "these women have to be impregnated." The idea was to produce a Pakistan loyal to their nation and religion.

This bone chilling scene from director Mrityunjay Devvrat's film, "Children of war" was barely fictional. It was a rude representation of a less talked about, hardly chronicled account of Bangladesh's past that went on to haunt the memories and consciousness of the newly formed nation in 1971. As Bangladesh celebrates yet another anniversary of victory day, it might be useful to remember those women and children who paid the heaviest price for the birth of the new nation.

Rape as a tool of violence during wars is hardly a new phenomenon. It had been used on thousands of occasions in the ancient past, the medieval tussle for powers and the wars of the twentieth century including the two world wars. The rationale has always been the infliction of terror and damage upon the group through the brutality of rape. In Bangladesh though, the systemic use of rape in the liberation war was also a means to produce children fathered by West Pakistani army men in an attempt to wipe out Bengali nationhood.

In March 1971 when the issue of cultural and linguistic identity in East Pakistan had come to a boil, president Yahya Khan gave out public orders for the Bengalis to be made into "true Muslims". Though there is absence of any official documents, reports suggest that the orders given out by Yahya Khan and General Tikka Khan were to impregnate Muslim women in East Pakistan who were supporters of Bangladesh's formation and Hindu women with the intention of building a "pure Pakistan."

The result was devastating and traumatic. The army left no stone unturned to carry out the orders of the Pakistani government. Women were hunted down, picked up from their homes, schools, streets and even their bedrooms and raped barbarously. An official estimate of 200,000 to 400,000 women were raped by the Pakistani military and the supporting Bihari and Bengali Razakar and al-Badr militias.



Journalist Susan Brownmiller wrote in her work that there were some women who had been raped nearly 80 times in one night. (Wikimedia Commons)

Describing a case of assault on a newly married woman, writer Aubrey Menen says the following:

"Two [Pakistani soldiers] went into the room that had been built for the bridal couple. The others stayed behind with the family, one of them covering them with his gun. They heard a barked order, and the bridegroom's voice protesting. Then there was silence until the bride screamed. Then there was silence again, except for some muffled cries that soon subsided. In a few minutes one of the soldiers came out, his uniform in disarray. He grinned to his companions. Another soldier took his place in the extra room. And so on, until all the six had raped the belle of the village. Then all six left, hurriedly. The father found his daughter lying on the string cot unconscious and bleeding. Her husband was crouched on the floor, kneeling over his vomit. "

Several women were forced to live in rape camps where there were raped repeatedly. Journalist Susan Brownmiller wrote in her work that there were some women who had been raped nearly 80 times in one night. The plight of the women did not just end there. Once the war was over and Bangladesh took birth, these women were ostracised, seen as a black mark upon societal honour. The Bangladesh government did try to incorporate them in their society. The new president, Mujibur Rehman, referred to the survivors of war rape as birangonas (war heroines) and urged their families and society in general to accept them. However, the reality of the situation for these women was very different.

War babies

The situation was much graver for those who were direct products of this atrocious war- the children of war. Official estimates suggest that close to 25,000 babies were born from the genocidal attack on women.

While the newly formed Bangladeshi government was sympathetic towards the grievances of the raped women, they were absolutely merciless towards the children born of the raped women. Mujibur Rehman is reported to have announced that "none of the babies who carry the blood of the Pakistanis will be allowed to remain in Bangladesh." Speaking to a feminist author, he had said that he did not want to keep "those polluted blood" in his country.

The stigma attached to war babies resulted in widespread confusion regarding what to do with them. Several international organisations were asked to help carry out late abortions of pregnant women and assisting in adoption of children by families abroad.

Nearly 5000 women though had aborted their 'unwanted' babies through unsafe methods. There were others who did not want to undergo abortions and pleaded with the government to let them be. There are several war babies currently in Bangladesh, conscious of their identity and the history attached to their birth as also the price they paid for the birth of their country.

War rapes in present times

The Bangladesh war of 1971 was hardly the last time rape was used as a tool for inflicting terror and brutality upon the enemy in the event of a war. Even today, despite the creation of modern democratic societies, women continue to be the most vulnerable targets of wartime attacks. In the recent past similar technique of assault was implemented particularly by the Islamic State in the Middle East and the Burmese army upon the Rohingyas. As of 2014, close to 1,500 Yazidi and Christian women had been forced into sexual slavery by the Islamic State.



In the recent past similar technique of assault was implemented particularly by the Islamic State in the Middle East -and the Burmese army upon the Rohingyas-. (picture used for representational purpose)

The rationale in each of these cases remains the use of sexual assault as a means of disciplining the victims and making them subservient to the rule of the assaulter. This apart, women being seen as the honour of a society in a patriarchal set up, the use of rape becomes a means to wound the pride of the men and the community. Whatever be the reasoning, what continues to remain true for thousands of years now is that women in conflict zones do not just get victimised by the enemy but also by the community which they supposedly represent.



Women who are assaulted in India are 40 times more likely to die from their injuries.

By Matthew Ponsford

LONDON, Aug 31 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Women who are assaulted in India are 40 times more likely to die from their injuries than their U.S. counterparts, with social factors mostly to blame for the gaping disparity, according to research released on Thursday. The researchers at the University of Washington said they compared survival rates for women post-assault and women who were injured accidentally, and the figures suggested something more sinister was at play.

"We looked and I don't believe the women (assaulted) in India were worse injured - the clinical injury scores were not that high. That led me to hypothesise about social factors," Mohini Dasari, a surgeon and researcher at University of Washington, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.



The research compared more than 25,000 trauma cases and was published in the British Medical Journal's prestigious BMJ Global Health.

It found that women in the United States had more than five times better odds of surviving a simple fall or road accident than their counterparts in India - largely due to better medical care.

But the gap in survival rates jumped to 40 when it came to intentional attacks, prompting suspicions that neglect and a code of silence around domestic violence in India was to blame.

CODE OF SILENCE

Violence by partners makes up a significant percentage of assaults on women in both countries, said the researchers.

But previous studies that show only one in four Indian women who are assaulted seek health care after an attack led the researchers to ask how social barriers might prevent Indian women reaching hospitals quickly.



"I'm imagining a woman whose significant other has assaulted her, and they're not necessarily going to let them call for help. We know violence is sometimes condoned by in-laws and the woman might not be able to go and ask for help," said Dasari.

"There is clearly something that leads to that high odds of death," she added.

The study analysed patients at four hospitals in Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi, and compared them to three trauma centres in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

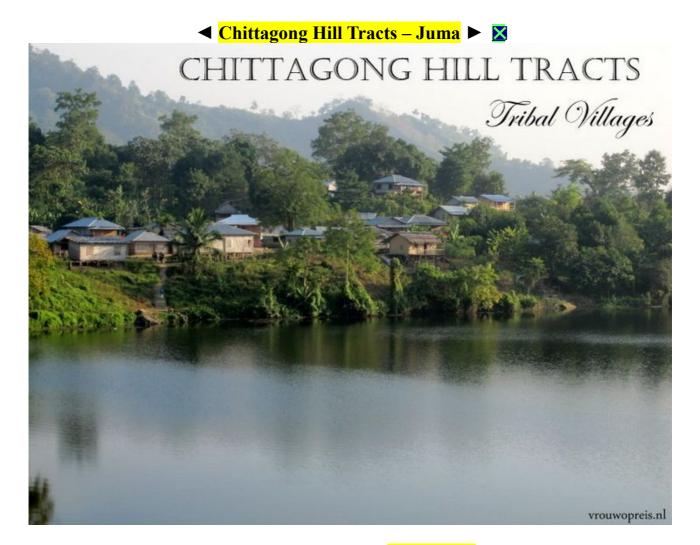
Juan Carlos Puyana, Professor of Surgery at University of Pittsburgh, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that researchers will struggle to make definite conclusions until the records of trauma better document the causes of injuries.

Even in this study, some assaults may have been mis-registered as falls or road traffic accidents, which could have affected their findings, said Puyana.

"Not every woman is going to go to a hospital to say: 'I have just been beaten' or 'I have just been assaulted'. Probably the real level is actually higher than we've seen in these results," he added.

(Reporting by Matthew Ponsford, Editing by Lyndsay Griffiths.; Please credit the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, women's rights, trafficking, property rights, climate change and resilience. Visit http://news.trust.org)





CHT(Chittagong Hill Tracks) is under Bangladesh Military rule since 1972 to present 1 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5AABrlBpOw

Atrocities On Hindus In Bangladesh Sh. Anant Kumar Hegde by HSC(Hindu Massacre) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvogI-PPh88

5 Crore (50 Million) Hindus Missing Or killed In Bangladesh (Hindu Massacre) 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mY-NOrnIAGQ

Gross human rights violation in Bangladesh against the Jummas of CHT (Military rule) 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mglUKV97KY

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility 7 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU8hQz4YpCA

Massacres in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh 1992 7 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvV2gv9pD2k

Al Jazeera-The Stream: land struggle for Bangladesh's indigenous groups 8 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6tG0VpiejQ

Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security in Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh 8 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCA7tskv3e0

Hill in flames- part 1 of 3 2008, 2010 7 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ7bMtcpzSs

Hill in flames- part 2 of 3 8 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSxADW3t7jU

Hill in flames- part 3 of 3 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeoytZrSQPs

Chittagong Hill Tracts TERRIFIED 2003 voices_part1 15 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gxfqs K6zE

Chittagong Hill Tracts TERRIFIED voices_part2 12 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOj_RGBrmPU

Searching for Kalpana Chakma 2014 by Shahidul Alam 17 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gybAFA5uqDY

Scrapped: Chittagong Cutters (RT Documentary) 26 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_fqrRhqv0Iw

Life is still not ours (Full Film) 1 hr https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmIIRBv-LQw





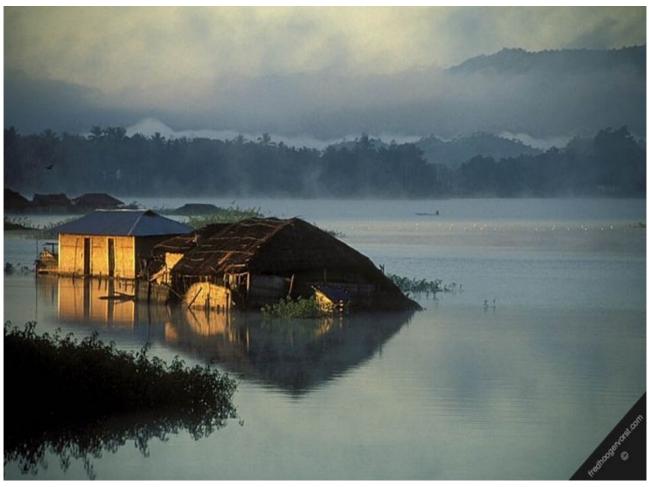




Photo by Raphaël Fauveau. Copyright licence: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/

























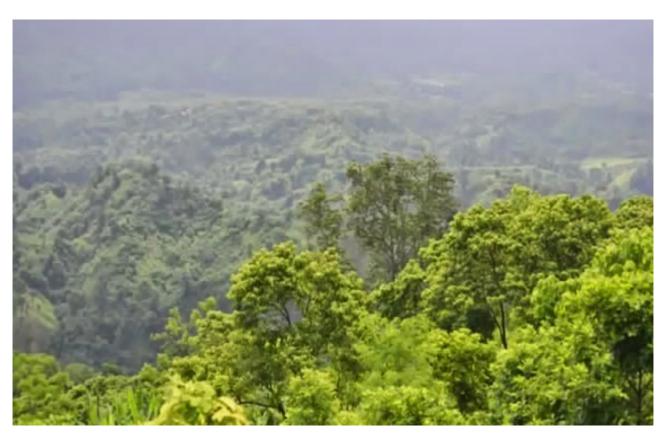














Homage Paid To Great Sons Of The Soil (Intro Court) ▼

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/12/15/homage-paid-to-great-sons-of-the-soil/



A light mist still hung in the air of Rayerbazar in the capital. A cool breeze was blowing. Yet, people came in their hundreds: some with flowers, some carrying flags and some wearing black badges. They stood in sombre silence and paid their deepest tribute to the martyred intellectuals yesterday at Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals Memorial that echoed with patriotic songs throughout the morning.

Mourners from all strata — children, elderly men and women, housewives, businessmen, children of the martyred intellectuals — laid wreaths in tribute at the altar of the memorial marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day. While they remembered the contributions of the illustrious citizens and vowed to build the country in the light of their ideologies, they also demanded justice for the systematic massacre in 1971 intended to cripple the nation that was soon to emerge as independent Bangladesh.

Not only the culprits but also the organisations that had links with the pre-planned killings must be brought to book, they said. Being aware of the imminent defeat in the nine-month-long war, Bangalee collaborators, particularly from <u>Al-Badr force</u>, executed the Pakistan army's blueprint for elimination of teachers, writers, doctors, lawyers, journalists and other professionals in the then East Pakistan.

Al-Badr was formed by the leaders and activists of <u>Islami Chhatra Sangha</u>, (Urdu: <u>Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba</u>) the then student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami that **fought tooth and nail to thwart the birth of Bangladesh**, according to historical documents. It picked up professionals and eminent personalities in similar fashion from their residences, and tortured and killed them, just days before Bangalees' victory in the Liberation War on December 16, 1971.

Recalling the fateful day, Nuzhat Chowdhury, daughter of martyred physician <u>Alim Chowdhury</u>, <u>demanded trial of the Jamaat-e-Islami</u> as an organisation for its role during the war.



"Jamaat must be banned."

"Although we have achieved political victory, our ideological battle is yet to be over....

We have to root out the ideology that drove the killers to kill my father,"

Nuzhat said.

Jamaat formed Al-Badr force that was particularly responsible for the killing of intellectuals, said Shomi Kaiser, daughter of martyred journalist Shahidulla Kaiser. "The philosophy of Jamaat cannot be wiped out with the execution of one [convicted war criminal] <u>Quader Mollah</u> and some others....

We have to fight continuously against the philosophy. "We have to take the country forward fulfilling the dreams of its great sons," added Shomi, a prominent actress.

Asked how the government would proceed with the trial of Jamaat, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque said the party identified as a party of war criminals should not have the right to continue doing politics. A bill amending the relevant law to empower the International Crimes Tribunal to try and punish organisations for war crimes will be placed in the next parliamentary session for approval, he said.

"Those who committed crimes in 1971 in the name of religion should be tried. The people of the country also want their trial," the minister added. Shekhar Mondal, a teacher and a resident of Rayerbazar, came there with his two children. "I want my children to know the history of the Liberation War and the sacrifice these citizens made for the victory. That's why I brought them here," he said.

Meanwhile, Projonmo'71, a platform of children of Liberation War martyrs, demanded that the government take back the Independence Award given to Sarsina Pir Shah Abu Jafar Muhammad Saleh, Though Jafar was a leader of collaborators of the Pakistan Army and was arrested immediately after the war for his role, he was given the award in 1980 by Ziaur Rahman's government, it said holding a human chain at the graveyard.

MIRPUR MAUSOLEUM



Earlier in the day, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths at Martyred Intellectuals' Mausoleum in the capital's Mirpur. They then stood in solemn silence for some time as the bugle played the last post. Flanked by senior Awami League leaders, Hasina placed another wreath at the mausoleum as the AL chief.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu and Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon also laid wreaths to pay respects. Different socio-cultural and political organisations, educational institutions as well as people from all walks of life then paid their tributes.

SECTOR COMMANDERS' FORUM

The <u>Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF)</u>-Liberation War '71 demanded trial of Jamaat as a criminal organisation for its role in the Liberation War at a human chain at Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in the capital yesterday. Placing wreaths at the graveyard, it also demanded that the war crimes trial and execution of the convicted war criminals be expedited. SCF Chairman KM Shafiullah, its Vice-president Abu Osman Chowdhury, around a dozen of its leaders, family members of martyred freedom fighters participated in the human chain.



Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF)

To mark the Martyred Intellectuals Day, black flags were hoisted atop different buildings on the university campus. Students, teachers and staff gathered at the base of Aparajaya Bangla and laid wreaths at the memorials in Jagannath Hall and Shahidullah Hall. At a discussion commemorating the martyred intellectuals, DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said verdicts in the war crimes trial should be executed in the shortest possible time.



Dhaka University 233



Meghna Guhathakurta

Bangladesh stands out among many nations as one with a special day that commemorates the sacrifice of the Intellectuals. It has often been commented whether it was justifiable to separate them from others who were victims of a gory history of mass killings. But the fact is that the commemoration of the day was not so much as to treat the Intellectuals as a separate entity but to make a point that they were targeted specifically within the broad framework of the military operation known as 'Operation Searchlight' conducted by the then Pakistan Government.

Although the day has been celebrated from the very inception of the Bangladesh state, it took more than 40 years to legitimize such sacrifices, or in other words to legally term such killings as crimes against humanity. This was possible through the judgment of the International Crimes Tribunal in its case versus Motiur Rahman Nizam.

It was stated in the verdict that "the fierceness of the events of 'intellectual killing' and the 'mass killing of un-armed civilians' were extremely detrimental to basic humanness. It deserves to be evaluated as 'crimes of serious gravity' intending to demean the human civilization. The designed plan, pattern of such large scale killing of intellectuals, professionals and un-armed civilians inescapably aggravate the magnitude of the criminal acts and liability of the accused as well.

Mass killing of a large number of individuals belonging to the intelligentsia class of Bengali nation as well as un-armed civilians 'extremely serious' offence of crimes against humanity. The case in hand concerns such type of unheard of killing committed in execution of designed murderous scheme. It not only increases the magnitude of the crimes but it has imprinted untold trauma to the nation. Such 'extreme seriousness' inevitably is considered as an aggravating factor in awarding sentence for the crimes of mass killing.

Letters of law cannot remain non active to the enormous colossal and unspeakable pains being carried for decades together by the relatives of martyred intellectuals, professionals, un-armed civilians and the nation too." As soon as the verdict was heard by relatives of those who had lost their dear ones, "something shifted" inside them. What was it? The heavy burden of responsibility that one carried of having to prove to ones society, country and the world that those moments of terror that one witnessed were real and that they actually happened?

Or was it the struggle and toil of raising ones children in a world that was clueless to the history of domination and oppression of a state that had carefully planned a way to eliminate intelligent minds and creative souls from an insurgent state that was poised for freedom? Or, was it the decade long silence that one had to tolerate as war criminals ruled the upper echelons of a nation that they had once chosen to destroy? Perhaps it was all three and more.

I remember once witnessing the news of the Prime Minister of New Zealand making apologies to the indigenous Maori community for the long history of oppression and domination that they had thrust upon them. I particularly remember that some Maoris had broken down in tears. There was no apology at this end, but the verdict itself had released a sense of hope among the survivors and their families that perhaps their sacrifice has not been in vain.

But one wonders whether that's all there is to it...to feel a relief that your rights have been vindicated and justice served. Is there not a deeper lesson that we can learn from such sacrifice? Perhaps we should review why the Pakistan state wanted to rid Bangladesh of its best minds and the ways in which they did that.

The first answer is of course obvious. They did not want the new nation to prosper as a free and independent country and hence what better ways to do that then eradicate from the scene those minds that have served as the fountains of wisdom to future generations of leaders and policy-makers. They were right.

The loss of these individuals had left a black hole in the fabric of our society, in the coffers of our education sector, in journalism, media engineering and medical sciences. Institutions had to struggle hard to make up this gap. That was not all. The Pakistan state through its strategy of "Operation Searchlight" not only targeted intellectuals, whom they thought were responsible for sparking the fire of Bengali nationhood and freedom, they also targeted the symbols of such thought processes embodied.

"Madhur canteen" in the Dhaka University campus was a centre of political thought and practice and for that they targeted Madhu da the owner of the canteen on the very first night of the operation and killed him and members of his family in cold blood. The Central Shaheed Minar was built in memory of the language martyrs day, (Ekushey February) but in the sixties and seventies was the platform for the movement protesting the domination and oppression of the Pakistan state.

During the civil disobedience movement called by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman it turned into a site for reiterating ones commitment to the movement for autonomy. For that the Pakistan Army blew it up with dynamites in the first few days of its operation.

And then there was the "Bottola", the space for political gathering beneath the sprouting green leaves and branches of the banyan tree in the corner of the Arts Building, in the Dhaka University campus. It was where students rallied together in solidarity with demands for independence.

Towards the end of the nine months of the Pakistan Occupation, even that had to go. The trunk of that magnificent tree was cut down and sawed in half, a testimony to the cruel obliteration engaged by crazed minds. The logic was the same.. to kill the symbols of freedom around which dreams were born, a future unfolded and from which generations drew inspiration. This killing of inspiration is a crime against humanity. That is what the Intellectual Martyrs day is here to remind us of.

"They took my father away in the dark of the night, They did not say where.

But I knew instantly, why.

They took him for the same reason

That they had to knock down the concrete Shaheed Minar

They took him for the same reason

That they had to cut down the leafy banyan tree

Under whose branches had gathered The seeds of rebellion!

Train your eyes

Watch carefully and you will see One day this country will be free!

Justice : Is It Only To Close Wounds Or More?

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/12/15/justice-is-it-only-to-close-wounds-or-more/



Tamanna Khan

In November 3, when the apex court of the country upheld the death penalty of war criminal **Muhammad Kamaruzzaman**, his son Hasan Iqbal told reporters that his father was 'deprived of justice'. The comment came after Kamaruzzaman, one of the key organisers of the notorious Al-Badr force, through his lawyers got the opportunity to defend himself at the **International War Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-2** for almost three years and at the Supreme Court for about a year.

And now he would get even a chance to seek review of the verdict of the Supreme Court appeal. But Shumon Zahid's mother poet and journalist Selina Parveen did not even get three days to make her plea to the Al-Badr men who took her away right in front of Shumon on December 13, 1971 and killed her by charging bayonets on December 15, 1971 at the killing field of Dhaka's Rayerbazar.



The judgment of absconding war criminals <u>Chowdhury Mueen Uddin</u> and <u>Ashrafuzzaman Khan</u>, two other Al-Badr men, found guilty by the ICT for intellectual killing, described the brutality of the moment, as below:

"Selina Parveen begged for her life, appealed to spare her as she had a young boy with no one to take care of him (Shumon Zahid) except her. But the brutal killers did not spare her. She was instantly killed by charging bayonet..... What an impious butchery! What a Sacrilegious butchery! What a shame for human civilization! Selina Parveen was a mother.

The appalling attack was done not only to Selina Parveen but to the mother's line. The killing was rather a 'matricide'. This indescribable brutality shocks the human conscience indeed." Shumon never knew why his mother, who promoted a pro-liberation weekly magazine 'Shilalipi' and used the proceeds for treatment of wounded freedom-fighters, was killed brutally by Al-Badr men.



On the other hand the criminal charges against Al-Badr leader such as Kamaruzzaman, Mueen Uddin, Ashrafuzzaman, <u>Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujaheed</u>, <u>Mir Kashem Ali</u>, <u>Motiur Rahman Nizami</u> as well as their guru war criminal <u>Ghulam Azam</u> were clear, specific and a part of history.

They planned and executed the killing of millions of Bangalees, not just to carry out the orders of their Pakistani army bosses, but in the hope that their party Jamaat-e-Islami could reap the benefits of power if West Pakistani military rule continued in the land.

Like Shumon, Nuzhat Chowdhury, Tawheed Reza Noor, Shomi Kaiser, Meghna Guhathakurta and hundreds of other children of intellectual martyrs never knew why their parents were killed with bullets and sharp metal bayonets. To the Pakistani military rulers, the crime of the martyred intellectuals was that they wanted freedom of their motherland; they wanted to build a nation which would be based on socialism, nationalism, secularism and democracy.



Those values were far from Jamaat's ideology founded by <u>Syed Abul A'la Maududi</u>, preacher of his own interpretation of Sharia-based state in the subcontinent against secular democracy. Maududi is a <u>Tafsir</u> writer, which is an <u>interpretation and context of the Quranic verses</u>.

Thus it was not a surprise that while tasked with listing of the intellectuals, Jamaat-leader heading para-military forces such as the Al-Badr and <u>Al-Shams</u>, picked not just Awami League men but people who would stand as barriers to Jamaat's philosophy.

Thus even on the eve of Bangladesh's victory, when the Pakistani military knew they were losing the war, they did not stop killing the intellectuals with the help of Al-Badr and Al-Shams. From December 10 - 15, it is estimated that more than 100 doctors, engineers, journalists, teachers and artistes were killed alone in Dhaka.

"...It is now known that on Sunday December 12, as the Indian columns were closing on Dacca....a group of senior Pak army officers and their civilian counterparts met in the city's Presidential residence. They put together the names of 250 peoples to be arrested and killed, including the cream of Dacca's professional circles not already liquidated during the civil war.

Their arrests were made on Monday and Tuesday by marked bands of extreme right-wing Muslims belonging to an organization called the <u>Al-Badar Razakar</u>...Only hours before the official surrender was signed (on 16th), the victims were taken in groups to the outskirts of the city......where they were summarily executed......." The Times, December 23, 1971 (source: Bangladesh Genocide Archive)

Incoherent By MIRROR REPORTER light under-garments and first did not believe they from ere being taken away for snything but the troops AIMY nerv-five girls to be freed to have been Banglafound at former Pakistani claimed camps in Darca and the surrounding areas. yesterday. The fleeing troops had ausdents been Pakalani Army crackdown locked the doors to the in March when they were harems before escaping or prought to the harems. parracks and encampments surrendering to the Indian Those among them who volunteers Army. could talk coherently also Invading troops had to forces. liberating gave harrowing details of break the doors down to the Mukti necording -50 atrocities carried out over free the distraught girls. Bangadesh Bahini, many months by Pakistan' Most of the girls, aged guerillas. of between 14 and 30, were army officers and men. intest.

Al-Badr, a para-military force created in the likes of Hitler's Gestapo, traced houses of proliberation people, especially intellectuals of different professions, took them to torture camps, where they were detained, brutally tortured and murdered. This special force was formed with members of Islami Chhatra Sangha, student wing of <u>Jamaat-e-Islami</u>, on April 22, 1971.



Journalist Azadur Rahman Chandan, in his book, 'Al-Badr Chhilo Gopon Commando Bahini', referred to an interview of Pakistani Major Riaj Hussain Malik of **Baluch regiment** taken by Salim Manur Khalid, "We needed a group of patriotic Bengalese for defending who will be able to help us in protecting Pakistan.

In first one and half month our experience with Razakar force became a failure. But in my sector I was observing that the Bengali students of Islami Chhatra Shongho were doing their duty of defense, leadership and maintaining secrecy very constructively.



Therefore I made the students united separately with a hesitating mind as I had no permission from high command. They were 47 in number and they all were the workers of Islami Chhatro Shongho.

On 16th May, 1971 at Sherpur (Mymensingh district) they were a given a short term military training. After being introduced with their devotion and their merit to acquire the war strategies I delivered a speech to them. In midst of my speech I told them spontaneously that children of Islam like you who have such character such merit and such strength should be entitled as Al Badr.

Just like lightning I got the idea that I could name the organization as Al Badr. This name and separate training for the students were so effective that within a few months the work of organizing the all students of Islami Chhatro Shongho became accomplished. " (source: Wikipedia)

About Al-Shams, the book titled 'Genocide '71' an account of the killers and collaborators by MuktiJuddha Chetana Bikash Kendra, reads:

".... after the Islami Chhatra Sangha Union- the student front of the Jamaat-e-Islami was transformed into the AI-Badr force, student bodies of other parties combined to form the AI-Shams force. Apart from the student fronts of the Muslim League, there was predominance in this force of the Jamiyat-e-Talabaye Arabiya, the organization of madrassah students. The work of the AI-Shams force was similar to that of the AI-Badr; its members were used in large numbers to kill the Bengali intellectuals."



So was the International Crimes Tribunal created only to give justice to the martyrs' children? Was it formed to avenge the death of the three million who were killed; the more than 200,000 women who were raped and millions of others who were forced to leave their home?

The trial process which started after 40 years is more of a symbol of justice to prevent repetition of crimes against humanity rather than a venture to avenge death to the families of martyr, according to Tawheed Reza Noor, son of eminent martyred journalist Serajuddin Hossain, who was abducted on the night of December 10, 1971 by Al-Badr men.

He reminded that the movement started by Jahanara Imam, mother of Shaheed Rumi in the early 1990s for trial of war criminals was not for taking revenge. It was to ensure that people who commit heinous crimes such as genocide and mass rape never get away with it. In fact, Bangladesh is not unique in trying perpetrators of these crimes. War crimes was and is being held in different countries of the world, he said.

Even when expressing their reaction to the verdicts of the war crimes, families of martyrs and victims welcome capital punishment not out of revenge but because they feel that the extent of these crimes deserves the maximum punishment that exists under the law of the land, Noor explained.

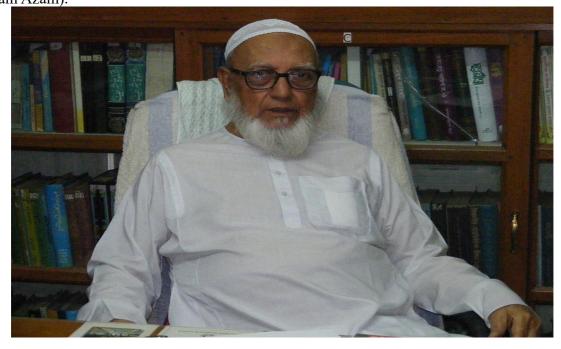


Would the truth and reconciliation process, in line with what was set up in South Africa worked in Bangladesh's case as suggested by many westerners? Would it work for someone like Ghulam Azam who even in an interview with a weekly Bengali magazine Bichitra in April 17, 1981 said brazenly, 'I made no mistake in 1971'?

'Genocide 71' in page 70-71 presents translation of the Bichitra article which depicts the role of **Ghulam Azam**: "In early September 1971, at a meeting with Rao Farman Ali, Professor Azam **presented a blueprint on the killings of the intellectuals**. It was in accordance with this blueprint that later in December, the intellectuals were cruelly murdered....

The plan was as follows: "It might not be possible to preserve Pakistan. However, intellectuals, engineers, scientists, doctors, must be eliminated forever, so that even if we lose Pakistan this country cannot function. Professor Azam gave directions to his cadres, the Al-Badr and Al-Shams to carry out the plans of the blueprint.

Areas were also demarcated. In 1972, quite a few of these blueprints were recovered from captured Al-Badr leaders. ... At a meeting of the All-Badr, some Jamaat leaders exhorted those present, "In order to rescue our motherland from the hands of these Nimruds, follow the directives of our Ameer (Gholam Azam)."



Over 30 lakh killed by Pak forces --Pravda

MOSCOW, Jan. 4 (ENA):
The Communist Party newspaper Pravda has reported
that over 30 lakh persons
were killed throughout Bangladesh by the Pakistan occupation forces during the
last nine months.

Quoting its special correspondent stationed in Dacca the paper said that the Pak-1stan military forces immediately before their surrender to Mukti Bahinis and tne allied forces, had killed about 800 intellectuals in the capital city of Bangladesh alone.

The paper also criticised the pro-Pakistan stand taken by the European countries and the United States in the recent Indo-Pak war. snid, Atique Rahman, Farhad; Rahman, Rehana Akhtar, Mahbuba Haider and others.

Observance of 'Mujib Day' discussed

A meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries of the Union Awami League and League was held yesterday in the office of Dacca Nagar Awami League reports BPI.

Mr. Anwar Choudhury, Vice President of Dacca Nagar Awami League, presided over the meeting and Gazi Golam Mostata Secretary Dacca Nagar A.L., and others took part in the discussion regarding various problems including observation of "Mujib Day" and mantaining peace and tranquillity in the city.

Neither Ghulam Azam nor Jamaat-e-Islami ever refuted this Bichitra article about the role of Jamaat, the Al-Badr and the ICS in the killing of intellectuals under the guidance of Ghulam Azam, mentioned the book.

Yet, the country's failure to hold people like Ghulam Azam accountable for their crimes for about 40 years, created unknowing fans who see him as saint and we see London-based journalists like Yasmin Khatun empathising with Ghulam Azam's son upon the death of the war criminal while serving imprisonment. Could she have done the same for Shumon?

When Jamaat's leaders live in a state of denial about the atrocious crimes they committed in 1971, how far could the truth and reconciliation process work? Noor points out that instead of admitting their mistakes, war criminals received political rehabilitation in independent Bangladesh and continued to preach and promote their fundamentalist ideology so much so that even the young generation considers these war criminals as their leader despite the monstrosity they committed and assisted in 1971.

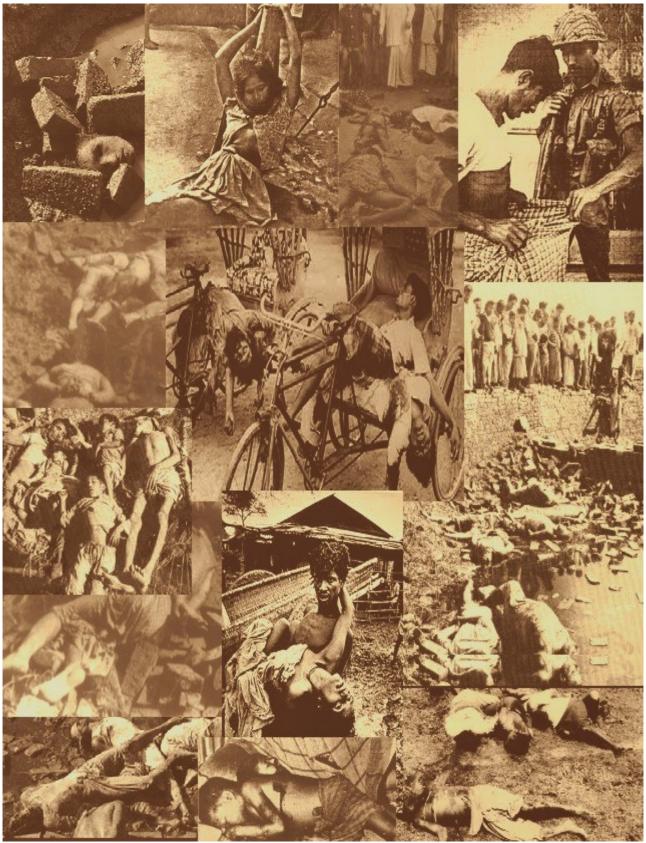


It was this very terrorist ideology of Jamaat that is still being practiced by its student wing <u>Islami</u> <u>Chhatra Shibir</u>, the successor of Islamic Chhatra Shangha, the student of Jamaat whose leaders and activists were part of the notorious Al-Badr force.

It is unfortunate the benefit that Jamaat could not gain in a united Pakistan run by West Pakistanis, they received much of it in independent Bangladesh. Two of Jamaat leaders and also Al-Badr key men Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujaheed and Motiur Rahman Nizami even made it to the cabinet during the BNP regime of 2001-2005 led by Begum Khaleda Zia.

While Mujaheed became social welfare minister and death designer Nizami was awarded with the responsibility of the agriculture ministry first and later the commerce ministry. Just as the saying in our country goes you can never trust a fox with hens,

Mujaheed and Nizami showed their true colours while occupying the highest echelons of the country. While Nizami helped bring in 10 trucks of illegal firearms in April 2004, Mujaheed allegedly conspired in the killing of the then opposition political party activist of Awami League through the 21 grenade attack of 2005.



Thus the claim by war criminals, their families, Jamaat leaders, their supporters and sympathisers that they have been deprived of justice, pose a big question. What is the definition of justice?

Instead of trying the war criminals in the court of law, had the nation followed Jamaat's footstep and hacked or burnt the war criminals to death, in the same manner the party activists flared passenger-filled buses even last year, would that have been fair?

The Tale Of A Lone Survivor

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/12/15/the-tale-of-a-lone-survivor/



Muktasree Chakma Sathi

Eyewitness account of Delwar, the only one to survive the brutality of December 14 Delwar had survived the horror of the night of December 14, 1971, a night that saw numerous intellectuals of the country massacred at Rayerbazar of Katasur in the capital. Out of panic he had started running, ready to embrace a death by bullets rather than being hacked by bayonets.

Eventually, he was able to escape. All the people had been bayoneted at Rayerbazar field that night, Delwar told the tribunal. The accounts of this lone survivor from the Rayerbazar mass killing field had finally found their purpose as the International Crimes Tribunal on November 3 last year convicted al-Badr leaders Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan and sentenced them to death.

Now 70, Delwar, who used to work as the chief accountant of Green Mercantile Company in 1971, broke into tears several times and trembled when recollecting the horror of that night. The courtroom was completely silent when Delwar was telling his experience of the mass killing.

"I witnessed the killings [at Rayerbazar] from the beginning to the end. Ashraf and Mueen led the killings. None of the persons confined at Mohammadpur Physical Training Institute, and those taken to the killing field survived. I am the only survivor," Delwar told the tribunal.

He particularly mentioned the names of Prof Munier Chowdhury and Prof Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury of Dhaka University and journalist Selina Parvin as the victims of the massacre by al-Badr, which assisted the occupation Pakistan force in its atrocities in 1971.

Delwar had been picked up from his home on December 14, 1971 by al-Badr men led by Mueen-Ashraf. He was taken to the physical training centre by a microbus painted in black and blue. Three or four people had already been inside the vehicle on its way to the centre which was used as a torture cell of al-Badr. The microbus stopped a few more times to pick up more people.

Delwar pointed out that not all the victims had been intellectuals – there had been several laymen, too. He mentioned a youth named Tarek, a class VIII student, who had untied his hands at the centre. "I saw tortured people lying on the floor – some of their eyes gouged out. The floor was full of blood. I took off my shirt, soaked it in blood and blindfolded myself in a way so that I could still see," Delwar said.

Munier Chowdhury and Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury were brought to the centre that evening.

"Around 8pm or 8:30pm, a few people armed with iron rods led by two youths came to the room. They were carrying lanterns because of the blackout. They approached Munier Chowdhury and they told him: 'You have preached your students a lot, now we will preach you.'

"They also asked Munier Sir: 'How many books have you written on Rabindranath?' Munier Sir shook his head. Then they asked Mofazzal Sir the same question and he said he had written books on Rabindranath Tagore. They told each other that they did not have much time. 'These persons need to be killed. They are Indian spies.'"

Then they started hitting Prof Munier and Prof Mofazzal with iron rods. "Munier Sir was forced to put his head between his legs while sitting on the floor. He was hit on his back. He bled profusely through his mouth from the beating." Delwar said he had also heard a woman screaming out of pain. "I guess she was tortured either on the roof or in any other room in the building."

After midnight all of them were taken to Katasur in Mohammadpur area by 20-22 buses. Delwar said he had heard a woman's voice requesting: "Please, spare me. Do not kill me. I have a little child. If you kill me, he will die. You also have sisters. Please consider me as a sister."

Delwar said: "Those who were taking her away asked her name. She answered: 'Selina Parvin, I am a journalist.' She told them if they spared her life, she would never write again and would not come back to Dhaka. But those people killed her with bayonets."

Delwar said they had been kept waiting beside a pond. Each time 20-25 people tied with one piece of rope were taken to the bank of a beel nearby. There were brick fields too. Then they were bayoneted to death.



বছরদশেক পরে জামায়াত বিএনপির নাকি বিএনপি জামায়াতের সহযোগী সংগঠন সেটি হবে বিবেচনার বিষয়

Picture of criminal Nijami (Far right) No.1 chief Al-Badr - responsible for numerous murders, rapes and killings of the intellectuals. Sadly he is the industrial minister of current Bangladeshi government (elected in 2001). His outer appearance and

dressesare a cruel mockery to religion of Islam.

What is Rajakar?

http://freedomfighters71.blogspot.nl/2011/09/what-is-rajakar.html

RAZAKARS in Bangladesh



GENOCIDE BANGLADESH IN 1971

Razakar was the name given to a paramilitary force organized by the Pakistan Army during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. The word razakar, originating from Persian, literally means "**volunteer**". The Razakar force was composed of mostly pro-Pakistani Bengalis and Urdu-speaking migrants living in erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

Initially, the force was under the command of local pro-Pakistani committees, but through the East Pakistan Razakar Ordinance (promulgated by <u>General Tikka Khan</u> on 1 June 1971) and a Ministry of Defence ordinance (promulgated 7 September 1971), Razakars were recognized as members of the Pakistan Army.

Razakars were allegedly associated with many of the atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army during the 9-month war (see 1971 Bangladesh atrocities). Creation In 1971, after military cracksdown, Razakar force was created under Pakistan Army Act Sub-Section 1.

Under Sub-Section 2 and 5 two other paramilitary forces Al-Badr and Al-Shams were created as well in 1971. The Pakistan government published gazette of these in Spetember,1971 from Rawalpindi's Army Headquarter. After gazette the Razakars started excuting and eliminating proindependence Bangladeshis.

Later on, Pakistani President published notification, and Razakars were receiving monthly salary and ration (food supplies). Major General Jamsid was head of Razakar force. Al-Badr force was created in October and started operation in November.

Shanti Komiti (Peace Committee) was created politically where Golam Azam and Khza Khairuddin were in charge of peace committee. These Pakistani offsprings were organized into Brigades of around 3-4000 volunteers, mainly armed with Light Infantry weapons provided by the Pakistani Army. Each Razakar Brigade was attached as an auxiliary to two Pakistani Regular Army Brigades, and their main function was to arrest and detain nationalist Bengali suspects. Usually such suspects were often tortured to death in custody.

The Razakars were trained in the conventional army fashion by the Pakistan Army. Following the liberation of East Pakistan as the independent country of Bangladesh, most of the leading Razakars, allegedly including Ghulam Azam, fled to Pakistan (previously West Pakistan).

Ghulam Azam maintains that he went to Pakistan to participate in the Annual General Meeting of his organization, the Jamaat-e-Islami, but he was forced to remain overseas until General Ziaur Rahman allowed him to return to Bangladesh.

Many of the lower ranking Razakars who remained in Bangladesh were killed in the course of reprisals immediately after the end of fighting while as many as 36,000 were imprisoned. Of the latter many were later freed mainly because of pressure from US and China who backed Pakistan in the war, and because Pakistan was holding 200,000 Bengali speaking military and civilian personnel who were stranded in West Pakistan during the war.



Razakars surrendering

After the restoration of democracy in 1992, an unofficial and self-proclaimed "People's Court" "sentenced" Ghulam Azam and his ten accomplices to death for war crimes and crimes against humanity. However, as the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami party was already a part of the ruling alliance in Bangladesh, the "verdict" was ignored. Moreover, the then Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government re-granted Bangladeshi nationality to Ghulam Azam, as it had been taken from him after the war, Subdued during the rule of Awami League from 1996-2001.

Jamaat-e-Islami returned in full force after the next election in October 2001 in which a four party alliance led by BNP won a landslide victory. The new leader of Jamaat after Ghulam Azam's retirement, Motiur Rahman Nizami, a Razakar and among the ten people tried by the Gônoadalot, became an influential minister in the government.

The word razakar today carries the meaning "traitor" in common Bangladeshi Bengali parlance, similar to the usage of the word Quisling after the Second World War.

Jamat e Islami Terrorists » Jamat e islami razakars that Killed more then 2 Million Bangali Muslims in 1971



Training of Rajakars in Jessore, Bangladesh. Razakars, a paramilitary force organized by the Pakistan Army during the Liberation War, were pro Pakistani Bengalis and Urdu speaking migrants to East Pakistan who were associated with many atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army during the 9 month war. April, 1971.



একজন রাজাকারের পরিচয় পত্র।

This is to certify that Mr. Haroon-ur-Rashid Khan S/o Abdul Azim Khan, 36, Purana Paltan Lane, Dacca—2 is our active worker. He is true Pakistani and dependabe. He is trained Razakar. He has been issued a Rifle No 776... with ten round ammunition for Self Protection.

Sd/ illegible

1NCHARGE

Razakar & Muzahid

Jamaat - e - Islami

91/92, siddique Bazar, Dacca.

It is a ID of a trained Razakar

Ordinance

(Continued from page 1)

ment of this ordinance stand transferred to and vested in Razakar organisation.

The persons recruited as Razakars shall be trained and equipped in such manner as may be determined by the Provincial Government and the Razakars shall perform such duties and exercise such

The Provincial Government, as laid down in the Ordinance, may by notification in the official gazette order the embodiment into the provincial police force of all Razakars or such number of them as it may determine for a specified period which may be extended from time to time.

When so embodied, they shall be subject to the Police Act. 1861.

The administration of the Razakars shall under the general control and direction of the Provincial Covernment, be vested in the Director.

জনৈক রাজাকার স্বাক্ষরিত শপথনামা।

AnxiA'
to HQ MLA Zone B
Itr No 1200/3/ML - 2
of O2 Oct 71

SCHEDULE B form of Oath (Rule 16)

Oath taken in my presence this 31st days of Oct. 1971.

Sd/—Illegible

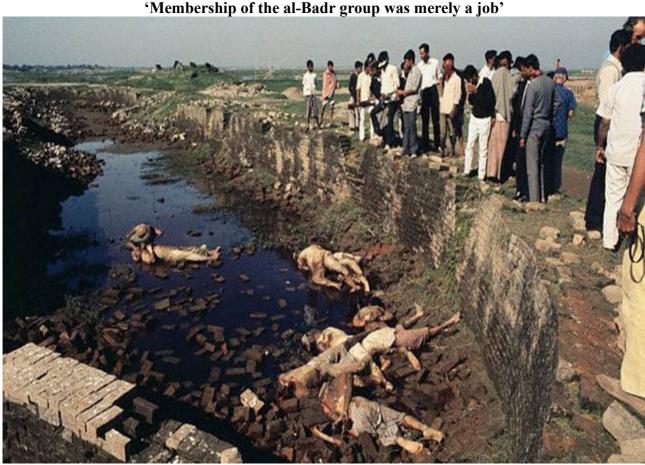
Deputy Commandant
Narail Sub-division
jessore District.



Lieut General A. A. K. Niazi, C watches Razakars at training in Tangail on Saturday (17.7.71).

Al-Badr and al-Shams two sections of razakar: Defence lawyer, May 2013

 $\underline{http://archive.dhakatribune.com/law-amp-rights/2013/may/22/al-badr-and-al-shams-two-sections-razakar-defence}$



Bodies of intellectuals were piled up in Rayer Bazar, Dhaka allegedly by al-Badr and al-Shams on December 14, 1971

A defence lawyer while placing closing arguments in the case against Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed Wednesday said "al- Badr and al- Shams were two sections of razakars," a collaborator force which helped Pakistani occupational army in committing atrocities during the 1971 War of Independence.

Following such remark by Syed Mizanur Rahman, the International Crimes Tribunal 2 of Justice Obaidul Hassan, Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge M Shahinur Islam asked:

"Are you saying that all al-Badrs are razakars, but all razakars are not al- Badr?"
Mizanur replied: "Yes."

The tribunal, popularly known as war crimes tribunal, was instituted for the trial of war crimes suspects of the Liberation War. The first tribunal was formed in 2010 following the election mandate of the ruling Awami League, and the second tribunal was set up last year to speed up the trial process. On June 21 last year, the tribunal indicted Mojaheed on seven counts of genocide, killing of intellectuals and crimes against humanity which he allegedly committed during the War of Independence in 1971.

Defence lawyer Mizanur said membership of the al-Badr group was merely a job. He claimed that the prosecution failed to prove his client as a member or leader of the force. The prosecution in its argument had mentioned that Mojaheed as a "villain". It particularly mentioned a report published on October 31, 2010 in Bhorer Kagoj, a Bengali daily. The report was extracted from a news item run in the Daily Sangram in April 1971.

The report quoted Mojaheed as saying, "Wherever there are mukti bahini [freedom fighters], al-Badr will be there. Al-Badr will play the role of Azrael [an Islamic term meaning angel of death]."

The prosecution also claimed that Mojaheed was a "superior civilian leader" who directed the al-Badr force to kill the most meritorious citizens of Bangladesh in 1971. Mizanur Wednesday also submitted in the tribunal that in 1971, his client was a leader of Islamic Chhatra Sangha – the then student wing of Jamaat. He suggested that it was not logical to assume that Mojaheed was involved in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War only because of his being a Chhatra Sangha leader.

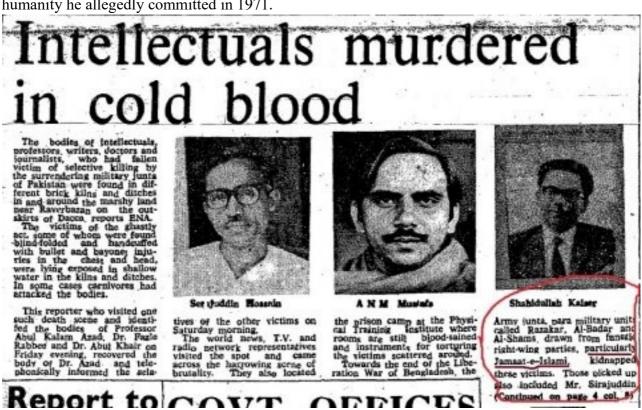
He pointed out that sixth prosecution witness Abdul Malek Mia was a "hearsay witness," hence, without corroborating with any other kinds of evidence, his deposition was not enough to convict any person. He mentioned the contradiction in the 9th prosecution witness's deposition in the tribunal and the statement he made to the investigation officer, and the 11th prosecution witness's inconsistency in the deposition and the cross examination.

"Such contradiction hampers the reliability of the witness," Mizanur said.

The tribunal then set May 26 for further procedure in the case. It earlier asked the defence to complete placing arguments by May 27. In the afternoon session, defence lawyer AHM Ahsanul Haque Hena cross examined 21st prosecution witness Abdul Hamid Shikder in the case against detained war crimes suspect Abdul Alim, a former BNP minister and lawmaker.

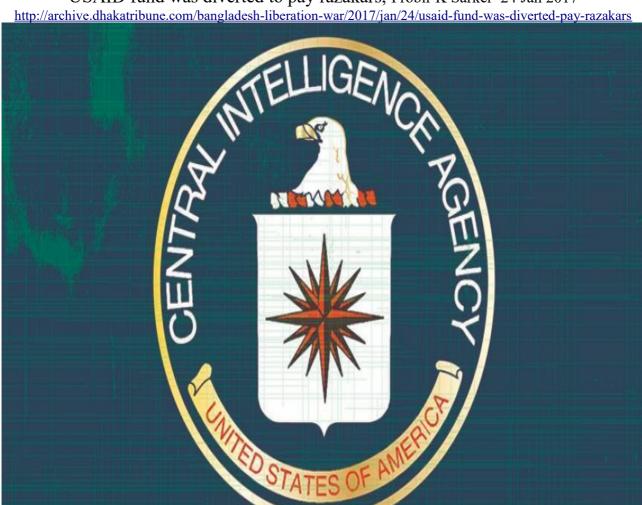
On June 11 last year, the tribunal 2 indicted Alim on 17 counts of genocide and crimes against humanity he allegedly committed in 1971. In the afternoon session, defence lawyer AHM Ahsanul Haque Hena cross examined 21st prosecution witness Abdul Hamid Shikder in the case against detained war crimes suspect Abdul Alim, a former BNP minister and lawmaker.

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Bangladesh In Cia Crest Records X

USAID fund was diverted to pay razakars, Probir K Sarker 24 Jan 2017

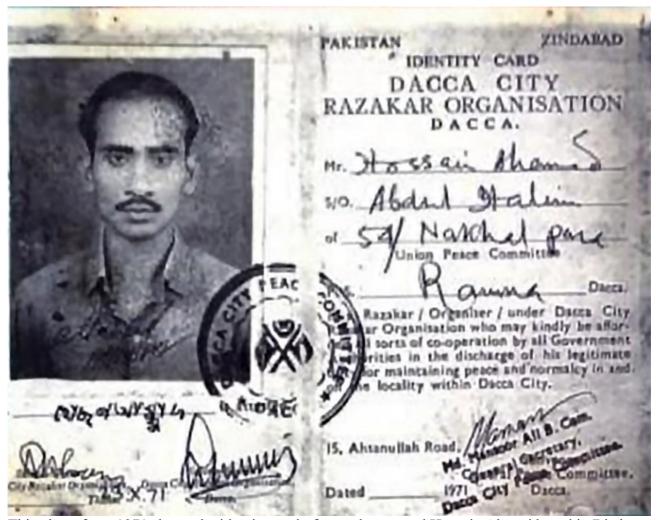


A CIA declassified document released online last week suggests that the then East Pakistan authorities were diverting USAID contributions to pay the salaries of razakars who collaborated with the Pakistani Army to commit crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

The notorious razakar (volunteer in English) force was formed with the members of Jamaat-e-Islami, a religion-based party that opposed the birth of Bangladesh, across the country. They assisted the Pakistani occupation forces in finding and killing freedom fighters, Awami League supporters and Hindus.

The razakars also took Bangali women to the army camps, and looted the houses and businesses before torching them during operations. "A USAID officer reported overhearing a conversation between two East Pakistan officials, one of whom noted that public relief funds were being used to pay the salaries of the razakars – local individuals hired as police by the martial law administration," according to a Central Intelligence Bulletin created on September 28, 1971.

"There have been unsupported allegations earlier to this effect," the top secret document reads. The public relief programmes were heavily subsidised by the US; for example, some \$10 million has been supplied to a "test" relief programme as part of the overall relief programme of \$136m for East Pakistan, it adds. In the eyes of the average Bangali citizen, the bulletin states, the razakars and the Pakistani Army were the most unpopular elements in the East wing.



This photo from 1971 shows the identity card of a razakar named Hossain Ahmad based in Dhaka Photo Collection Source: Muktijuddho e-Archive Trust

According to Bangladesh war crimes trial documents, the first unit of the razakar force was formed by Jamaat leader <u>AKM Yusuf</u> on May 5, 1971 with 96 members of Jamaat in Khulna. He started gathering people for the force on April 18. The Pakistan government recognised the force through a gazette notification on August 2 that year. Yusuf was also the regional chief of anti-liberation force Peace Committee.

The Jamaat leader died in the midway of the war crimes case against him in February 2014. Apart from the razakar force, Jamaat formed peace committees across the country with its members and others from different Islamist parties, and the notorious militia forces al-Badr with the members of its student wing who carried out systematic abduction and murder of hundreds of intellectuals.

Most of the top Jamaat leaders have been convicted by special tribunals dealing with the 1971 war crimes, while five of them including al-Badr kingpin Motiur Rahman Nizami were hanged after the end of legal procedure.

On January 17, the CIA published around 930,000 declassified documents to the standalone CIA Records Search Tool (CREST) system online, around 2,000 of which are about Bangladesh and erstwhile East Pakistan. The documents on Bangladesh – 1,937 posted in December last year and 95 in January – include views of the CIA and the US' Dhaka embassy about events related to politics, economy and Bangladesh ties with India and other countries. On the other hand, the database includes 857 posts on erstwhile East Pakistan posted in December and 45 in January.

What fun is it to mention those files and not give them, so I give them.

Public relief funds September 28, 1971 East Pakistan

https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/search/site/public%20relief%20funds%20September%2028%2C%201971%20East%20Pakistan

Then

https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/document/cia-rdp79t00975a020100060003-9
Then

https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP79T00975A020100060003-9.pdf

AUTHORITIES IN THE EAST WING EAST PAKISTAN: APPARENTLY ARE IMPROPERLY DIVERTING US AID CONTRIBU-- ZNOIT USAID OFFICER REPORTED OVERHEARING A CON-VERSATION BETWEEN TWO EAST PAKISTANI OFFICIALS, ONE OF WHOM NOTED THAT PUBLIC RELIEF FUNDS WERE BEING USED TO PAY THE SALARIES OF THE RAZAKARS--LOCAL IN-DIVIDUALS HIRED AS POLICE BY THE MARTIAL LAW ADMIN-THERE HAVE BEEN UNSUPPORTED ALLEGATIONS ISTRATION. EARLIER TO THIS EFFECT. IN THE EYES OF THE AVERAGE BENGALI CITIZEN, THE RAZAKARS AND THE PAKISTANI ARMY ARE THE MOST UNPOPULAR ELEMENTS IN THE EAST WING. THE PUBLIC RELIEF PROGRAMS ARE HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED

Page 5 Central Intelligence Bulletin September 28, 1971

BY THE US: FOR EXAMPLE, SOME \$10 MILLION HAS BEEN SUPPLIED TO A ''TEST'' RELIEF PROGRAM, AS PART OF THE CURRENT OVER-ALL RELIEF PROGRAM OF \$136 MILLION

FOR EAST PAKISTAN.



Mirpur Jaladkhana bears witness to the atrocities of Pakistani Army and their associates. : Star File

Mourning The Martyred Intellectuals ▼

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/12/15/mourning-the-martyred-intellectuals/



Rebecca Haque

Mourn a cold, dark, bloody day in distant December. Dawn, dusk, dew, and nightfall. Silent death squads knocking at the door, targeting noble names on the assassin's hit-list. Lament the loss. Weep the tears. Cry for the slaughter of the illustrious sons of the delta. Wail at the memory of the dead desecrated in the ditch. Feel the agony of grief.

Our teachers and our seers, taken from us to the sequestered pit.

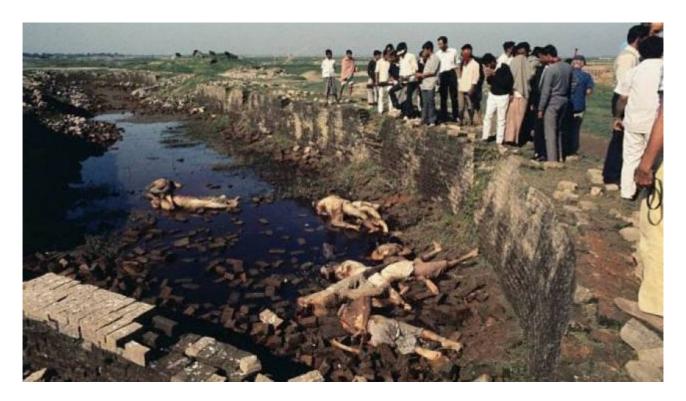
Freedom on the horizon and the marching Mukti Bahini carrying the flag of liberation could not save them from the savage ambush.

On the fourteenth of December, raise your arm to salute, to remember the martyred intellectuals.

Murdered with such diabolical, secret strategy to cripple the new nation.

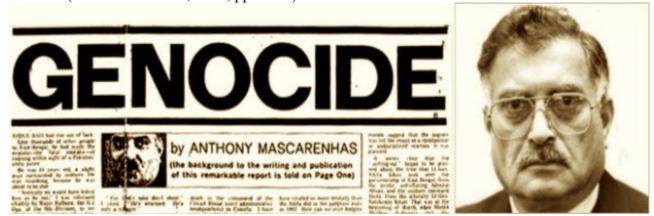
Dare to shout. Dare to accuse. Dare to punish the craven killers. Your Nation asks this of thee: do not flinch, seek justice.

Remember the 'Rape of Bangladesh'.



In 1971, **Anthony Mascarenhas** was an eyewitness to the brutal acts of torture and unholy massacres of innocent civilians. This **brave Pakistani journalist**, hounded out of his own country for the truthful account published later in that year in London, ended his reportage from Dacca in October 1971.

But the final lines of his book are ominous in the prescient knowledge of the horror that was to follow. He writes: "Bangla Desh is too big, too explosive and has too many outcroppings to be either swept under the carpet of international opinion or to be painlessly swallowed by all parties concerned. Each of its aspects—the refugees, famine, genocide, the total alienation of the millions of Bengalis, the shattering effects independence would have on West Pakistan – by themselves are major international problems. Together they constitute a greater disaster and a graver threat to peace than Biafra and Vietnam or anything this generation has known.... We are only just entering a new area of darkness. It will be a long time before the light begins to show at the end of the tunnel." (Vikas Pub.: India, 1971, pp.145-6)

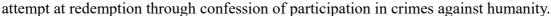


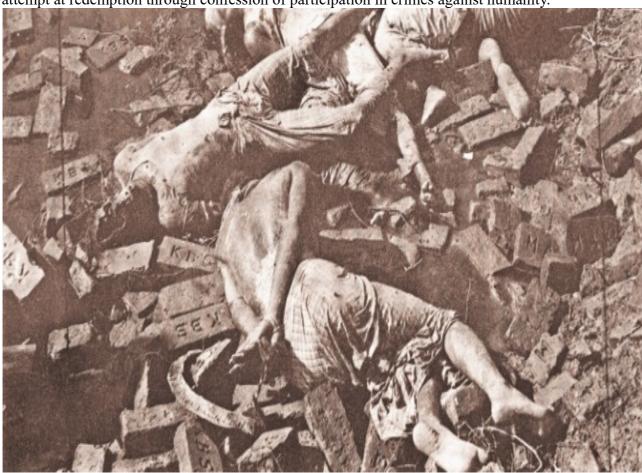
In the Preface, dated London, 1 October 1971, Mascarenhas comments, "What I saw in East Bengal was to me more outrageous than anything I had read about the inhuman acts of Hitler and the Nazis. This was happening to my own people. I knew I had to tell the world about the agony of East Bengal or forever carry within myself the agonizing guilt of acquiescence." (p.v).

The writer here is unequivocal about his political affiliation and equally firm in his moral judgment.

However, it is a travesty of history that even after more than four decades since the atrocities were committed in 1971, after the gruesome carnage of the night of 25 March 1971, and the satanic ritual killing on 14 December 1971, so many perpetrators of evil have not been identified and prosecuted.

In recent times, a few known collaborators have been tried and sentenced, but we have yet to see signs of guilt or true remorse in them. How can we offer forgiveness in the face of an absence of a moral conscience? It is unnatural for the perpetrator to expect clemency when there is no clear





The children of Bangladesh have this heavy burden of a legacy of a holocaust. For us all, there can be no closure until there is full redress, until there is full disclosure about the events of 1971 to the people of Pakistan, until their government discards the cloak of denial and offers a formal apology for future generations to exist in mutual trust.

It is not enough for scholars to enter into research and debate on Partition and Liberation War studies. Facts of recent history cannot, and should not, be confined within academia. History is for each of us to know in its authenticity from eyewitness accounts and scholarly documents. We may not know it whole at once, but we can weave the torn fragments into a tapestry of truth.

This is necessary to guard against fabrication, or willful 're-writing' of history as has happened in fascist dictatorships in the past. Democracy, by its very definition, guarantees its citizens free access to information, to liberty of movement and speech, to justice and equal opportunity for work.

These are the precious objectives and values for which millions of Bangalee civilians, University students, young Mukti Bahini men and women, and visionary intellectuals, were martyred. They died for a noble cause; they shed their blood so that our children would be born in an independent nation. A supreme sacrifice for a supreme purpose.



Mascarenhas has equated the horror of 1971 with Hitler's regime, as have so many since then. It is a natural comparison between similar states of evil. We are today constantly comparing our War Crimes Tribunal with the Nuremberg Trials of post-World War II.

The German-Jewish philosopher, Hannah Arendt, chose to be present at the trial of Adolf Eichmann in 1961, and in her book wrote the famous, now oft-quoted, words, "the main lesson to be leaned from [Eichmann's] life was one of the fearsome, word-and-thought-defying banality of evil."

Arendt's argument about the relation of obedience to authority parallels the argument of the American social psychologist, Professor Stanley Milgram. After controversial experiments conducted at Yale beginning in July 1961, the year after the trial of Eichmann in Jerusalem, Milgram tried to answer the question

"Could it be that Eichmann and his million accomplices in the Holocaust were just following orders? Could we call them all accomplices?" He concluded that people obey through coercion, and obey either out of fear or out of a desire to appear cooperative – even when acting against their own better judgment and desires.

However, there is recent dispute about this theory. In The New Psychology of Leadership (2012), Alexander Haslam and Stephen Reicher extend their "BBC Prison Study" series of experiments and collaborate with a number of researchers to develop a social identity analysis of leadership.

This work focuses on the role of perceived shared identity as a basis for mutual influence between leaders and followers. It argues that leaders' success depends on their ability to create, represent, and advance a social identity that is shared with those they seek to motivate and inspire.

Haslam and Reicher contest Milgram with regard to one crucial point. They argue that Eichmann, a committed Nazi, nonetheless 'took on organisational challenges with fervor and imagination. If he thought orders were not sufficiently "on message", he would likely disobey them, and where none had been given, as was often the case, he would still "work towards the Fuhrer" in a creative way.

He was convinced that the cause he was advancing was right. The truly frightening thing about Eichmann and his ilk is not that they didn't know what they were doing, but that they knew full well what they were doing and believed their actions to be justified, worthy and noble.'

(New Scientist, 13 Sept. 2014, p.28)

Rational consideration of these new scientific studies by social psychologists, as well as research work undertaken by anthropologists in the last two decades on conflict studies in the "killing fields" of South Asia, make us posit significant political and ethical questions regarding the relationship between the occupying military army and the East Pakistani collaborators.

Who provided the names on the hit-list to the local goons on the eve of Bangladesh's victory? Did the collaborators work for the military junta in a 'creative' way to advance their careers? Did they justify their actions on religious grounds? Surely, one point is clear to all of us who lived through the travail of those days: none of the collaborators were coerced.



The nation mourns the loss of the intellectuals on December 14. Memorials embody memory, and material objects of art and architecture memorialize both valour and losses of war. Around 50 top intellectuals of the country – doctors, engineers, lawyers, litterateurs, academics, journalists, and also top bureaucrats and business elites, were killed in cold blood.

The intellectuals were both Hindus and Muslims. Their bodies were found in a brick kiln in Rayarbajar, in Dhaka, lying face down, blindfolded, hands tied behind their backs with red pieces of cloth.

There are two Martyred Intellectual Memorials in Dhaka, the one in Mirpur, built in 2002, is the site of all official commemorations on Intellectual Killing Day, Shaheed Dibosh. The Rayarbajar Memorial was built from 1996 to 1999 after the prize-winning design submitted jointly by architects Fariduddin Ahmed and Jami-ul-Shafi.

In an interview with a research scholar in 2005, Fariduddin explained the symbolism of the architectural and spatial dimensions of the Memorial: "Rather than seeing this memorial as a war memorial, the architect defined it as a sritishoudho –a monument to memory. Unlike the Taj Mahal, which is a mausoleum, tinged with the pathos of romantic love, Ahmed clarified that this was different. This was a tomb that upheld tradition while also announcing the demise of empire and imperialism and the deaths caused by it. This makes the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial both a memorial and a shrine, drawing its inspirations from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Ahmed emphasized." (Space and Culture, May 2007)

♦ What We Have Lost

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/12/15/what-we-have-lost/

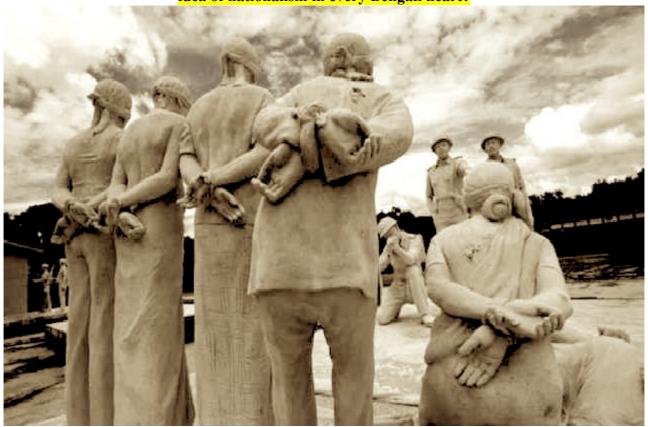


Upashana Salam

Each year we commemorate the Martyred Intellectuals Day on December 14.

On the 42nd anniversary of this day, the Star Magazine looks at contributions of some of these remarkable individuals in an attempt to understand how the country would be if they had December 14, 1971.

Mere days before our independence, Pakistani troops systematically rounded up, tortured and killed most of the brightest minds in the yet to be free East Pakistan. This final act of atrocity was carried out in the hopes of destroying the future of the country, to maim the nation permanently. Contrary to the Pakistani regime's expectations, Bangladesh survived this blow, and it continues to survive several other attacks on its existence. But the scars remain and so does the question: Would things be different had we not lost the very people who seeded the idea of nationalism in every Bengali heart?



How aware are we about their respective contributions that made them special targets of the Pakistani regime? Each of the martyred intellectuals was instrumental in the fight for liberation.

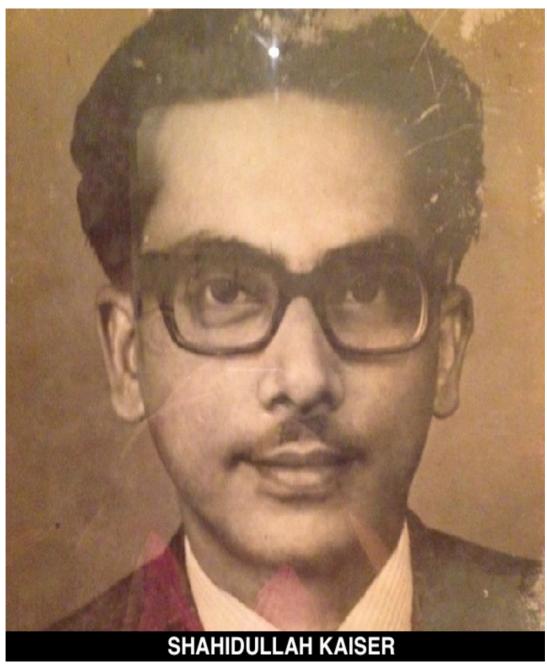
However, not many of us are aware that each one of them was remarkably talented in their own fields. It wasn't chance that brought them to the attention of the Pakistani dictators; they were chosen because they were the cream of the crop, representing the educated, cultured, erudite section

MUNIER CHOWDHURY

Munier Chowdhury, for instance, is mostly remembered as one of the most outspoken critics of the Pakistani regime, but not many people know that Chowdhury redesigned and modernised the keyboard of the Bangla typewriter in collaboration with Remington typewriters of the then East Germany in 1965. Over the years, his creation, the 'Munier Optima' keyboard, paved the way for further steps in improving the Bangla keyboard.

Always a revolutionary, Chowdhury was jailed for two years for his involvement in the **Language Movement** in 1952. Interestingly, even though he was allowed to continue his education at Dhaka University, Chowdhury was expelled from Salimullah Hall, his residential dorm, because of his involvement in leftist politics. This led to a new era in Chowdhury's life, as he explored his literary talents, initially by writing plays for the Dhaka Radio to pay for his education, and later by penning some of the most influential plays in the country's history.

Munier Chowdhury is deservedly called the father of modern drama in Bangladesh. His play Kobor was performed by prisoners during his spell in jail to commemorate the first anniversary of the **Language Movement** on February 21. He continued to write even after being freed from prison, some of his most notable works being Roktakto Prantor, Chithi and Polashi Barrack O Onyanno.



"I became a novelist because Ayub Khan sent me to jail." Another martyred intellectual Shahidullah Kaiser famously said this when asked about his career as a writer. Kaiser started his career as a journalist, joining the daily Ittefaq in the 1949, before playing an important role in the Language Movement. Like many others, Kaiser too was imprisoned by the Pakistani regime for his role in the language movement and in the next 10 years, he spent a total of eight years in prison.

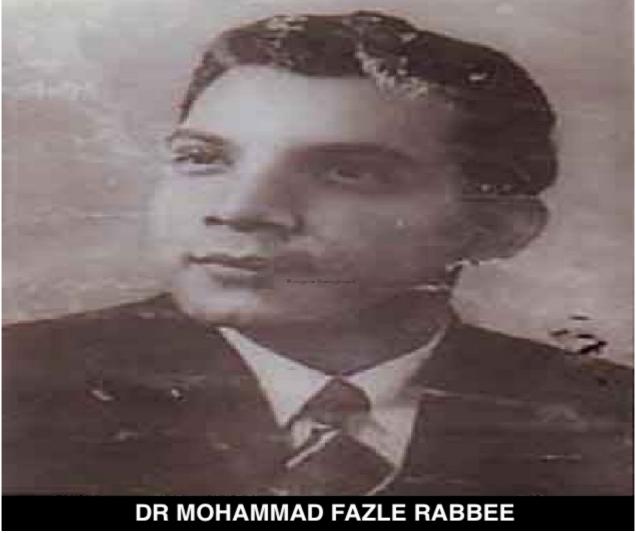
As Kaiser himself stated, his writing career truly began behind the bars, as it is there that he penned a number of remarkable plays, short stories and novels. His novel Sangsaptak is considered to be one of the most significant fictions of Bangladesh's literary canon. Almost all his works including Sareng Bou, Rajbondi'r Rojnamcha, Timir Belay, Naam Nei and Jadu-i Halwa were written in confinement.

The only book that he wrote after being freed from prison was the unfinished novel Kobey Pohabe Bibhabori, which was an account of the horrors inflicted by Pakistani forces. He would write it during the night and bury the copies in the courtyard of his residence before dawn broke, digging it out again when night fell. Unfortunately, he was killed before finishing the four-part novel.



On February 23, 1948, Dhirendranath Datta, another martyr of '71, made a compelling speech calling for Bengali to be made into one of the official languages of Pakistan at the Pakistan Constituent Assembly in Karachi. It was the first formal call for Bengali to be made into a state language and this demand led to the **Language Movement of 1952**.

Datta's demand was met with derision from the Pakistan government, and he was targeted as a threat to the regime. Datta, a lawyer by profession, was a lone ranger, whose plea was not supported by the majority of Bengali leaders at that time, but he could foresee that the future of the Bengali people would remain uncertain and under the regime's control, until there was a demand for their language to be officially acknowledged was met.

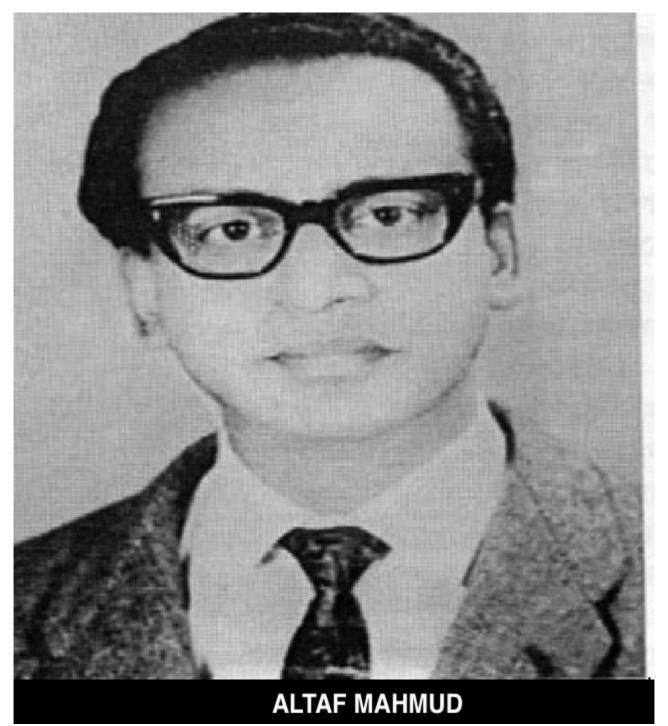


The country has all but forgotten the contributions of Dr Mohammad Fazle Rabbee. A renowned cardiologist and medical researcher, Rabbee could have spent his life in comfort and luxury but he decided to forgo more fruitful opportunities by working for his people, trying to secure free medical benefits for all and always walking on the path of humanity.

As a student of Dhaka Medical College, Rabbee completed his MBBS in 1955, receiving a gold medal for achieving the highest grades in all of Pakistan. He became the Registrar of Medicine at the 'ripe old' age of 27 and earned a couple of MRCP degrees in cardiology and internal medicine within two years. After completing his graduation, Rabbee worked at the Hammersmith Hospital and the Middlesex Hospital in London but left his flourishing career in favour of his country to which he returned in 1963.

After returning home, Rabbee was more involved in promoting the idea of good medical care for free but instead of being applauded, he was imprisoned by the Pakistani army for his 'provocative speeches.' Rabbee didn't just limit his ideals to words, he acted on them. During the liberation war, Rabbee provided medical care, monetary support and shelter to freedom fighters and survivors of the war. His confidence in his cause can be best exemplified by his refusal to accept the Best Professor Award from the Pakistani government in protest of their treatment to East Pakistan and its people.

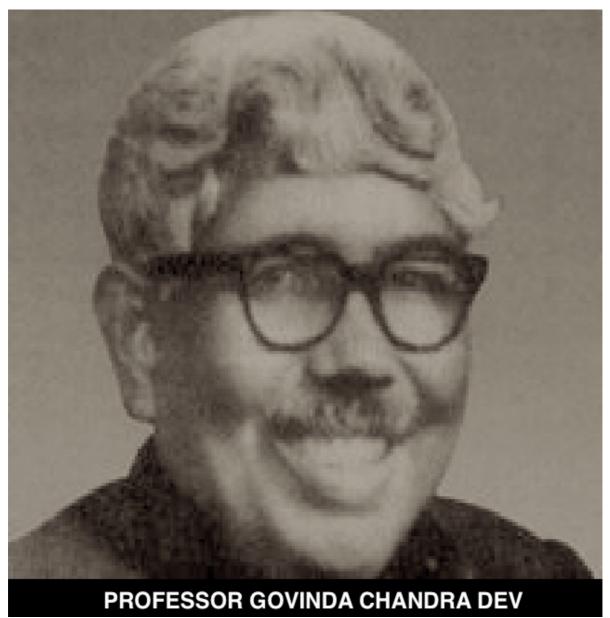
Apart from being a doctor, Rabbee was well known and respected for his research works, namely The Tropical Pulmonary Eosinophilia and A Case of Congenital Hyperbilirubinaemia. His works were published in the British Medical Journal and The Lancet, one of the world's oldest general medical journals.



Even musicians were not spared in the Pakistani regime's targeted hunting of the country's intellectuals. Altaf Mahmud always attempted to reveal the atrocities of a violent administration through his tunes. Apart from being an active freedom fighter, Mahmud was also a gifted music composer. He was even invited to participate at the Vienna Peace Conference in 1956 but was unable to attend as his passport was confiscated by the Pakistani government.

It was not just Mahmud's outspoken nature but also his inarguable talent that frightened an entire regime. How could they dare to underestimate a man who had the ability to move an entire nation to action just with a single song?

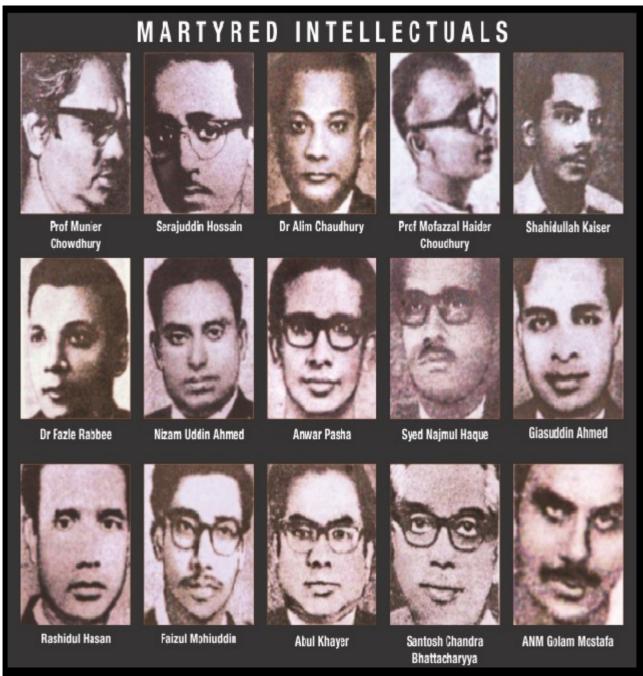
Even today Mahmud's eternal composition Amar Bhaiyer Rokte Ragano has the ability to take us back to a struggle that brought us our much loved freedom. Apart from the revolutionary Jibon Theke Neya, Mahmud, a protégée of the music legend Ustad Abdul Kader Khan, composed music for 19 films, including Kaar Bou, Satyer Joy and Ami Manusher Bhai Spartacus.



Professor Govinda Chandra Dev was the living embodiment of philosopher Paul Kurtz's statement that philosopher should just make obscure references to the works of other philosophers but "descend into the concrete world of human practice and belief, sweat and toil like the rest of humanity." He believed that philosophy should have a connection with reality instead of dwelling in abstractions.

Despite an impoverished childhood spent in loving care of Christian missionaries, Dev proved his mettle when he earned the top position in his masters degree in philosophy from Calcutta University. He introduced the idea of *synthetic philosophy*, which stated that it was possible to believe in the ultimate perfection of humanity on the basis of advanced scientific conceptions, in the subcontinent, focusing on its practical application.

Dev's popularity transcended borders; he taught at the Wilkes-Barre College in Pennsylvania in USA as a visiting professor and his popularity became such that some of his students founded the Govinda Dev Foundation for World Brotherhood for promoting his philosophy of humanism. Some of his notable books include, Amar Jibandarshan, The Philosophy of Vivekananda and the Future of Man and Buddha: The Humanist.' "Peace is indivisible," he had once said and these words could not have more value than in today's world of illogical wars and individual national interests.



According to the Bangladeshi encyclopedia, Banglapedia, around 991 academics, 13 journalists, 49 physicians, 42 lawyers and 16 other people from various cultural and intellectual sections of the country were savagely killed in the 1971 carnage of the intellectuals.

We can't ignore the contributions of other martyred intellectuals, be it Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta, Ghiasuddin Ahmed, Anwar Pasha and Dr Serajul Haque Khan, Humayun Kabir, Jogesh Chandra Ghose or numerous others who impacted the birth of a nation and could have contributed to the development of Bangladesh had they lived.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of space we could not list out the significant contributions each of them made in their respective fields. These people were not mere intellectuals, they were the backbone of our country. They were the brilliant minds who conceived of an independent nation, fought for it but could not live to see their country freed from the clutches of an oppressive regime.

Here's to the visionaries who dreamt and struggled for a free country. We owe you our respect, our reverence and our freedom.

Liberation War 1971 Bangladesh



That to give you an insight into the role of the USA in all of this.

As it shows that AGAIN the USA gives arms to terrorists

And millions of people die as a result of arming these extremists

What Really Happened in Bangladesh

Washington, Islamabad, and the Genocide in East Pakistan By Harold H. Saunders Listen to Article

https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/bangladesh/2014-06-16/what-really-happened-bangladesh

On November 13, 1970, a devastating cyclone struck East Pakistan, a province dominated by the Bengali ethnic group and physically separated from the rest of Pakistan by India. The cyclone killed an estimated 230,000 people, and in its wake, the national government, based in West Pakistan, did too little to alleviate the suffering, further alienating the long-underrepresented Bengalis. A year later, they would declare independence. As an officer in the U.S. consulate in the East Pakistani capital of Dhaka later noted, "The cyclone was the real reason for the final break."

Several weeks after the cyclone, on December 7, Pakistan held the first direct elections in its 23-year history. East Pakistan went for Mujibur Rahman, who headed a Bengali nationalist party called the Awami League, which was moderately pro-American. Sheik Mujib, as he was known, initially favored autonomy for both wings of Pakistan in a confederation. West Pakistan elected another nationalist, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. He threatened to unseat the military government under General Agha Muhammad Yahya Khan, who was commonly referred to as Yahya. Because East Pakistan was more populous than West Pakistan, the Awami League won a substantial majority of the seats in the new national parliament, and Mujib stood to become prime minister of the entire country.

Yahya had no interest in losing East Pakistan, and as negotiations among himself, Bhutto, and Mujib went nowhere, he postponed the opening of the National Assembly, which had been scheduled for March 3, 1971. Feeling that the fruits of their electoral victory had been stolen from them, the people of East Pakistan poured into the streets and then launched a general strike. Archer Blood, the U.S. consul general in Dhaka, reported to the State Department: "I've seen the beginning of the breakup of Pakistan."

Yahya banned the Awami League, ordered Mujib's arrest, and oversaw a brutal military crackdown that involved the systematic massacre of some 200,000 defenseless citizens and sent more than six million Bengalis fleeing across the Indian border. Later in the year, India reacted by invading East Pakistan, winning a 13-day war that made East Pakistan's earlier declaration of independence as Bangladesh a reality.

Throughout the crisis, as Gary Bass recounts in his new book, The Blood Telegram, the United States stuck by its ally, supporting Pakistan during the crackdown and threatening India as it prepared for war. The author has produced this gripping, thoroughly researched, concisely organized, and engagingly written account to spotlight what he calls the "significant complicity" of U.S. President Richard Nixon and his national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, in a "forgotten genocide."

Bass relies not only on traditional sources, such as contemporary press accounts, interviews with participants, and the files of the State Department and the National Security Council staff, but also on the White House audio recordings that Nixon authorized. These tapes provide the rare opportunity to listen in on the private Oval Office exchanges between Nixon and Kissinger -- a record that speaks irrefutably for itself. One of the casualties of Bass' book is the concept of the rational actor at the center of international relations: whether he intended to or not, Bass lays bare the conflicting interests, political realities, and deep personal animosities that rage at the heart of policymaking in a deep-rooted, multidimensional conflict.

STANDING BY

Once the election raised the prospect that Pakistan could split in two, U.S. policymakers faced sharply opposing options. The first was to try for a negotiated solution that would avoid bloodshed and preserve the unity of Pakistan, even while acknowledging the limits of U.S. influence in such an internal conflict. As a senior member of the National Security Council staff at the time, I am quoted as writing to Kissinger that the United States was "witnessing the possible birth of a new nation of over 70 million people. . . . We could have something to do with how this comes about -peacefully or by bloody civil war." At the very least, I argued, Washington could urge Yahya not to unleash his military on the people of East Pakistan. In Bass' frequently repeated formulation, this option in effect placed "simply avoiding the loss of life" as a top policy priority.

The alternative course, which Nixon and Kissinger actually chose -- inaction -- reflected three impulses. First was their judgment that nothing the United States could say would restrain Pakistani leaders from doing everything possible to preserve the unity of their country. After all, the United States had once fought a costly civil war to preserve its own unity. Second was the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. "We don't tell others how to run their countries," Kissinger often said. And third was the impulse to stand by a Cold War ally. The United States had given military assistance to Pakistan's leaders ever since the Eisenhower administration created the Middle East Treaty Organization and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization to counter Soviet influence, and Nixon and Kissinger wanted to stay the course.

But personal relationships also came into play. During his travels and meetings as vice president and president, as well as during his eight years out of office in between, Nixon had formed strong opinions of South Asia's politicians. Simply put, he liked Yahya, respected him as a leader, and saw him as an ally. Conversely, he disliked Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and distrusted India for its decision to remain formally nonaligned yet relatively friendly to the Soviet Union. The taped conversations leave no doubt about Nixon's perceptions and feelings -- often expressed in foul language.

As Bass' account unfolds, it becomes apparent that Nixon's liking for Yahya was something that Kissinger had to take into account when formulating his advice. Bass notes that my colleague Samuel Hoskinson and I sent a steady stream of memos to Kissinger throughout the crisis recommending that the United States pressure Yahya yet received no response.

Presumably, Kissinger ignored us in part because he had to deal with the strong prejudices that Nixon revealed in confidence. Having worked with five presidents, I recognize that for better or worse, a critical factor in high-level policymaking is the president as a human being. Crudely put, there's no right or wrong way; there's the president's way.

Kissinger's decision also seems to have been motivated by his pessimism about the chances for a negotiated settlement: given how far apart the positions of Yahya's government and the nationalists were, Kissinger apparently did not think it would be possible for the two sides to reach a compromise. Although I repeatedly argued for an aggressive U.S. role in promoting a peaceful resolution to the crisis and share Bass' admirable commitment to saving lives, I must acknowledge with pain that even the United States cannot always prevent tragedy beyond its borders.

Further complicating the picture was the emerging thaw with China. Yahya had become an effective go-between in laying the groundwork for the normalization of relations between the United States and China, which had drifted away from the Soviet Union during the 1960s. As Kissinger once explained to me, he felt that Beijing would carefully watch how faithfully Washington backed its ally. In the larger scheme of world politics and peace, the opening to China, along with the accompanying reordering of the balance of power, would count as a historic development and a major U.S. Accomplishment.

THE BLOODBATH BEGINS

On March 25, when talks between the Pakistani government and the electoral victors broke down, the Pakistani army, wielding weapons supplied by the United States, launched a determined assault on the Bengalis in East Pakistan -- often, as later became apparent, singling out the minority Hindu population. As the death toll mounted, Blood and his team in the American consulate in Dhaka intensified their reporting, even titling one cable "Selective Genocide." Ultimately, 20 members of the staff signed a telegram, sent on April 6, registering their "strong dissent" from the administration's policy. The message angered some top administration officials but won wide support among professional civil servants.

Blood and his colleagues, Bass writes, "refused to accept that Yahya could do whatever he wanted within Pakistan's sovereign borders, overturning a fair election and killing his citizenry." They wrote that Yahya's "extra-constitutional martial law regime" was "of dubious legitimacy," and they compared the Bengali struggle to the American Revolution. The same principles seemed to weigh on the mind of George H. W. Bush, then the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. In internal discussions, Bush supported India's right to condemn Pakistan at the UN, citing the "tradition which we have supported that [the] human rights question transcend[s] domestic jurisdiction and should be freely debated."

Kissinger acknowledged that Yahya's use of force to hold Pakistan together would probably fail, but he argued in interagency meetings that Washington was powerless to convince Pakistani leaders to act otherwise and noted Nixon's strong personal relationship with Yahya. Not unexpectedly, when Kissinger presented the results of deliberations within the administration to the president, he found Nixon receptive to the policy recommendation that had reluctantly emerged -- what one State Department official termed "massive inaction." At this point in his account, Bass underscores his thesis: "There was one consideration that, while voiced by other U.S. officials, never made it into Kissinger's note to the president: simply avoiding the loss of life."

But Nixon and Kissinger prevailed, allowing no daylight between Washington and Islamabad. On April 21, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai sent a message through Yahya suggesting that a high-ranking U.S. official visit China -- validating, in the minds of Nixon and Kissinger, their approach to Pakistan.

INDIA INVADES

By the end of April, an estimated one million refugees from East Pakistan had flooded across the border into India. Gandhi faced conflicting demands. On the one hand, given India's experience with colonialism, she remained firmly committed to the principles of national sovereignty and noninterference.

Moreover, as Bass writes, it would be "embarrassing for India to cheer on secession in East Pakistan while stifling it in Kashmir." On the other hand, India had an underlying desire to inflict devastating damage on its foe Pakistan. Early in the crisis, Gandhi's military leaders told her that Indian forces needed months to prepare for an invasion of East Pakistan and that success depended on their waiting past the monsoon season for dry ground. She ordered them to get ready.

But it was the growing influx of refugees, ultimately numbering more than six million, that pushed India over the edge; the fleeing Bengalis were becoming an unbearable burden in a country already unable to care for its own poor. And so the Indian government, while waiting for the optimal conditions, trained and armed Bengali insurgents to bleed the Pakistani forces in East Pakistan. According to Bass, "the refugee crisis was driving India toward war."

This being the Cold War, the crisis reverberated far beyond South Asia, reaching not only policymakers in Washington but also their counterparts in Beijing and Moscow. China, having been a victim of Western and Japanese imperialism and confronting its own secessionist movements in Tibet and Taiwan, took Pakistan's side. Reacting to India's outcry over Pakistani atrocities, Zhou, Bass writes, "vowed to support Pakistan against 'Indian expansionists." At the same time, Beijing was not above backing pro-Chinese Bengali groups to improve its position in East Pakistan. The Soviet Union, meanwhile, signed a treaty of friendship with India.

In the United States, political opposition to U.S. support for Pakistan was mounting, further complicating the White House's policy. The movement's torchbearer was Senator Edward Kennedy, a Democrat from Massachusetts and a potential presidential candidate, who landed in India on August 10 for a fact-finding tour. He had intended to meet with Yahya in Islamabad, but the Pakistani government canceled his visa. In India, however, Kennedy toured refugee sites and met secretly with the Bangladeshi government in exile. His staff concluded that India could no longer bear the burden of maintaining the refugees and would have no alternative but to attack. When he returned to Washington, Kennedy assailed the administration, saying that he had just witnessed "the most appalling tide of human misery in modern times" and noting that the atrocities were being committed with U.S.-supplied arms.

As the refugee crisis worsened and the monsoon season came to a close, Indian troops started getting into more skirmishes near the border. Gandhi ordered the Indian military to invade East Pakistan on December 4. But on the evening of December 3, the Pakistanis launched a preemptive strike of their own, bombing Indian airfields near the border with West Pakistan and shelling Indian positions all along the western front, marking the beginning of the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war. The Indian army then launched its long-planned drive across East Pakistan, bypassing cities along the way in an effort to capture Dhaka and end the war quickly. India recognized Bangladesh on December 6. Ten days later, Pakistani forces in Bangladesh surrendered. The western portion of the conflict ended, as Bass puts it, "in a bloody but inconclusive stalemate."

The outbreak of war had triggered a flurry of activity in the White House. Convinced that India was bent on destroying Pakistan, Kissinger persuaded Nixon to approve actions to protect the United States' ally. Washington asked the Chinese to mass troops on the Indian border and warned the Soviets not to intervene on India's behalf. It urged Iran and Jordan to transfer U.S.-supplied combat aircraft to Pakistan, despite clear advice that such action violated U.S. law. And it sent its most formidable aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise, into the Bay of Bengal to cause India to think twice about invading Pakistan -- a move the Indians would resent long afterward. Fortunately, the war ended before any of these actions could draw the other two major powers into the conflict.

DECISION TIME

When I went to work on the National Security Council staff in the Kennedy administration in 1961, a senior colleague said to me, "Remember: policy is rarely made on paper; it's a continuously changing mix of people and ideas."

Too often, political scientists make the mistake of treating policymaking and decision-making as synonymous. Policy is a frame of mind, a strategy, or a sense of direction, whereas specific decisions define practical steps for moving in the desired direction.

In other words, policymaking is itself the process of determining which moral principles or strategic objectives to prioritize. Officials' choices often reflect deep struggles among conflicting interests and values, with the final judgments made not after mathematically weighing the pros and cons but by relying on gut feelings. Likewise, public arguments over policies often reflect the instinctive worldviews of the antagonists rather than honest dialogue to find the best possible approach.

Bass' stated objective is to correct what he regards as a whitewashed historical record and reveal the complicity of Nixon and Kissinger in the tragedy in East Pakistan. On that score, he has made his point, with the help of the Nixon tapes and his own impressive ability to organize and narrate a story that has a number of tracks. Yet whether or not he intended to, Bass has also presented a picture of the agonizing complexity of policymaking. Many readers will finish this book concluding that real-world dilemmas often have no clear right or wrong answers.

Bass' own touchstone for U.S. policymaking in the events he analyzes is the protection of lives. Nixon and Kissinger, acting on a mix of predispositions (or prejudices), on the principle of noninterference, on a sense of commitment to an ally, and on a desire to establish a channel to China, put the U.S. relationship with Pakistan above humanitarian concerns. As is so often the case in real-world policymaking, they had to choose between moral and pragmatic considerations.

Bass' numerous citations of my memos reveal two points on which my approach differed from the course Nixon and Kissinger took. First, although I, too, respected the principle of noninterference, I had long felt that the United States had a moral obligation to use its influence to contribute to economic well-being and to prevent violence where possible. Kissinger, on the other hand, had to work with a president who harbored a strong bias in favor of Yahya.

Kissinger also felt that the United States had no real influence over Yahya, and he was determined to prevent India from attacking the government in West Pakistan. (Fortunately, India chose to settle for the separation of East Pakistan.) Second, experience had led me to be wary of policy rooted in emotion and anger. Of course, I could not have known about private conversations taking place in the Oval Office, but it is now clear just how vehement the emotions expressed there were.

In the end, Bangladesh emerged from horrible bloodshed as a viable nation, and India and Pakistan remain locked in an uneasy truce -- with each now possessing nuclear weapons. We will never know whether the United States could have prevented the violence without doing more harm than good.

Also up for debate is the broader question of whether Washington becomes an accomplice in another government's wrongdoing when it preserves a working relationship with that government for larger purposes -- as it did with Stalin's regime during World War II and as it is doing with Beijing today. That is a matter of personal judgment. In the case of East Pakistan, I would have tried to promote a negotiated agreement, but such an effort might well have failed.

Should Washington then have broken relations with Yahya? Its larger interests would have argued against doing so. Such are the complex questions with which policymakers at the highest level must grapple. But historians, commentators, and citizens who care about the conduct of U.S. foreign relations will make their own judgments about how such questions should ultimately be answered.

Israel likely to become India's largest arms supplier X

http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/israel-likely-to-become-india-s-largest-armssupplier/story-tZQFenVzYWzaQFnPqbznqM.html



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during their meeting at the King David hotel in Jerusalem on Wednesday.(AP)

India and Israel have had a long and complicated defence relationship, characterised by New Delhi keeping Tel Aviv at arm's length till the 1990s, when the two established full diplomatic ties. Since then, the two countries have warmed up to each other, though it took 25 years for an Indian prime minister to visit Israel. Here's a look at the timeline of India and Israel's defence ties

1962 and 1965

Caught by surprise by China's attack in 1962, India asked almost everyone for weapons. Israel provided mortars and small arms. In 1965, faced with a US and Soviet arms boycott, India went to Israel again and received similar weaponry. Despite this, New Delhi refused to normalise ties with Israel.

Indira Gandhi asked then Israeli prime minister, Golda Meir, for weapons to help fight Pakistan. Meir agreed, diverting weapons ordered by Iran to India. RAW had the arms shipped to Liechtenstein and then taken by air to India along with a team of Israeli instructors. The weapons were used by Indian soldiers and the Mukti Bahini to liberate Bangladesh. Later, Meir asked for full diplomatic ties, but Gandhi declined.

Israel offered to carry out an aerial strike to destroy the Kahuta reactor and Pakistan's embryonic nuclear weapons programme. India had only to allow its fighter-bombers to use the Jamnagar air base for refuelling, and Indira Gandhi reportedly agreed to the attack in March 1984. However, the CIA got wind of the attack and warned Pakistan, which in turn warned India that it would bomb the Trombay reactor in retaliation. India aborted the mission.

1991

Israel stepped in after the Soviet collapse to provide avionics to India's MiG 21 bis fleet. Russia objected but lacked the technology and delivery skills of the Israelis. This began a continuing tradition of India mating Russian bodies to Israeli brains. Whether it is the Sukhois or the Brahmos cruise missile, the Russian airframes and engines are mated to Israeli radar and electronic systems. It helps that the Israelis are well versed with Russian weapons -- having captured so many when they defeated various Arab armies.

1992

Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao established full diplomatic ties with Israel, part of a larger Indian push to move closer to the Western camp after the Soviet Union's collapse. But Rao was later to tell Israeli diplomats that, for him, the main motive was to find an alternative source of arms for India at a time when its Soviet arsenal was immobilised by a lack of spares and the US continued to impose sanctions on India.

1996

Then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres called in at the then Indian ambassador and outlined the nuclear doctrine of Israel. Both recognised remarkable similarities in their respective nuclear strategies. Israel provided its technology to stabilise its warheads, a problem that had afflicted small nuclear arsenals. Cooperation has expanded since then. "Today such technical assistance is just the tip of the iceberg," a senior Israeli official said.

1999

Israel technicians were flown in during the Kargil War to install Litening targeting pods on the Indian Air Force's Mirage jets. The lack of targeting equipment made it difficult for India to hit Pakistani targets in the mountains and post-Pokhran II sanctions, made it impossible to get such equipment from elsewhere. The pods helped India convert its 1000 dumb bombs into laser-guided munitions.

2000

The US vetoed the Israeli sale of Phalcon early warning aircraft to China. Israel complained that without such big ticket exports, it could not sustain its domestic arms industry. Bruce Riedel and Ken Lieberthal of the Clinton administration recommended that Israel consider India as an alternative. A few years later, India agreed to a \$1 billion plus deal for the Phalcon, the accompanying Green Pine radar and the rights to use the Israeli Ofek 6 military reconnaissance satellite when it passes over South Asia.

2007

Indian special forces inducted the Israeli Tavor assault rifle, now part of the standard arsenal of many Indian security forces. There were complaints about its reliability under certain Indian climatic conditions, but Tavor's maker signed a joint venture with Punj Lloyd and the rifle may be made in India.

2009

The Barak 8 air defence system was sold to India for \$1.1 billion. Israel agreed to make this an India-Israel co-production product and by 2010, the Barak II was being produced with what the DRDO claimed were 70% Indian parts. It was tested on the INS Kolkata and will soon be fitted on all major ships of the Indian Navy, with the Israeli Navy planning to do the same. The Barak is now cited as a model for bilateral military cooperation.

2015

India proved to be among the best customers for Israel's drone industry. In 2015, India had a fleet of 176 Israeli-made UAVs, and in 2017, India has the largest fleet of Israeli drones in the world – even larger than Israel's. India is expected to purchase its first set of armed Heron drones from Israel this year — a UAV especially adapted to fight in Kashmir's climate and altitude.

2012-2016

Israeli arms exports to India grew steadily during this period. India, according to the SIPRI arms database, was the destination to 41% of these exports — by far the largest client for the Israeli defence industry. Israeli firms clocked up \$1 billion a year in sales to India on average. In fiscal 2016-17, if India goes through with the Spike anti-tank missile deal, Israel will be for the first time the largest arms supplier to India.

2017

A few months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, Indian Air Force fighters will join Israel and five Nato air forces in the so-called Blue Flag joint air force exercises. This will be the first time that the Indian military will be publicly holding such manoeuvres with their Israeli counterparts.

Israel secretly provided arms to India in 1971: Book http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/israel-secretly-provided-arms-to-india-in-1971-book-113110100700 1.html

"The Blood Telegram" by Gary Bass, which focusses on the manner in which US President Richard Nixon turned a blind eye to the repression of then East <u>Pakistan</u> by military ruler Yahya Khan, offers a tantalising glimpse of what was probably the first instance of military cooperation between

offers a tantalising glimpse of what was probably the first instance of military cooperation between India and Israel. Quoting from the papers of diplomat P N Haksar, principal secretary to the then Prime Minister India Gandhi, Bass describes the military supplies from Israel as a "surprising minor success" of India's efforts to mobilise the world community ahead of its intervention in East Pakistan.

"India did not have diplomatic relations with the Jewish state, and Haksar and many Indian leaders were frosty toward it," Bass writes. "But in July (1971), Golda Meir, Israel's prime minister, secretly got an Israeli arms manufacturer to provide India with some mortars and ammunition, along with a few instructors. When Haksar pressed Israel for support, Meir promised to continue helping out." Bass' account is based on Haksar's meticulously maintained records that are now held by the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in Delhi.

The arms maker who provided the mortars and ammunition is identified as Shlomo Zabludowicz. The book further states that <u>Israel</u> also "reportedly funneled aid to the Mukti Bahini through an Israeli government official" without giving further details. The Mukti Bahini was the guerrilla force formed by Bengalis in erstwhile East <u>Pakistan</u> after Yahya Khan ordered a crackdown on supporters of the Awami League. Meir reportedly sought diplomatic ties with <u>India</u> for the arms supplied in 1971. Former Prime Minister <u>Rajiv Gandhi</u> initiated work on diplomatic ties, which were finally established in 1992, when P V Narasimha Rao was the premier.

Israel Provided Weapons to Indian for 1971 War 🔀

http://www.awamipolitics.com/israel-provided-weapons-to-indian-for-1971-war-14667.html

New Delhi: Israel had aided India in 1971 held war by providing weapons to the country, Mukti Bahini and the Indian army forces. This doubt has been presented by the Indian scholar, Srinath Raghavan in his book 1971. An Indian national newspaper is reported to have state the help of Israel in war that took place between India and Pakistan in 1971, resulting in the creation of Bangladesh State. It has been stressed that the help was provided despite the fact that the two countries did not enjoy diplomatic ties with each other.

The author has presented doubt about the alleged role of Indian ambassador D.N. Chattarjee to initiate the weapon assistance from the Jewish people. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was the elected governing official at that time, had permitted for the action. R & AW was appointed to take the legal action on the direction of the PM. Mukti Bahini, the freedom fighter for the Bengalis and Indian forces sought help from Israel to defeat the Pakistani armed forces, marking a history of worst defeat ever, resulting in thousands of soldiers to surrender themselves to the Indian forces.

The book also reveals the help Pakistan army had sought from Iran in case of air attack by the Indian forces. Whatever the tactics had had been designed, it resulted in loss to Pakistan. Uncovered help proved to the worst defeat ever.

1971 War: How the US tried to corner India 🔀



http://www.rediff.com/news/2006/dec/26claude.htm

'India won a glorious victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war. It was the first decisive victory in a major war in centuries. And it was won singlehandedly, in the face of opposition and threats from a majority of the UN member-States, including a superpower. Every Indian patriot felt proud of this glittering chapter in the nation's history.' -- Dr S N Prasad in his introduction to the Indian government's 'restricted' Official History of the 1971 War.

I am not usually a great defender of United States policies, but I have to admit that in the field of right to information, the US is far ahead of the Indian babus who obstinately block access to Indian archives under the lame pretext that this could 'endanger national security'.

A few months ago, the Office of the Historian at the US State Department released Volume XI of the Foreign Relations of the United States devoted to the 'South Asia Crisis, 1971': in other words, the Bangladesh War.

Flashback: 1971 War, 35 Years On

This 929-page publication groups together documents which were already known like the minutes of Henry Kissinger's secret visit to China in July 1971 as well as scores of freshly declassified material available for the first time to the public.

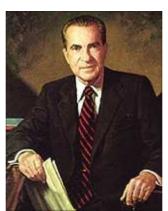
It throws light on a less known angle of the India-Pakistan conflict: The role of the nascent friendship between the United States and China. This is a welcome new piece in the puzzle of the history of the 1971 War.

Another piece is the Hamidur Rahman Report, ordered by the government of Pakistan after the war, which analyses the Pakistani defeat. 'Due to corruption... lust for wine and women and greed for land and houses. a large number of senior army officers, particularly those occupying the highest positions, had not only lost the will to fight but also the professional competence necessary for taking the vital and critical decisions demanded of them for the successful prosecution of the war.'

The US administration saw the unfurling events differently.

According to Kissinger, then American President Richard M Nixon's national security adviser, 'When the Nixon administration took office, our policy objective on the subcontinent was, quite simply, to avoid adding another complication to our agenda.'

But events in the subcontinent and the Chinese factor forced Nixon to change his stand. The new closeness between Washington, DC and Beijing and the involvement of the Pakistan president as a secret go-between greatly influenced US policy.



According to the State Department historian, 'When the fighting developed, the Nixon administration tilted toward Pakistan. The tilt involved the dispatch of the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise to the Bay of Bengal to try to intimidate the Indian government. It also involved encouraging China to make military moves to achieve the same end, and an assurance to China that if China menaced India and the Soviet Union moved against China in support of India, the United States would protect China from the Soviet Union. China chose not to menace India, and the crisis on the subcontinent ended without a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union.'

The first US documents deal with the background of the conflict. Nixon's position was clear: 'We should just stay out -- like in Biafra, what the hell can we do?'

But everybody did not agree with him. In a telegram sent on March 28, 1971, the staff at the US consulate in Dhaka complained, 'Our government has failed to denounce the suppression of democracy. Our government has failed to denounce atrocities. Our government has failed to take forceful measures to protect its citizens while at the same time bending over backwards to placate the West Pak dominated government... We, as professional public servants express our dissent with current policy and fervently hope that our true and lasting interests here can be defined and our policies redirected in order to salvage our nation's position as a moral leader of the free world.'

When US Secretary of State Will Rogers received this 'miserable' cable, he informed President Nixon that the 'Dacca consulate is in open rebellion.' This did not change Nixon's opinion: 'The people who bitch about Vietnam bitch about it because we intervened in what they say is a civil war. Now some of the same bastards...want us to intervene here -- both civil wars.'

From the start, the Nixon administration knew 'the prospects were "poor"... the Pakistani army would not be able to exert effective control over East Pakistan.' Washington believed India was bound to support Mujibur Rahman. The CIA had reported that 'India would foster and support Bengali insurgency and contribute to the likelihood that an independent Bangladesh would emerge from the developing conflict.'

It is here that the Chinese saga began. In a tightly guarded secret, Nixon had started contacts with Beijing. The postman was Pakistani dictator Field Marshal Yahya Khan.

When on April 28 1971, Kissinger sent a note defining the future policy option towards Pakistan, Nixon replied in a handwritten note: 'Don't squeeze Yahya at this time.' The Pakistan president was not to be squeezed because he was in the process of arranging Kissinger's first secret meeting to China. The events of the following months and the US position should be seen in this perspective.



In May, Indira Gandhi wrote to Nixon about the 'carnage in East Bengal' and the flood of refugees burdening India. After L K Jha, then the Indian ambassador to US, had warned Kissinger that India might have to send back some of the refugees as guerillas, Nixon commented, 'By God we will cut off economic aid (*to India*).'

A few days later when the US president said 'the goddamn Indians' were preparing for another war, Kissinger retorted 'they are the most aggressive goddamn people around.'

During the second week of July, Kissinger went to Beijing where he was told by then Chinese prime minister Zhou Enlai: 'In our opinion, if India continues on its present course in disregard of world opinion, it will continue to go on recklessly. We, however, support the stand of Pakistan. This is known to the world. If they (the Indians) are bent on provoking such a situation, then we cannot sit idly by.' Kissinger answered that Zhou should know that the US sympathies also lay with Pakistan.

On his return, during a meeting of the National Security Council, Nixon continued his India bashing. The Indians, he noted, are 'a slippery, treacherous people.' The State Department historian says, 'in the perspective of Washington, the crisis ratcheted up a dangerous notch on August 9 when India and the Soviet Union signed a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.' It was a shock for Washington as they saw a deliberate collusion between Delhi and Moscow.

During the following months, the situation deteriorated and many more refugees came to India. The Indian prime minister decided to tour Western capitals to explain the Indian stand. On November 4 and 5, she met Nixon in Washington, who told her that a new war in the subcontinent was out of the question.

The next day, Nixon and Kissinger assessed the situation. Kissinger told Nixon: 'The Indians are bastards anyway. They are plotting a war.'

To divert the pressure applied by the Mukti Bahini on the eastern front, the Pakistan air force launched an attack on six Indian airfields in Kashmir and Punjab on December 3. It was the beginning of the war.

The next day, then US ambassador to the United Nations George H W Bush -- later 41st president of the United States and father of the current American president -- introduced a resolution in the UN Security Council calling for a cease-fire and the withdrawal of armed forces by India and Pakistan. It was vetoed by the Soviet Union. The following days witnessed a great pressure on the Soviets from the Nixon-Kissinger duo to get India to withdraw, but to no avail.

The CIA reported to the President: 'She (*Indira Gandhi*) hopes the Chinese (*will*) not intervene physically in the North; however, the Soviets have warned her that the Chinese are still able to "rattle the sword" in Ladakh and Chumbi areas.'



For Kissinger it was clear that Indira Gandhi wanted the dismemberment of Pakistan.

On December 9, when the CIA director warned Nixon that 'East Pakistan was crumbling', Nixon decided to send the aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* into the Bay of Bengal to threaten India.

Let me recount an anecdote related to me by Major General K K Tewari (retd), Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, during the 1971 War.

General Tewari was present at a briefing the three defence services held for Indira Gandhi. She was seated at a large table. On one side was General S H F J Manekshaw, the army chief, and on the other Admiral S M Nanda, the navy chief.

During the course of the presentation, the admiral intervened and said: 'Madam, the US 8th Fleet is sailing into the Bay of Bengal.' Nothing happened; the briefing continued. After sometime, the admiral repeated, 'Madam, I have to inform you that the 8th Fleet is sailing into the Bay of Bengal.' She cut him off immediately: 'Admiral, I heard you the first time, let us go on with the briefing.'

All the officers present were stunned. Ultimately, their morale was tremendously boosted by the prime minister's attitude. She had demonstrated her utter contempt for the American bluff.

On November 10, Nixon instructed Kissinger to ask the Chinese to move some troops toward the Indian frontier. 'Threaten to move forces or move them, Henry, that's what they must do now.'

This was conveyed to Huang Hua, China's envoy to the United Nations. Kissinger told Huang the US would be prepared for a military confrontation with the Soviet Union if the Soviet Union attacked China.

On December 12, the White House received an urgent message. The Chinese wanted to meet in New York. General Alexander Haig, then Kissinger's deputy, rushed to the venue, but was disappointed. Huang just wanted to convey his government's stand in the UN, no words of an attack in Sikkim or in the then North East Frontier Agency (now, the northeastern states).

The myth of the Chinese intervention is also visible in the secret Pakistani dispatches. Lieutenant General A A K Niazi, the Pakistani army commander in Dhaka, was informed: 'NEFA front has been activated by Chinese although the Indians for obvious reasons have not announced it.'

Until the last day of the war, Pakistan expected its Chinese saviour to strike, but Beijing never did.

In Washington, Nixon analysed the situation thus: 'If the Russians get away with facing down the Chinese and the Indians get away with licking the Pakistanis...we may be looking down the gun barrel.' Nixon was not sure about China. Did they really intend to start a military action against India?

Finally, on December 16, <u>Niazi surrendered to Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora</u>. Nixon and Kissinger congratulated themselves for achieving their fundamental goal -- the preservation of West Pakistan. They were also happy for having 'scared the pants off the Russians.'

Kissinger's South Asia policy upset many in the US, not only the American public, the press but also the State Department, and more particularly, Secretary of State Rogers who was kept in the dark most of the

It is worth mentioning an episode which, of course, does not appear in the American archives -- The Tibetan participation in the conflict. After the debacle of 1962, the Government of India had recruited some Tibetans youth in the eventuality of another conflict with China. The Special Frontier Force was trained in Chakrata in Uttar Pradesh under the command of an Indian general.

In 1971, nine years after its creation, the SFF was sent to East Pakistan to prepare for the arrival of regular Indian troops. Their saga is one of the least known parts of the Bangladesh war.

Late October 1971, an AN-12 airlifted nearly 3,000 Tibetans who later assembled at Demagiri close to the India-East Pakistan border. On the other side of the border were the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Armed with Bulgarian-made assault rifles, the SFF was given the task of organising guerrilla raids across the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Opposite the SSF, in thick jungles and leech-infested marshes, was stationed a Pakistan brigade, including a battalion of its elite Special Services Group.

The Indian army knew this brigade was a threat to one of its corps preparing to advance on Dhaka.

During the second week of November, Operation Eagle began. Leaving Demagiri in canoes, the Tibetans commandos entered East Pakistan. The SFF then started overrunning one Pakistani post after another.

By the time the war was officially declared, the Tibetans had already been inside East Pakistan for more than three weeks. Using both their Bulgarian rifles and native knives, they advanced swiftly. Their Indian commandaner, Major General S S Uban later said, 'They were unstoppable.'

On December 16, the SSF was 40 kilometers away from Chittagong port, having successfully managed to neutralise the Pakistani brigade. After Pakistan's surrender, they paraded through Chittagong. Unfortunately, 49 Tibetans lost their lives for a nation which was not theirs. The release of the State Department volume on the 1971 conflict is a posthumous homage to the courage of the Indian Army which despite heavy odds and the might of the United States freed Bangladesh from Pakistani clutches.

Some aspects are still missing to make the puzzle complete.

First, the Indian history from the Ministry of Defence does not detail the political compulsions of Indira Gandhi's government. Second, the secret operation involving the Tibetan Special Frontier Forces in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is virtually unknown. Lastly, the Chinese involvement from the Chinese point of view remains unexamined. Like the Henderson Brooks' report on the 1962 border war with China, it may take a few decades more to be revealed.

Indians are bastards anyway' By Debasish Roy Chowdhury X http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South Asia/GF23Df04.html



HUA HIN, Thailand - Indians are "a slippery, treacherous people", said president Richard Nixon. "The Indians are bastards anyway. They are the most aggressive goddamn people around," echoed his assistant for national security affairs, Henry Kissinger. The setting: a White House meeting on July 16, 1971, during the run-up to the India-Pakistan war which ultimately led to the birth of Bangladesh, erstwhile East Pakistan. The US State Department recently declassified some of the Nixon White House tapes and secret documents that bring to light the way in which the Nixon administration went about the Bangladesh saga, reflecting the potential of mindsets and personal equations taking precedence over ground realities in White House decisionmaking.

In 1971, some 3 million people are estimated to have been killed in the genocide unleashed by Pakistan's military government on East Pakistan, leading to a rush of refugees into India, drawing India into a swift and decisive war that eventually forced Pakistan's hand. But all along, the Nixon administration sided with the military establishment of Pakistan over democratic India because of Nixon's "special relationship" with Pakistan's handsome military dictator, General Yahya Khan, and his uncontrolled revulsion at the "old witch" Indira Gandhi, India's then prime minister.

Despite the avowed goal of containing war, the US administration, in its zeal to put India in a spot, even went to the extent of pleading with the Chinese to initiate troop movements toward the Indian border in coordination with Pakistan, and assured it support in case the Soviet Union jumped into the fray.

Near the end of the war, in a highly secret meeting on December 10, 1971, Kissinger pitched the idea to Chinese ambassador to the UN, Huang Ha. The declassified documents reveal that China took a couple of days to think about it and finally said it was not game, much to Kissinger's disappointment.

The seeds of the Bangladesh war were sown in India's freedom in 1947, which came with a bloody partition, with India keeping the Hindu-dominated areas of British India and Pakistan the Muslim-dominated ones - to the extent they were geographically divisible. The Pakistan that was born as a result had two flanks - East and West. East Pakistan comprised the Muslim-majority Bengali-speaking areas, while West Pakistan consisted of primarily Urdu-speaking Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and North-West Frontier Province.

Separated by 1,200 miles, East and West Pakistan were hardly comfortable in the compact. Though the East was more populous, West Pakistan cornered the bulk of the Pakistani budget. The West was given more representation in the legislature than the East, and further fueling Bengali subnationalism, Urdu was made the official language. West Pakistan, with a 97% Muslim population, was also far less liberal than the East, where at least 15% of the population did not practice Islam. With Pakistan mostly under military rulers - all from West Pakistan - since 1958, any scope for political accommodation was limited. Successive military regimes tried to deal with the problem the only way they knew how - savage repression, adding to the spiral of hatred and tyranny.

The relationship between the two Pakistans became progressively more neo-colonial, with the protest against the West's domination growing shriller by the day in the East. The tension reached a flashpoint when in 1970, the Awami League led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman swept the national elections, winning 167 of the 169 seats allotted for East Pakistan, giving it a majority in the 313-seat National Assembly and the right to form government at the center. Neither West Pakistani political leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto nor General Yahya Khan would accept this Bengali ascendancy in national politics, and the convention of the newly elected National Assembly was postponed indefinitely. The Awami League, now convinced that there could never be any political cohabitation between the East and the West, called for "full regional autonomy" and Mujibar Rahman announced that he was taking over the East's administration.

The military now decided enough was enough. At a meeting of the military top brass, Yahya declared: "Kill 3 million of them and the rest will eat out of our hands." Accordingly, on the night of March 25, 1971, the Pakistan army launched "Operation Searchlight" to "crush" Bengali resistance in which Bengali members of military services were disarmed and killed, students and the intelligentsia systematically liquidated and able-bodied Bengali males just picked up and gunned down. Death squads roamed the streets of Dacca, killing some 7,000 people in a single night. "Within a week, half the population of Dacca had fled. All over East Pakistan, people were taking flight, and it was estimated that in April, some 30 million people were wandering helplessly across East Pakistan to escape the grasp of the military," writes Robert Payne in *Massacre*. Mujibur Rahman was arrested and the Awami League - which should have been ruling Pakistan - banned.

Then began the rapes. In *Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape*, Susan Brownmiller likens it to the Japanese rapes in Nanjing and German rapes in Russia during World War II. "... 200,000, 300,000 or possibly 400,000 women (three sets of statistics have been variously quoted) were raped." Reporter Aubrey Menen describes an incident targeting a just-married couple: "Two [Pakistani soldiers] went into the room that had been built for the bridal couple. The others stayed behind with the family, one of them covering them with his gun. They heard a barked order, and the bridegroom's voice protesting. Then there was silence until the bride screamed. Then there was silence again, except for some muffled cries that soon subsided. In a few minutes one of the soldiers came out, his uniform in disarray. He grinned to his companions. Another soldier took his place in the room. And so on, until all the six had raped the belle of the village. Then they left. The father found his daughter lying on the string cot unconscious and bleeding. Her husband was crouched on the floor, kneeling over his vomit." (Quoted in Brownmiller's *Against Our Will.*)

As East Pakistan bled, refugees began to pour into India, some 8-10 million over the period of the genocide. India repeatedly pleaded with the US administration that it could not cope with any more refugees, and appealed that it use its influence over Pakistan and rein in Yahya. But Nixon continued to condone the repression. To a Pakistani delegation to Washington, DC, he said: "Yahya is a good friend. I understand the anguish of the decisions which Yahya had to make." Strangely, in his eyes, the military dictator was the victim - one forced so much against the wall that he had to conduct mass murders and rapes.

Even American consul general Archer Blood couldn't take his administration's position any more. In an act of open rebellion, he sent a telegram through the "dissent channel", condemning his country for failing "to denounce the suppression of democracy"; "to denounce atrocities", and for "bending over backwards to placate the West Pakistan-dominated government". "We, as professional public servants express our dissent with current policy and fervently hope that our true and lasting interests here can be defined and our policies redirected in order to salvage our position as a moral leader of the world," the telegram read. Nixon's answer: "Don't squeeze Yahya at this time." Both the consul general and the head of the United States Information Service were subsequently transferred out for their anti-Pakistan views to prevent "any further negative reporting on the situation".

Note by President Richard Nixon on an April 28, 1971, National Security Council decision paper: "To all hands. Don't squeeze Yaya [sic] at this time - RMN".

In India, US ambassador Kenneth Keating also made it clear that "military aid to Pakistan is just out of the question now while they are still killing in East Pakistan and refugees are fleeing across the border". He told Kissinger on June 3, 1971: "We are on the threshold of better relations with the one stable democracy in that part of the world. They are making real progress and want to be more friendly with us." Replied Kissinger: "In all honesty, the president has special feelings for Yahya. One cannot make policy on that basis, but it is a fact of life."

Nixon had a simple explanation for the wayward behavior of his ambassadors. At a meeting with members of the Senior Review Group in August 1971, he said: "Ambassadors who go to India fall in love with India. Some have the same experience in Pakistan, though not as many because the Pakistanis are a different breed. The Pakistanis are straightforward and sometimes extremely stupid. The Indians are more devious, sometimes so smart that we fall for their line."

Even as the refugee situation was escalating, the Nixon administration kept playing politics. Sample this conversation at the White House a day after George Harrison and his soul mate, Indian sitar player Ravi Shankar, held the "Concert for Bangladesh" to raise money for the refugees. "So who is the Beatle giving the money to - is it the goddamn Indians?" asks Nixon. "Yes," says Kissinger, adding that Pakistan had also been given \$150,000 in food aid, but the major problem "is the goddamn distribution". Nixon butts in: "We have to keep India away." Agrees Kissinger: "We must defuse the refugee and famine problem in East Pakistan in order to deprive India of an excuse to start war. We have to avoid screwing Pakistan that outrageously ... We should start our goddamn lecturing on political structures as much as we can, and while there will eventually be a separate East Bengal in two years, it must not happen in the next six months."

By now India had completely given up on the US. In August 1971, it ended its non-aligned stance and signed the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation with the Soviet Union to safeguard itself against any American intervention. At the end of October, Indira Gandhi embarked on a tour of Moscow, Washington and several Western capitals to assess the international mood. It is widely believed that she had already planned to attack East Pakistan before this public relations tour.

Nixon and Kissinger met at the Oval Office on the morning of November 5 to discuss the president's conversation with Indira on the previous day. Kissinger's assessment: "While she was a bitch, we got what we wanted ... She will not be able to go home and say that the United States didn't give her a warm reception and therefore in despair she's got to go to war." Replied Nixon: "We really slobbered over the old witch." After she got home, the "old witch" wrote to Nixon: "I sincerely hope that your clear vision will guide relations between our two democracies and will help us to come closer. It will always be our effort to clear any misunderstanding and not to allow temporary differences to impede the strengthening of our friendship."



"We really slobbered over the old witch": Richard Nixon sums up his 1971 Oval Office meeting with Indira Gandhi.

Within a day of Gandhi's return on November 21, Indian forces attacked East Pakistan at five key areas. Yahya's 70,000 soldiers deployed in the East were hopelessly outnumbered against the 200,000 Indian troops and the Mukti Bahini, Bengali guerrilla freedom fighters. Within 10 days, India had completely taken over the East. On December 16, after a final genocidal burst, Pakistan surrendered unconditionally. Awami leader Sheikh Mujibar Rahman was released and returned to establish Bangladesh's first independent parliament.

The US government supplied military equipment worth \$3.8 million to the Pakistani dictatorship after the genocide started, even after telling Congress that all shipments to the regime had ceased. Throughout the war, the US government tried everything in its power to hinder India. The US policy included support of Pakistan in the United Nations, where it branded India as the aggressor, and putting pressure on the Soviets to discourage India, with the threat that the US-Soviet detente would be in jeopardy if Moscow did not play ball. When war broke out, Nixon promptly cut off economic aid to India, and at one point dispatched the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise to the Bay of Bengal to "intimidate" India. When nothing worked, it pleaded China to join the war to scare off India.

As millions suffered in East Pakistan, the only focus, an obsessive one, of the Nixon administration continued to be China. One of the reasons why Nixon sided with Yahya - apart from "he has been more decent to us than she [Indira] has" - was that the general was his conduit with China. In a personal letter of thanks to Yahya for his role in Sino-American rapprochement, Nixon wrote, "Those who want a more peaceful world in the generation to come will forever be in your debt." Yes, indeed. But once the war ended, the same US policy changed overnight. It quickly spotted a regional hegemon in India, and began to respect it. Though it had made it clear before the war that it would never have anything to do with Bangladesh, ever, it advised Pakistan to accept India's ceasefire offer, recognized the new country, and went about building bridges with India.

In that sense, this war was the turning point in Indo-US relations, triggering a slow and long process of engaging Delhi - a policy that picked up steam under Bill Clinton and accelerated further under George W Bush. Testifying before the House International Relations Subcommittee for Asia and the Pacific, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Christina Rocca, last week said: "We are accelerating the transformation of our relationship with India, with a number of new initiatives." With India "this is a watershed year", she said, with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh scheduled to visit the US next month and President Bush promising to go to India some time later this year".

Seen as a possible counterweight to the same China for which it sacrificed the lives and honor of millions of Bangladeshi men and women three decades ago, the US is even said to be tilting to India as a possible permanent UN Security Council member. Even Kissinger has come out strongly in favor of a permanent seat for India. "I'm known as a strong advocate and one of the originators of close relations with China. I believe that today I am also a strong advocate of close relations with India," he was recently quoted as saying. Bring home the bastards, such are the compulsions of geopolitics.

This is the same India whose nuclear tests a few years ago drew sanctions from the US. But as in the Bangladesh war, it has lost little time in reversing its position. Now it conducts military exercises with India and offers to make fighter jets with it. In addition to US Undersecretary for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns' agenda when he reaches India on Friday is, curiously, a deal on civilian nuclear energy, which may be unveiled during Manmohan Singh's trip. This serial policy infidelity has only one explanation: the US understands power, and respects power. That's why it pounces on Iraq and engages North Korea. Manmohan Singh would do well to remember this when he embarks on his trip to the US to chase India's UN dream. Groveling won't help, growling might.

And yes, he might also consider coloring up his staid beard a tad lest a declassified UN document 30 years hence finds him mentioned as an "old fogey".

Debasish Roy Chowdhury is a Correspondent for Asia Times Online based in Thailand.

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Justice After Genocide: Ways To Deal With The Past

(First published at *News From Bangladesh*, October 27, 1997) https://mm-gold.azureedge.net/Articles/Zia_U_Ahmed/justice_after_genocide_092106.html

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmed

Should US be ashamed for supporting 1971 genocide in East Pakistan?

https://www.quora.com/Should-US-be-ashamed-for-supporting-1971-genocide-in-East-Pakistan

Not only 1971 genocide but there are a lot of instances in the history for which United States should be ashamed of. But there is a big gap between "should" and accepting the responsibility in international politics. There is no place of moral and ethics. The only thing that matter in the foreign policy and diplomacy int the countries like America is national interest (which is in fact quite myopic in vision). You take one part of the world and you will find that USA has done or supported one thing or the other which they should be ashamed of. All these come under small move of a bigger game: World Dominance. They think they are always right and whatever they do is rightful. And this is the biggest problem. They do not know to respect other nations.

I'll show you some of the examples which will explain it clearly.

- Lets start from the time when world war was sliding towards its last phase. Many axis power countries has surrendered and Japan was the only nation fighting among axis power. It was speculated that Russians would defeat them very soon as they have captured Korea and were advancing. But this created a fear among Americans that it will give Russians leverage and Japan will come under their influence. Americans have no time to capture Japan before Russians do. So they bombed two cities Nagasaki and Hiroshima with nuclear bomb. And what was its consequence everyone knows. Till today Americans justify it by saying that as Japan was not surrendering so to end the war and to save the world they did that.
- It is presumed that USA has supported independence of colonies and has favored independence and Democracy. I'll give you some examples on it and how lakks of people suffered because of this hypocrisy of USA.
 - 1) **Vietnam**: Vietnam is a very good example of this. In the struggle for freedom from France USA supported France against Vietnamese people. After they succeeded in getting freedom these countries together appointed a care-taker autocratic government. And after that what america did to Vietnamese is well known to all.
- 2.) India: I have mentioned Vietnam above because it has some link to why USA did not supported India and neither condemned Pakistani oppression in Bangladesh (then East Pakistan). millions of people left their homes and took refuge in India. Today when few millions of refugees are fleeing and taking shelter in 10s of countries they are getting problems and waging wars on different groups responsible for this. But you can imagine where 3 million people were killed then how many people would have been refugees. But USA government did not considered it as a problem and sufficient reason for war, instead they tried to attack India in the support of Pakistan (Luckily it was Russia who saved us and Bangladeshi's). And they have never apologized or even felt guilty about this.
- Iraq: The biggest tragedy of last century that is still storming the whole world and that has destroyed the whole Muslim world. on the accusation of possession of weapons of mass destruction and chemical weapons they invaded Iraq, almost destroyed it and left it in the medieval era with no government and no authority, thus providing a great opportunity to the fundamentalist terrorists created by America itself to take control of the region and expand their grip.
- Afghanistan: The Afghanistan problem which is haunting the region everyday with bombblasts, suicide attacks, mass-firing and god knows how many such tragedies ruining the lives of hundreds of innocents. Like Iraq USA and its allies did the same here and had never apologized to the people of Afghanistan for the sufferings they gave to their peaceful lives.

• Guantanamo Prison: After 26/11 orchestrated by one of the creations of its own, USA government detained 100s of Muslims from across the globe without any legal procedure and treated them even worst than an animal. Hundreds of them were innocents. Some of them died there and some of them are still there. Some are being released after many years. But USA government never apologized to them for their heinous crime which they, as a protector of humanity of messiah of freedom and justice, did to all those men.

To accept the wrong need a brave heart, strong will power and morality. Unfortunately to project themselves as the super-power which does not commit any mistake and which can not bend before anyone in any circumstance even morally. USA has lost the place which it had started creating and had even created in the hearts of some of the people as liberator, protector of freedom and liberty and sovereignty.

All the above things apply to USA government not to the people of USA. There are a lot of Americans who has the courage to accept it. In case of 1971 genocide even the foreign service officials of US gov in Dhaka were ashamed of the stand US was taking in this case. In the famous telegram "Blood-Telegram", as it is known in the history they accepted it.

COUNT STATEVALDYUSTS: MESSAGE:

I . AWARE: OF THE TASK FORCE PROPOSALS ON MOPENESS" IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE AND WITH THE CONVICTION THAT :USS: POLICY RELATED TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST RAKISTAND SERVES: NEITHER OUR! MORAL! INTERESTS: BROADLY DEFINED: NOR! OUR! NATIONAL! INTERESTS NARROWLY DEFINED, NUMEROUS OFFICERS OF AMCONGEN: DACCA, USAID DACCA AND USIS DACCA CONSTDER ITTTHETRE DUTY TOUREGISTER STRONG DISSENT WITH FUNDAMENTALL ASPECTS OF THIS POLICY. OUR GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO DENDUNCE: THE SUPPRESSION: OF DEMOCRACY OUR GOVERNMENT HAS: FAILED TO DENOUNCE; ATROCITIES . OUR GOVERNMENT HAS FAILEDITONTAKE FORCEFULI MEASURES: TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS: WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BENDING OVER BACKWARDS TO PLACATE THE WEST PAK DOMINATED GOVERNMENT AND TO LESSEN LIKELY AND! DERSERVEDLY NEGATIVE: INTERNATIONAL! PUBLIC: RELATIONS! IMPACT AGAINST THEM. OUR GOVERNMENT HAS EVIDENCED WHAT MANY WILL CONSIDER MORAL BANKRUPICY, IRONICALLY AT A TIME! WHEN: THE: USSR' SENT PRESIDENT YAHYA A MESSAGE DEFENDA ING: DEMOCRACY, COMDEMNING: ARREST OF LEADER OF DEMOCRATI-CALLY ELECTED MAJORITY PARTY (INCIDENTALLY PRO-WEST) AND CALLING FOR END! TO REPRESSIVE MEASURES AND BLOODSHED. INFOUR MOST RECENT POLICY PAPER FOR PAKISTAN OUR IN-TERESTS: IN PAKISTAN WERE DEFINED AS PRIMARILY HUMANI.



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

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TARIAND. RATHER: THAN: STRATEGEC - BUT WE HAVE! CHOSEN: NOT TOO INTERVENE, EVEN: MORALLY; ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE: AWAME. CONFLICT, IN: WHICH! UNFORTUNATELY THE OVERWORKED. TERM: GENOCIDE: IS: APPLICABLE. IS: PURELY INTERNAL! MATTER: OF: A. SOVERIGN STATE. PRIVATE: AMBRICANS HAVE: EXPRESSED DISGUST. WE AS: PROFESSIONAL! PUBLIC SERVANTS: EXPRESSED OUR! DISSENT WITH: CURRENT POLICY AND FERVENTLY HOPE THAT OUR: TRUE! AND LASTING! INTERESTS HERE: CAN BE DEFINED AND: OUR: POLICIES: REDIRECTED! IN: ORDER! TO, SALVAGE, OUR! NATION! S: POSITION: AS: A MORAL! LENDER! OF: THE! FREE WORLD.

2. OUR SPECIFIC AREAS OF DISSENT AS WELL AS OUR POLICY PROPOSALS WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTEL

Note: As i have previously stated there is no place for morality and ethics in International politics.

The longer answer is that Henry Kissinger was justifiably proud of his revolutionary diplomatic insight, but took it too far. He was the first actor to recognize the USA could split China off from the USSR. (Of course Chinese Quorans may argue that Chou En-Lai recognized China could play the more decadent Americans off from the more threatening USSR, but that belongs in another topic). Kissinger properly felt this would revolutionize "Great Power" relations. to be fair, Kissinger was right and this move hastened the end of the Cold War by decades.

While Kissinger probably does not care, he broke many eggs to make his omelet. His brutal decision left wreckage all over Asia.

- 1. The US decided that China's ally Pakistan was more worthy than the USSR client, India. Note the loaded language used to rationalize the decision. While the USA did not support Pakistan's brutality here, the USA did look the other way.
- 2. The USA was even more culpable in Cambodia under successive Presidents. Remember Cambodia was a US ally until it fell to Pol Pot. Pol Pot then engaged in brutal purges under China's approving eye. More than 1 million people passed away until Vietnam (backedd by the USSR) invaded the Chinese client.

Yes the USA should be ashamed and also should take responsibility for indirectly getting involved in 1971 genocide of our Bangladeshi brothers and sisters by supplying Pakistan with arms and tanks and also keeping quiet through whole episode. but this is the perception of a south asian who are directly effected by the event.

but through the point of view of Americans who try to justify even a genocide on the pretext of "world peace" so that they can sell their products of war industry, it seems like they are not at all ashamed, this intance was way back in 1971 but in today's world also the weapons are sold by american weapon dealers to war lords and genocides are never stopped so that the american war industry keeps on going, so at last it all comes down to the USA's economy which is war-ridden, if we as south asians feel that USA should be ashamed of supporting the genocides around the world then they will have to close down their war-industry, it means USA going back 100 back, if anybody can please watch the nicolas cage 2005 movie "lord of war", you can have a clear picture of how USA benefits if there is a civil war are going on a country, the american government sells weapons to that courty's government and the american weapon dealers sell weapons to warlords and terrorists.

Cold War Nuances Of 1971



https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/12/17/cold-war-nuances-of-1971/



Towheed Feroze

Nixon's lethargy in acknowledging genocide in Bangladesh will always overshadow all the other acts that were in favour of Bangladesh. It is a well-known fact, or I can assume a lot of people are aware, that in 1971, the US government was not in favour of a liberated Bangladesh. At least, the White House was actively against the idea of a dismembered Pakistan.

Declassified records, as mentioned in several books related to the 1971 War of Independence in Bangladesh, state unequivocally that the Nixon administration was unwilling to see dents in their relations with the West Pakistan junta. Pakistan was a key player at that time in improving US relations with China. Therefore, even after heart-wrenching telegrams were sent by US diplomat Archer Blood from Dhaka about the atrocities committed, the reaction in Washington was diplomatic silence. Blood later on was admonished and, reportedly, his career path made difficult for his candid appraisal of the situation on the ground.



Whatever the case, within the USA, the opinion was split as further declassified papers, mentioned in BZ Khosru's book, clearly state that a large number of common Americans plus many serving lawmakers opposed the stance of the White House and also resorted to strategic filibustering to delay shipments of weapons to the invading army.

Yet, even after so many years, if a political analyst is asked to comment on the role of the USA and then the USSR during the 1971 war, the former won't be painted favourably. If you are the devil, then you are vile out and out ... no chance for the little virtues to be noticed.

After all, history only remembers decisions made at the top. The fact that many Germans within the German defence system wanted to depose Hitler and end a war, begun on lunatic whim, is usually brushed aside when WW2 is deconstructed.

Anything to do with Hitler's military might is regarded with suspicion, though efforts were made right within the German military by <u>Claus von Stauffenberg</u> to kill the dictator in what is known as the "20 July plot."



Come to the Vietnam War, where the US role is still enveloped in infamy. At the height of the Cold War, poking a nose, and then directly getting in warfare, in Vietnam turned the US into the new imperial juggernaut. Within the US, millions of people, imbued by the 60s philosophy of peace and spiritual emancipation, protested, though this hardly did anything to improve the US image globally.

In the then East-Pakistan, a wave of socialist ideals spurred by Fidel Castro's defiance of the US and relentless struggle of the Vietnamese people had transformed a generation. The 1971 American aloofness only cemented an anti-Western feeling. To be precise, for about a decade after liberation, young men wanting to enter politics had to embrace socialist values and reject what they termed "Markin shamrajjobad" (US imperialism).

However, as we step into the 43rd year of independence, maybe history should be interpreted not by acts of the government only but also by humanitarian deeds of the general people.



A recent news of four US Hercules planes helping India transport floods of refugees from the then East Pakistan after the March 26 crackdown, opens up a new hitherto unknown dimension to the compassionate American involvement in the war. Of course, if we look at the overall picture, Nixon's lethargy in acknowledging genocide in Bangladesh and the subsequent sending of the seventh fleet will always overshadow all the other acts that were in favour of Bangladesh.

Even then, sometimes good deeds need to be recognised. One cannot forget the role of the American missionaries based in Dhaka, Narinda, and Kaliganj who came to the help of the common people during those turbulent times of hopelessness. Nor can we forget Senator Edward Kennedy who stood at Congress supporting the cause for Bangladesh.

As we approach Victory Day, the role of the USSR during the war cannot and should not be sidelined either. They indirectly hinted that if any superpower entered on the side of Pakistan, the USSR would act, thus ruling out the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh from turning into a major cause for global conflict.



Later, it was the Soviets who cleared the ports of Bangladesh of thousands of planted mines and scuttled ships. Of course, to take a wide-angle perspective, the 70s was the period of high communism-capitalism tensions. Any state-to-state episode of warfare was inevitably caught in the vortex of the ideological divide.

One may ask why these nuances from another era matter so much. After all, the Cold War is over and there's nothing called the Soviet Union. Well, for starters, accurate history is essential because unless the facts are known, new generations' understanding of the political evolution of the subcontinent will be distorted.

Just a concluding point, **leading Arab countries** from where millions of Bangladeshis now send back much needed foreign currency did not recognise Bangladesh's struggle for independence on the rationale that the movement was aimed at dividing a Muslim country.

Saudi Arabia gave formal recognition to Bangladesh in 1975-1976. Today, the Saudi government is a generous friend to Bangladesh.

Photo # NH 97346 USS Bon Homme Richard with escorts, during change of command ceremony, Nov. 1962

On the eve of Victory Day, let's also try to understand a little bit of global politics and how they have evolved, with Bangladesh now firmly secured in the global map as a developing country.





First,USA and Israel are spending billions of dollors on their secret agencies and India its very very less. So, they have enough money to launch any type of covert operations. And about declassifing of covert operation CIA and MOSSAD declassify only those operations which are 20 year old, and that to not each and every operations. A person who do this type of operations his/her life is under threat. In other countries they are provided all type of securities, but India lags in this. But R&AW has declassifies many operations. Here are few among those:

- 1.RAW played an important role in supporting Bangladeshi guerilla organisation Mukti Bahini, and providing them with training, intelligence and ammunition. RAW also disrupted Pakistani army's movement in East Pakistan. Its para-millitary wing, Special Frontier Force supported in Bangladesh Independence Movement operations. The end result was the successful creation of Bangladesh
- 2.RAW played a key role in maintaining the secrecy of the first nuclear test by India in 1974. It was in fact, such a secret mission that even the intelligence agencies of countries like China and USA were unaware of any such activity by India.
- 3.The site of Pakistan's main nuclear weapons laboratory, Kahuta, is also the site to one of RAW's most daring operations ever. Operation Kahuta was started with the purpose of infiltrating Pakistan's nuclear energy installations. The operation was botched when the then prime minister Mr. Morarji Desai inadvertantly informed Pakistan's then President Zia-Ul-Haq, that India knew about Pakistan's nuclear program. As a result, Pakistan traced all the sources of RAW in Kahuta and many RAW agents were killed.
- 4.Ravindra Kaushik, was a famous theatre artist in his earlier days. He was spotted by RAW officials during one of his dramatic meet and was contacted and offered the job of an undercover agent. In 1975, he was sent to Pakistan where he managed to join Pakistani army and rose to the rank of 'Major'. Kaushik was instrumental in saving thousands of Indian lives and gave invaluable information to the Indian intelligence agencies. He was conferred the title of 'Black Tiger' by RAW
- <u>5.In</u> 1984, RAW intercepted vital information which showed that Pakistan was planning an incursion in the Siachen glacier. This information helped army in pre determining Pakistan's actions and to launch Operation Meghdoot to take control of Siachen Glacier before Pakistan could launch any operation. It resulted in Indian domination of all major peaks in Siachen.

<u>6.In</u> November 1988, Maldives was invaded by Tamil rebels. It prompted the president of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, to seek help from India. With orders from Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Indian Army sent 1600 troops by air to restore order in Maldives. RAW played a key role in this operation too by providing the army with necessary intelligence. The Indian paratroopers, after landing at Maldivian island Hulhule were able to restore the Government rule within hours.

7.R&AW was successful in intercepting a telephonic conversation between Pervez Musharraf, the then Pakistan Army Chief and his chief of staff Lt. Gen. Mohammed Aziz, which gave the proof of Pakistani army's involvement in Kargil. Before the interception of this conversation, Pakistan refused any links to the Kargil war. This tape was instrumental in proving Pakistani involvement in the Kargil incursion.

8.RAW undertook Operation Chanakya to infiltrate various separatist groups inside Kashmir. Their major success was in neutralising the terrorist activities in the valley. It successfully collected evidence regarding ISI's involvement with the separatist groups and other terrorist activities. They were also able to create a split in the terrorist organization, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and create pro-Indian groups in Kashmir

9.RAW was involved in the anti-apartheid struggles in South Africa and Namibia. They even trained the intelligence officers of many independent African countries and deputed retired RAW officers to work in training institutes of intelligence agencies of some African countries.

10.Did you know that RAW had intercepted several telephone calls which pointed at impending attacks on Mumbai Hotels by Pakistan-based terrorists about 2-6 months before the actual attacks? However no action was taken due to coordination failure. Also, it were the RAW technicians who were able to tap into the network, monitored the six phones used by the terrorists and recorded conversations between the terrorists and their handlers.

11.Remember the climax in Akshay Kumar starrer 'Baby' in which they nab the chief of terrorists, bring him to India discretely, question him and then arrest him formally. Well, that is actually how snatch operations are performed. Snatch operations are covert operations in which a suspect is nabbed in a foreign country, brought to India, interrogated at unknown sites and then arrested formally at an airport or border post. RAW has been performing snatch operations in the neighbouring countries to bypass the lengthy extradition process. Some famous successful snatch operations include the arrest of Lashkar militant Tariq Mehmood and Abdul Karim Tunda, one of the handlers of Mumbai attacks, Sheikh Abdul Khwaja, Yasin Bhatkal, leader of terrorist organization Indian Mujahideen etc.



The truth about 1971 massacres – from the U.S. National Archives

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https://madinaesani.wordpress.com/2012/12/14/the-truth-about-1971-massacres-documents-from-the-u-s-national-archives/

Even after forty years, Bengalis in Muslim Bengal are going through the continuation of same civil war that the rest of country went through. Even after four decades, the Awami League is still conducting programs against pro-Pakistan masses. Today all of Bangladesh is holding a country-wide "hartal" to protest the prosecution of those who the Awami League thinks supported Pakistan or still support Pakistan.



Mukti Bahini in Dhaka Stadium

Indian Support of Mukti Bahini Guerrillas (Documents from the U.S. National Archives)

Initially, the Indians are likely to confine their actions to expressions of sympathy for and perhaps support to East Bengalis. They will watch closely for signs as to the strength and prospects for success on the part of East Bengal dissidents. If the evidence indicates to the Indians that the East Bengal independence movement has reasonably good prospects for success, the GOI may do any of several things: tolerate privately provided cross-border assistance to the East Bengalis. This assistance could range from propaganda support to weapons and explosives; permit East Bengal dissidents to use India as a refuge and to conduct cross-border activities from within India; covertly provide supplies, including weapons, and perhaps some training, to East Bengal dissidents. Indian Reaction to Pakistan Events, Mar. 29, 1971

Shahi displayed concern over evolution of events in East Pakistan and thought competing communist elements from India could set off armed struggle between left and right forces in East Bengal which could overshadow current hostilities between separatists and army. Pakistan PERMREP Protests Indian Interference, Apr. 9, 1971

Pakistan High Commissioner told Ambassador today that Pakistan and India on verge of war. ... He claimed 3,000 Indians armed with regulation Indian Army equipment either killed or captured by Pakistani troops in East Pakistan. Conversation with Pakistan High Commissioner, April 30, 1971

In addition to its concern about the refugee problem, the GOI has been taking steps to support the Bengali struggle for independence in the face of the military successes of the Pakistan Army. The BSF has established camps at which 10,000 Bengalis are reportedly receiving training in guerrilla and sabotage tactics. Limited quantities of arms and ammunition continue to be provided to the Bengali separatists and some Indian forces have infiltrated into East Bengal to provide assistance and training to the separatists. ... [W]e have learned from intelligence sources that China may have given a conditional promise to assist Pakistan in the event hostilities break out with India. The Chinese may have also given assurances that they will initiate military action "along the Tibetan border" if Indian troops deliberately cross the Pakistani border in force. Should the Chinese become directly involved, it is likely that the Soviet Union will openly support India and will presumably provide such military assistance as required. Contingency Study for Indo-Pakistan Hostilities, May 25, 1971

For some time now India has been systematically interfering in internal affairs of Pakistan with clear aim of jeopardizing Pakistan's territorial integrity. India has sent armed infiltrators into East Pakistan to create disturbances and to help anti-state elements. She has circulated false and highly distorted and tendentious accounts of events in East Pakistan through government-controlled radio and press. She has not only provided shelter to anti-state elements on her soil but has also persistently allowed so-called members of "Bangla Desh Government" to use her radio and other mass media to stir up rebellion against legitimate government of country. Pakistan Protest Note to India, May 26, 1971

We have pursued three courses with regard to the Indians. First, since the refugee burden seems to be India's major problem now, we have taken a number of steps to encourage India to manage this problem by getting international assistance rather than by taking direct action against East Pakistan as some Indians are urging. Partly because of our actions U Thant is getting an effective international assistance program underway. We are already helping and will be stepping up our assistance. Second, we have taken up with the Indians their cross-border support to guerrillas and have privately cautioned them against direct action. Third, in order to persuade the Indians that a solution to the East Pakistan problem can be achieved without their direct military intervention, we have confidentially briefed them on the positions we are taking privately with Pakistan. Possible India-Pakistan War, May 26, 1971

Following based on Corr's personal observations and discussions with M.A.K. Chaudhry, Inspector General Police (IGP), East Pakistan, formerly IGP North West Frontier Province (NWFP). Joint Embassy-USAID Message, June 25, 1971

Choudhury admitted that attacks by Mukti Bahini forces against police stations in rural areas seemed to be continuing at a high level but asserted that at least now police were fighting back rather than dropping their rifles and running. ... Referring to Dacca, he said bombings and sabotage were a major headache for his forces. Recalling press item three days ago announcing capture of young Bengali carrying explosives, IG said man was part of three man team designated to disrupt SSC (matriculation) examinations. He said young man was found with impressive supply of grenades adn other explosive devices, all with Indian markings. Man admitted to membership BM and to having been trained at Argatala before undertaking mission. Status of East Pak Police, July 23, 1971

Two successive batches of insurgents have now completed training in India and have boosted number and quality of infiltrators. Number of Mukti Bahini have received training at Dehra Dun and been commissioned as officers. Additional numbers are now in training at various Indian centers. Meanwhile extremist elements including Naxalites have taken advantage of opportunity to step up their own activity, on the other hand, Hamid said, Mukti Bahini are not so successful as they would like to have people believe. Conversation with Pak Army Chief of Staff: East Pak Situation, Aug. 11, 1971

Acting Secretary Johnson called in Indian Ambassador Jha August 23 to discuss USG concerns about reports of GOI intention to step up its support to Mukti Bahini and to express USG hope that GOI could use its influence with Mukti Bahini to discourage and prevent attacks on relief facilities and personnel in East Pakistan. Jha in response indicated historical tradition of anarchic violence in Bengal and physical and political difficulties which GOI would face if it tried disarm guerrillas. Jha stressed dangers of radicalization of Mukti Bahini. Indian Support to Mukti Bahini, Aug. 12, 1971 During Hilaly's call on Cisco August 13, Hilaly raised question of role Senator Church and his office playing on behalf of Bangla Desh Movement. Hilaly's Call on Sisco, Aug. 14, 1971

Primary problem is not cross-border activity by Paks but rather by Indians, including vital support they are giving to Mukti Bahini. We believe problem of potential serious cross-border action by Paks would be easily eliminated if India halted its own support for military operation within East Pakistan. Indo-Pak Escalation, August 20, 1971

Three months ago East Bengali leftist parties sought the formation of a United Front Government. They were then rebuffed by the Awami League, which asserted that its sweeping victory in East Bengal in the December 1970 general elections conferred on it a mandate as exclusive representative of the people of East Bengal. The creation of the council is thus a major shift in the Awami League's stance. Some sources believe that the council was formed as a result of pressure from leftists within the Mukhti Bahini; since the "liberation force" appears to have drawn heavily on students, it is very likely that it has a higher than average complement of leftists. Moreover, the Mukhti Bahini runs the day-to-day risks in the struggle against the Pakistan Government and now has more immediate contact with the people of East Bengal than the BDG, whose members are in India. Thus, the Mukhti Bahini might have been able to convince the Awami League of the need to broaden the BDG's base. Bangla Desh: A "National Liberation Front" Emerging? Sept. 21, 1971 The National Archives support what Sarmila Bose and the Hamood Ur Rehman Commission have written:

Serious concern over Indian military deployments, strengths, and intentions was expressed during Sep 30 briefing of Congressman Frelinghuysen by Major General Jilani, Director General, Inter Services Intelligence, and his staff. ... They also portrayed 69 Indian-sponsored insurgent training camps bordering East Pakistan, with an estimated total of 30 – 50 thousand rebels in training. Pak Military Intelligence Briefing for Congressman Frelinghuysen, Oct. 1, 1971 Although India had not started the crisis, it was, for reasons of its own, supporting guerrilla activity in East Pakistan, even though this was denied. Memorandum of Conversation with Foreign Secretary Douglas-Home (Great Britain), Oct. 3, 1971

Sir Terence asked about US representations to India on latter's aid to Mukti Bahini. I replied that GOI position is that it gives sympathy and support, as demanded by Pariament, to members of Mukti Bahini who enter India and then go back with or without arms. GOI makes clear it will not stop this support. However, GOI will not admit that it is supporting training camps for Mukti Bahini on Indian soil, despite ample evidence to contrary. I expressed doubt regular Indian Army units or personnel are participating in military activity in EAst Pakistan, though some Indian Bengalis might be involved. Sir Terence noted incidence of shooting, including artillery, across the border. I speculated that if Paks retaliate it will probably be in Kashmir in order to seize territory for bargaining purposes. War or Peace in South Asia, October 7, 1971

We now have specific report (Calcutta 2605 – protect source) to effect that Mukti Bahini plans to inject as many as 40,000 armed men across border by October 15, with additional 20,000 to follow by end October. This action reportedly would be accomplished with support diversionary actions by Indian Army to keep Pak Armed

Forces off balance while infiltration took place. We are not convinced that intensified guerrilla activity will achieve results compatible with India's interests. Risks of War in Indo-Pak Confrontation, Oct. 7, 1971

Oct 8 press reported 79 Indian agents eliminated the previous day in two separate actions in Rangpur District. First action in which 44 were claimed killed occurred mile and a half outside Pakistan territory near Daikhata. In second action, north of Lalmanirhat, 35 infiltrators were reportedly killed. In both cases, large quantities of ammunition, including machine guns, grenades and explosives claimed captured. Comment: Press reports of Indian agents and/or infiltrators killed this week now totals 136. More Indian Agents, Oct. 8, 1971

Status of insurgency: In Dacca 2733 we suggested two chief unknowns this situation were: (1) whether population of province had will continue support [sic] MB in face of difficulties and reprisals and (2) whether MB would be able organize itself for long guerrilla struggle. In past two months we have gathered some evidence on both points: (A) On question of popular support our impression is that urban bourgeoisie showing some signs weariness. People in this class hate West Pakistan as much as in April and May but some beginning wish things would settle down. However, peasants who must actually feed and shelter guerrillas appear be on side of MB as much as ever.

This true despite fact that there are now more guerrillas than in July, placing correspondingly heavier burden on rural people. Army's reprisals against villagers for MB actions appear counterproductive in sense of increasing their hatred of the army and support of MB. In sum, MB's popular support appears to be holding up. (B) Question of organization somewhat more obscure. As reported in Dacca 4066, MB in Gopalganj claims existence permanent chain of command from Colonel Usmani down to Thana-level guerrillas. MB sources informed Australian Deputy High Commissioner (protect) that MB has about 28,000 EBRS, EPRS, police, locally-recruited militia (Ansars) and veterans; 40,000 men in camps being trained for conventional war; and 35,000 men who have completed guerrilla training and are already active; latter reportedly supposedly scattered among 69 base camps and 100 sub-bases throughout province. According this source, MB intends establish 90 base camps eventually. Best judgment we can make at this point is that while MB has not yet developed its organization to degree necessary to overcome Pak Army, it has made considerable progress.

First evidence of parallel BD shadow government appeared during month: as reported Dacca 4066, Time Correspondent Dan Coggin met individuals in Gopalganj Subdivision claiming to be governing area in name Bangla Desh Government. Pakistan Internal Situation, Oct. 9, 1971

Former East Pakistan Governor Abdul Monem Khan shot to death night October 13 at his home in Dacca. As Monem Khan had been conferring with conservative politicians for past several months with view toward ending his retirement, strong likelihood is that assassination carried out by Mukti Bahini. Assassination of Monem Khan, Oct. 14, 1971

The Pakistan Army in East Pakistan has achieved nearly autonomous control of the province, in many respects independent of the policies and direction of President Yahya Khan in Islamabad. Only foreign affairs affecting East Pakistan is firmly in the hands of Islamabad. The relative isolation of President Yahya Khan is probably the result of many factors.

Indications of this isolation are that Army commandersi in the East pursue independent military operations, the Army governs the province behind the facade of the puppet civilian Governor Malik and his cabinet — who are completely dependent on the Army for their personal security — with limited reference to Islamabad, little but Pakistani successes and India's perfidy is reported from Dacca to Islamabad, and President Yahya Khan lacks independent means of observation, reporting and verification of events in the East. ...

The myth of growing political stability in East Pakistan is almost certainly fed to Yahya Khan by reports from his civilian Governor and his Army commanders. The reality is that Army policies and operations — behind the facade of a civilian government — are progressively and seriously alienating the Bengali population in East Pakistan, and that the seeds of rebellion are not only those sown by India. President Yahya Khan's Control in East Pakistan is Increasingly Limited, Nov. 5, 1971

General Farman Ali Khan described the loevel of Mukti guerrilla insurgency as somewhat intensifed but manageable because the newly trained Bengali guerrillas entering from India feared to take action. Over 1,400 guerrillas had entered Dacca district in the last 30 days but only a few had chosen to fight. He acknowledged, off-the-record, that this was due to the terroristic reprisal policy. He also acknowledged that terror and reprisal had an "unfortunate effect on Bengali attitudes." But he said, "all Army commanders had concluded that insurgency was more of a problem in areas where the Army had been too lenient and had not demonstrated clean-up operations." ... General Farman Ali Khan said the Army sought to leave the fighting of the Mukti guerrillas to the newly armed Bengali "Rasikars," who now numbered 60,000.

He acknowledged that "Rasikars" — raised as village levies for guard duty with only ten days training, and without NCOs or officers — did not constitute a disciplined force. However, the "Rasikars" are a destabilizing element — living off the land, able to make life and death decisions by denouncing collaborators and openly pillaging and terrorizing villages without apparent restraint from the Army.

With villagers caught between the Rasikars and Mukti guerrillas, law and order is breaking down rapidly in rural East Pakistan. Hence, the rural population is moving either to the cities which are now overpopulated or going to India. ... General Farman Ali Khan accepted the estimate that at least 80 percent of the Hindus had left East Pakistan. He, off-the-record, spoke of about six million refugees who had gone to India and he anticipated that a further 1,500,000 refugees would probably go to India "before the situation settles down." President Yahya Khan's Control in East Pakistan is Increas



1971 War

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As a result of indications of a military build-up on both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border and of an early massive increase in cross-border infiltration, we instructed Ambassador Keating to see Mrs. Gandhi and Charge' Sober to see President Yahya (a) to propose a pullback of military forces, (b) to point out to the Indians and the Pakistanis the grave damage to our bilateral relations which would result if either provoked a conflict, (c) to indicate the importance which we attached to a political settlement with the elected leaders of East Pakistan, and (d) to ask the Indians to prevent a massive cross-border infiltration of guerrillas. ...

Foreign Minister Swaran Singh (Mrs. Gandhi was unavailable) said the U.S. was "distorting" the sequence of events leading up to the present crisis and emphasized the need for genuine reconciliation in East Pakistan. He nevertheless categorically stated that (1) the Mukti Bahini was not present on the Indian border in such numbers ready to march openly into India; (2) the Indian Army would not undertake diversions to cover a Mukti Bahini attack, and (3) India would not attack or make any incursion against Pakistan. He also said India would consider withdrawal of Indian forces if Pakistani forces withdrew. Foreign Secretary Kaul subsequently reaffirmed a willingness to "reconsider" the situation if Pak forces withdrew from the "threatening" positions they now occupy. Proposal for Mutual Withdrawal from Indo-Pak Borders, Oct. 20, 1971

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See also The Report of the Commission of Inquiry – 1971 War declassified by the government of Pakistan. Paul Wolf, 2003-2004. No copyright to original government works. For educational use only.

When The India-Sponsored Mukti Bahini Slaughtered 1 Million Biharis http://qutaibaprotocol.blogspot.com/2011/04/when-india-sponsored-mukti-bahini.html

I am grateful to Sarmila Bose for bringing the hidden facts in light. Pakistani Forces fought bravely in East Pakistan in 1971 this has been acknowledged by the Indian army. Rape committed by Pakistan Army in East Pakistan was very rare. In every army there are evil doers. In Pakistan army there may be few.

Actually Mukti Bahini and Bengal Regiment personnel raped the Bihari and west Pakistani women killed about 800,000/ to 1,000,000/ innocent Biharis and West Pakistanis in East Pakistan in 1971. After the 16th of December 1971 Bangladeshis showed the dead bodies and graves of these innocent Biharis and Pakistanis as Bengali people killed by the Pakistan army. This is the fact.

How cruel our Bengali Brothers could be we have observed in the BDR mutiny recently. I belong to a Bihari family who migrated from India to East Pakistan in 1947 and settled in Panchabibi in the district of Bogra. My uncle Bashir and my elder brother was a school going boys at that time and were admitted in a Bangla school at Panchabi and they both Passed S.S.C examination from Panchabibi High School.

In 1971 my uncle was a Primary school teacher there .Although our mother language was Urdu we were educated in Bangla. Our friends were Bengalis but in April 1971 when Panchabi was under the control of Mukti Bahini the Biharis were called to attend a meeting in the Panchabibi Police Station where matter of their safety was to be discusses. The day was Friday. When the time of Juma Prayer came the 110 Biharis who came to attend the meeting asked permission to go to the nearby mosque and say there prayer but they were not permitted to go to the mosque.

They were asked to go Panchabibi High school which was adjacent to the Police Station to say their prayer. While they offering their prayer in the school room of the school the room was locked by th Mukti Bahini from out side and 3 days later on Monday all of the 110 innocent Biharis along with my uncle and my brother-in-law were killed by the Mukti Bahini and loaded on a truck and buried on the bank of Jamuna river in 3 combined graves in the west of Panchabibi Police Station. The Mukti Bahini killed the Biharis in every part of East Pakistan in Dinajpur, Corkai, Phoolbari, Santahar. Natore, Paksy, Issardi, Mymensing, Jessore Chittagong and each and every part of East Pakistan where the Biharis lived.

Indian Support of Mukti Bahini Guerrillas (Documents from the U.S. National Archives)

Initially, the Indians are likely to confine their actions to expressions of sympathy for and perhaps support to East Bengalis. They will watch closely for signs as to the strength and prospects for success on the part of East Bengal dissidents. If the evidence indicates to the Indians that the East Bengal independence movement has reasonably good prospects for success, the GOI may do any of several things: tolerate privately provided cross-border assistance to the East Bengalis.

This assistance could range from propaganda support to weapons and explosives; permit East Bengal dissidents to use India as a refuge and to conduct cross-border activities from within India; covertly provide supplies, including weapons, and perhaps some training, to East Bengal dissidents. Indian Reaction to Pakistan Events, Mar. 29, 1971

Shahi displayed concern over evolution of events in East Pakistan and thought competing communist elements from India could set off armed struggle between left and right forces in East Bengal which could overshadow current hostilities between separatists and army. Pakistan PERMREP Protests Indian Interference, Apr. 9, 1971

Pakistan High Commissioner told Ambassador today that Pakistan and India on verge of war. ... He claimed 3,000 Indians armed with regulation Indian Army equipment either kiled or captured by Pakistani troops in East Pakistan. Conversation with Pakistan High Commissioner, April 30, 1971

In addition to its concern about the refugee problem, the GOI has been taking steps to support the Bengali struggle for independence in the face of the military successes of the Pakistan Army. The BSF has established camps at which 10,000 Bengalis are reportedly receiving training in guerrilla and sabotage tactics. Limited quantities of arms and ammunition continue to be provided to the Bengali separatists and some Indian forces have infiltrated into East Bengal to provide assistance and training to the separatists. ... [W]e have learned from intelligence sources that China may have given a conditional promise to assist Pakistan in the event hostilities break out with India. The Chinese may have also given assurances that they will initiate military action "along the Tibetan border" if Indian troops deliberately cross the Pakistani border in force. Should the Chinese become directly involved, it is likely that the Soviet Union will openly support India and will presumably provide such military assistance as required. Contingency Study for Indo-Pakistan Hostilities, May 25, 1971

For some time now India has been systematically interfering in internal affairs of Pakistan with clear aim of jeopardizing Pakistan's territorial integrity. India has sent armed infiltrators into East Pakistan to create disturbances and to help anti-state elements. She has circulated false and highly distorted and tendentious accounts of events in East Pakistan through government-controlled radio and press. She has not only provided shelter to anti-state elements on her soil but has also persistently allowed so-called members of "Bangla Desh Government" to use her radio and other mass media to stir up rebellion against legitimate government of country. Pakistan Protest Note to India, May 26, 1971

We have pursued three courses with regard to the Indians. First, since the refugee burden seems to be India's major problem now, we have taken a number of steps to encourage India to manage this problem by getting international assistance rather than by taking direct action against East Pakistan as some Indians are urging. Partly because of our actions U Thant is getting an effective international assistance program underway. We are already helping and will be stepping up our assistance. Second, we have taken up with the Indians their cross-border support to guerrillas and have privately cautioned them against direct action. Third, in order to persuade the Indians that a solution to the East Pakistan problem can be achieved without their direct military intervention, we have confidentially briefed them on the positions we are taking privately with Pakistan. Possible India-Pakistan War, May 26, 1971

Following based on Corr's personal observations and discussions with M.A.K. Chaudhry, Inspector General Police (IGP), East Pakistan, formerly IGP <u>North West Frontier Province</u> (NWFP). Joint Embassy-USAID

Message, June 25, 1971

Choudhury admitted that attacks by Mukti Bahini forces against police stations in rural areas seemed to be continuing at a high level but asserted that at least now police were fighting back rather than dropping their rifles and running. ... Referring to Dacca, he said bombings and sabotage were a major headache for his forces. Recalling press item three days ago announcing capture of young Bengali carrying explosives, IG said man was part of three man team designated to disrupt SSC (matriculation) examinations. He said young man was found with impressive supply of grenades adn other explosive devices, all with Indian markings. Man admitted to membership BM and to having been trained at Argatala before undertaking mission. Status of East Pak Police, July 23, 1971

Two successive batches of insurgents have now completed training in India and have boosted number and quality of infiltrators. Number of Mukti Bahini have received training at Dehra Dun and been commissioned as officers. Additional numbers are now in training at various Indian centers. Meanwhile extremist elements including Naxalites have taken advantage of opportunity to step up their own activity, on the other hand, Hamid said, Mukti Bahini are not so successful as they would like to have people believe. Conversation with Pak Army Chief of Staff: East Pak Situation, Aug. 11, 1971

Acting Secretary Johnson called in Indian Ambassador Jha August 23 to discuss USG concerns about reports of GOI intention to step up its support to Mukti Bahini and to express USG hope that GOI could use its influence with Mukti Bahini to discourage and prevent attacks on relief facilities and personnel in East Pakistan. Jha in response indicated historical tradition of anarchic violence in Bengal and physical and political difficulties which GOI would face if it tried disarm guerrillas. Jha stressed dangers of radicalization of Mukti Bahini. Indian Support to Mukti Bahini, Aug. 12, 1971

During Hilaly's call on Cisco August 13, Hilaly raised question of role Senator Church and his office playing on behalf of Bangla Desh Movement. Hilaly's Call on Sisco, Aug. 14, 1971

Primary problem is not cross-border activity by Paks but rather by Indians, including vital support they are giving to Mukti Bahini. We believe problem of potential serious cross-border action by Paks would be easily eliminated if India halted its own support for military operation within East Pakistan. Indo-Pak Escalation, August 20, 1971

Three months ago East Bengali leftist parties sought the formation of a United Front Government. They were then rebuffed by the Awami League, which asserted that its sweeping victory in East Bengal in the December 1970 general elections conferred on it a mandate as exclusive representative of the people of East Bengal. The creation of the council is thus a major shift in the Awami League's stance. Some sources believe that the council was formed as a result of pressure from leftists within the Mukhti Bahini; since the "liberation force" appears to have drawn heavily on students, it is very likely that it has a higher than average complement of leftists. Moreover, the Mukhti Bahini runs the day-to-day risks in the struggle against the Pakistan Government and now has more immediate contact with the people of East Bengal than the BDG, whose members are in India. Thus, the Mukhti Bahini might have been able to convince the Awami League of the need to broaden the BDG's base. Bangla Desh: A "National Liberation Front" Emerging? Sept. 21, 1971

Serious concern over Indian military deployments, strengths, and intentions was expressed during Sep 30 briefing of Congressman Frelinghuysen by Major General Jilani, Director General, Inter Services Intelligence, and his staff. ... They also portrayed 69 Indian-sponsored insurgent training camps bordering East Pakistan, with an estimated total of 30 – 50 thousand rebels in training. Pak Military Intelligence Briefing for Congressman Frelinghuysen, Oct. 1, 1971

Although India had not started the crisis, it was, for reasons of its own, supporting guerrilla activity in East Pakistan, even though this was denied. Memorandum of Conversation with Foreign Secretary Douglas-Home (Great Britain), Oct. 3, 1971

Sir Terence asked about US representations to India on latter's aid to Mukti Bahini. I replied that GOI position is that it gives sympathy and support, as demanded by Pariament, to members of Mukti Bahini who enter India and then go back with or without arms. GOI makes clear it will not stop this support. However, GOI will not admit that it is supporting training camps for Mukti Bahini on Indian soil, despite ample evidence to contrary. I expressed doubt regular Indian Army units or personnel are participating in military activity in EAst Pakistan, though some Indian Bengalis might be involved. Sir Terence noted incidence of shooting, including artillery, across the border. I speculated that if Paks retaliate it will probably be in Kashmir in order to seize territory for bargaining purposes. War or Peace in South Asia, October 7, 1971

We now have specific report (Calcutta 2605 – protect source) to effect that Mukti Bahini plans to inject as many as 40,000 armed men across border by October 15, with additional 20,000 to follow by end October. This action reportedly would be accomplished with support diversionary actions by Indian Army to keep Pak Armed Forces off balance while infiltration took place. We are not convinced that intensified guerrilla activity will achieve results compatible with India's interests. Risks of War in Indo-Pak Confrontation, Oct. 7, 1971

Oct 8 press reported 79 Indian agents eliminated the previous day in two separate actions in Rangpur District. First action in which 44 were claimed killed occurred mile and a half outside Pakistan territory near Daikhata. In second action, north of Lalmanirhat, 35 infiltrators were reportedly killed. In both cases, large quantities of ammunition, including machine guns, grenades and explosives claimed captured. Comment: Press reports of Indian agents and/or infiltrators killed this week now totals 136. More Indian Agents, Oct. 8, 1971

Status of insurgency: In Dacca 2733 we suggested two chief unknowns this situation were: (1) whether population of province had will continue support [sic] MB in face of difficulties and reprisals and (2) whether MB would be able organize itself for long guerrilla struggle.

In past two months we have gathered some evidence on both points: (A) On question of popular support our impression is that urban bourgoisie showing some signs weariness. People in this clas hate West Pakistan as much as in April and May but some beginning wish things would settle down. However, peasants who must actually feed and shelter guerrillas appear be on side of MB as much as ever. This true despite fact that there are now more guerrillas than in July, placing correspondingly heavier burden on rural people. Army's reprisals against villagers for MB actions appear counterproductive in sense of increasing their hatred of the army and support of MB.

In sum, MB's popular support appears to be holding up. (B) Question of organization somewhat more obscure. As reported in Dacca 4066, MB in Gopalganj claims existence permanent chain of command from Colonel Usmani down to Thana-level guerrillas. MB sources informed Australian Deputy High Commissioner (protect) that MB has about 28,000 EBRS, EPRS, police, locally-recruited militia (Ansars) and veterans; 40,000 men in camps being trained for conventional war; and 35,000 men who have completed guerrilla training and are already active; latter reportedly supposedly scattered among 69 base camps and 100 sub-bases throughout province.

According this source, MB intends establish 90 base camps eventually. Best judgment we can make at this point is that while MB has not yet developed its organization to degree necessary to overcome Pak Army, it has made considerable progress. First evidence of parallel BD shadow government appeared during month: as reported Dacca 4066, Time Correspondent Dan Coggin met individuals in Gopalganj Subdivision claiming to be governing area in name Bangla Desh Government. Pakistan Internal Situation, Oct. 9, 1971

Former East Pakistan Governor Abdul Monem Khan shot to death night October 13 at his home in Dacca. As Monem Khan had been conferring with conservative politicians for past several months with view toward ending his retirement, strong likelihood is that assassination carried out by Mukti Bahini. Assassination of Monem Khan, Oct. 14, 1971

The Pakistan Army in East Pakistan has achieved nearly autonomous control of the province, in many respects independent of the policies and direction of President Yahya Khan in Islamabad. Only foreign affairs affecting East Pakistan is firmly in the hands of Islamabad. The relative isolation of President Yahya Khan is probably the result of many factors.

Indications of this isolation are that Army commandersi in the East pursue independent military operations, the Army governs the province behind the facade of the puppet civilian Governor Malik and his cabinet — who are completely dependent on the Army for their personal security — with limited reference to Islamabad, little but Pakistani successes and India's perfidy is reported from Dacca to Islamabad, and President Yahya Khan lacks independent means of observation, reporting and verification of events in the East. ...

The myth of growing political stability in East Pakistan is almost certainly fed to Yahya Khan by reports from his civilian Governor and his Army commanders. The reality is that Army policies and operations — behind the facade of a civilian government — are progressively and seriously alienating the Bengali population in East Pakistan, and that the seeds of rebellion are not only those sown by India. President Yahya Khan's Control in East Pakistan is Increasingly Limited, Nov. 5, 1971

General Farman Ali Khan described the level of Mukti guerrilla insurgency as somewhat intensified but manageable because the newly trained Bengali guerrillas entering from India feared to take action. Over 1,400 guerrillas had entered Dacca district in the last 30 days but only a few had chosen to fight. He acknowledged, off-the-record, that this was due to the terroristic reprisal policy. He also acknowledged that terror and reprisal had an "unfortunate effect on Bengali attitudes." But he said, "all Army commanders had concluded that insurgency was more of a problem in areas where the Army had been too lenient and had not demonstrated clean-up operations." ...

General Farman Ali Khan said the Army sought to leave the fighting of the Mukti guerrillas to the newly armed Bengali "Rasikars," who now numbered 60,000. He acknowledged that "Rasikars" — raised as village levies for guard duty with only ten days training, and without NCOs or officers — did not constitute a disciplined force. However, the "Rasikars" are a destabilizing element — living off the land, able to make life and death decisions by denouncing collaborators and openly pillaging and terrorizing villages without apparent restraint from the Army. With villagers caught between the Rasikars and Mukti guerrillas, law and order is breaking down rapidly in rural East Pakistan.

Hence, the rural population is moving either to the cities which are now overpopulated or going to India. ... General Farman Ali Khan accepted the estimate that at least 80 percent of the Hindus had left East Pakistan. He, off-the-record, spoke of about six million refugees who had gone to India and he anticipated that a further 1,500,000 refugees would probably go to India "before the situation settles down." President Yahya Khan's Control in East Pakistan is Increasingly Limited, Nov. 5, 1971

Initially, insurgence was weak. Indians needed several months to train Mukhti Bahini. Mukhti Bahini have conducted border crossings, and we are satisfied there is active Indian involvement in Pakistan fighting. This is mixed operations, with about four times more Indians than Mukhti Bahini. Indians have publicly acknowledged their direct involvement during last 48 hours. Minister of Defense has said Indian troops are permitted to cross border and go far enough into East Pakistan to quell artillery. India-Pakistan Briefing for Yugoslav, Nov. 30, 1971

Primin Indira Gandhi announced to packed Lok Sabha ... that one hour earlier General Niazi, Pak commander in East Bengal, had surrendered unconditionally in Dacca to General Arora, Indian General commanding joint Indian Army / Mukti Bahini operations. Telegram from New Delhi Embassy to Secretary of State, Dec. 16, 1971

Reports continue to pour in of wanton killings of civilians by Indian armed forces personnel and Mukti Bahini in East Pakistan. In fact, American TV networks have shown pictures of huge crowds of people witnessing the torture and execution of people without any trial. ... The Government of Pakistan would be grateful if the Government of the United States would impress upon the Government of India that the Indian occupation forces would be held responsible for the arson, loot, murder and rape by Mukti Bahini and other elements in East Pakistan. Aide Memoire, Dec. 20, 1971

Citizens of largely Bihari areas of Mohammedpur and Mirpur, on the outskirts of Dacca, are living in state of terror. Areas are cut off from communications and food. Lawlessness reigns. The Bihari Question, Dec. 23, 1971

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NY Times and Washington Post Wednesday editions carried Schanberg/Lescaze stories attributed to Indian sources suggesting USG deliberately delayed transmission of surrender proposal from Niazi to Indian authorities.

Spokesman has emphasized that nothing like 20-odd hours lost; that only even potentially avoidable delay fell within period 1620-2300 December 14 when we unable to establish contact with Pakistanis or Indians; that delay was completely unintended and stories suggesting contrary are unfounded and inaccurate. Alleged Delay in Transmission of Surrender Proposal, Jan. 26, 1972.

See also The Report of the Commission of Inquiry – 1971 War declassified by the government of Pakistan. Paul Wolf, 2003-2004. No copyright to original government works. For educational use only.

(http://www.google.com/imgres?

 $imgurl=http://www.icdc.com/\sim paulwolf/pakistan/quainton 23 aug 1971.jpg \& imgrefurl=http://www.icdc.com/\sim paulwolf/pakistan/pakindiawars.htm & stNInSmZD5107gVgp1ngpMb-$

Rss=&h=1061&w=780&sz=204&hl=en&start=10&sig2=cbT2AIpwHwKMDDV-

 $sG3TuA\&zoom=1\&um=1\&itbs=1\&tbnid=1BaWD_vEsyYL-M:\&tbnh=150\&tbnw=110\&prev=/images\%3Fq\%3Dmukti \%2Bbahini\%26um\%3D1\%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dopera%26sa%3DX%26rls%3Den%26tbs %3Disch:1\&ei=uhHgTJOODcWBlAe7tumADQ)$

The truth about the Jessore massacre by Sarmila Bose

The massacre may have been genocide, but it wasn't committed by the Pakistan army. The dead men were non-Bengali residents of Jessore, butchered in broad daylight by Bengali nationalists. The bodies lie strewn on the ground. All are adult men, in civilian clothes. A uniformed man with a rifle slung on his back is seen on the right. A smattering of onlookers stand around, a few appear to be working, perhaps to remove the bodies. The caption of the photo is just as grim as its content: It is in a book printed by Bangladeshis trying to commemorate the victims of their liberation war.

It is a familiar scene. There are many grisly photographs of dead bodies from 1971, published in books, newspapers and websites. Reading another book on the 1971 war, there was that photograph again taken from a slightly different angle, but the bodies and the scene of the massacre were the same. But wait a minute! The caption here reads:' The alternative caption is in The East Pakistan Tragedy, by L.F. Rushbrook Williams, written in 1971 before the independence of Bangladesh. Rushbrook Williams is strongly in favour of the Pakistan government and highly critical of the Awami League. However, he was a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, had served in academia and government in India, and with the BBC and The Times. There was no reason to think he would willfully mislabel a photo of a massacre. And so, in a bitter war where so many bodies had remained unclaimed, here is a set of murdered men whose bodies are claimed by both sides of the conflict! Who were these men? And who killed them? It turns out that the massacre in Jessore may have been genocide, but it wasn't committed by the Pakistan Army. The dead men were non-Bengali residents of Jessore, butchered in broad daylight by Bengali nationalists. It is but one incident, but illustrative of the emerging reality that the conflict in 1971 in East Pakistan was a lot messier than most have been led to believe. Pakistan's military regime did try to crush the Bengali rebellion by force, and many Bengalis did die for the cause of Bangladesh's independence. Yet, not every allegation hurled against the Pakistan army was true, while many crimes committed in the name of Bengali nationalism remain concealed.

Once one took a second look, some of the Jessore bodies are dressed in shalwar kameez an indication that they were either West Pakistanis or 'Biharis', the non-Bengali East Pakistanis who had migrated from northern India. As accounts from the involved parties Pakistan, Bangladesh and India tend to be highly partisan, it was best to search for foreign eye witnesses, if any. My search took me to newspaper archives from 35 years ago. The New York Times carried the photo on April 3, 1971, captioned: 'East Nashington Post carried it too, right under its masthead: "East Pakistani sources said", and without further investigation, these august newspapers printed the photo. In fact, if the Americans had read The Times of London of April 2 and Sunday Times of April 4 or talked to their British colleagues, they would have had a better idea of what was happening in Jessore. In a front-page lead article on April 2 entitled 'Mass Slaughter of Punjabis in East Bengal,' The Times war correspondent Nicholas Tomalin wrote an eye-witness account of how he and a team from the BBC programme Panorama saw Bengali troops and civilians march 11 Punjabi civilians to the market place in Jessore where they were then massacred. "Before we were forced to leave by threatening supporters of Shaikh Mujib," wrote Tomalin, "we saw another 40 Punjabi "spies" being taken towards the killing ground"

Tomalin followed up on April 4 in Sunday Times with a detailed description of the "mid-day murder" of Punjabis by Bengalis, along with two photos? one of the Punjabi civilians with their hands bound at the Jessore headquarters of the East Pakistan Rifles (a Bengal formation which had mutinied and was fighting on the side of the rebels), and another of their dead bodies lying in the square. He wrote how the Bengali perpetrators tried to deceive them and threatened them, forcing them to leave. As other accounts also testify, the Bengali "irregulars" were the only ones in central Jessore that day, as the Pakistan government forces had retired to their cantonment. Though the military action had started in Dhaka on March 25 night, most of East Pakistan was still out of the government's control. Like many other places," in Jessore at that time. Many foreign media reported the killings and counter-killings unleashed by the bloody civil war, in which the army tried to crush the Bengali rebels and Bengali nationalists murdered non-Bengali civilians.

Tomalin records the local Bengalis' claim that the government soldiers had been shooting earlier and he was shown other bodies of people allegedly killed by army firing. But the massacre of the Punjabi civilians by Bengalis was an event he witnessed himself. Tomalin was killed while covering the Yom Kippur war of 1973, but his eye-witness accounts solve the mystery of the bodies of Jessore. There were, of course, genuine Bengali civilian victims of the Pakistan army during 1971. Chandhan Sur and his infant son were killed on March 26 along with a dozen other men in Shankharipara, a Hindu area in Dhaka. The surviving members of the Sur family and other residents of Shankharipara recounted to me the dreadful events of that day. Amar, the elder son of the dead man, gave me a photo of his father and brother's bodies, which he said he had come upon at a Calcutta studio while a refugee in India. The photo shows a man's body lying on his back, clad in a lungi, with the infant near his feet.

Amar Sur's anguish about the death of his father and brother (he lost a sister in another shooting incident) at the hands of the Pakistan army is matched by his bitterness about their plight in independent Bangladesh. They may be the children of a' but their home was declared 'vested property' by the Bangladesh government, he said, in spite of documents showing that it belonged to his father. Even the Awami League support for whom had cost this Hindu locality so many lives in 1971 did nothing to redress this when they formed the government.

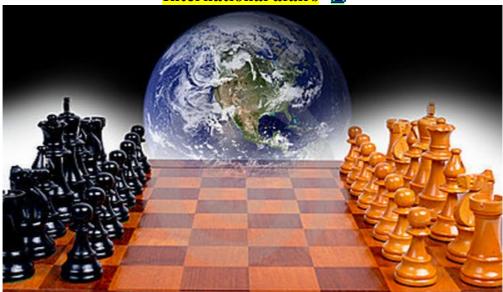
In the book 1971: documents on crimes against humanity committed by Pakistan army and their agents in Bangladesh during 1971, published by the Liberation War Museum, Dhaka, I came across the same photo of the Sur father and son's dead bodies. It is printed twice, one a close-up of the child only, with the caption: **Pakist Army'**. **Foreigners might just have mistaken the 'lungi' worn by Sur for a 'saree', but surely Bangladeshis can tell a man in a 'lungi' when they see one! And why present the same 'body' twice?**

The contradictory claims on the photos of the dead of 1971 reveal in part the difficulty of recording a messy war, but also illustrate vividly what happens when political motives corrupt the cause of justice and humanity. The political need to spin a neat story of Pakistani attackers and Bengali victims made the Bengali perpetrators of the massacre of Punjabi civilians in Jessore conceal their crime and blame the army. The New York Times and The Washington Post "bought" that story too. The media's reputation is salvaged in this case by the even-handed eye-witness reports of Tomalin in The Times and Sunday Times.

As for the hapless Chandhan Sur and his infant son, the political temptation to smear the enemy to the maximum by accusing him of raping and killing women led to Bangladeshi nationalists denying their own martyrs their rightful recognition. In both cases, the true victims Punjabis and Bengalis, Hindus and Muslims were cast aside, their suffering hijacked, by political motivations of others that victimised them a second time around.



International afairs



History Series: Episode #1- 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War Top 5 Facts 10 min Pakistan attacking Indias Air Force, Operation Trident, USA and UK links helping Pakistan. Sri Lanka helped Pakistan in 1971 by offering refueling for war planes.

Why and how Russia jumped in and pushed US and UK away https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hR29wrYnYeQ

Pakistan Army's OUTRAGEOUS Lies on 1971 War with INDIA 7 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zMYp5qo6VE

► India's Forgotten Holocaust

About the great famine of Bangladesh caused by the British colonials https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6xwl9kAmfw

• How Russia Prevented U.S. & U.K. Plan to Siege India in 1971 Bangladesh Crisis 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B9YIrw9fPk

USA and UK link to Pakistan-India politics 1971

How Russia Prevented U.S. & U.K. Plan to Siege India in 1971 Bangladesh Crisis 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B9YIrw9fPk

Footage of Liberation war of Bangladesh 1971. 10 min

USA link in it aswell

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4W8Itp5woxg

What Happened in East Pakistan (Yuri Bezmenov Former KGB Psychological Warfare Expert) 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bb fXONk2Y

143. Memorandum From the Deputy Administrator of the Agency for International Development (Williams) to Secretary of State Rogers, Washington, September 3, 1971 https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1969-76ve07/d143

https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1969-76ve07/d144

The Tilt: The U.S. and the South Asian Crisis of 1971 https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB79/

https://www.scribd.com/document/164518998/The-Tilt-The-U-S-and-the-South-Asian-Crisis-of-1971-Government-Documents-included

Gunboat diplomacy: Revisiting the Enterprise incident



https://in.rbth.com/blogs/stranger_than_fiction/2016/12/14/gunboat-diplomacy-revisiting-the-enterprise-incident_657434

14 December 2016 RAKESH KRISHNAN SIMHA

Exactly 45 years ago the US despatched a powerful naval task force into the Bay of Bengal to prevent India from overrunning Pakistan. While a military threat was implied, there is some evidence that the American political leadership contemplated a nuclear strike on India. This is an analysis of that incident, which led to a dangerous standoff with a nuclear armed Russian fleet.

Sweeping mines, salvaging looted gold after the 1971 War 1971 War: How Russia sank Nixon's gunboat diplomacy Toasting legacy of 1971 Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty

During the 1971 War, as the Indian Army launched its blitzkrieg into East Pakistan – present day Bangladesh – US President Richard Nixon had a terrible idea. Under the pretext of evacuating American citizens from the warzone, Nixon ordered the US Seventh Fleet's Task Force 74, led by the nuclear powered aircraft carrier Enterprise, to proceed towards the Bay of Bengal. He was spurred on by Henry Kissinger, his National Security Advisor.

Nixon's rash move – which became America's greatest PR disaster in India – was dictated by the condition of the Pakistani military, which was taking a hammering in East Pakistan. More than 100,000 Pakistani soldiers were trapped between the Bay of Bengal and the rampaging Indian Army. Of these 97,000 would soon surrender, making it the largest capitulation since World War II.

The Indian Army had not yet made any major attacks in the western sector, but a CIA mole in Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's cabinet had leaked her plan to bomb Pakistani military capability into the Stone Age. Hassan Abbas writes in 'Pakistan's Drift into Extremism' that "India's plans possibly included the final destruction of the country, as a CIA report had indicated".

Nixon – who was working to achieve a diplomatic breakthrough in China, with Pakistan acting as the middleman – asked Beijing to mobilise troops on the Indian border. He even contemplated "lobbing nuclear weapons" at the Russians if they retaliated by going to war with China. But as Moscow had moved its crack army divisions to the Chinese border, Beijing decided it was not going to sacrifice itself at Nixon's bidding. At any rate China considered East Pakistan a lost cause.

Veto No.100: How Russia blocked the West on Kashmir

A livid Nixon stressed he would not allow India to break up Pakistan's core territories in the west. He warned the Indian ambassador L.K. Jha in Washington: "If the Indians continue their military operations (against West Pakistan), we must inevitably look toward a confrontation between the USSR and the US. The Soviet Union has a treaty with India; we have one with Pakistan." Not satisfied with the envoy's reply, Nixon ordered the USS Enterprise into the Bay of Bengal.

Enterprise steams towards India

Former Indian Navy Commander Raghavendra Mishra, a research fellow at the New Delhibased National Maritime Foundation writes in a paper titled 'Revisiting the 1971 USS Enterprise Incident' that the nuclear powered, nuclear capable carrier's entry was an instance of gunboat diplomacy.

In the paper, published by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, he writes: "A broad plan of action emerged which included cutting off economic aid to India, and transfer of military equipment from other US regional allies to West Pakistan. These were to be supported by a possible naval deployment and a simultaneous move by the Chinese military along the border. The aim was to put pressure on the Soviet Union which, in turn, would prevail upon India from expanding the conflict. Nixon directed Kissinger to explore the option of US naval deployment with Chinese representatives before taking a final decision."

The first mention of an aircraft carrier deployment comes up in Kissinger's memorandum to Nixon on December 8, 1971. That was the night when the Indian Navy had made a bonfire of Karachi, with its second successive missile strike on coastal installations. The Pakistani port had been burning since December 4 after being hit by the Indian Navy's Russian missile boats. These strikes in the west plus news about the collapse of the Pakistan Army in the east had greatly upset the Nixon-Kissinger duo.

Kissinger suggested that Nixon should direct the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – the highest-ranking and senior most military officer in the United States armed forces – to move naval Task Force 74, then deployed in the South East Asian theatre, to the Bay of Bengal immediately via the Singapore Straits under the pretext of "prudent contingency measures".

On December 9, Nixon wanted the US and China to jointly move against India. That same day, during his meeting with the Chinese delegation led by Huang Hua, China's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Ambassador to Canada (as the US did not have diplomatic relations with China), Kissinger apprised his counterpart about the US naval task force move through a map showing the deployment of the US and Soviet forces.

Mishra writes: "Kissinger agreed the Pakistani military had collapsed in the East and the same was anticipated within two weeks in the West. Emphasising the importance of West Pakistan's continued existence for regional dynamics, Kissinger sought military moves by China along the border to restrain India and the Soviet Union. Huang Hua, while expressing solidarity for the common cause, made no formal commitment, stating that he would convey the US proposal for consideration of Beijing."

By December 11 the carrier Task Force 74 led by the Enterprise was moving as scheduled and the first media reports about its possible deployment in the Bay of Bengal had started circulating in India.

On the same day, a major development took place. Around 4.00pm, an Indian parachute brigade was dropped at Tangail and the race for Dhaka had begun. With the Pakistani military and political leadership in panic mode, Kissinger informed Pakistani Foreign Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto that Task Force 74 would be crossing the Straits of Malacca by December 12-13.

War in the east

A week into the war, it was clear the Pakistan Army in the East was about to capitulate. The Americans also realised to their dismay that China was not prepared to move even a column of trucks on the Himalayan border.

Overcame by his hatred, the reckless Nixon was even prepared to sacrifice the concept of détente that would soon be the cornerstone of US-Russia ties. He asked Kissinger to inform the Russians about the increasing probability of a major war involving both the superpowers. Moscow was told that its continued backing of New Delhi would endanger the planned strategic arms reduction talks.

It is unclear if Nixon's threat worked or whether the Russian leadership was unduly sensitive about global opinion, but soon Russian ambassadorial staff informed Kissinger that a delegation from Moscow had arrived in New Delhi for consultations, and that India had agreed not to expand its military operations in the Western theatre.

During his meeting with Chou En-Lai in Beiing in February 1972, Nixon had said that in the early stages of the conflict the Russians "were doing nothing to discourage India in its actions against Pakistan. It was only after we made a very strong stand – I personally intervened with (Russian President Leonid) Brezhnev, and Dr Kissinger made a statement that was widely quoted in this respect – they took a more reasonable attitude and a more moderate position in the United Nations."

Commander Mishra adds: "At this stage, the US administration possessed reasonable proof that West Pakistan would not be attacked by India. However, in a meeting attended by senior state and defence department officials, Kissinger decided to go ahead with the naval deployment, which was expected to traverse the Straits of Malacca in the evening and could arrive off East Bangladesh on the morning of December 16."

On December 13, Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, General Raza, requested the US Seventh Fleet deployment in the Bay of Bengal as well as in the North Arabian Sea to deter further attacks by the Indian Navy. This proposal was repeated by the President of Pakistan to Nixon, stating: "The Seventh Fleet does not only have to come to our shores but also to relieve certain pressures which (we are) not in a position to cope with. (We) have sent a specific proposal...about the role the Seventh Fleet could play at Karachi which, I hope, is receiving your attention."

(This excerpt from the conversation between Nixon and his assistants is from December 15, 1971, 8:45-11:30 am.)

Kissinger: The Russians came in yesterday giving us their own guarantee that there would be no attack on West Pakistan.

Nixon: A letter from Brezhnev.

Kissinger: An addition – an explanation of the letter to – of Brezhnev saying, they, the Soviet Union, "guarantees there will be no military action against West Pakistan". So we are home, now it's done. It's just a question what legal way we choose.

Nixon: Well, what the UN does is really irrelevant.

Kissinger: Well, it'd be, the ******* (he's referring to the Indians), of course, have broken promises before. It'd be better to have it on public record. We might be able to do it in an exchange of letters between Brezhnev and you. That is made public, in which you say you express your concern, and he says he wants to assure you.

Nixon: Well, what does that do now to the Chinese?

Kissinger: Oh, the Chinese would be thrilled if West Pakistan were guaranteed.

Nuclear standoff: Enter the Russian Navy

Based on an Indian intercept of US communications, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) prepared a six-page note, which said: "The assessment of our embassy reveals that the decision to brand India as an 'aggressor' and to send the 7th Fleet to the Bay of Bengal was taken personally by Nixon."

1971 War: How Russia sank Nixon's gunboat diplomacy

The MEA felt that "the bomber force aboard the Enterprise had the US President's authority to undertake bombing of Indian Army's communications, if necessary".

Following this assessment, India secretly activated a provision in the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty, according to which either party would come to the defence of the other. A Russian naval task force from the Pacific Fleet based in Vladivostok, consisting of a cruiser, a destroyer and two attack submarines under the command of Admiral Vladimir Kruglyakov intercepted Task Force 74.

Sebastien Roblin writes in War is Boring that Kruglyakov revealed in a Russian TV interview about "encircling" the task force, surfacing his submarines in front of the Enterprise, opening the missile tubes and "blocking" the American ships.

Mishra notes: "The Soviet Indian Ocean naval component also got a lucky break with three of their ships near the Straits of Malacca, on their return passage to their Pacific homeport when the information about the possible US naval deployment to the Indian Ocean became general knowledge. These were retained and reinforced by two further task groups that arrived in the Indian Ocean on December 18 and 26. These Soviet naval assets continued to shadow the TF 74 off Sri Lanka until its return passage to the Pacific theatre on January 8, 1972."

In addition, 12 other Soviet naval ships were present in the Indian Ocean. However, none of these Russian vessels were in the vicinity or heading for the Bay of Bengal or North Arabian Sea, where the Indian Navy was continuing with its operations.

It is an indication of how serious the Russians were about defending India that Moscow started despatching naval detachments from across the globe to Indian waters. Kissinger referred to unconfirmed reports about Soviet Mediterranean Fleet units being directed to the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal, but these warships were unlikely to arrive in time.

The reason Russia was able to quickly direct all this heavy naval firepower into the warzone was the Soviet Navy had rapidly grown into an impressive blue water force under Admiral of the Fleet Sergei Gorshkov.

John B. Hattendorf writes in 'US Naval Strategy in the 1970s' that the year 1970 was a seminal one as the Soviet Navy carried out the first of its OKEAN global war games that involved combined and joint forces for defensive, offensive and expeditionary operations. "The 200-ship exercise covered the four major theatres of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans as well as the Mediterranean Sea. This was also period that the majority of the US Navy was approaching en masse obsolescence. The increase in Soviet naval presence was especially notable in the Indian Ocean which far outstripped the US Navy deployments, although it is qualified that most of these deployments were in the North and South-West Indian Oceans."

With such massive forces at its disposal, the Russian military forces were confident of repelling any American adventurism. Mishra says the Russian ambassador to India had dismissed the possibilities of the US or China intervening by emphasising that the Russian fleet was also in the Indian Ocean and would not allow the Seventh Fleet to interfere; and if China moved in Ladakh, Russia would respond in Xinjiang. As Nixon raged in the White House, a million Russian troops were stationed on the Chinese border.

At this point, Task Force 74 was east off Sri Lanka and this naval deployment had generated considerable anti-US feeling in India. Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh said that if the US invaded, the Indians would trap the Americans in a disaster greater than Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani media was still publishing speculative reports about a possible naval intervention.

Nuclear threat: Real or imagined?, Ties with Pakistan not against India

There are military experts – both Indian and foreign – who deny the US had plans to launch military attacks, let alone a nuclear strike, on India. However, before second guessing Nixon's intentions, let's look at the components of Task Force 74.

Commander Mishra lists the following:

- 1 Nuclear powered strike carrier USS Enterprise, 90 aircraft
- 4 Gearing class destroyers
- 3 Missile destroyers
- 2 Amphibious assault ships with 2000 Marines
- 1 Nitro class ammunition ship
- 1. Replenishment oiler
- 1 Nuclear attack submarine (SSN)

There are several reasons pointing to the seriousness of the threat. One, the availability of such potent assets was itself a temptation for the use of force by proto-neocons like Nixon and Kissinger.

Secondly, both Kissinger and Nixon were consumed by an intolerable hatred of India. Ironically, while Nixon was personally fond of Pakistani President Yahya Khan, who had massacred 3 million of his own Bengali citizens, the US President referred to Indians as "slippery, treacherous people". Of Indira Gandhi, he was recorded as saying, "The old bitch. I don't know why the hell anybody would reproduce in that damn country, but they do."

Kissinger liked Yahya as he had been the intermediary who had helped the Americans reach out to China. It was clearly a role the Pakistani dictator relished. "Yahya hasn't had such fun since the last Hindu massacre!" Kissinger remarked.

Thirdly, Nixon and Kissinger were mired in the Vietnam War which was proving to be a meat grinder for Americans troops. Massive US strategic bombing hadn't broken the spirit of the Vietnamese but had in fact steeled their resolve to hit back harder. Because of this, Nixon's popularity had plummeted at home. India had backed a number of UN resolutions condemning the US bombing of Vietnam, and Nixon was looking for a way to pay New Delhi back.

However, the biggest factor was China. Nixon knew that only a breakthrough in Beijing would salvage his presidency and rescue him from the proverbial dustbin. He was, therefore, prepared to bet the farm on this one factor. Besides, in his view, the humiliation of an American ally by a Russian ally would send the wrong signals to the rest of the world.

To get an idea of Nixon's intent in despatching the Enterprise, see this still partly censored excerpt from the Nixon-Chou meeting.

Nixon: "In December when the situation was getting very sensitive in the subcontinent – I'm using understatement – I was prepared..... (Sanitised)." Since Nixon was by all standards a crook and a braggart, he may have well said he was prepared to nuke India.

(During their December 15 conversation in Washington DC, Nixon and Kissinger had given plenty of indication of their desperate intent. Having received a guarantee from Brezhnev that the Indian Army won't advance into West Pakistan, the US duo is in a triumphant mood.)

Nixon: How do you do it?

Kissinger: It's a miracle.

Nixon: How do you get the formalisation of letters between Brezhnev and me [unclear].

Kissinger: It's an absolute miracle, Mr President.

Nixon: Did you try to work that out? That we – I'd like to do it in a certain way that pisses on the Indians without, you know what I mean? I mean, we can't [unclear] we have an understanding, an understanding with West Pakistan. Well, I don't know. If you think it's a good idea. I – don't ask me.

Kissinger: No, I think it's a good idea. But we have – I have this whole file of intelligence reports, which makes it unmistakably clear that the Indian strategy was –

Nixon: To knock – oh, sure.

Kissinger: – to knock over West Pakistan.

Nixon: Over the line of control here. Most people were ready to stand by and let her do it, bombing Calcutta [sic] and all.

Kissinger: They really are ******.

Nixon: The son-of-a-bitch [unclear] –

Kissinger: Now, after this is over we ought to do something about that goddamned Indian Ambassador here going on television every day –

Nixon: He's really something.

Kissinger: – attacking American policy. And –

Nixon: Why haven't we done something already?

Kissinger: And I – I'd like to call State (Department) to call him in. He says he has unmistakable proof that we are planning a landing on the Bay of Bengal. Well, that's okay with me.

Nixon: Yeah, that scares them.

Kissinger: That carrier move is good. That –

Nixon: Why, hell yes. That never bothers me. I mean it's a, the point about the carrier move, we just say fine, we had a majority. And we've got to be there for the purpose of their moving there. Look, these people are savages.

Kissinger: Mr President, an aggregate –

Nixon:we cannot, the United Nations cannot survive and we cannot have a stable world if we allow one member of the United Nations to cannibalise another. Cannibalise, that's the word. I should have thought of it earlier. You see, that really puts it to the Indians. It has, the connotation is savages. To cannibalise –

Gunboat diplomacy

The Enterprise incident reinforced the image of the "Ugly American" in Indian minds. The political leadership became intensely anti-US too. The incident is reminiscent of the behaviour of former colonial powers.

War of attrition: How the outgunned IAF beat the PAF

Commander Mishra wonders whether the US could have gained much more by doing nothing. "Considering the international milieu where its stock was low by the Vietnam overhang, the emergence of a technologically improved and numerically robust Soviet Navy under Admiral Gorshkov, and the necessity of sending a reassuring signal to its allies, mandated some visible proof. The naval deployment was a gesture of solidarity for a formal ally (Pakistan) and an indicator to a future partner (China), that the US could be relied upon to abide by its formal commitments."

At the same time, the incident highlights the impotence of US sea power against the gains made by a determined India on the ground. "Another takeaway from 1971 is that 'strategic punditry is no substitute for tactical aggressiveness' and, hence the importance of professional skill sets," Mishra notes. "The importance of a cogent national/military strategy is paramount; nevertheless, it needs to be complemented in equal measure by decisive force application at operational and tactical levels."

Strategic spinoffs

The 1971 War had several strategic lessons – especially in the area of sea power – for India. The brilliant performance of the Indian Navy in setting ablaze Karachi led to a sea change in the political leadership's thinking regarding sea power. The navy had hit Karachi not once but twice. A third strike to completely obliterate the port didn't happen as the war ended too quickly.

Task Force 74's menacing move convinced India about the need to have assets at sea to counter a threat of this nature. Observing how effectively the Russian subs had enforced a naval blockade and stopped the American fleet, India's political leadership quietly gave the green light to the nuclear submarine project.

There were other valuable spinoffs from the war. Not only did it change the political geography of South Asia with the creation of Bangladesh, but according to Mishra, it gave a jolt to the supremacist psyche harboured by the Pakistan military vis-à-vis the Indian armed forces.

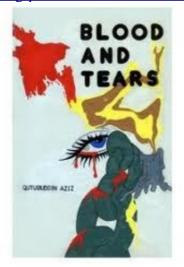
Naval operations

The Bangladesh naval forces took shape in July. Operation Jackpot was launched by the Bangladesh Forces on 15 August 1971. Bangladesh Navy commandos sunk vessels of the Pakistan Navy in Mongla, Chittagong, Chandpur and Narayanganj.[57][58][59][60] The operation was a major propaganda success for Bangladeshi forces, as it exposed to the international community the fragile hold of the West Pakistani occupation.[61] The Bangladesh Navy commandos targeted patrol craft and ships carrying ammunition and commodities. With Indian aid, the Mukti Bahini acquired two vessels, the Padma and Palash, which were retrofitted into gunboats with mine-laying capabilities. The boat crews extensively mined the Passur River in the Sundarbans, reducing the ability of Pakistani forces to operate from the Port of Mongla but were mistakenly bombed by Indian Air Force troops that resulted in the loss of both vessels and some of the lives of the Mukti Bahini and Indian personnel on board.[62] The developing Bangladesh Navy carried out attacks on ships and used sea mines to prevent supply ships from docking in East Pakistani ports. Frogmen were deployed to damage and sabotage ships.[63]

In Western Pakistan, Indian forces advanced deep into Pakistani territory as the <u>Port of Karachi</u> was subjected to a <u>naval blockade</u> by the Indian Navy. Pakistani generals <u>surrendered</u> to the Mukti Bahini-Indian forces in Dhaka on 16 December 1971.[76]

Blood and tears' by Outubuddin Aziz - Why did we lose East Pakistan?

http://khilafat-e-rashidah-pakistan.blogspot.nl/2013/04/blood-and-tears-by-qutubuddin-aziz-why.html



Read about the reality of the fall of Dhaka in 1971 and role of India in dismemberment of Pakistan, a story of 'Blood and tears' by Qutubuddin Aziz

Excerpts from "Blood and Tears" by Qutubuddin Aziz



Typical of the open-air, human abattoirs operated by the Awami League-led rebels in East Pakistan in 1971 is this photograph of multiple-executions done by a Mukti-Bahini killer squad in Dacca Race Course. The pro-Pakistan Bengali and non-Bengali victims were tortured before being slain Looking at the tragic events of March 1971 in retrospect, I must confess that even I, although my press service commanded a sizeable network of district correspondents in the interior of East Pakistan, was not fully aware of the scale, ferocity and dimension of the province-wide massacre of the non-Banglis.

I must stress, with all the force and sincerity at my command, that this bock is not intended to be a racist indictment of the Bengalis as a nation. In writing and publishing this book, I am not motivated by any revanchist obsession or a wish to condemn my erstwhile Bengali compatriots as a nation. Just as it is stupid to condemn the great German people for the sins of the Nazis, it would be foolish to blame the Bengali people as a whole for the dark deeds of the Awami League militants and their accomplices.

I have incorporated in this book the acts of heroism and courage of those brave and patriotic Bengalis who sheltered and protected, at great peril to themselves, their terror-stricken non-Bengali friends and neighbours. On the basis of the heaps of eye-witness accounts, which I have carefully read, sifted and analysed, I do make bold to say that the vast majority of Bengalis disapproved of and was not a party to the barbaric atrocities inflicted on the hapless non-Bengalis by the Awami League's terror machine and the Frankensteins and vampires it unloosed. This silent majority, it seemed, was awed, immobilised and neutralised by the terrifying power, weapons and ruthlessness of a misguided minority hell-bent on accomplishing the secession of East Pakistan.

The sheaves of eye-witness accounts, documented in this book, prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the massacre of West Pakistanis, Biharis and other non-Bengalis in East Pakistan had begun long before the Pakistan Army took punitive action against the rebels late in the night of March 25, 1971. It is also crystal clear that the Awami League's terror machine was the initiator and executor of the genocide against the non-Bengalis which exterminated at least half a million of them in less than two months of horror and trauma. Many witnesses have opined that the federal Government acted a bit too late against the insurgents. The initial success of the federal military action is proved by the fact that in barely 30 days, the Pakistan Army, with a combat strength of 38,717 officers and men in East Pakistan, had squelched the Awami League's March-April, 1971, rebellion all over the province.

The hundreds of eye-witnesses from towns and cities of East Pakistan, whose testimonies are documented in this book, are unanimous in reporting that the slaughter of West Pakistanis, Biharis, and other non-Bangalis and of some pro-Pakistan Bengalis had begun in the early days of the murderous month of March 1971.



Looking at the tragic events of March 1971 in retrospect, I must confess that even I, although my press service commanded a sizeable network of district correspondents in the interior of East Pakistan, was not fully aware of the scale, ferocity and dimension of the province-wide massacre of the non-Banglis.

A scene of Mukti Bahini mass murder of Biharis in Dacca on December 18, 1971. A rebel soldier lifts his boot to strike a bleeding bayoneted boy who showed signs of life. Dead bodies of other slain non-Bengalis lie in the foreground.

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The 170 eye-witnesses, whose testimonies or interviews are contained in this book in abridged form have been chosen from a universe of more than 5,000 repatriated non-Bengali families. I had identified, after some considerable research, 55 towns and cities in East Pakistan where the abridgement of the non-Bengali population in March and early April 1971 was conspicuously heavy.

The collection and compilation of these eye-witness accounts was started in January 1974 and completed in twelve weeks. A team of four reporters, commissioned for interviewing the witnesses from all these 55 towns and cities of East Pakistan, worked with intense devotion to secure their testimony. Many of the interviews were prolonged because the Witnesses broke down in a flurry of sobs and tears as they related the agonising stories of their wrecked lives. I had issued in February 1974 an appeal in the newspapers for such eye-witness accounts, and I am grateful to the many hundreds of witnesses who promptly responded to my call.

I am the lone survivor of a group of ten Pathans who were employed as Security Guards by the Delta Construction Company in the Mohakhali locality in Dacca; all the others were slaughtered by the Bengali rebels in the night of March 25, 1971", said 40-year-old Bacha Khan.

I heard the screams of an Urdu-speaking girl who was being ravished by her Bengali captors but I was so scared that I did not have the courage to emerge from hiding" said a 24-year-old Zahid Abdi, who was employed in a trading firm in Dacca. He escaped the slaughter of the non-Bengalis in the crowded New Market locality of Dacca on March 23, 1971 and was sheltered by a God-fearing Bengali in his shop. The killers raped their non-Bengali teenage victim at the back of the shop and later on slayed her.

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A copy of the ads and the forms used for soliciting testimony from the victims.

"My only daughter has been insane since she was forced by her savage tormentors to watch the brutal murder of her husband", said Mukhtar Ahmed Khan, 43, while giving an account of his suffering during the Ides of March 1971 in Dacca...."In the third week of March 1971, a gang of armed Bengali rebels raided house of my son-in-law and overpowered him. He was a courageous Youngman and he resisted the attackers. My daughter also resisted the attackers but they were far too many and they were well armed. They tied up my son-in-law and my daughter with ropes and they forced her to watch as they slit the throat of her husband and ripped his stomach open in the style of butchers. She fainted and lost consciousness. Since that dreadful day she has been mentally ill."

Shamim Akhtar, 28, whose husband was employed as a clerk in the Railway office in Dacca, lived in a small house in the Mirpur locality there. She described her tragedy in these words:

"On December 17, 1971, the Mukti Bahini cut off the water supply to our homes. We used to get water from a nearby pond; it was polluted and had a bad odour. I was nine months pregnant. On December 23, 1971, I gave birth to a baby girl. No midwife was available and my husband helped me at child birth. Late at night, a gang of armed Bengalis raided our house, grabbed my husband and trucked him away. I begged them in the name of God to spare him as I could not even walk and my children were too small. The killers were heartless and I learnt that they murdered my husband. After five days, they returned and ordered me and my children to vacate the house as they claimed that it was now their property."

Zaibunnissa Haq, 30, whose journalist husband, Izhar-ul-Haque, worked as a columnist in the Daily Watan in Dacca, gave this account of her travail in 1971:

....On December 21, a posse of Mukti Bahini soldiers and some thugs rode into our locality with blazing guns and ordered us to leave our house as, according to them, no Bihari could own a house in Bangladesh. For two days, we lived on bare earth in an open space and we had nothing to eat. Subsequently, we were taken to a Relief Camp by the Red Cross.

In Pubail and Tangibari, the Awami League militants and their rebel confederates murdered dozens of affluent Biharis. Shops owned by the Biharis were favourite target of attack.



As the victim did not die in a single bayonet strike, another Mukti-Bahini killer plunged his bayonet in to the writhing Bihari's chest. Dead bodies of Bihari and Bengali victims lie strewn over the execution ground as Mukti-Bahini killers and their accomplices watch the butchery with sadist pleasure.

"Four armed thugs dragged two captive non-Bengali teenage girls into an empty bus and violated their chastity before gunning them to death", said Gulzar Hussain, 38, who witnessed the massacre of 22 non-Bengali men, women and children on March 21, 1971, close to a bus stand in Narayangang. Repatriated to Karachi in November 1973, Gulzar Hussain reported: "....On March 21, our Dacca-bound bus was stopped on the way, soon after it left the heart of the city. I was seated in the front portion of the bus and I saw that the killer gang had guns, scythes and daggers. The gunmen raised 'Joi Bangla' and anti-Pakistan slogans. The bus driver obeyed their signal to stop and the thugs motioned to the passengers to get down. A jingo barked out the order that Bengalis and non-Bengalis should fall into separate lines. As I spoke Bengali with a perfect Dacca accent and could easily pass for a Bengali, I joined the Bengali group of passengers. The killer gang asked us to utter a few sentences in Bengali which we did. I passed the test and our tormentors instructed the Bengalis to scatter. The thugs then gunned all the male non-Bengalis. It was a horrible scene. Four of the gunnen took for their loot two young non-Bengali women and raped them inside the empty bus. After they had ravished the girls, the killers shot them and half a dozen other women and children."

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A Bihari victim grabbed by Mukti-Bahini killers, begging for mercy.

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Nasima Khatoon, 25, lived in a rented house in the Pancho Boti locality in Narayanganj. Her husband, Mohammad Qamrul Hasan, was employed in a Vegetable Oil manufacturing factory. Repatriated to Karachi in January 1974, along with her 4-year-old orphaned daughter, from a Red Cross Camp in Dacca, Nasima gave this hair-raising account of her travail in 1971:



The uniformed killer puffing the cigarette to singe the eyes of the terrified prey. Eye gouging and burning the skin of victims was a favourite torture method of the rebels.

"At gun point, our captors made us leave our house and marched us to an open square where more than 500 non—Bengali old men, women and children were detained. Some 50 Bengali gunmen led us through swampy ground towards a deserted school building. On the way, the 3-year-old child of a hapless captive woman died in her arms. She asked her captors to allow her to dig a small grave and bury the child. The tough man in the lead snorted a sharp 'NO', snatched the body of the dead child from her wailing mother and tossed it into the river"

The Awami League's rebellion of March 1971 took the heaviest toll of non-Bengali lives in the populous port city of Chittagong. Although the Government of Pakistan's White Paper of August 1971 on the East Pakistan crisis estimated the non-Bengali death toll in Chittagong and its neighbouring townships during the Awami League's insurrection to be a little under 15,000, the testimony of hundreds of eye-witnesses interviewed for this book gives the impression that more than 50,000 non-Bengalis perished in the March 1971 carnage. Thousands of dead bodies were flung into the Karnaphuli river and the Bay of Bengal.

Savage killings also took place in the Halishahar, Kalurghat and Pahartali localities where the Bengali rebel soldiers poured petrol and kerosine oil around entire blocks, igniting them with flame-throwers and petrol-soaked jute balls, then mowed down the non-Bengali innocents trying to escape the cordons of fire. In the wanton slaughter in the last week of March and early April, 1971, some 40,000 non-Bengalis perished in Chittagong and its neighbourhood. The exact death toll, which could possibly be much more will never be known because of the practice of burning dead bodies or dumping them in the river and the sea.

Hotel InterContinental

Memories abound as Inter Continental returns to Bangladesh



http://www.observerbd.com/2014/10/03/46973.php



The hotel - then the best in Dhaka - stands witness to the horrors of 1971 during and before the war, perpetrated by the Pakistani occupation army and their local collaborators Jamaat-e-Islami, Razakar and Al-Badr militants carrying out a genocide in the then East Pakistan, home to 7.5 million Bengalis. Many would find the return of InterContinental Hotel like a "drop of dew on their moistened memories." For who had not seen the horrors of the war, the InterContinental would bring along a bit of history and make their minds revolve around our glorious, bloody past.

From windows of the hotel, guests might have often witnessed with awe bodies of Bengalis killed by the Pakistani army and their collaborators being buried in mass graves in the bush or under trees at the lush green Ramna Park. The bodies were later exhumed and removed after the war was over. The hotel management went to the Sheraton in 1983 and then to Ruposhi Bangla. Again, the InterContinental is returning to Bangladesh. Nicely located beside the Ramna Park, the hotel was strategically close to what was before 1971 the President's House (known as "Ganobhaban" and "Sugandha" state guest house in early post-independence years, and now Foreign Office Training Academy).

The InterContinental on the eve of, during and in the immediate aftermath of the 1971 war was not just a hotel - it became a part of the history by sheltering those who penned down every minute change of events and reached them to the world at large - setting the perfect mode of the war across the globe till East Pakistan emerged as independent Bangladesh at the cost of millions of lives. The hotel had seen particularly hectic media overtures on March 24, the day before the Pakistani army lauchhed one of history's worst crackdowns on the then provincial capital Dhaka.

The military authorities ordered a ban on anyone staying in the InterContinental not to leave the hotel. The exited and also afraid guests however saw the army's attack on the office of the Daily People, a popular English newspaper, on a building across the street, close to the hotel. Through the windows of their rooms, nearly 50 journalists from the international media watched the horrors of March 25 night. Very early next morning, the military herded all the journalists into an Air Force bus, drove them to the airport and put them on a plane out of Dhaka.

But, a Daily Telegraph reporter Simon Dring and a photographer of American news agency AP managed to stay put by hiding under their beds. It is also said that Simon later dressed like a kitchen staff in the hotel and kept sending reports to his newspaper in London. Meanwhile, in the evening before the crackdown, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutoo, who temporarily sheltered in the InterContinental after talks between him, Yahya Khan and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman broke down - had also feft Dhaka quickly after Yahya Khan. East Pakistan was in flames while Mujib's followers fanned out across the country preparing to challenge the occupation army.

On reaching Karachi, a relieved Bhutto had reportedly said "Thank God, Pakistan has been saved." Simon Dring - almost at the same time -- dispatched his first report, saying "Pakistan has been finished."

During the war of liberation, the InterContinental Hotel was the "safe home" for local and foreign dignitaries - diplomats and journalists especially - who stayed, operated and parleyed in there. Even Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had once met West Pakistan leader and head of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) M Z A Bhutto in the InterContinental Hotel before the Pakistani military launched history's most fearsome and heinous attack on the unarmed people of East Pakistan on the midnight of March 25, 1971, that finally led to the emergence of independent Bangladesh. Bhutto and the then Pakistan military ruler General Yahya Khan conspired to deny Bangabandhu's Awami League power despite AL had massively won election in 1970 - winning majority of seats in Pakistan federal parliament.

After the bloody crackdown by Pakistani occupation army, InterContinental Hotel then turned into temporary operational headquarters of the United Nations in Dhaka and housed all international media including BBC, Reuters, AP and AFP as well as diplomats as it was declared a "safe zone" in the war torn country. It was spared from Pakistani military brutality as per international agreement. News reporters from every corner of the globe coming to cover the war resided in the Intrer Continental, like BBC's Mark Tally whose name has been part of memory of this hotel and of the liberation war. They, along with many others, kept the world updated with latest news of the war round the clock and exposed the unprecedented brutality and genocide perpetrated by the Pakistani military on the Bengalis.

At that time this hotel was the centre of reliable information on the war especially from the battle fronts. While prominent officials gathered at the hotel lobby for sharing information, ordinary people braving the Pakistani army cordon and security net, used to gather on the pavements across the roads overlooking InterContinental waiting for news from the war fields.

InterContinental Hotel remained as an iconic safe site since March 25, 1971, when the barbaric attacks on Bengalis started and stayed so till the war won on December 16 that year - and Bangladesh became an independent sovereign country. The nine months bloody war of liberation led at the call of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman came to an end when the Pakistan occupation army surrendered on the 16th December at the Suhrawardy Uddyan, also close to the InterContinental Hotel.

Pakistan Expects Bengali Attacks, By Malcolm W. Browneaug. 14, 1971 http://www.nytimes.com/1971/08/14/archives/pakistan-expects-bengali-attacks-army-prepares-for-violence-on.html

KARACHI, Pakistan, Aug. 13 — Pakistan's armed forces and police prepared tonight for a threatened wave of attacks by Bengali guerrillas on the 24th anniversary of the independence of Pakistan and India from Britain, which is on Sunday. While the danger appeared most acute in East Pakistan, where guerrilla bombing has reached major dimensions, trouble and violence In West Pakistan are also feared. Elaborate security precautions have been adopted at the Intercontinental Hotels in the West Pakistani cities of Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi.



Wednesday night a powerful bomb exploded in the Intercontinental Hotel in Dacca, capital of East Pakistan, heavily damaging the building. According to some reports five persons may have been killed and a score injured. Indian territory. Intercontinental Hotels in Pakistan, the only first-class hotels in the country, are central meeting places for high Government officials, foreign dignitaries and other important persons.

They are believed to have been selected as targets partly to impress influential foreigners with the military potential of the Bengali separatist guerrillas, known as Mukti Bahini. "Bombing an Intercontinental Hotel has more propaganda value in Pakistan than blowing up a dozen factories," one official said.

Religious meetings, Boy Scout processions, flag-raising ceremonies and other traditions are being observed for National Day. But in a speech prepared for delivery to the nation, President Agha Mohammad Yayha Khan said that Pakistan's National Day was observed under "the shadow of grave events.

"The clandestine rebel transmitter, Bangla Desh Radio, has frequently warned that a campaign of terror would be directed at the Pakistani Army during August. Bangla Desh, or Bengali Nation, is the name given by the rebels to East Pakistan, where the army moved against the provincial autononomy movement last March. The two wings of the country are separated by 1,000 miles of Americans and certain Europeans are also terrorist targets. English tea planters and factory managers in the East are threatened, and two have been kidnapped and are believed dead. Many English businessmen in the East oppose the Bengali rebels, who have led strikes and agitation against their factories.

• 11 Aug 1971 Hotel Intercontinental Bombing bangladesh

operation inter continental 1971 dhakka 3 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hodg6-7VWbE

CBGR1971 Presents: Hotel Intercontinental Bombing Aug 11 1971 Bangladesh 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UrEyhvrLF4

Ghazi Attack of 1971: Untold Story of India-Pakistan Naval War

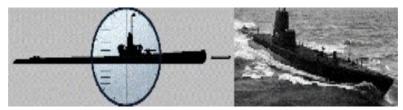
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The PNS Ghazi was the naval submarine, which was used in the naval battle of India-Pakistan Naval War of 1971 during the Bangladesh liberation war and hence popularly known as "Ghazi Attack". It was deployed in East-Pakistan shore (which is now in Bangladesh east coast) to locate INS Vikrant and to destroy the Indian Eastern Command base of Visakhapatnam.



How PNS Ghazi came into Pakistan Navy Command?

The Tench-class diesel-electric submarine i.e. USS Diablo (SS-479) was previously under the command of the USA which was leased to Pakistan in 1963 under the Security Assistance Program (SAP). Then after it was renamed into PNS Ghazi which was the first fast-attack submarine of the Pakistan Navy.

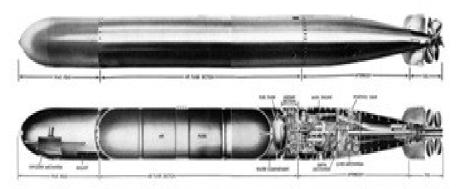


Journey of PNS Ghazi into Pakistan Naval Services

It starts serving Pakistan Navy from 1964 and deployed at Karachi coast to stalk INS Vikrant (India's only aircraft carrier). But it was deployed at Eat Pakistan shores when it's unable to locate INS Vikrant because INS transferred to Visakhapatnam coast. That forced the Pakistan Navy to deploy PNS Ghazi to the Bay of Bengal. **Top amazing facts about RAW**

Episode of Ghazi attack and the reaction Indian Naval fleets

The episode of naval war theatre commenced when Pakistan Navy attacked INS Brahmaputra from **Work War II-origin Mark 14 torpedoes**, but not impacted as they assumed while stalking INS Vikrant.



In 1971, INS Vikrant was transferred to Vishakhapatnam Coast that creates insecurity among Pakistani Naval Commander and in order to stalking INS Vikrant leads them to move Ghazi from the Arabian Sea to Bay of Bengal by sailing 3,000 miles (over 4,800km).



What Caused the Pakistani Submarine Ghazi sinking?

Indian Navy got wind of the Ghazi's presence off the Sri Lankan coast by local fisherman which was spotted by INS Akshay through oil slick. The divers of naval fleet confirmed the estimated length of submarine over 300 feet. That information stunned the Eastern Indian Naval Command because they knew that Pakistan had four submarines and only the largest one in the fleet was longer than 300 feet, i.e. Ghazi.

Hence, the Navy ordered the submarines to slip out of harbour quietly. INS Rajput (guided-missile destroyer) was released the depth charges to blow up the PNS Ghazi under the command of Lt. Cdr. (SDG) Inder Singh. On December 4 1971, Ghazi was sunk during naval strike between INS Rajput and Ghazi but the Rajput suffered a serious material concussion to its structure.

The untold story of Ghazi Attack

INS Rajput was sailed to mislead the Ghazi which was actually a suicide mission for Rajput because INS Rajput is nothing in front of Ghazi but giving as bait to Pakistan for the safety of Vikrant. Most interest and powerful weapon of Rajput was misleading the Ghazi through heavy wireless signals that makes them stronger. Thus, it was the accidental detonation of its own mines that destroyed the Ghazi and not INS Rajput's depth charges.

The sinking of Pakistani submarine PNS Ghazi with 90 men aboard in the 1971 Indo-Pak war is regarded as one of the high points of India's first-ever emphatic military victory. Today, the submarine lies embedded in the seabed of Visakhapatnam about 1.5 nautical miles from the breakwaters which is close to the harbour channel. The spot has been marked on navigational maps to help ships avoid the wreck and tell the story of India's naval glory.

What is Surgical Strike or Covert Operation?

Global response to our War of Liberation



http://archive.thedailystar.net/suppliments/2009/december/victorydayspecial/page04.htm

Muhammad Zamir

The War of Liberation of 1971 was fought not only by the brave Mukti Bahini within Bangladesh but also ably supported through the coverage it received in the international print and electronic media. Journalists brought home to the people of the world the story of the trials and sacrifices of the heroic people of Bangladesh, and the tribulations they were facing under the insensitive and brutal military administration of the occupying armed forces of Pakistan.

The first chapter of this international coverage had gained momentum from the end of December 1970 and continued through till the crackdown initiated past midnight of 25 March and into the early hours of 26th March 1971. The genocide that started at that time and continued till the surrender of the vanquished Pakistani forces on 16 December 1971 was monitored with courage by individual reporters at the beginning and then received detailed coverage as cover stories in different international publications as events unfolded over the next nine months. The international response in the media in turn drew the attention of political leaders all over the world, motivated public opinion and led to editorial comments in diverse newspapers. It also influenced in some cases discussion within parliaments and elected bodies..

It sustained interest and sympathy and gave rise to concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation that gradually exacerbated over the months of 1971. It was also this anxiety that subsequently helped in the raising of funds for providing relief and rehabilitation to the millions of destitute refugees who returned from their sanctuary in India to the vast rural hinterland of Bangladesh after the war. Media interest also helped to generate resources for re-building the destroyed infrastructure within the country after our independence. So, I have no hesitation in acknowledging that the international media played an instrumental role both during 1971 and then later during the critical post-war period. In this article I shall refer to a few journalists who helped to prevent the cover-up of a humanitarian crime and drew the attention of the world to the genocide committed by the occupying Pakistani armed forces. This lent perspective to the valiant Mukti Bahini as they fought to secure independence with their meager resources.

The first major expose of what had happened in the early hours of 26 March was done by Simon Dring, the young 'Daily Telegraph' reporter from London. He had flown into Dhaka on 6 March to cover the growing political tension and then eluded Pakistani search parties (that were entrusted with the task of expelling foreign correspondents). He managed to stay on and presented to the outside world his first-hand account of the fighting that had broken out in the stricken state. He left Dhaka on the weekend after 26 March and filed a special report on the sudden mass crackdown in Dhaka.. He was the first to point out on 30 March 1971 that more than 7,000 Bengalis had been slaughtered in Dhaka over 48 hours. It was also clear from his article that the army had struck without warning, under the cover of darkness-and that these factors were responsible for enormous casualties.

The horror of the military action was given in detail but Dring made no mistake in his assumption. He wrote that the people of the then East Pakistan, after this heinous massacre, would not react quickly and that "it will take more than a generation before they live down the fear instilled in their minds" by the tragedy. Later events were to prove him wrong.

Dring's report was followed by an article on 3 April 1971 in the conservative British weekly 'The Economist.' True to form, it highlighted the events, cautiously discussed the probability of a guerilla warfare response from affected Bengalis and also speculated what might be the reaction of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. In this context, the magazine harped on the possibility of Indira Gandhi being careful of any emerging long-term nexus between East and West Bengal.

It also interestingly stated that 'if Maoist propaganda came to replace Hindu-Muslim mistrust, it could lay the foundations of a united Bengal, independent of India.' In addition, it pointed out that Beijing was now confronted with the difficult choice between national and ideological interests.

Then came the 'Newsweek' cover story issue of April 5 1971.'For the first time there was acknowledgement that the 'complex' Bengali was different from others in India and Pakistan. As an entity, Bengalis were also identified as being dissimilar 'culturally, ethnically, linguistically and spiritually' (more humanistic and secular in approach). The interned Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was also acclaimed as a 'poet of politics.'

On the same date, 'Time' magazine also carried a story entitled 'Pakistan: Toppling over the brink." It observed that 'the rupture in Pakistan stemmed from the country's first experiment with true democracy.'

They were right because the thirteen years preceding 1971 had been marked by military dictatorships and 'guided democracy' of various kinds. The article also hinted that the people of Bangladesh had displayed 'fighting spirit' in the past and were likely to undertake a freedom struggle in the future.

Colin Smith the first British journalist to reach Dhaka after the crackdown then sent his dispatch from Calcutta on 17 April to 'The Observer'. In that article he detailed how the second phase -- 'a classic guerilla operation' was slowly emerging within the occupied country and that the Pakistani army was adding a communal touch to their efforts - where men were being checked whether they had been circumcised and women and girls were being asked to recite passages from the holy book..

Similar articles appeared in the 'Wall Street Journal' on 21 April 1971 (written by Peter R Kann and the 'Time' Magazine on April 26, 1971. Both reports also highlighted the critical shortage of gasoline, diesel fuel and field communication equipment vital for organized military activity by the emerging Mukti Bahini. The brutal killing of civilians continued to surface in newspapers all over the world. This led to the Pakistan government attempting to polish its 'tarnished image'. Their efforts were reported by 'Time' magazine in its issue of 24 May 1971. The 'Economist' on 29 May however binned these insidious efforts by Pakistan, went one step further, and clearly advised Pakistan President Yahya Khan 'to acknowledge realities'. This was an important statement that reflected that the world was not prepared to be fooled any further by spin.

Peter Hazelhurst, writing in 'The Times' on 4 June also indicted Pakistani President Yahya Khan for having perpetrated a 'holocaust' in Bangladesh and also took Mr Z Bhutto to task for his role in the events leading up to the massacre on 25-26 March.

The same month of June also saw another important article by J K Galbraith, former US Ambassador to India, in the 'New York Times' urging the stoppage of 'military assistance' to Pakistan in view of the abuse of human rights taking place in the then East Pakistan.

It was however the article by Anthony Mascarenhas entitled' Genocide' in the "Sunday Times' on 13 June that underlined most, the continuing horror of the situation. Written with authority and objectivity it drew the attention of world leaders.

As instability continued to grow, the strategic ramifications also found their way into Joint Statements and Joint Communiques issued after important meetings and visits abroad by the Indian leadership. These in turn received publicity through referral in opinion-editorials and also became the source for individual comments from international leaders (British M P Mr Peter Shore, US Senator Edward M Kennedy, Guyana MP Mr Bissember etc).

This snowballing of international resentment ran counter to the apathy being pursued by the US Nixon Administration and Pakistan. The weeks leading to the eventual outbreak of open hostilities between India and Pakistan in the first week of December 1971 also saw the unleashing of outrage in the world press and among musicians and artistes.

Civil society organizations involved in providing humanitarian support in the refugee camps (Oxfam) also used their own publicity linkages to focus on the travails of Bangladesh. All these factors coalesced to promote the cause of the Bengalis and later helped to garner support for the eventual recognition of the newly independent country.

I conclude this article by putting on record my humble thanks to all foreign media personalities who followed with interest what happened in Bangladesh in 1971 and had the courage to follow their conscience and speak out against inequity and for fundamental human rights and for democracy. That helped to mould public opinion and definitely assisted us to gain our independence.

The writer is a former Secretary and Ambassador.

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Pakistan's drift into extremism: Allah, the army, and America's war on terror By Hassan Abbas

On December 14, 1971, Major General Rao Farman Ali and Lieutenant General A.A.K. Niazi, the military commander in East Pakistan, asked the U.S. consul in Dhaka (capital of East Pakistan) to transmit a surrender proposal to New Delhi. Before forwarding the proposal, the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad was instructed by Washington to get approval from Yahya. The foreign secretary, Sultan Ahmed, speaking on behalf of the president of Pakistan, gave the necessary approval. Yahya Khan did not have time to attend to this matter personally. On the eve of Pakistan's surrender he was giving a party in his newly constructed house in Peshawar.²⁸ One of the few guests was Mrs. Shamim, known as "Black Pearl," the Bengali beauty who was Yahya's latest sexual affiliate and whom he had recently appointed as Pakistan's ambassador to Austria.²⁹ As drinks flowed, so did the affair go progressively nude. It was when the whole party was drunk and unattired, except for Major General Ishaque, Yahya's military secretary, that "Black Pearl" wished to go home. The president insisted that he would drive her personally, both of them stark naked. General Ishaque could not save Pakistan, but he did manage to knock enough sense into the sizzled head of a funloving president to put him into his pants. Thus coincided the housewarming of the president's house with the surrender in East Pakistan.

General A.A.K. Niazi signed the surrender of his troops to General Jagjit Singh Arora of the Indian Army in Dhaka on December 16, 1971. Niazi had earlier vowed that before the Indian Army took the capital of East Pakistan, Indian tanks would have to roll over his body. Between the promise and the surrender, many a Bengali woman was raped by Pakistani soldiers in the ardency of their "jihad." Niazi condoned this for sheer practical consider-

Bangladesh 1971: War Crimes, Genocide and Crimes against Humanity



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Operation Search Light: The Targets-Anis Ahmed

The genocide committed in Bangladesh in 1971 is widely considered to be one of the worst genocides in recent history. But this genocide, despite the indiscriminate killings of a huge number of innocent men, women and children was also very much target oriented. Hence the fact that this military operation was code-named Operation Search Light is self explanatory in the definition and the scope of the operation itself. But this is in no way to imply that because it was a targeted killing, it was any less than genocide rather on the contrary it was the worst kind of genocide for two very specific reasons. Firstly the targets were mostly civilians and secondly although Bengali paramilitary forces (East Pakistan Rifles) and police were attacked right on the night of March 25 1971 when the operation started, the attack was an undeclared war on the basis of ethnic identity.

Therefore although the objectives and operation were well defined and the target of killings and tortures of all degree and dimensions were preplanned, this in no way reduces the responsibility of causing genocide in Bangladesh from March 25,1971 till December 16, 1971. It must be remembered that the broader target was the entire Bengali population in the erstwhile East Pakistan. According to Asia Times, 'at a meeting of the military top brass Yahya Khan declared," Kill three millions of them, the rest will eat of our hands". Accordingly on the night of 25 March, the Pakistani Army launched Operation Searchlight to crush Bengali resistance in which Bengali members of military services were disarmed and killed, students and the intelligentsia systematically liquidated and able bodied Bengali males just picked up and gunned down.

According to various sources three million people were killed by the Pakistani Armed Forces and their accomplices in Bangladesh. It was one of the largest genocides in the modern known history. I must admit that the scope of discussion on this genocide is too wide to be encompassed in this discussion within this short time. I will, therefore, specifically focus on two targets of Operation Searchlight namely the students and the women. Reasons for Students as Principle Targets If we take a look into the making of Bangladesh and the struggle the Bengali nation had to go through soon after the creation of Pakistan in August 1947, we must say that the students in the erstwhile East Bengal played a vital role.

Whether it was in opposing Muhammad Ali Jinnah's unilateral declaration in March 1948 that "Urdu and Urdu alone shall be the state language of Pakistan", or subsequently in demonstrating for making Bengali as one of the National Languages of Pakistan or eventually getting shot by the police on 21 February 1952, the students were found everywhere in their struggles and sacrifices for the nation. Students in Bangladesh were forward looking progressive bunch of young men and women who supported Bengali Nationalism not because they were narrow nationalistic but Bengali Nationalism to them meant a freedom from the shackles of an artificially imposed sense of nationalism based on religious divisions which was contrary to the history of South Asia where Hindus and Muslims have lived in peace and harmony over several centuries.

The students, therefore, in the eyes of the Pakistani junta were seen opposed to the very notion of a communal Pakistan. The Bengali students were seen first as a potential threat to Pakistan and then as an actual threat when the Language Movement in Bangladesh gradually evolved into a broader socio-political and economic movement for the emancipation of the Bengalis who comprised the majority in Pakistan and contributed the lion's share into the exchequer of the country. Hence when in 1966, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's six-point demand was placed before the Pakistani rulers it was increasingly seen amongst the Bengalis as the Magna Carta of Bangladesh.

Once again the students came forward in support of the provincial autonomy which was seen as the last possible solution for the apparent integrity of Pakistan. But that resort was destroyed when despite election results going in favor of autonomy, the then military junta in Pakistan combined with Islamic fundamentalists refused to grant autonomy or hand the power over to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who from 1969 came to be known as Bangabandhu, the friend of Bengal. Eventually again the students in Dhaka University were the first to design and hoist a flag of an Independent Bangladesh. This definitely was a cause of fury for forces opposed to democracy and human rights. During the entire period of non-violent, non-cooperation movement between March 1 and March 25, the students protested vehemently against the Pakistani conspiracy of undoing the first ever held national election on the basis of adult franchise in the country.

In a nutshell, the students in the erstwhile East Bengal which was later named East Pakistan played the most important role throughout the evolution of Bengali Nationalism in Bangladesh. Attack on Dormitories of Dhaka University The first simultaneous attacks came on what was then known as Iqbal Hall, a student dormitory and Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University. It may be mentioned here that Jagannath Hall is exclusively meant for non-Muslim students, particularly Hindus and Iqbal Hall's residents were mostly members and supporters of the then East Pakistan Student League , a student wing of Awami League. We, therefore, notice that although most young men and to some extent young women too, were the targets of attack by the Pakistani Army and their auxiliary forces , the first attack on the students were also very much target oriented.

The massacre on the 25th March actually began from Dhaka University. After dormitories have been shelled at a point blank range , any students remaining alive were shot or bayoneted to death. Major General Fazal Muqeem Khan , the official historian of Pakistan Army wrote: The army had to use rocket launchers to break open some rooms of the hall. The correspondent from the British newspaper Daily Telegraph , Simon Dring reported on March 30, "Led by the American supplied M-24 World War II tanks, one column of troops sped to Dacca University shortly after midnight. Troops took over the British Council Library (situated within the campus) and used it as a fire base from which to shell nearby dormitories areas.

Caught completely by surprise some 200 students were killed in Iqbal Hall, Headquarters of militant anti-government student union, I was told. Two days later, bodies were still smouldering in burnt -out rooms others were scattered outside, more floated in a nearby lake." But this was just the tip of the iceberg. In addition to Jagannath Hall and the erstwhile Iqbal Hall, students of all ages, irrespective of their religious or gender identity were killed, tortured or at the least humiliated.

Students were considered as the harbinger of the Independence Movement f 1971 and hence they were the principle target of murder and atrocities in 1971. Neither gender nor age was a factor in deterring the perpetrators of war crime from committing atrocities and murder .Female students were not spared either. In this context it is very important to note that female students too were subject to equal subjugation and torture by the Pakistani Army. On March 30, 1971, the American Consul General in Dhaka, Archer Blood, sent a telegram to the State Department recounting the Pakistani atrocities in Dhaka. In it he wrote about the massacre at Rokeya Hall at Dhaka University where, according to Blood, the building was "set ablaze and girls machine-gunned as they fled the building."

On March 31, 1971, Archer Blood sent another telegram which recounted atrocities against girls. Blood wrote: "Six naked female bodies at Rokeya Hall, Dacca U. Feet tied together. Bits of rope hanging from ceiling fans. Apparently raped, shot and hung by their heels from fans." Small notes they may be ,but they bear a very big footmark of the atrocities of the Pakistani Army and their collaborators in crime. It may be mentioned that during the early days of Operation Searchlight Pakistani army killed students instantaneously by shooting or by launching rockets in the dorms. But when the dorms were emptied and the surviving students fled this Operation Searchlight intensified and was extended even to remote villages.

Students were rarely shot at sight, on the other hand they were caught, interrogated if they had links with the Freedom Fighters or Mukti Bahini and even if they had not any link or it was not proven, the innocent students were tortured and slowly killed.

A Personal Experience in 1971

Here I may add a brief anecdote, although it is neither funny nor fictitious, which would prove that despite my teen age I was targeted in those days, questions briefly and was then let go. Fortunately I was not subjected to usual atrocities owing to my very proficient use of Urdu Language. In 1971 I was scheduled to take my Secondary School Certificate but during the non-violence non-cooperation movement on March 22, many SSC examinees gathered at Dhaka Stadium gate and vowed not to take the exam unless Bangladesh became an independent country.

After the army crackdown on the night of 25 March 1971, the situation took a u-turn and the surviving people inside Bangladesh were turned into merely captive. In an apparent show of normalcy during the operation searchlight the government wanted educational institutions to be functional and wanted a huge number of examinees to take the School Final Exam. In the second week of April 1971, we wrote and cyclostyled several leaflets asking the students not to take the upcoming exam as silent protest against the occupation forces of Pakistan. I took some of these leaflets in my pocket and started off for my school, PAF Shaheen School. On the way Pakistani army started questioning me, about my school, background etc.

As I looked smaller than my age, I did not say that I was a possible examinee, I rather said I was in grade Nine. The entire interaction took place in Urdu and at the end my blood chilled when they said to each other, "Let's leave him. He is not Bengali. Bengalis don't speak Urdu so well. Little did those Jawans know that in less than 30 minutes time I was to enter the premises of the Air Force School in my mad pursuit to convince my friends not to take the examination. Bengali Women as Target of Torture & Atrocities in 1971 Women in an essentially male dominated society, even to this day, have always been a vulnerable section of the populace and their vulnerability was adequately exploited by Pakistani Junta and their collaborators. They were made targets of torture in either of two ways:

- a. Directly through Rape and Subjugation
- b. By Applying Gendercide where able Men in the family were killed leaving the Women helpless

During the nine months of military crackdown on the entire Bengali civilian population in Bangladesh, according to Bangladesh Government at least 200,000 Bengali women of all ages were raped and ravished. After the Liberation of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman , the founding father of the country tried to honor these dishonored girls and women by naming them the War Heroines and had ordered to prepare of list of these persons who were subjected to sexual torture of the highest degree. A Ladies' Hostel in Dhaka was established to initially start rehabilitating these women and girls. However, due to social stigma against a woman who had sexual relationship outside the wedlock , unwillingly though, very few tortured women responded to this call and recognizing the social stigma Sheikh Mujib had to ask later to destroy the lists of these women so that in their own society , in a free country , they are not considered untouchables.

This is how the exact number of tortured women are lost now. In the meantime, many of them committed suicide and some of them who were pregnant by the Pakistani soldiers or their associates left for Pakistan where they thought they would remain unidentified beyond the boundary of their own sociery. Shahriar Kabir , in his book , Tormenting Seventy One quotes Professor Nilima Ibrahim, former Head of Bengali in Dhaka University and Director , Bangla Academy saying that 30/40 raped women were leaving country along with the War Detainees who were going to India in 1972. She met the women and requested them to stay in Bangladesh . But they were determined to leave their own country as they were not accepted by their own kins. Shahriar Kabir mentions in his book about a teen- aged pregnant girl who, despite requests by Neelima Ibrahim, decided to go to Pakistan for the fear of social criticism.

Susan Brownmiller in her book Against Our Will: Men Women and Rape writes, "An Asian relief secretary for the World Council of Churches called a press conference in Geneva to discuss his two-week mission to Bangladesh. The Reverend Kentaro Buma reported that more that 200,000 Bengali women had been raped by Pakistani soldiers during the nine-month conflict, a figure that had been supplied to him by the Bangladesh authorities in Dacca. Thousands of the raped women had become pregnant, he said. And by tradition, no Moslem husband would take back a wife who had been touched by another man, even if she had been subdued by force.

"The new authorities of Bangladesh are trying their best to break that tradition," Buma informed the newsmen. "They tell the husbands the women were victims and must be considered national heroines. Some men have taken their spouses back home, but these are very, very few." She adds, " 200,000, 300,000 or possible 400,000 women (three sets of statistics have been variously quoted) were raped. Eighty percent of the raped women were Moslems, reflecting the population of Bangladesh, but Hindu and Christian women were not exempt. As Moslems, most Bengali women were used to living in purdah, strict, veiled isolations that includes separate, secluded shelter arrangements apart from men, even in their own homes.

The Pakistanis were also Moslems, but there the similarity stopped. Susan Brownmiller also mentions about Hit and Run Rape committed by Pakistani Army and their collaborators in Bangladesh. She also mentions about the Biharis and the Razakars taking active part in the rape of Bengali women and girls. Brownmiller writes, "According to victims, Moslem Biharis who collaborated with the Pakistani Army - the hireling razakars – were the most enthusiastic rapists. The accepted figure of pregnant women through rape by the Pakistani army and their paramilitary forces with Bengali and non Bengali collaborators is estimated around 25,000. Many were able to go for abortion ,some well to do went to Kolkata , many were treated by rural quakes resulting in deaths and sterility amongst women.

Brownmiller writes, "Dr. Geoffrey Davis of the London-based International Abortion Research and Training Centre who worked for months in the remote countryside of Bangladesh reported that he had heard of "countless" incidents of suicide and infanticide during his travels. Rat poison and drowning were the available means. Davis also estimated that five thousand women had managed to abort themselves by various indigenous methods, with attendant medical complications". Planned Parenthood, in co-operation with the newly created Bangladesh Central Organization for Women's Rehabilitation, set up clinics in Dacca and seventeen outlying areas to cope with the unwanted pregnancies. In its first month of operation the Dacca clinic alone reported doing more than one hundred terminations. Perhaps the story of this torture where women and girls were target alone could go on for ever.

However, apart from direct raping of women, Pakistani Army and their collaborators also committed a crime of gendercide. In addition to calling it a genocide, the killing could also be termed as genderecide where selective killings were done amongst the adult male Bengali population. The war against the Bengali population proceeded in classic gendercidal fashion. According to Anthony Mascarenhas, "There is no doubt whatsoever about the targets of the genocide":

They were:

- (1) The Bengali militarymen of the East Bengal Regiment, the East Pakistan Rifles, police and para-military Ansars and Mujahids.
- (2) The Hindus -- "We are only killing the men; the women and children go free. We are soldiers not cowards to kill them ..." I was to hear in Comilla [site of a major military base] [Comments R.J. Rummel: "One would think that murdering an unarmed man was a heroic act" (Death By Government, p. 323)]
- (3) The Awami Leaguers -- all office bearers and volunteers down to the lowest link in the chain of command.

- (4) The students -- college and university boys and some of the more militant girls.
- (5) Bengali intellectuals such as professors and teachers whenever damned by the army as "militant." (Anthony Mascarenhas, The Rape of Bangla Desh [Delhi: Vikas Publications, 1972(?)], pp. 116-17.)

This gendercide had another consequence. While men were being kidnapped and killed, women were raped. Bengali women were targeted for gender-selective atrocities and abuses, notably gang sexual assault and rape Indeed despite, and perhaps because of, overwhelming targeting of males for mass murder, it is for the systematic brutalization of women that the Rape of Bangladesh is best known western observers. Susan Brownmiller in her book, Against Our Will: Men Women and Rape writes," 200,000, 300,000 or possibly 400,000 women were raped.

Eighty percent of the raped women were Moslems, reflecting the population of Bangladesh, but Hindu and Christian women were not exempt Hit and run rape of large numbers of Bengali women was brutally simple in terms of logistics. I must add here that the raping of Hindu and Christian women had the clear sight of forced pregnancy which was aimed at communal cleansing operation. The Pakistanis, in their failed attempt of Islamization in Bangladesh, adopted this particular cruel and anti human approach of cleansing the followers of particular faith. Brownmiller further writes, "Rape in Bangladesh had hardly been restricted to beauty. Girls of eight and grandmothers of seventy five had been sexually assaulted." Brownmiller also says, "Pakistani soldiers had not only violated Bengali women on the spot; they abducted tens and hundreds and held them by force in their military barracks for nightly use.

This therefore proves that the effect of genercide on Bengali women folk was devastating. It may be mentioned here that many women were not only raped, their bodies were ripped off, their sexual organs mutilated and bayoneted and the naked dead bodies were thrown away to feed the scavangers. Finally I would once again emphasize on the point, as I did a couple of years ago at a seminar in New York that acts which are considered as war crimes took place in Bangladesh. They include rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution or forced pregnancy. Killing and all other forms of atrocities carried on different section of people, with a common denomination of being Bengali, in the erstwhile East Pakistan are war crimes and generally crime against humanity.

References:

1.Death by Government by R J Rummel
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4. Tormenting Seventy One by Shahriar Kabir

It is important to remember 1971

http://www.thedailystar.net/op-ed/it-important-remember-1971-187654

I appreciated Sushmita Preetha's article, *Do You Really Remember?* (TDS, November 26, 2015). It is encouraging to read the writing of a member of the younger generation on the Liberation War. Recently I attended a Planning Commission seminar about "Extreme Poverty" and in the address by one of the officials, I learnt that 76 percent of the current population is less than 40 years old and may not know the accurate history regarding the formation of this country. I am regularly asked to write about my memories of 1971 and when I express that I find it difficult to write the same things year after year, Bangladeshis my age, and older, tell me that I must keep on writing as it is important that the people of this country are reminded again and again about the true history of the period before, during and after the Liberation War. For someone who witnessed the birth of Bangladesh, it is painful and difficult to understand that some Bangladeshis do not support the war crimes trials. Surely justice must be done! There are also those in Pakistan who deny that any genocide took place. Whenever someone tells me this or I read this, I become very angry and also incredulous.

I remember families of Bangladeshis – Hindus and Muslims – coming in a traumatised state across the border to access some of the over 900 refugee camps. Men, women and children of all ages, struck dumb by the horror of seeing some of their loved ones murdered before they managed to escape. I remember being in a hospital in Krishnanagar, West Bengal, in June 1971 at the same time as an international reporter from, I believe, *Newsweek*. I remember this young girl in a colourful dress and this is how the reporter recorded our meeting with this girl who was about 10 years old:

The story of one shy little girl in a torn pink dress with red and green bows has a peculiar horror. She could not have been a danger to anyone. Yet I met her in a hospital in Krishnanagar, hanging nervously back among the other patients, her hand covering the livid scar on her neck where a Pakistani soldier had cut her throat with his bayonet.

"I am Ismatar, the daughter of the late Ishaque Ali," she said formally. "My father was a businessman in Kushtia. About two months ago he left our house and went to his shop and I never saw him again. That same night after I went to bed, I heard shouts and screaming, and when I went to see what was happening, the Punjabi soldiers were there. My four sisters were lying dead on the floor, and I saw that they had killed my mother. While I was there they shot my brother – he was a Bachelor of Science. Then a soldier saw me and stabbed me with his knife.

I fell to the floor and played dead. When the soldiers left I ran and a man picked me up on his bicycle and I was brought here." Suddenly, as if she could no longer bear to think about her ordeal, the girl left the room. The hospital doctor was explaining to me that she was brought to the hospital literally soaked in her own blood, when she pushed her way back through the patients and stood directly in front of me. "What am I to do?" she asked. "Once I had five sisters and a brother and a father and mother. Now I have no family. I am an orphan. Where can I go? What will happen to me?"

Perhaps it is necessary to remind people about what happened in 1971 and it is important to accurately inform members of the younger generations of the genocide unleashed by the Pakistani army and their collaborators. Because of 'Operation Searchlight', 10 million refugees came to India, most of them living in appalling conditions in the refugee camps. I cannot forget seeing 10 children fight for one chapatti. I cannot forget the child queuing for milk, vomitting, collapsing and dying of cholera. I cannot forget the woman lying in the mud, groaning and giving birth.

We had heard of the genocide from the night of March 25. Thousands upon thousands were rounded up and shot, machine-gunned or bayoneted. From March 25 to 31, it was estimated that about 200,000 Bangalees had been killed. An Italian priest living in Jessore at the time told me that in Jessore, around 10,000 people had been killed in 10 days after March 25.

It is most unfortunate that the details of mass graves (and the number of bodies) all over the country have not been properly recorded. Only last year, in Kaliganj, Gazipur, I heard of hundreds of Bangladeshi male Christians being machine-gunned into a mass grave nearby a church in 1971.

However, what about the actual numbers? By the end of May 1971, I remember a Dhaka University professor, Samir Paul, who was, as a refugee, helping us to organise camp activities, telling me that till then it was estimated that one million Bangalees had been killed inside Bangladesh until that time (May 1971). It is clear to me that many Bangladeshis died on their way to India and many more died after coming to the refugee camps, as a result of the injuries incurred on the way. I saw people with bullet wounds and bayonet wounds and some of them did not manage to survive.

During the cholera epidemic, I remember that in one refugee camp of 15,000 people, over 750 died in one month - about 5 percent. People should also remember that many of the refugee camps were severely flooded during the heavy monsoon of 1971. Sanitation could not be maintained and many died of gastroenteritis as well as cholera. By September 1971, hundreds of children were dying every day from malnutrition and doctors, who had also earlier worked in Biafra, were of the opinion that the malnutrition in the Indian refugee camps was worse than that of Biafra.

Many more children died as a result of the severe winter. In mid-November, an accepted figure of the number of children dying was 4,300 per day in the refugee camps alone. I remember attending a coordination meeting at that time where it was estimated that by the end of December 1971 up to 500,000 children would have died largely from malnutrition.

Aid officials of the time estimated that between 20 and 30 million Bangladeshis had been internally displaced inside Bangladesh, and there would have been significant deaths from those numbers.

The US government archives may suggest that a total of only 300,000 died and the Pakistan archives say that only 2 million refugees came to India. Everyone should know that both these figures are complete nonsense!

Personally, I consider all the deaths of the people who left their homes as a result of the actions of the Pakistan authorities and their collaborators as genocidal deaths. Perhaps we will never know the accurate figure; it could easily be over three million. I hope Sushmita Preetha and others continue to remind us of the true history of the formation of Bangladesh.



Politics and the press during 1971

http://www.dhakatribune.com/tribune-supplements/world-tribune/2017/03/26/politics-press-1971/



During liberation war, the international response in the media in turn drew the attention of political leaders all over the world, motivated public opinion and led to editorial comments in diverse newspapers JANMOJUDDHO 71

According to New York Times (3/28/71) 10,000 people were killed; New York Times (3/29/71) 5,000-7,000 people were killed in Dhaka; The Sydney Morning Herald (3/29/71) 10,000 – 100,000 were killed; New York Times (4/1/71) 35,000 were killed in Dhaka during 'operation searchlight'

The 1971 Liberation War was the result of struggle for independence of the Bangalis of East Pakistan for over 20 years which finally established the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The war witnessed large-scale atrocities – genocide that claimed over 3 million lives, exodus of 10 million refugees, displacement of 30 million people and massive destruction of properties – in only nine months. The war broke out just before the midnight of March 25, 1971, when the Pakistani Army launched a crackdown called "Operation Searchlight" against the Bengali civilians, students, intellectuals and armed personnel, who were demanding that the military junta accept the results of the first democratic elections in Pakistan in 1970 won by the Awami League. Awami League President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had declared the independence of Bangladesh just before the operation was launched and got arrested.

The Pakistan Army engaged in a systematic genocide and atrocities of Bangali civilians, particularly nationalists, intellectuals, youth and religious minorities. During the Liberation War broadcasting station "Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra" played a crucial role in encouraging the guerrilla fighters and supporters. While the freedom fighters fought against the Pakistani occupation forces in the battle fields, the artistes of the radio station were engaged in another kind of war by keeping the hope of freedom alive among millions.

The international mass media played a vital role in Bangladesh's War of Independence. The London Times, the Sunday Times, the Guardian, the Sunday Observer, the Daily Mirror and the Daily Telegraph were helping in spreading the news of genocide and expedite cooperation among the international community to support Bangladesh. The concert for Bangladesh which had raised much international awareness was organised by Pandit Ravi Shankar and George Harrison in New York in August 1971. The event was the first-ever benefit concert of such a magnitude and featured a supergroup of performers that included Harrison, fellow ex-Beatle Ringo Starr, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Billy Preston, Leon Russel and the band Badfinger. In addition, Shankar and Ali Akbar Khan, both of whom had ancestral roots in Bangladesh, performed an opening set of Indian classical music. According to Ravi Shankar, "In one day, the whole world knew the name of Bangladesh."

International Politics

The two super powers, the Union of Social Soviet Russia (USSR) and the United States, which dominated a largely bipolar world until the middle of 1980s played a significant role in the 1971 Liberation War. On the other hand the, the United Nations had not taken any action to stop genocide in Bangladesh. The people of Bangladesh fought for their liberation at the height of the cold war. Among the five permanent members of the Security Council, the US and China had directly supported Pakistan, Soviet Union stood for Bangladesh, while United Kingdom and France, despite showing sympathy for Bangladesh, could not openly challenge the US, and hence, abstained from voting. This deep division among the permanent members had completely paralysed the Security Council. The neighbouring country, India, has played a significant role in favour of Bangladesh. When Pakistan declared war against India on November 22, 1971, India directly involved in the war of Bangladesh. India entered the war on December 3, 1971, after Pakistan launched pre-emptive air strikes in northern India. On December 16, the allied forces of Bangladesh and India defeated Pakistan in the East.

The role of Soviet Russia

The response of Soviet Union to the 1971 crisis in East Pakistan was conditioned by the general Soviet policy with regard to Asia in the 1960s. It was a policy of growing involvement, initially undertaken to contain US influence in Asia, but increasingly directed at stemming the diplomatic and military as well as ideological advance of China which at that time was emerging as the Soviet Union's principal rival in the Third World.

The Soviet Union's close tie with India was vital in shaping the Soviet response towards the East Pakistan crisis in 1971. The relatively high priority given by the Soviet policy makers was the consequence of their perception of the contemporary world and Asia, and the proper Soviet role in both the world and Asian dimensions as a great power. Thus behind all that happened in the subcontinent over the 1971 Bangladesh struggle "was a power struggle between China and the Soviet Union and a strategic conflict between Moscow and Washington." In South Asia during December 1971 the Soviet Union seemed to have gained most from this three-cornered fight.

The role of US

The US played a more complex and somewhat negative role in the 1971 war. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the US society's response was one of positive support contradicting the state's negative role. In the pluralist and open society of the US, influential and articulate segments stood solidly behind the cause of Bangladesh. As the crisis developed, the American response went through several discernible phases.

The first phase of quiet non-involvement began on March 25 and lasted roughly until July 8, 1971. During this phase, the US posture was "neutral" and it described the problem in East Bengal as Pakistan's "internal matter."

The second phase started with the secret trip by President Nixon's National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger to China during July 9-10, 1971. This marked the real beginnings of the Sino-US detente and led indirectly to the formalisation of Indo-Soviet alliance by a treaty in August. During this phase, which lasted until September, the US pursued diplomacy of restraint, counselling India to desist from armed conflict with Pakistan and privately pressing Pakistan to thrash out a "political settlement" of the East Pakistan issue.

During the third phase, lasting from September until December 3, when the Indo-Pakistan war over Bangladesh broke out, the US attempted to promote a constructive political dialogue between the Pakistani military government and the Bengali nationalist leaders in India, but in vain.

The fourth phase covered the period of the Indo-Pak war. During the 14-day sub-continental war, the US backed Pakistan and blamed India for the escalation of hostilities, and tried through the UN and other means to bring about a ceasefire and "save West Pakistan" from possible Indian attempts to destroy it militarily.

President Nixon ordered a task force of eight naval ships, led by the nuclear aircraft carrier Enterprise, to sail into the Bay of Bengal in a "show of force." In response, On December 13, Russia dispatched a nuclear-armed flotilla, the 10th Operative Battle Group (Pacific Fleet) from Vladivostok. Russia deployed two task groups; in total two cruisers, two destroyers, six submarines, and support vessels. A group of Il-38 ASW aircraft from Aden air base in Yemen provided support.

The Role of International Media

The Liberation War was fought not only by the brave "Mukti Bahini" within Bangladesh but also supported through the coverage it received in the international media and artists. Journalists brought home to the people of the world the stories of the trials and sacrifices of the heroic people of Bangladesh, and the tribulations they were facing under the insensitive and brutal military administration of the occupying armed forces of Pakistan.

On March 25, 1971, the Pakistani military forcibly confined all foreign reporters to the Hotel Intercontinental (currently the Rupashi Bangla) in Dhaka, the night the military launched its genocide campaign. The reporters were able to see the tank and artillery attacks on civilians through the windows.

Two days later, as Dhaka burned the reporters were expelled from the country – their notes and tapes were confiscated. One of the expelled reporters was Sidney Schanberg of the New York Times. He would return to Dhaka in June 1971 to report on the massacres in towns and villages. He would again be expelled by the Pakistan military at the end of June.

Two foreign reporters escaped the roundup on March 25. One of them was Simon Dring of the Daily Telegraph. He evaded capture by hiding on the roof of the Hotel Intercontinental. Dring was able to extensively tour Dhaka the next day and witness first-hand the slaughter that was taking place. Days later he was able to leave East Pakistan with his reporter's notes. On March 30, 1971, the Daily Telegraph published Simon Dring's front page story of the slaughter in Dhaka that the army perpetrated in the name of "God and a united Pakistan."

In April 1971, the Pakistan Army flew in eight Pakistani reporters from West Pakistan for guided tours with the military. Their mission was to tell the story of normalcy. The reporters went back to West Pakistan after their tour and dutifully filed stories declaring all was normal in East Pakistan. However, one of the reporters had a crisis of conscience. This reporter was Anthony Mascarenhas, the assistant editor of West Pakistani newspaper Morning News.

On May 18, 1971, Mascarenhas flew to London and walked into the offices of the Sunday Times offering to write the true story of what he had witnessed in East Pakistan. After getting agreement from the Sunday Times, he went back to Pakistan to retrieve his family.

On June 13, with Mascarenhas and his family safely out of Pakistan, the Sunday Times published a front page and centre page story entitled "Genocide." It was the first detailed eyewitness account of the genocide published in a western newspaper.

In June 1971, under pressure and in need of economic assistance, Pakistan allowed a World Bank team to visit East Pakistan. The World Bank team reported back that East Pakistan lay in ruins. One member of the team reported that the East Pakistani town of Kushtia looked "like a World War II German town having undergone strategic bombing attacks" as a result of the Pakistani army's "punitive action" on the town. He also reported that the army "terrorises the population, particularly aiming at the Hindus and suspected members of the Awami League." The Word Bank president, Robert McNamara, suppressed the public release of the report. The report was leaked to the New York Times.

Despite the Pakistani military's best efforts at hiding the truth about their genocide campaign against Bangalis, reports filtered out of East Pakistan to the outside world – thanks in part to the efforts of determined foreign news reporters. Following are the foreign newspaper reports from the beginning of the genocide in March 1971 to its end. They chronicle the bloody birth of Bangladesh.

The author went through old newspapers and the accounts of other researchers for this article. He expresses his gratitude to Liberation War researcher Omi Rahman Pial. Date and event references are collected from Genocide Archive, Janmojuddho 71 and Kagooj.



http://www.docstrangelove.com/2007/12/02/bangladesh-genocide-archives-foreign-newspaper-reports/

THE SUNDAR TIMES, JUNE 13 1971

AISPUL Built had run out of high Like thorounds of other people to East Bengal, he had made the mistake—the field mistake—of respecting within sight of a Pakistan arrier pates.

He was 24 years old a slight man surrounded by soldlers. He was troubling because he was about to be shot

Normally we would have killed consulty we would have knied been as he ren," I say informed challify by Najor Hathore, the 6-2 Ops. of the 6th division, as we street on the extention of a timy village near thusbarryon, about 50 miles could of Consilla. "But we are checking him soil for your also," Van zee her here here in the see. You are new here and I see you have a squearth stompet.

"Why kill him?" I asked with mounting concern.

"Because he might he a litteds or he might be a robel, perhaps a student or an Awami Leaguer They know we are sarting them out and they betray themselves by leagues." ruening .

"But why are you killing them And why pick on the Hindus?

"Most I revised you." Rathor-mid severely, "how they have tried to destroy Pakistan! Now under the cover of the fighting we have an excellent opportunity of finish-ing them of "

"Of course." he added hastile,
"we are only killing the illinda
from We are soldiers, not covards
like the robots. They kill our They all ear vance and children.

I WAS CETTING us, but glosses of the olan of blood which has spread over the otherwise verdami land of Earl Bengal. First it was the manager of the non-lieugalism a savage outburst of Benguli haired. Now it was manager deli-



by ANTHONY MASCARENHAS

(the background to the writing and publication of this remarkable report is told on Page One)

"For ONE's sake don't sheet." I arred, ""He's unarroad. He's only a valeges."

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Who Be you?"

Who Be you?"

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Who was a flinds.

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Why went you running?
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and the runn could ancest

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The Truckloads of human targets

death in the congound of the Groud House (civil administrative beedquarters) in Camita. I have seen truckleads of other human sees trucklends, of other human largetts and those who had the best manify to try to help them basiled of "for disposal" under the veryor of distourns and outless have windersed the brutality of "hill and hum ministers" as the army units, after rivorting out the robots, pursued the poppose in the towns and the villages. towns and the sittages.

I have seen whole rollages design

taled by "pumilive action.
And in the offerts mess at might I have believed increditionally as-otherwise brave and honourable pren proudly chewed over the day's

flow many did you per? " The answers are seared in my memory

ALL THIS is being done, as are West Pakislani officer will tell you, for the "preservation of the unity, the integrity and the ideology of Pakislan." It is, of course, too late for that The vory military action that is decigned in hald together the two wraps of the country, reparated by a thousand miles of india, has confirmed the ideological and emotional break. East Rengal can only be kept in Pakislatan by the April to Pakislatan by the April to Pakislatan and the series and device the army is decirated by the Panjabos, who traditionally despite and de-

have treated as more anotally than the Sikha did in the partition risks in 1947. Here can we ever forging or forget that

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lation of the Mindea was pure phrased by Li. Gen. Tikks Khan. the military governor of East Palci-slate, in a radio breadcast I heard on April 18, He and: "The Muslims of East Pakistan, who had played a basiling part in the creation of Pakiston, are determined to keep of altre. However, the voice of the sent mountly had been suppressed through reserviors, threads he life and property by a speal violent and argressive minority, which forced the Awami League to adopt the destructive cours

Others, speaking privately, norm more blant in seeking inst-

rounts suggest that the was not the result of a openioneous of undaciplined reaction it was

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Paintin. []

When the army units famed out in Borra on the posting of March. 23, in (fewerpites strikes against the unuary planned for the outside hours of the rent marning, many of their carried lists of people to be inputabled. These included the thindux and large murches; of Marines, students, breast Languess, professors, pursulates and those yets had been provinced in Shelich Majib's movement. The charge more publishy made, that the army way subjected to martin states from the Jaganath Hall, where the from the Jaganeth Hall, where the Mindu university students lived

On March 25, 1971 the Pakistani military forcibly confined all foreign reporters to the Hotel Intercontinental (currently the Dhaka Sheraton) in Dhaka. That night after 11pm the military launched its genocide campaign against the Bengali civilian population of then East Pakistan. The reporters were able to see the tank and artillary attacks on civilians from their hotel windows. Two days later, as Dhaka burned the reporters were expelled from the country – their notes and tapes were confiscated. One of the expelled reporters was Sidney Schanberg of the New York Times. He would return to East Pakistan in June 1971 to report on the massacres in Bengali towns and villages. He would again be expelled by the Pakistan military at the end of June.

Army Expels 35 Foreign Newsmen From Pakistan

By GRACE LICHTENSTEIN

Military authorities expelled 35 foreign newsmen from East Pakistan yesterday after confining them to a hotel in Dacca for more than 48 hours.

Soldiers of the Pakistani Army threatened to shoot the newsmen if they left the Intercontinental Hotel in North Dacca, from which they could see troops firing on unarmed civilians who supported the East Pakistani rebels.

Before they were put on a plane to Karachi, the newsmen, including The New York Times correspondent. Sydney H. Schanberg, were searched and their notes, films and files were confiscated.

They represented newspapers and other news media in the United States, Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Japan and Russia.

While in Dacca, the newsmen were prevented from filing any dispatches or contacting diplomatic missions.

Correspondents for The Associated Press and Reuters apparently were not at the hotel when the other newsmen were rounded up. Offices of the two news services in New York said that they had not heard from their men in Dacca.

Mr. Schanberg reported that when the lieutenant colonel in charge of the area around the hotel was asked why the foreign press had to leave, he replied: "We don't have to explain. This is our country."

Then as he turned away, smiling contemptuously, he added: "We want you to leave because it would be too dangerous for you. It will be too bloody."

bloody."

A. M. Rosenthal, managing editor of The Times, protested the treatment of Mr. Schanberg and the others in a telegram to the Pakistani Government.

The telegram said:

"Stunned by unwarranted and unprecedented expulsion of New York Times correspondent Sydney Schanberg and more than 30 other foreign correspondents from Dacca. Contrary to all principles of international press freedom, Mr. Schanberg and others were confined to the Intercontinental Hotel in Dacca under threat that they would be shot if they left the building in

performance of their journalistic duties.

"They were subsequently expelled from the country after confiscation of their papers and film. Can only believe that this must have been error on part of military authorities. Trust that your Government will rectify this situation immediately."

The plane carrying the expelled newsmen from Dacca stopped to refuel at Colombo, Ceylon, where the correspondents for The Times, the Washington Star, Newsweek and The Baltimore Sun were able to telephone a pooled dispatch.

With the expulsion of the foreign press, the main source of news on East Pakistan was the Press Trust of India, a group of Indian news agencies. Pakistan, protesting what it charged was India's "interference" in her internal affairs, asserted that the Indian news reports were exaggerated and "designed to malign Pakistan."

The New Hork Times

Published: March 28, 1971 Copyright @ The New York Times

forcibly confined info

Two foreign reporters escaped the roundup on March 25. One of them was <u>Simon Dring</u> of the Daily Telegraph. He evaded capture by hiding on the roof of the Hotel Intercontinental. Dring was able to extensively tour Dhaka the next day and witness first hand the slaughter that was taking place. Days later Simon Dring was able to leave East Pakistan with his reporter's notes. On March 30, 1971 the Daily Telegraph published Simon Dring's <u>front page story</u> of the slaughter in Dhaka that the army perpetrated in the name of "God and a united Pakistan".

The massacres in Dacca were only part of the story however. The Pakistan army had begun a campaign of genocide that extended to all major cities and towns in Bangladesh and then moved out into the countryside to terrorize, murder and rape Bengali villagers. With foreign reporters expelled and a complete news censorship in place, the Pakistan army declared that the situation in East Pakistan was "normal".

However as Bengali refugees fled to neighboring India they brought with them stories of horror. The refugee flow had reached millions and by December 1971 about 10 million Bengalis had fled East Pakistan.

In April 1971 the Pakistan army flew in 8 Pakistani reporters from West Pakistan for guided tours with the military. Their mission was to tell the story of normalcy. The reporters went back to West Pakistan after their military guided tours and dutifully filed stories declaring all was normal in East Pakistan. However, one of the 8 reporters had a crisis of conscience. This reporter was Anthony Mascarenhas, the assistant editor of the West Pakistani newspaper Morning News.



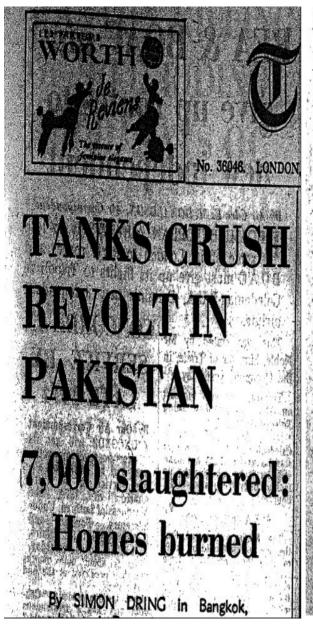
On May 18, 1971 Mascarenhas flew to London and walked into the offices of the Sunday Times offering to write the true story of what he had witnessed in East Pakistan. After getting agreement from the Sunday Times he went back to Pakistan to retrieve his family. On June 13, 1971 with Mascarenhas and his family safely out of Pakistan the Sunday Times <u>published</u> a front page and center page story entitled "Genocide". It was the first detailed eyewitness account of the genocide published in a western newspaper.

In June of 1971, under pressure and in need of economic assistance, Pakistan allowed a World Bank team to visit East Pakistan.

The World Bank team reported back that East Pakistan lay in ruins. One member of the team reported that the East Pakistani town of Kushtia looked "like a World War II German town having undergone strategic bombing attacks" as a result of the Pakistani army's "punitive action" on the town.

He also reported that the army "terrorizes the population, particularly aiming at the Hindus and suspected members of the Awami League". The Word Bank president, Robert McNamara, suppressed the public release of the report. To no avail. The report was leaked to the New York Times.

Dispite the Pakistani military's best efforts at hiding the truth about their genocide campaign against Bengalis, reports filtered out of East Pakistan to the outside world thanks in part to the efforts of determined foreign news reporters. Following are foreign newspaper reports from the beginning of the genocide in March 1971 to its end. They chronicle the bloody birth of Bangladesh.



By SIMON DRING in Bangkok, who was in Dacca during the fighting IN the name of "God and a united Pakistan." Dacca is today a crushed and frightened city. After 24 hours of ruthless, cold-blooded shelling by the Pakistan Army, as many as 7,000 people are dead, large areas have been levelled and East Pakistan's fight for independence has been brutally put to an end.

Despite claims by President Yahya Khan, head of the country's military government, that the situation is now calm tens of thousands of people are fleeing to the countryside, the city streets are almost deserted and the killings are still going on in other parts of the province.

But there is no doubt that troops supported by tanks control the towns and major population centres and that resistance is minimal and so far ineffective.

Even so people are still being shot at the slightest provocation, and buildings. are still being indiscriminately destroyed.

And the military appears to be more determined each day to assert its control over

India's Sympathy and Army ... Still Meets Resistance—P4 PRINTED TO THE PROPERTY OF THE

the 75 million Bengalese in the East wing.

It is impossible accurately to assess what all this has so far cost in terms of innocent human lives. But reports beginning to filter in from the outlying areas. Chittagong, Comilia and Jessore put the figure, including Dacca, in the region of 15.000 dead Chittagong, Comilia and Jessore put the figure, including Dacca, in the region of 15,000 dead.

Only the horror of the mili-tary action can be properly gauged—the students dead in their beds, the butchers in the markets killed behind stalls, the women and children reasted alive in their houses, the Pakistanis of Hindu religion taken out and shot en masse, the bazaars and shopping areas razed by fire and the Pakistani flag that now flies over every building in the capital.

Military casualties are not known but at least two soldiers have been wounded and one officer killed.

The Bengali uprising seems to be well and truly over for the moment. Sheikh Mujibur moment. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was seen being taken away by the Army and nearly all the top members of his all the top members or ms Awami League party have also

Armoured attack

Leading political activists have been taken in others have been murdered and the offices of two newspapers which supported the Sheikh's movement have been destroyed.

But the first target as the tanks rolled into Dacca on the night of the 25th was the students.

An estimated three battalions of troops were used in the attack on Dacca one armoured. one artillery and one infantry. They started leaving the barracks shortly before 10 p.m.

By 11 firing had broken out and the people who had started hastily erecting makeshift barricades—overturned cars free stumps, furniture concrete piping—became early casuallies as the troops rolled into town.

Sheikh Mujib was telephoned and warned that something was happening, but he refused to leave his house, "If I go into biding they will burn the whole of Dacca to find me," he told an aide, who escaped arrest.

an aide who escaped arrest.

200 students killed

The students were also warned but those who were still around later said that most thought they would only be arrested.

Led by American supplied M24 World Way II tanks, one column of troops sped to Dacca University shortly after and night. Troops rook over the British Council library and used it as a fire-base to shall nearby doruntory areas:

Caught completely by surprise, some 200 students were killed in light Etall, headquarters of the militantly. Anti government students union; as shells slammed into the building and their rooms were strayed with machine gun fire.

Two days have borne with still smoothearthy in the bull outside the back to be but the bull of the bul

Tänks erush Päkisian revolt

off rooms others were seathered outside and more floated in a nearby lake. An art student lay sprawled across his easel.

Seven teachers died in their quarters and a temily of 12 were gunned down as they hid in an outnesse.

In an outhouse.

The military removed many of the bodies but the 30 still there could never have accounted for all the blood in the corridors of Iqhal Hall.

At another hall the dead were buried by the soldiers in a basilly due.

hastily-dug mass grave and then bulldozed over by tanks.

People living near the university were caught in the fire too and 200 yards of shanty houses running alongside a railway line were destroyed.

Army patrols also razed a nearby market area, running down between the stalls, killing their owners as they slept. Two days later, when it was possible to get out and see all this, some of the men were still lying as though asleep, their blankets

though asleep, their blankets pulled up over their shoulders. In the same district the Dacca

Medical College received direct bazooka fire and a mosque was badly damaged.

Police H Q attacked

As the university came under attack columns of troops moved in on the Rajabag headquarters of the East Pakistan police on the other side of the city. Tanks opened fire first and

then the troops moved in and levelled the men's sleeping quarters, firing incendiary rounds into the buildings.

It was not known, even by people living opposite, how many died, but out of the 1,100 police based there, not many are be-lieved to have escaped.

As this was going on other units had surrounded the Sheikh's house. When contacted shortly before I am he said he was expecting an attack any minute and that he had sent everyone except his servants and a bodyguard away to safety.

A neighbour said that at 1.10 a.m. one tank, an armoured car and trucks loaded with troops drove down the street firing

over the house.
"Sheikh, you should come

wendered firrough the ruins of one of the bassars. "I have 240 in my district and so far I have found only 50 of them—all dead."

One of the biggest massacres of the entire operation in Dacca took plats in the Hindi area of the old town. A There the soldiers made the people come out of their tiouses and them in groups.

This area, too, plass eventually rated.

The troops stayed on in the old city in force until about 11 p.m. on the 26th, driving about with local Bengali informers.

The soldiers would fire a flare and the informer would point out the houses of staunch Awami League supporters. The house would then be destroyed—either with direct tank or recoillass riffe fire or with a can of petrol.

Meanwhile troops of the East Bengal Regiment were being used in the suburbs to start moving out towards the industrial areas of the city—Tong:

The Angles again, the troops response and silence, feil oncomor work all the fire over Dacca.

But firing broke out again almost immediately. "Anybody almost immediately "Anybody almost immediately "Anybody almost immediately." Anybody almost immediately. "Anybody almost immediately. "Anybody almost immediately." Anybody almost immediately. "Anybody almost immediately. "Anybody almost immediately." Anybody almost immediately. "Anybody almost immediately. "Anybody almost immediately." Anybody almost immediately. "Any

trial areas of the city—Tongi and Naraugan)—against centres of Leftist support for the Sheikh.

Firing continued in these areas until early on Sunday morning but the main bulk of the operation in the city was completed by the night of the 26th—almost exactly 24 hours after it began.

One of the last targets was the Bengali language daily news-paper Ittefaq. Over 400 people had taken shelter in its offices when the fighting started.

At 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the 26th four tanks appeared in the road outside. By 4.30 p.m. the building was an inferno. By Saturday morning only the charred remains of corpses were left.

As quickly as they appeared the troops disappeared off the streets. On Saturday morning the radio announced the cur-few would be lifted from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.

It then repeated the martial law regulations banning all political activity, announcing Press censorship and ordering all Government employees to report back for work and for all privately-owned weapons to be handed in.

Thousands flee

been killed as they tried to walk across country to avoid the

across country to avoid the troops.

Beyond those roadblocks is more or less a no man's land, where the clearing operations are still going on. What is happening out there is anybody's guess—except the Army's. Many people took to the river to try to escape the crowds on the roads. But they ran the risk of being left stranded waiting for a boat when curfew fell.

Where one such group was

Where one such group was sitting on Saturday afternoon, there were only bloodstains next

"Traitors" charge

Hardly anywhere was there evidence of organised resistance to the troops in Dacca or any-where else in the province. Even the West Pakistani officers scoffed at the idea of anybody putting up a fight.

putting up a fight.

"These men," said one Punjabi lieutenant, "could not kill us if they tried."

"Things are much better now," said another officer.

"Nobody can speak out or come out. If they do we will kill them. They have spoken enough. They are traitors and we are not. We are fighting in

over the house.

"Sheikh, you should come down," an officer called out in English as they stopped outside. Sheikh Rahman replied by stepping out on to his balcony and saying "Yes." I am ready but there is no need to fire all you need to have done was call me on the telephone and I would have come."

The officer then walked into

The officer then walked into the garden of the house and told the Sheikh: "You'are arrested."

He was taken away, along with three servants, an aide and his bodyguard who was badly beaten up when he started to insult the

Documents taken

As he was driven off-presumably to Army headquarters—the soldiers moved into the house, soldiers moved into the house, took away all documents, smashed everything in sight, locked the garden gate, shot down the green red and yellow Bangla Desh (Free Bengal) flee and dreve away.

By 2 a.m. on the 26th fires were burning all over the city. Troops had occupied the university and surrounding areas and

sity and surrounding areas and were busy killing off students still in hiding and replacing independence flags with Pakistani national standards.

There was still heavy shelling in some areas but the fighting was noticeably beginning to slacken. Opposite the intercontinental Hotel, a platoon of troops stormed the empty offices

Thousands flee

Magically the city returned to life and panic set in. By 10 a.m., with palls of black smoke still hanging over large areas of the old town and out in the distance towards the industrial areas, the streets were packed with fleeing people.

with fleeing people.

By car, in rickshaws but mostly on foot carrying their possessions with them the people of Dacca were leaving. By mid-day they were on the move in

their tens of thousands.

"Please give me a lift, I'm an old man," "In the name of Allah help me," Take my children with you," Tame the

Silent and unsmiting they passed and saw what the Army had done. It had been a thorough job, carefully planned and meticulously executed and they looked the other way and kept on walking

they looked the other way and kept on walking.

Down near one of the markets a shot was heard within seconds 2,000 people were running, but it had only been someone going to join the queues already forming to hand in their weapons. weapons.

The Government offices remained almost empty. Most employees were leaving for their villages.

Those who were not fleeing wandered aimlessly around the smoking debris of what were once their homes, lifting the blackened, twisted sheets of cor-

enough. They are traitors and we are not. We are fighting in the name of God and a united Pakistan."

The operation apparently planned and led by Gen Tikka Khan, the West Pakistani military governor of the East, has succeeded in driving every last drop of resistance out of the people of Bengal.

Only the propaganda machine of the Indian Government is keeping the fight going apart from a Deftist underground group operating a clandestine "Bangla Desh" radio somewhere outside Dacca.

Even if time erases the scare that marks the end of the dream that the people of East Pakistan thought was democratically theirs, it will take more than a generation before they live down the fear instilled in their minds by the tragic and horrifying massacres of last week.

If anything is to be salvaged from the ruins of Sheikh Muib's movement it is the realisation that the Army is not to be under estimated again and that for all the speech-making of President Yahya about the returning of power to the people, the regime did not really ever intend to abide by the results of any election—fairly won or not.

India's Sympathy and Army Still Meets Resistance—P4; Pictures—P11

of Dacca's People newspaper, burning it down along with most houses in the area and killing a lone nightwatchman.

Shortly before dawn most firing had stopped and as the sun came up an eerie silence settled over the city, deserted and completely dead except for the noise of the crows and the occasional convoy of troops.

But the worst was yet to come. At midday, again without any warming, columns of troops poured into the old section of the city where more than a mil-lion people live in a sprawling

maze of narrow, winding streets.

For the next 11 hours they proceeded systematically to devastate large areas of the old town, where Sheikh Mujib had some of this strongest support among the people in Dacca.

English Road, French Road, Niar Bazaar, City Bazaar mean-ingless names but home to thousands of people—were burnt to the ground.

"They suddenly appeared at the end of the street," said one old man living in the French Road Niar Bazaar area: "Then they drove down it firing into all the houses."

rugated from used in most shanty areas as roofing materials to save

what they could from the ashes. Nearly every other car, if it

Nearly every other car, if it was not taking people out into the countryside, was flying a Red Cross and convoying dead and wounded to the hospitals.

And in the middle of it all occasional convoys of troops would appear, the soldiers peering unsmiling down the muzzles of their guns at the silent crowds. crowds.

On the Friday night as they pulled back to their barracks, they shouted "Naral Takorr," an

old Persian war cry meaning
"We have won the war."
On Saturday when they spoke
if was to shout "Pakistan Zindabad."—"Long live Pakistan."

Most people took the hint. Before the curfew was reimposed the national flag of Pakistan, apart from petrol was the hottest selling item on the

As if to protect their property in their absence, the last thing a family would do before they locked up their house would be to raise the flag At four o'clock the streets

hist Action Continued from P1

because there would be no refund to disregard.

Perhaps the most irksome effect of the Bill on strikers is that supplementary benefit paid after their return to work will be recoverable from them through their employers.

Under existing law anyone starting a new job or returning to an existing job can claim benefit for the first 15 days. This was originally intended to cover someone whose new employer could not reasonably be expected to give him at sub.

But in recent years strikers have seen the advantage of claiming benefit as a gift from the State, rather than ask the employers for a repayable advance. Employers who had agreed to lend "subs" after a strike ended have been coerced by the men to withdraw the offer.

The Government wants to offer.

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The leading unit was followed by soldiers carrying cans of petrol. Those who tried to escape were shot. Those who stayed were burnt alive. About 700 men, women and children died there that day between midday and two o'clock.

The same was repeated in at least three other areas all of them covering anything up to half a square mile or more.

As they left the soldiers took those dead they could away with them in trucks and moved on to their next target. Pelice stations in the old town were also attacked.

"I am looking for my constables," a police inspector said on Saturday morning as he

front page story

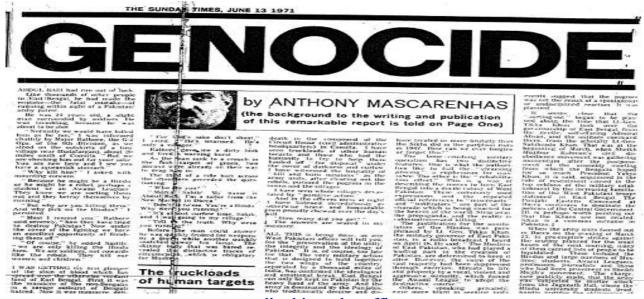
March 197	March 1971		
3/27/1971	Daily Telegraph	Civil war flares in E. Pakistan	
3/27/1971	Daily Telegraph	EDITORIAL: Pakistan's civil war	
3/27/1971	Daily Telegraph	Jinnah's dream of unity dissolves in blood	
3/27/1971	The Age (Australia)	Dacca breaks with Pakistan	
3/28/1971	Sunday Telegraph	Army take over after night of shelling	
3/28/1971	Sunday Telegraph	EDITORIAL: The victims	
3/28/1971	Sunday Telegraph	Pakistani bombers 'hit rebel town'	
3/28/1971	New York Times	Army expels 35 foreign newsmen from Pakistan	
3/28/1971	New York Times	Artillary used	
3/28/1971	New York Times	Toll called high	
3/29/1971	Daily Telegraph	Army in complete control	
3/29/1971	Daily Telegraph	Casualties likely to be heavy	
3/29/1971	Daily Telegraph	East wing sealed off	
3/29/1971	Daily Telegraph	EDITORIAL: Divide or rule	
3/29/1971	Daily Telegraph	No mercy in Pakistan fighting	
3/29/1971	New York Times	Sticks and spears against tanks	
3/29/1971	The Age (Australia)	EDITORIAL: Pakistan tragedy	
3/29/1971	The Age (Australia)	Pakistanis rally to Sheik's call	
3/29/1971	The Age (Australia)	War comes at last to a divided nation	
3/29/1971	The Age (Australia)	When tanks took over the talking	
3/29/1971	The Sydney Morning Herald	EDITORIAL: Plunge into chaos	

3/30/1971	Daily Telegraph	Tanks crush revolt in Pakistan			
3/30/1971	Daily Telegraph	Reporter slips net			
3/30/1971	New York Times	Heavy killing reported			
3/31/1971	The Guardian	Heavy fighting and burning in Chittagong			
3/31/1971	New York Times	EDITORIAL: In the name of Pakistan			
April 197	April 1971				
4/3/1971	New York Times	A resistance fighter tells his story			
4/4/1971	New York Times	Britons tell of killings			
4/4/1971	New York Times	EDITORIAL: 'All part of a game' – a grim and deadly one			
4/4/1971	Sunday Telegraph	Starvation threat to E. Pakistan			
4/7/1971	New York Times	EDITORIAL: Bloodbath in Bengal			
4/9/1971	New York Times	Families flee town			
4/13/1971	The Guardian	PICTURE: Refugees flee Kushtia			
4/14/1971	The Guardian	EDITORIAL: Rhetoric and reality			
4/14/1971	New York Times	Bengalis form a cabinet as the bloodshed goes on			
4/17/1971	New York Times	Hours of terror for a trapped Bengali officer			
4/18/1971	New York Times	In this case, war is hell for one side only			
4/25/1971	New York Times	Refugees worry Indian officials			
May 1971					
5/2/1971	New York Times	The political tidal wave that struck East Pakistan			
5/6/1971	New York Times	Foreign news reports criticized			
5/7/1971	New York Times	Pakistani general disputes reports of casualties			
5/9/1971	New York Times	Bengalis depict how a priest died			
5/10/1971	New York Times	All serious opposition seems ended in East Pakistan			
5/12/1971	New York Times	EDITORIAL: The vultures of Bengal			
5/13/1971	New York Times	Army men in Pakistan see heresy in Western style education there			
5/14/1971	The Baltimore Sun	EDITORIAL: Pakistan story			
5/16/1971	New York Times	<u>That shadow in the sky is a vulture – a fat one</u>			
5/25/1971	New York Times	Pakistani strife said to continue			
5/27/1971	The Guardian	LETTER: East Bengal atrocities			
June 1971	June 1971				
6/9/1971	New York Times	Disease, hunger and death stalk refugees along India's border			
6/13/1971	The Sunday Times	EDITORIAL: Stop the killing			
6/13/1971	The Sunday Times	Genocide (Front Page story)			
6/13/1971	The Sunday Times	Genocide (Center Page story)			

6/13/1971	New York Times	Pakistani charges massacre by army		
6/20/1971	New York Times	The only way to describe it is hell		
6/21/1971	New York Times	East Pakistan is reopened to newsmen		
6/23/1971	New York Times	EDITORIAL: Abetting repression		
6/25/1971	Hong Kong Standard	EDITORIAL: Another Genghis		
July 1971				
7/1/1971	New York Times	Correspondent of the Times ousted from East Pakistan		
7/4/1971	New York Times	An alien army imposes its will		
7/4/1971	New York Times	Hindus are targets of army terror in an East Pakistani town		
7/13/1971	New York Times	World Bank unit says Pakistan aid is pointless now		
7/13/1971	New York Times	Excerpts from World Bank group's report on East Pakistan		
7/14/1971	New York Times	EDITORIAL: Pakistan condemned		
7/14/1971	New York Times	West Pakistan pursues subjugation of Bengalis		
7/17/1971	New York Times	A Pakistani terms Bengalis 'chicken hearted'		
7/23/1971	Wall Street Journal	A Nation Divided		
August 19	71			
8/1/1971	New York Times	Why they fled		
8/1/1971	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	EDITORIAL: Obligations in Pakistan		
8/5/1971	New York Times	14 Pakistani aides quit missions in US		
8/5/1971	New York Times	The ravaged people of East Pakistan		
8/12/1971	Daily Telegraph	PICTURE: Senator Kennedy visits refugee camp		
8/17/1971	Daily Telegraph	Halt US aid for Yahya, says shaken Kennedy		
8/17/1971	New York Times	Kennedy in India terms Pakistani drive genocide		
8/17/1971	Washington Post	Kennedy charges genocide in Pakistan		
September 1971				
9/23/1971	New York Times	Bengali refugees say soldiers continue to kill, loot and burn		
October 1	971			
10/14/197	New York Times	Horrors of East Pakistan turning hope into despair		
10/17/197	New York Times	The grim fight for Bangla Desh		
10/24/197	New York Times	Pakistan offers seized TV films		
November 1971				
11/17/197	New York Times	East Pakistan town after raid by army		
11/21/1971	New York Times	Razakars: Pakistani group helps both sides		
December 1971				
12/4/1971	New York Times	Mrs. Gandhi's statement		
12/6/1971	New York Times	The wringing of hands		
				

12/7/1971	New York Times	Dacca listens and waits
12/9/1971	New York Times	Bengalis dance and shout at liberation of Jessore
12/9/1971	New York Times	Pakistan's holy war
12/10/1971	New York Times	India reports foe in rout in East as encirclement of Dacca gains
12/12/1971	New York Times	The crucial fact is that Pakistanis are hated
12/15/1971	New York Times	Forces closing in
12/15/1971	Washington Post	Witness called E. Pakistan terror beyond description
12/16/1971	New York Times	Bhutto denounces council and walks out in tears
12/16/1971	New York Times	Text of message from General Manekshaw to General Niazi
12/16/1971	New York Times	Bombing is halted
12/16/1971	The Times of London	Pakistani General, near to tears, signs at racecourse ceremony
12/16/1971	The Times of London	Parliament's joyful ovation for Mrs. Gandhi
12/17/1971	New York Times	2 men at a table; march to Dacca
12/17/1971	New York Times	In Dacca killings amid the revelry
12/17/1971	New York Times	Statements by Mrs. Gandhi on truce and surrender
12/17/1971	New York Times	The surrender document
12/19/1971	New York Times	125 slain in Dacca area believed elite of Bengal
12/20/1971	New York Times	Not to be forgotten
12/21/1971	New York Times	A village ablaze, a blown bridge
12/22/1971	New York Times	Who knows how many millions have been killed
12/29/1971	New York Times	Guerrillas seek lost relatives
12/29/1971	New York Times	Hindu refugees return, find ruins in East Pakistan
12/30/1971	New York Times	A day of terror for 50,000 Bengalis
January 19	772	
1/3/1972	New York Times	A journalist is linked to murder of Bengalis
1/6/1972	New York Times	Texts of secret documents on top level US discussions of Indian-Pakistani war
1/9/1972	Daily Telegraph	Sheikh Mujib flies in and sees Heath
1/9/1972	New York Times	Backstage with the crisis managers
1/10/1972	Daily Telegraph	Yahya Khan accused of sex orgies
1/10/1972	Washington Post	The killings at Hariharpara
1/11/1972	New York Times	Sheik Mujib home
1/14/1972	New York Times	Text of memo on Indian-Pakistan war
1/16/1972	New York Times	Hindu refugees back in Dacca find themselves without homes
1/18/1972	New York Times	Bengali wives raped in war are said to face ostracism
1/23/1972	New York Times	'I'm alive!' is still big news
1/24/1972	New York Times	Bengalis land a vast cemetery

1/30/1972	Washington Post	Bengalis bodies found		
February 1972				
2/5/1972 N	New York Times	US sent arms to Pakistan despite pledge to Congress		
March 1972				
3/5/1972	New York Times	Killing of babies feared in Bengal		
3/18/1972	New York Times	India opens way for Dacca trials		
3/22/1972	Washington Post	UN asked to aid Bengali abortions		
May 1972				
5/12/1972	New York Times	Dacca raising the status of women while aiding rape victims		
July 1972				
7/23/1972	New York Times	The rapes of Bangladesh		



walked into the offices

That is the cover page, intro of the story, here the text version as it is hard to read

GENOCIDE: By—ANTHONY MASCARENHAS

X

https://g71.blogspot.nl/2016/12/genocide-byanthony-mascarenhas.html

THE SUNDAY TIMES June 13, 1971 GENOCIDE:

[A Sunday Times reporter comes out of Pakistan with the horrifying story of why five million have fled]

WEST PAKISTAN'S Army has been systematically massacring thousands of civilians in East Pakistan since the end of March. This is the horrifying reality behind the news blackout imposed by President Yahya Khan's government since the end of March. This is the reason why more than five million refugees have streamed out of East Pakistan into India, risking cholera and famine.

. The curtain of silence is broken today for the first time by Anthony Mascarenhas, the Sunday Times correspondent in Pakistan. He has seen what the Pakistan army has been doing. He has left Pakistan to tell the world.

The army has not merely been killing supporters of the idea of Bangla Dash, an independent East Bengal. It has deliberately been massacring others, Hindus and Bengali Muslims. Hindus have been shot and beaten to death with clubs simply because they are Hindus. Villages have been burned. Sporadic and unconfirmed reports of atrocities by the Pakistan army have BEEN reaching the outside world for .some time, notably from refugees, missionaries and diplomats. The report by Anthony Mascarenhas appearing in full on page twelve to fourteen today—is a detailed eye-witness account of unique precision and authority. He supplies the missing center-piece of the tragedy of Bengal: why the refugees have fled.

There is a remarkable story behind Anthony Mascaren-has's report.

When, at the end of March, the Pakistan army flew two divisions into East Pakistan to "sort out" the Bengali rebels, it moved in secret. But about two weeks later the Pakistan government invited eight Pakistani journalists to fly to East Bengal. The idea—as government officials left the journalists in no doubt—was to give the people of West Pakistan a reassuring picture of the "return to normalcy" in the eastern half of the country. Seven of the journalists have done as they were intended. But one was Mascarenhas, who is assistant editor of the Morning News in Karachi, and was also The Sunday Times Pakistan correspondent.

On Tuesday, May 18, he arrived, unexpectedly, in the Sunday Times office in London. There was, he told us, a story he wanted to write: the true story of what had hap—pened' in East Bengal to drive five million people to flight. He made it plain that he understood that if he wrote his story there could be no going back to Karachi for him. He said he had made up his mind to leave Pakistan: to give up his house, most of his possessions and his job as one of the most respected journalists in the country. There was only one condition we must not publish his story until he had gone back into Pakistan and brought out his wife and five children.

The Sunday Times agreed, and Mascarenhas went back to Karachi. After a wait of ten days an overseas cable arrived at the private address of a Sunday Times executive.

Export formalities completed," it read, "Shipment begins Monday."

Mascarenhas had succeeded in getting permission for his wife and family to leave the country. He himself had been forbidden to leave. He found a way of leaving anyway.

On the last leg of his journey inside Pakistan, he found himself sitting in a plane across the aisle from a senior Ministry of Information official whom he knew well. A phone call from the airport could have led to his arrest.

There was no phone call, however, and last Tuesday he arrived back in London.

Mascarenhas writes about what he saw in East Pakistan with special authority and objectivity. As a Goan Christian by descent, he is neither a Hindu nor a Muslim. Having lived most of his life in what is now Pakistan, having held a Pakistani passport since the State was created in 1947, and having enjoyed the confidence of many of the leaders of Pakistan since that time, he wrote his report with real personal regret.

"We were told by the Ministry of Information officials to show in a patriotic way the great job the army was doing," he told us.

There was no question of his reporting what he saw for his own paper. He was allowed to file a story, which was published in The Sunday Times on May 2, which reported only the events of March 25/26, when the Bengali troops mutinied and atrocities were committed against non-Bengali. Even references to the danger of famine were deleted by the censor. That increased his crisis of conscience.

After some days' hesitation, he decided, in his own words, that "either I would write the full story of what I had seen, or I would have to stop writing: I would never again be able to write with any integrity." And so he got on a plane and came to London. We have been able to check his story in great detail with other refugees in a position to have had a wide knowledge of events in East Bengal as a whole, and with objective diplomatic sources.

EDITORIAL: STOP THE KILLING

BY DEVOTING that whole of its center pages to one article about East Pakistan, The Sunday Times has taken a considered and exceptional step. We have done so first because this is fullest authoritative, first-hand account so far available of acts and intentions of the central Pakistan Government in its eastern province. Secondly, because the story itself is so horrifyingly revealing about what the millions of refuges are fleeing from, that it needs to be told at length. The Sunday Times has checked as far as possible the accuracy of this report. But in any event, we have the fullest confidence in the integrity of our reporter, who has himself abandoned home and career in Pakistan to bring the news to the world.

The present crisis would never have arisen had it not been for Yahya Khan's commendable wish to end the military dictatorship in Pakistan by calling, last autumn, for general elections. The outlet for Bengali nationalism which those elections provided later lit the fire which has been so brutally extinguished. But long before that the seeds of disunity and dissension were sown when, in 1947, the State of Pakistan was created in two unequal sections. From that day to this, the Bengali people of East Pakistan have, justifiably, felt themselves to be the unequal partner, the poor relation in a state to whose general economy they in fact contribute a large part. Moreover, in the present welter of blood and persecution, the Bengalis themselves, as our story makes plain, must bear some responsibility for their acts of retributive violence against non-Bengali.

But when all this has been said, there is no escaping the terrible charge of deliberate, premeditated extermination leveled by the facts against the present Pakistani Government. Yahya Khan may conceivably mean what he says when he speaks of a return to civilian rule and normality. Hut how, after what has happened, can be Pakistani Government persuade what is left of the Bengali leadership that they are brothers and equal members of the same nation?

With the Army still operating on a directive to enforce submission to the Central Government, there is the danger that if the Western Powers to whom Pakistan is now appealing for financial aid respond positively, that aid will contribute, directly or indirectly, to the army's gruesome operations. Yet totally to withhold this and other aid would simply condemn Pakistan to economic disintegration with all the extra human suffering involved.

The most hopeful formula is for the Western countries, concerned, Britain among them, to make the grant of extra aid dependent upon Yahya Khan's readiness to institute a new deal for East Pakistan and specifically to ensure that his army desists from excesses. While the United Nations and the voluntary, relief organizations should stand out for control over relief operations in East Pakistan, nothing can alter the fact that Pakistan is a sovereign country which cannot be forced to do what she does not want to do. The best, indeed the only safeguard, is to direct, wherever and whenever it is possible, the spotlight of publicity upon the words and deeds of the Pakistani Government in the hope that the pressure of world opinion will in the end have some effect.

Exactly what form a new deal for East Pakistan should take is very difficult to say. Whatever it is, it is unlikely that the bulk of the refugees now in India, most of them Hindus, will ever be willing to return to East Pakistan. In the present fog of war and atrocity, one thing stands out all too clearly.

It is that Yahya Khan's terrible mistake, and its terrible consequences, have created a new area of instability in Asia, and the world; an area comparable, in its racial and territorial elements, with the Middle East, and likely, in the future, to cause just as much misery to its inhabitants and concern to the outside world.

Published links to the full story, and got that as text as well, next

Genocide: The June 1971 Sunday Times essay about Pakistan

X

mass murder in East Pakistan (Bangladesh) that woke the world

http://tarekfatah.com/genocide-the-iune-1971-article-about-pakistans-mass-murders-in-east-pakistan-by-tony-mascarenhas-in-londons-sunday-times-that-woke-up-the-world/

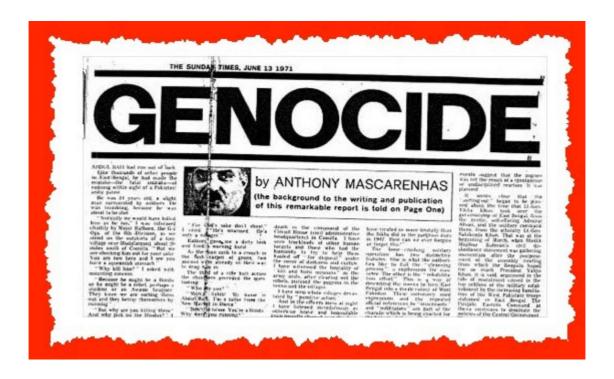
GENOCIDE

An account by Anthony Mascarenhas, former Assistant Editor, Morning News, Karachi.
ABDUL BARI had run out of luck.

http://www.cbgr1971.org/files/SundayTime/GenocideAnthonyMascarenhasDocx.pdf



THE SUNDAY TIMES



June 13, 1971

Anthony Mascarenhas The Sunday Times, London

ABDUL BARI had run out of luck. Like thousands of other people in East Bengal, he had made the mistake the fatal mistake-of running within sight of a Pakistani army patrol. He was 24 years old, a slight man surrounded by soldiers. He was trembling, because he was about to be shot.

"Normally we would have killed him as he ran," I was informed chattily by Major Rathore, the G-2 Ops. of the 9th Division, as we stood on the outskirts of a tiny village near Mudafarganj, about 20 miles south of Comilla. "But we are checking him out for your sake. You are new here and I see you have a squeamish stomach."

"Why kill him?" I asked with mounting concern.

"Because he might be a Hindu or he might be a rebel, perhaps a student or an Awami Leaguer. They know we are sorting them out and they betray themselves by running."

"But why are you killing them? And why pick on the Hindus?" I persisted.

"Must I remind you," Rathore said severely, "how they have tried to destroy Pakistan? Now under the cover of the fighting we have an excellent opportunity of finishing them off."

First Glimpse of Blood stains

"Of course," he added hastily, "we are only killing the Hindu men. We are soldiers, not cowards like the rebels. They kill our women and children."

I WAS GETTING my first glimpse of the stain of blood which has spread over the otherwise verdant land of East Bengal. First it was the massacre of the non-Bengalis in a savage outburst of Bengali hatred. Now it was massacre, deliberately carried out by the West Pakistan army.

The pogrom's victims are not only the Hindus of East Bengal-who constitute about 10 per cent of the 75 million population-but also many thousands of Bengali Muslims. These include university and college students, teachers, Awami League and Left-Wing political cadres and every one thee army can catch of the 176,000 Bengali military men and police who mutinied on March 26 in a spectacular, though untimely and ill-starred bid, to create an independent Republic of Bangla Desh.

What I saw and heard with unbelieving eyes and ears during my 10 days in East Bengal in late April made it terribly clear that the killings are not the isolated acts of military commanders in the field.

The West Pakistani soldiers are not the only ones who have been killing in East Bengal, of course.

On the night of March 25-and this I was allowed to report by the Pakistani censor-the Bengali troops and paramilitary units stationed in East Pakistan mutinied and attacked non-Bengalis with atrocious savagery.

Thousands of families of unfortunate Muslims, many of them refugees from Bihar who chose Pakistan at the time of the partition riots in 1947 were mercilessly wiped out. Women were raped, or had their breasts torn out with specially fashioned knives.

Children did not escape the horror: the lucky ones were killed with their parents; but many thousands of others must go through what life remains for them with eyes gouged out and limbs roughly amputated. More than 20,000 bodies of non-Bengalis have been found in the main towns, such as Chittagong, Khulna and Jessore. The real toll, I was told everywhere in East Bengal, may have been as high as 100,000; for thousands of non-Bengalis have vanished without a trace.

The Government of Pakistan has let the world know about that first horror. What it has suppressed is the second and worse horror which followed when its own army took over the killing. West Pakistani officials privately calculate that; altogether both sides have killed 250,000 people-not counting those who have died of famine and disease.

Reacting to the almost successful breakaway of the province, which has more than half the country's population, General Yahya Khan's military Government is pushing through its own "final solution" of the East Bengal problem. "We are determined to cleanse East Pakistan once and for all of the threat of secession, even if it means killing of two million people and ruling the province as a colony for 30 years," I was repeatedly told by senior military and civil officers in Dacca and Comilla.

The West Pakistan army in East Bengal is doing exactly that with a terrifying thoroughness. WE HAD BEEN racing against the setting sun after a visit to Chandpur (the West Pakistan army prudently stays indoors at night in East Bengal) when one of the jawans (privates) crouched in the back of the Toyota Land Cruiser called out sharply: "There's a man running, Sahib".

Major Rathore brought the vehicle to an abrupt halt, simultaneously reaching for the Chinese made light machine-gun propped against the door. Less than 200 yards away a man could be seen loping through the knee-high paddy. "For God's sake don't shoot," I cried. "He's unarmed. He's only a villager." Rathore gave me a dirty look and fired a warning burst.

As the man sank to a crouch in the lush carpet of green, two jawans were already on their way to drag him in.

The thud of a rifle butt across the shoulders preceded the questioning.

- "Who are you?"
- "Mercy, Sahib! My name is Abdul Bari. I'm a tailor from the New Market in Dacca.
- "Don't lie to me You're a Hindu. Why were you running?"
- "'It's almost curfew time, Sahib, and I was going to my village."
- "Tell me the truth. Why were you running?"

Before the man could answer he was quickly frisked for weapons by a jawan while another quickly snatched away his lunghi. The skinny body that was bared revealed the distinctive traces of circumcision, which is obligatory for Muslims.

The truckloads of human targets

At least it could be plainly seen that Bari was not a Hindu.

The interrogation proceeded.

"Tell me, why were you running?"

By this time Bari, wild eyed and trembling violently, could not answer. He buckled at the knees.

"He looks like a fauji, sir," volunteered one jawan as Bari was hauled to his feet, (Fauji is the Urdu word for soldier: the army uses it for the Bengali rebels it is hounding.)

"Could be," I heard Rathore mutter grimly.

Abdul Bari was clouted several times with the butt end of a rifle, then ominously pushed against a wall. Mercifully his screams brought a young head peeping from the shadows of a nearby hut. Bari shouted something in Bengali. The head vanished.

Moments later a bearded old man came haltingly from the but. Rathore pounced on him.

- "Do you know this man?"
- "Yes, Sahib. He is Abdul Bari." "Is he a fauji?"
- "No Sahib, he is a tailor from Dacca."
- "Tell me the truth."
- "Khuda Kassam (God's oath), Sahib, he is a tailor."

There was a sudden silence. Rathore looked abashed as I told him "For God's sake let him go. What more proof do you want of his innocence?"

But the jawans were apparently unconvinced and kept milling around Bari. It was only after I had once more interceded on his behalf that Rathore ordered Bari to be released. By that time he was a crumpled, speechless heap of terror. But his life had been saved.

Others have not been as fortunate.

For six days as I travelled with the officers of the 9th Division headquarters at Comilla I witnessed at close quarters the extent of the killing. I saw Hindus, hunted from village to village and door to door, shot off-hand after a cursory "short-arm inspection" showed they were uncircumcised.

I have heard the screams of men bludgeoned to death in the compound of the Circuit House (civil administrative headquarters) in Comilla. I have seen truck loads of other human targets and those who had the humanity to try to help them hauled off "for under the cover of darkness and curfew. I have witnessed the brutality of "kill and burn missions" as the army units, after clearing out the rebels, pursued the pogrom in the towns and the villages.

I have seen whole villages devastated by "punitive action." And in the officers mess at night I have listened incredulously as otherwise brave and honourable men proudly chewed over the day's kill.

"How many did you get?" The answers are seared in my memory.

All this is being done, as any West Pakistani officer will tell you, for the "preservation of the unity, the integrity and the ideology of Pakistan." It is, of course, too late for that. The very military action that is designed to hold together the two wings of the country, separated by a thousand miles of India, has confirmed the ideological and emotional break.

East Bengal can only be kept in Pakistan by the heavy hand of the army. And the army is dominated by the Punjabis, who traditionally despise and dislike the Bengalis.

The break is so complete today that few Bengalis will willingly be seen in the company of a West Pakistani. I had a distressing experience of this kind during my visit to Dacca when I went to visit an old friend. "I'm sorry," he told me as he turned away, "things have changed. The Pakistan that you and L knew has ceased to exist. Let us put it behind us."

Hours later a Punjabi army officer, talking about the massacre of the non Bengalis before the army moved in, told me: "They have treated us more brutally than the Sikhs did in the partition riots in 1947. How can we ever forgive or forget this?"

Annihilation of Hindus

The bone-crushing military operation has two distinctive features. One is what the authorities like to call the "cleansing process"; a euphemism for massacre. The other is the "rehabilitation effort."

This is a way of describing the moves to turn East Bengal into a docile colony of West Pakistan. These commonly used expressions and the repeated official references to "miscreants" and "infiltrators" are part of the charade which is being enacted for the benefit of the world. Strip away the propaganda, and the reality is colonisation-and killing. The justification for the annihilation of the Hindus was paraphrased by Lt. Gen. Tikka Khan, the Military Governor of East Pakistan, in a radio broadcast I heard on April 18. He said:

"The Muslims of East Pakistan, who had played a leading part in the creation of Pakistan, are determined to keep it alive. However, the voice of the vast majority had been suppressed through coercion, threats to life and property by a vocal, violent and aggressive minority, which forced the Awami League to adopt the destructive course." Others, speaking privately, were more blunt in seeking justification.

"The Hindus had completely undermined the Muslim masses with their money," Col. Naim, of 9th Division headquarters, told me in the officers mess at Comilla. They bled the province white. Money, food and produce flowed across the borders to India. In some cases they made up more than half the teaching staff in the colleges and schools, and sent their own children to be educated in Calcutta. It had reached the point where Bengali culture was in fact Hindu culture, and East Pakistan was virtually under the control of the Marwari businessmen in Calcutta. We have to sort them out to restore the land to the people, and the people to their Faith."

Or take Major Bashir. He came up from the ranks. He is SSO of the 9th Division at Comilla and he boasts of a personal bodycount of 28. He had his own reasons for what has happened.

"This is a war between the pure and the impure," he informed me over a cup of green tea. "The people here may have Muslim names and call themselves Muslims. But they are Hindus at heart. You won't believe that the maulvi (mulla) of the Cantonment mosque here issued a fathwa (edict) during Friday prayers that the people would attain ,janat (paradise) if they killed West Pakistanis. We sorted the bastard out and we are now sorting out the others. Those who are left will be real Muslims. We will even teach them Urdu."

Everywhere I found officers and men fashioning imaginative garments of justification from the fabric of their own prejudices. Scapegoats had to be found to legitimise, even for their own consciences, the dreadful "solution" to what in essence was a political problem: the Bengalis won the election and wanted to rule.

The Punjabis, whose ambitions and interests have dominated government policies since the founding of Pakistan in 1947, would brook no erosion of their power. The army backed them up.

Officials privately justify what has been done as a retaliation for the massacre of the non-Bengalis before the army moved in. But events suggest that the pogrom was not the result of a spontaneous or undisciplined reaction. It was planned.

General Tikka Khan takes over

It seems clear that the "sorting-out" began to be planned about the time that Lt-Gen. Tikka Khan took over the governorship of East Bengal, from the gentle, self-effacing Admiral Ahsan, and the military command there, from the scholarly Lt-Gen. Sahibzada Khan.

That was at the beginning of March, when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's civil disobedience movement was gathering momentum after the postponement of the assembly meeting from which the Bengalis hoped for so much. President Yahya Khan, it is said, acquiesced in the tide of resentment caused in the top echelons of the military establishment by the increasing humiliation of the West Pakistani troops stationed in East Bengal.

The Punjabi Eastern Command at Dacca continues to dominate the policies of the Central Government. [It is perhaps worth pointing out that the Khans are not related: Khan is a common surname in Pakistan.]

When the army units fanned out in Dacca on the evening of March 25, in pre-emptive strikes against the mutiny planned for the small hours of the next morning, many of them carried lists of people to be liquidated.

These included the Hindus and large numbers of Muslims; students, Awami Leaguers, professors, journalists and those who had been prominent in Sheikh Mujib's movement. The charge, now publicly made, that the army was subjected to mortar attack from the Jaganath Hall, where the Hindu university students lived, hardly justifies the obliteration of two Hindu colonies, built around the temples on Ramna race course, and a third in Shakrepati, in the heart of the old city.

Nor does it explain why the sizeable Hindu populations of Dacca and the neighbouring industrial town of Narayanganj should have vanished so completely during the round-the-clock curfew on March 26 and 27. There is similarly no trace of scores of Muslims who were rounded up during the curfew hours. These people were eliminated in a planned operation: and improvised response to Hindu aggression would have had ~as,l~ different results.

Touring Dacca on April 15, I found the heads of four students lying rotting on the roof of the Iqbal Hall hostel. The caretaker said they had been killed on the night of March 25. I also found heavy traces of blood on the two staircases and in four of the rooms. Behind Iqbal Hall a large residential building seemed to have been singled out for special attention by the army.

The walls were pitted with bullet holes and a foul smell still lingered on the staircase, although it had been heavily powdered with DDT. Neighbours said the bodies of 23 women and children had been carted away only hours before. They had been decomposing on the roof since March 25. It was only after much questioning that I was able to ascertain that the victims belonged to the nearby Hindu shanties. They had sought shelter in the building as the army closed in.

THIS IS GENOCIDE conducted with amazing casualness.

Sitting in the office of Major Agha, Martial Law Administrator of Comilla city, on the morning of' April 19, I saw the off-hand manner in which sentences were meted out. A Bihari sub-inspector of police had walked in with a list of prisoners being held' in the police lock-up. Agha looked it over. Then, with a flick of his pencil, he casually ticked off four names on the list.

"Bring these four to me this evening for disposal," he said. He looked at the list again. The pencil flicked once more. "... and bring this thief along with, them."

Death sentence over Cold Drink

The death sentence had been pronounced over a glass of coconut milk. I was informed that two of the prisoners were Hindus, the third a "student," and the fourth an Awami League organiser. The "thief," it transpired, was a lad named Sebastian who had been caught moving the household effects of a Hindu friend to his own house.

Later that evening I saw these men, their hands and legs tied loosely with, a single rope, being led down the road to the Circuit House compound. A little after curfew, which was at 6 o'clock, a flock of squawking mynah birds were disturbed in their play by the thwacking sound of wooden clubs meeting bone and flesh.

Captain Azmat of the Baluch Regiment had two claims to fame according to the mess banter. One was his job as ADC to Maj.-Gen. Shaukat Raza. Commanding officer of the 9th Division. The other was thrust on him by his colleagues' ragging.

Azmat, it transpired, was the only officer in the group who had not made a" kill" Major Bashir needled him mercilessly. "Come on Azmat, "Bashir told him one night, "we are going to make a man of you. Tomorrow we will see how you can make them run. It's so easy."

To underscore the point Bashir went into one of his long spiels. Apart from his duties as SSO, Bashir was also "education officer" at Headquarters. He was the only Punjabi officer I found who could speak Bengali fluently. By general agreement Bashir was also a self-taught bore who gloried in the sound of his own voice.

A dhari walla (bearded man) we were told, had come to see Bashir that morning to inquire about his brother, a prominent Awami League organiser of Commilla who had been netted by the army some days earlier. Dhor gaya, Bashir said he told him:" He has run away. The old man could'nt comprehend how his brother could have escaped on a broken leg. Neither could 1. So Major Bashir, with a broad wink, enlightened me. The record would show dhor gaya: "shot while escaping."

I never did find out whether Captain Azmat got his kill.

The rebel Bengali forces who had dug in at Feni, seventy miles north of Chittagong on the highway to Comilla, had tied down the 9th Division by destroying all the bridges and culverts in the area. General Raza was getting hell from the Eastern Command at Dacca which was anxious to have the south-eastern border sealed against escaping rebels. It was also desperately urgent to open this only land route to the north to much-needed supplies that had been piling up in the port at Chittagong.

So General Raza was understandably waspish. He flew over the area almost daily. He also spent hours haranguing the brigade that, was bogged down at Feni. Captain Azmat, as usual, was the General's shadow. I did not see him again. But if experience is any pointer, Azmat probably had to sweat out his "kill" and the ragging-for another three weeks.

It was only on May 8 that the 9th Division was able to clear Feni and the surrounding area. By then the Bengali rebels, forced out by relentless bombing and artillery barrages, had escaped with their weapons across the neighbouring border into India.

The escape of such large numbers of armed, hard-core regulars among the Bengali rebels was a matter of grave concern to Lt.-Col. Aslam Baig, G-1 at 9th Division headquarters.

"The Indians," he explained, will "obviously not allow them to settle there. It would be too dangerous. So they will be allowed in on sufferance as long as they keep making sorties across the border. Unless we can kill them off, we are going to have serious trouble for a long time."

Lt: Col. Baig was a popular artillery officer who had done a stint in China after the India-Pakistan war when units of the Pakistan Army were converting to Chinese equipment. He was said to be a pround family man. He also loved Cowers. He told me with unconcealed pride that during a previous posting at Comilla he had brought from China the giant scarlet waterlillies that adorn the pond opposite the headquarters. Major Bashir adored him. Extolling one officer's decisiveness Bashir told me that once they had caught a rebel officer there was a big fuss about what should be done with him.

"While the others were telephoning all over for instructions," he said, "he solved the problem. Dhor gaya. Only the man's foot was left sticking out of the ditch."

It is hard to imagine so much brutality in the midst of so much beauty Comilla was blooming when I went there towards the end of April. The rich green ,carpet of rice paddies spreading to the horison on both sides of the road was broken here and there by bright splashes of red. That was the Gol Mohor, aptly dubbed the "Flame of the Forest," coming to full bloom. Mango and coconut trees in the villages dotting the countryside were heavy with fruit. Even the terrier-sized goats skipping across the road gave evidence of the abundance of nature in Bengal. "The only ,way you can tell the male from the female," they told me, "is that all the she-goats are pregnant."

Fire and Murder their vengeance

In one of the most crowded areas of the entire world, Comilla district has a population density of 1,900 to the square mile-only man was nowhere to be seen. "Where are the Bengalis?" I had asked my escorts in the strangely empty streets of Dacca a few days earlier." They have gone to the villages, — was the stock reply. Now, in the countryside, there were still no Bengalis. Comilla town like Dacca was heavily shuttered. And in ten miles on the road to Laksham. past silent villages, the peasants I saw could have been counted on the fingers of both hands.

There were, of course, soldiers-hundreds of unsmiling men in khaki, each with an automatic rifle. According to orders, the rifles never left their hands. The roads are constantly patrolled by tough, trigger-happy men. Wherever the army is, you won't find Bengalis.

Martial law orders, constantly repeated on the radio and in the Press, proclaim the death penalty for any one caught in the act of sabotage. If a road is obstructed or a bridge damaged or destroyed, all houses within 10 yards of the spot are liable to be demolished and their inhabitants rounded up.

The practice is even more terrible than anything the words could suggest. "Punitive action" is something that the Bengalis have come to dread.

We saw what this meant when we were approaching Hajiganj, which straddles the road to Chandpur, on the morning of April 17. A few miles before Hajiganj, a 15-foot bridge had been damaged the previous night by rebels who were still active in the area.

According to Major Rathore (G-2 Ops.) an army unit had immediately been sent out to take punitive action. Long spirals of smoke could be seen on all sides up to a distance of a quarter of a mile from the damaged bridge. And as we carefully drove over a bed of wooden boards, with which it had been hastily repaired, we could see houses in the village on the right beginning to catch fire.

At the back of the village some jawans were spreading the flames with dried coconut fronds. They make excellent kindling and are normally used for cooking. We could also see a body sprawled between the coconut trees at the entrance to the village. On other side of the road another village in the rice paddies showed evidence of the fire that had gutted more than a dozen bamboo and mat huts. Hundreds of villagers had escaped before the army came. Others, like the man among the coconut trees, were slow to get away.

As we drove on, Major Rathore said, "They brought it on themselves." I said it was surely too terrible a vengeance on innocent people for the acts of a handful of rebels. He did not answer. A few hours later when we were again passing through Hajiganj on the way back from Chandpur, I had my first exposure to the savagery of a "kill and burn mission". We were still caught up in the aftermath of a tropical storm which had hit the area that afternoon. A heavy overcast made ghostly shadows on the mosque towering above the town. Light drizzle was beginning to wet the uniforms of Captain Azhar and the four jawans riding in the exposed escort jeep behind us.

We turned a corner and found a convoy of trucks parked outside the mosque. I counted seven, all filled with jawans in battle dress. At the head of the column was& a jeep. Across the road two men, supervised by a third, were trying to batter down the door of one of more than a hundred shuttered shops lining the road. The studded teak wood door was beginning to give under the combined assault of two axes as Major Rathore brought the Toyota to a halt.

"What the hell are you doing?"

The tallest of the trio, who was supervising the break-in, turned and peered at us. "Mota," (Fatty) he shouted, "what the hell do you think we are doing?"

Recognising the voice, Rathore drew a water-melon smile. It was, he informed me, his old friend "Ifty"-Major Iftikhar of the 12th Frontier Force Rifles.

Rathore:" I thought someone was looting."

Iftikhar:" Looting? No. We are on kill and burn." Waving his Land to take in the shops, he said he was going to destroy the shop.

Rathore:" How many did you get?"

Iftikhar smiled bashfully.

Rathore:" Come on. How many did you get?"

Iftikhar:" Only twelve. And by God we were lucky to get them. We would have lost those, too, if I hadn't sent my men from the back."

Prodded by Major Rathore, Iftikhar then went on to describe vividly how after much searching in Hajiganj he had discovered twelve Hindus hiding in a house on the outskirts of the town. These had been "disposed of". Now Major Iftikhar was on the second part of his mission: burn.

By this time the shop's door had been demobilised and we found ourselves looking into one of those tiny catch-all establishments which, in these parts, go under the title "Medical & Stores."

Under the Bengali lettering the signboard carried in English the legend "Ashok Medical & Stores." Lower down was painted "Prop. A. M. Bose." Mr. Bose, like the rest of the people of Hajiganj, had locked and run away.

In front of the shop a small display cabinet was crammed with patent medicines, cough syrups, some bottles of mango squash, imitation jewellery, reels of coloured cotton, thread and packets of knicker elastic. Iftikhar kicked it over, smashing the light wood-work into kindling. Next he reached out for some jute shopping bags on one shelf. He took some plastic toys from another. A bundle of handkerchiefs and a small bolt of red cloth joined the pile on the floor.

Iftikhar heaped them all together and borrowed a matchbox from one of the jawans sitting in our Toyota. The jawan had ideas of his own. Jumping from the vehicle he ran to the shop and tried to pull down one of the umbrellas hanging from the low ceiling of the shop. Iftikhar ordered him out.

Looting, he was sharply reminded, was against orders.

Iftikhar soon had a fire going. He threw burning jute bags into one corner of the shop, the bolt of cloth into another. The shop began to blaze. Within minutes we could hear the crackle of flames behind shuttered doors as the fire spread to the shop on the left, then on to the next one.

At this point Rathore was beginning to get anxious about the gathering darkness. So we drove on.

When I chanced to meet Major Iftikhar the next day he ruefully told me, "I burnt only sixty houses. If it hadn't rained I would have got the whole bloody lot."

Approaching a village a few miles from Mudarfarganj we were forced to a halt by what appeared to be a man crouching againts a mud wall. One of the jawans warned it might be a fauji sniper. But after careful scouting it turned out to be a lovely young Hindu girl. She sat there with the placidity of her people, waiting for God knows who.

One of the jawans had been ten years with the East Pakistan Rifles and could speak bazaar Bengali. He was told to order her into the village. She mumbled something in reply, but stayed where she was, but was ordered a second time. She was still sitting there as we drove away. "She has," I was informed, "nowhere to go-no family, no home."

Major Iftikhar was one of several officers assigned to kill and burn missions. They moved in after the rebels had been cleared by the army with the freedom to comb-out and destroy Hindus and "miscreants" (the official jargon for rebels) and to burn down everything in the areas from which the army had been fired at.

Three shots to kill a man

This lanky Punjabi officer liked to talk about his job. Riding with Iftikhar to the Circuit House in Comilla on another occasion he told me about his latest exploit. "We got an old one," he said. "The bastard had grown a beard and was posing as a devout Muslim even called himself Abdul Manan. But we gave him a medical inspection and the game was up." Iftikhar continued: "I wanted to finish him there and then, but my men told me such a bastard deserved three shots. So I gave him one in the balls, then one in the stomach. Then I finished him off with a shot in the head."

When I left Major Iftikhar he was headed north to Bramanbaria. His mission: Another kill and burn.

Overwhelmed with terror the Bengalis have one of two reactions. Those who can run away just seem to vanish. Whole towns have been abandoned as the army approached. Those who can't run away adopt a cringing servility which only adds humiliation to their plight.

Chandpur was an example of the first.

In the past this key river port on the Meghna was noted for its thriving business houses and gay life. At night thousands of small country boats anchored on the river's edge made it a fairy land of lights. On April 18 Chandpur was deserted. No people, no boats. Barely one per cent of the population had remained. The rest, particularly the Hindus who constituted nearly half the population, had fled.

Weirdly they had left behind thousands of Pakistani flags fluttering from every house, shop and rooftop. The effect was like a national day celebration without the crowds. It only served to emphasise the haunted look. The flags were by way of insurance. Somehow the word had got around that the army considered any structure without a Pakistani flag to be hostile and consequently to be destroyed. It did not matter how the Pakistani flags were made, so long as they were adorned with the crescent and star. So they came in all sizes, shapes and colours.

Some flaunted blue flelds, instead of the regulation green. Obviously they had been hastily put together with the same material that had been used for the blue BanglaDesh flag. Indeed blue Pakistani flags were more common than the green. The scene in Chandpur was repeated in Hajiganj, Madarfarganj, Kasba, Brahmanbaria; all ghost towns gay, with flags. Laksham was an example of the other reaction; cringing.

When I drove into the town the morning after it had been cleared of the rebels, all I could see was the army and literally thousands of Pakistani flags. The major in charge there had camped in the police station, and it was there that Major Rathore took us. My colleague, a Pakistani TV cameraman, had to make a propaganda film about the "return to normalcy" in Laksham-one of the endless series broadcast daily showing welcome parades and "peace meetings."

A 'Parade' and a Knowing Wink

I wondered how he could manage it but the Major said it would be no sweat. "There are enough of these bastards left to put on a good show. Give me 20 minutes."

Lieutenant Javed of the 39 Baluch was assigned the task of rounding up a crowd. He called out to an elderly bearded man who had apparently been brought in for questioning. The man, who later gave his name as Moulana Said Mohammad Saidul Huq, insisted he was a "staunch Muslim Leaguer and not from the Awami League" (The Muslim League led the movement for an independent Pakistan in. 1947. He was all too eager to please. "I will very definitely get you at least 60 men in 20 minutes," he told Javed. "But if you give me two hours I will bring 200."

Moulana Saidul Huq was as good as his word. We had hardly drunk our flit of the deliciouly refreshing coconut milk that had been thought fully supplied by the Major when we heard shouts in the distance. "Pakistan Zindabad!" "Pakistan, army Zindabad!" "Muslim League Zindabad!" they were chanting. (Zindabad is Urdu for "Long live!") Moments later they marched into view a motley crowd of about 50 old and decrepit men and knee-high children, all waving Pakistani flags and shouting at the top of their voices. Lt. Javed gave me a knowing wink.

Within minutes the parade had grown into a "public meeting" complete with a make-shift public address system and a rapidly multiplying group of would-be speakers. Mr. Mahbub-ur-Rahman was pushed forward to make the address of welcome to the army. He introduced himself as "N.F. College Professor of English and Arabic who had also tried for History and is a life-time member of the great Muslim, League Party."

Introduction over, Mahbub-ur-Rahman gave forth with gusto. "Punjabis and Bengalis," he said, "had united for Pakistan and we had our own traditions and culture. But we were terrorised by the Hindus and the Awami Leaguers and led astray. Now we thank God that the Punjabi soldiers have saved us. They are the best soldiers in the world and heroes of humanity. We love and respect them from the bottom of our hearts." And so on, interminably, in the same vein.

After the "meeting" I asked the Major what he thought about the speech, "Serves the purposes," he said, "but I don't trust that bastard. I'll put him on my list." The agony of East Bengal is not over. Perhaps the worst is yet to come. The army is determined to go on until the "clean-up" is completed. So far the job is only half done. Two divisions of the Pakistan Army, the 9th and the 16th, were flown out from West Pakistan to "sort out" the Bengali rebels and the Hindus.

This was a considerable logistical feat for a country of Pakistan's resources. More than 25,000 men were moved from the west to the east. On March 28 the two divisions were given 48 hours' notice to move. They were brought by train to Karachi from Kharian and Multan.

Carrying only light bed rolls and battle packs (their equipment was to follow by sea), the troops were flown out to Dacca by PIA, the national airline. Its fleet of seven Boeings was taken off international and domestic routes and flew the long haul (via) Ceylon continuously for 14 days. A few Air Force transport aircraft helped.

The troops went into action immediately with equipment borrowed from the 14th Division which till then constituted the Eastern Command. The 9th Division, operating from Comilla, was ordered to seal the border in the east against movement of rebels and their supplies.

The 16th Division, with headquarters at Jessore, had a similar task in the western sector of the province. They completed these assignments by the third week of May. With the rebels-those who have not been able to escape to India-boxed in a ring of steel and fire, the two army divisions are beginning to converge in a relentless comb-out operation. Ibis will, undoubtedly mean that the terror experienced in the border areas will now spread to the middle point. It could also be more painful. The human targets will have nowhere to run to.

On April 20 Lt.-Col. Baig, the flower-loving G-1 of the 9th Division, thought that the comb-out would take two months, to the middle of June. But this planning seems to have misfired. The rebel forces, using guerrilla tactics, have not been subdued as easily as the army expected.

Isolated and apparently uncoordinated, the rebels have nonetheless bogged down the Pakistan Army in many places by the systematic destruction of roads and railways, without which the army cannot move. The ninth Division for one was hopelessly behind schedule. Now the monsoon threatens to shut down the military operation with three months of cloudbursts. For the rainy season, the Pakistan Government obtained from China in the second week of May, nine shallow draught river gunboats. More are to come. These 80-ton gunboats with massive firepower will take over some of the responsibilities hitherto allotted to the air force and artillery, which will not be as effective when it rains. They will be supported by several hundred country craft which have been requisitioned and converted for military use by the addition of outboard motors. The army intends to take to the water in pursuit of the rebels.

There is also the clear prospect of famine, because of the breakdown of the distribution system. Seventeen of the 23 districts of East Pakistan are normally short of food and have to be supplied by massive imports of rice and wheat. This will not be possible this year because of the civil war. Six major bridges and thousands of smaller ones have been destroyed, making the roads impassable in many places. The railway system has been similarly disrupted though the Government claims it is "almost normal".

The road and rail tracks between the port of Chittagong and the north have been completely disrupted by the rebels who held Feni, a key road and rail junction, until May 7. Food stocks cannot move because of this devastation. In normal times only 15 per cent of food movements from Chittagong to upcountry areas were made by boat. The remaining 85 per cent was moved by road and rail. Even a 100 per cent increase in the effectiveness of river movement will leave 70 per cent of the food stocks in the warehouses of Chittagong.

Two other factors must be added. One is large-scale hoarding of grain by people who have begun to anticipate the famine. This makes a tight position infinitely more difficult. The other is the Government of Pakistan's refusal to acknowledge the danger of famine publicity. Lt. Gen. Tikka Khan, the Military Governor of East Bengal, acknowledged in a radio broadcast on April 18 that he was gravely concerned about food supplies. Since then the entire Government machinery has been used to suppress the fact of the food shortage. The reason is that a famine, like the cyclone before it, could result in a massive outpouring of foreign aid-and with it the prospect of external inspection of distribution methods. That would make it impossible to conceal from the world the scale of the pogrom. So the hungry will be left to die until the clean-up is complete.

Let Them Die of Starvation

Discussing the problem in his plush air-conditioned office in Karachi recently the chairman of the Agricultural Development Bank, Mr. Qarni, said bluntly: "The famine is the result of their acts of sabotage. So let them die. Perhaps then the Bengalis will come to their senses."

THE MILITARY Government's East Bengal policy is so apparently contradictory and self-defeating that it would seem to justify the assumption that the » who rule Pakistan cannot make up their minds. Having committed the initial error of resorting to force, the Government, on this view, is stubbornly and stupidly muddling through.

There is, superficially, logic in this reasoning.

On the one hand, it is true that there is no let up in the reign of terror. The policy of subjugation is certainly being pursued with vigour in East Bengal. This is making thousands of new enemies for the Government every day and making only more definitive the separation of the two wings of Pakistan.

On the other hand, no government could be unaware that this policy must fail (There are just not enough West Pakistanis to hold down the much greater numbers in East Bengal indefinitely.)

For hard administrative and economic reasons, and because of the crucial consideration of external development assistance, especially from America, it will be necessary to achieve a political settlement as quickly as possible. President Yahya Khan's Press conference on May 25 suggests that he acknowledges the force of these factors: And he said he would announce his plan for representative government in the middle of June.

All this would seem to indicate that Pakistan's military Government is moving paradoxically, in opposite directions, to compound the gravest crisis in the country's 24-years history.

This is widely held view. It sounds logical, But is it true?

My own view is that it is not. It has been my unhappy privilege to have had the opportunity to observe at first hand both what Pakistan's leaders say in the West, and what they are doing in the East.

I think that in reality there is no contradiction in the Government's East Bengal policy. East Bengal is being colonised. This is not an arbitrary opinion of mine. The facts speak for themselves.

The first consideration of the army has been and still is the obliteration of every trace of separatism in East Bengal. This proposition is upheld by the continuing slaughter and by everything else that the Government has done in both East and West Pakistan since March 25. The decision was coldly taken by the military leaders, and they are going through with it-all too coldly.

Will The Killing Stop?

No meaningful or viable political solution is possible in East Bengal while the pogrom continues. The crucial question is: Will the killing stop? I was given the army's answer by Major-General Shaukat Raza, Commanding Officer of the 9th Division, during our first meeting at Comilla on April 16.

"You must be absolutely sure," he said, "that we have not undertaken such a drastic and expensive operation-expensive both in men and money-for nothing. We've undertaken a job. We are going to finish it, not hand it over half done to the politicians so that they can mess it up again. The army can't keep coming back like this every three or four years. It has a more important task. I assure you that when we have got through with what we are doing there will never be need again for such an operations".

Major-General Shaukat Raza is one of the three divisional commanders in the field. He is in a key position. He is not given to talking through his hat. Significantly, General Shaukat Raza's ideas were echoed by every military officer I talked to during my 10 days in East Bengal. And President Yahya Khan knows that the men who lead the troops on the ground are the de facto arbiters of Pakistan's destiny. The single-mindedness of the army is underscored by the military operation itself. By any standard, it is a major venture. It is not something that can be switched on and off without the most grave consequences.

The army has already taken a terrible toll in dead and injured. It was privately said in Dacca that more officers have been killed than men and that the casualty list in East Bengal already exceeds the losses in the India-Pakistan war of September, 1965. The army will certainly not write off these "sacrifices" for illusory political considerations that have proved to be so worthless in the past.

Militarily-and it is soldiers who will be taking the decision-to call a halt to the operation at this stage would be indefensible. It would only mean more trouble with the Bengali rebels. Implacable hatred has been displayed on both sides. There can be no truce or negotiated settlement; only total victory or total defeat. Time is on the side of the Pakistan Army, not of the isolated, uncoordinated and ill-equipped rebel groups. Other circumstances, such as an expanded conflict which takes in other powers, could of course alter the picture.

But as it stands today the Pakistan Army has no reason to doubt that it will eventually achieve its objective. That is why the casualties are stolidly accepted. The enormous financial outlay already made on the East Bengal operation and its continuing heavy cost also testify to the Government's determination. The reckless manner in which funds have been poured out makes clear that the military hierarchy, having taken a calculated decision to use force, has accepted the financial outlay as a necessary investment. It was not for nothing that 25,000 soldiers were airlifted to East Bengal, a daring and expensive exercise. These two divisions, the 9th and the 16th, constituted the military reserve in West Pakistan. They have now been replaced there by expensive new recruitment.

The Chinese have helped with equipment, which is pouring down the Karakorum highway. There is some evidence that the flood is slowing down: perhaps the Chinese are having second thoughts about their commitments to the military rulers of Pakistan. But the Pakistan Government has not hesitated to pay cash from the bottom of the foreign exchange barrel for more than \$ 1-million-worth of ammunition to European arms suppliers.

Conversations with senior military officers in Dacca, Rawalpindi and Karachi confirm that they see the solution to this problem in the speedy completion of the East Bengal operation, not in terms of a pull-out. The money required for that purpose now takes precedence over all other governmental expenditure. Development has virtually come to a halt.

In one sentence, the Government is too far committed militarily to abandon the East Bengal operation, which it would have to do if it sincerely wanted a political solution.

President Yahya Khan is riding on the back of a tiger. But he took a calculated decision to climb up there. SO THE ARMY is not going to pull out. The Government's policy for East Bengal was spelled out to me in the Eastern Command headquarters at Dacca.

It has three elements:

- (I) The Bengalis have proved themselves "unreliable" and must be ruled by West Pakistanis;
- (2) The Bengalis will have to be re-educated along proper Islamic lines. The "Islamisation of the masses "-this is the official jargon-is intended to eliminate secessionist tendencies and provide a strong religious bond with West Pakistan;
- (3) When the Hindus have been eliminated by death and flight, their property will be used as a golden carrot to win over the under-privileged Muslim middleclass. This will provide the base for erecting administrative and political structure—, in the future.

This policy is being pursued with the utmost blatancy.

Because of the mutiny, it has been officially decreed that there will not for the present be any further recruitment of Bengalis in the defence forces. Senior air force and navy officers, who were not in anyway involved, have been moved "as a precaution" to non-sensitive positions.

Bengali fighter pilots, among them some of the aces of the Air Force, had the humiliation of being grounded and moved to non-flying duties. Even PIA air crews operating between the two wings of the country have been strained clean of Bengalis.

The East Pakistan Rifles, once almost exclusively a Bengali para-military force, has ceased to exist since the mutiny. A new force, the Civil Defence Force, has been raised by recruiting Biharis and volunteers from West Pakistan. Biharis, instead of Bengalis, are also being used as the basic material for the police. They are supervised by officers sent out from West Pakistan and by secondment from the army. The new superintendent of police at Chandpur at the end of April was a military police major.

Hundreds of West Pakistani Government civil servants, doctors, and technicians for the radio, TV, telegraph and telephone services have already been sent out to East Pakistan; More are being encouraged to go with the promise of one and two-step promotions. But the transfer, when made, is obligatory. President Yahya recently issued an order making it possible to transfer civil servants to any part of Pakistan against their will.

I was told that all the commissioners of East Bengal and the district deputy commissioners will in future be either Biharis or civil officers from West Pakistan. The deputy commissioners of the districts were said to be too closely involved with the Awami League secessionist movement. In some cases, such as that of the deputy commissioner of Comilla, they were caught and shot. That particular officer had incurred the wrath of the army on March 20 when he refused to requisition petrol and food supplies "without a letter from Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

The Government has also come down hard on the universities and colleges of East Bengal. They were considered the hot beds of conspiracy and they are being "sorted out". Many professors have fled. Some have been shot. They will be replaced by fresh recruitment from West Pakistan.

Bengali officers are also being weeded out of sensitive positions in the Civil and Foreign Services. All are currently being subjected to the most exhaustive screening. This colonisation process quite obviously does not work even half as efficiently as the administration wishes. I was given vivid evidence of this by Major Agha, Martial Law Administrator of Comilla. He had been having a problem getting the local Bengali executive engineers to go out and repair the bridges and roads that had been destroyed or damaged by the rebels.

This task kept getting snarled in red tape, and the bridges remained unrepaired. Agha, of course, knew the reason. "You can't expect them to work," he told me, "when you have been killing them and destroying their country. That at least is their point of view, and we are paying for it."

CAPTAIN DURRANI, of the Baluch Regiment, who was in charge of the company guarding the Comilla airport, had his own methods of dealing with the problem. "I have told them," he said with reference to the Bengalis maintaining the control tower," that I will shoot anyone who even looks like he is doing something suspicious." Durrani had made good his word.

A Bengali who had approached the airport a few nights earlier was shot, "Could have been a rebel," I was told. Durrani had another claim to fame. He had personally accounted more than 60 men" while clearing the villages surrounding the airport. The harsh reality of colonisation in the East is being concealed by shameless window dressing. For several weeks President Yahya Khan and Lt-Gen. Tikka Khan have been trying to get political support in East Pakistan for what they are ...-e.

The results have not exactly been satisfying. The support forthcoming so far has been from people like Moulvi Farid Ahmad, a Bengali lawyer in Dacca, Fazlul Quadeer Chaudhary and Professor Ghulam Azam, of the Jamaat-e-Islami, all of whom were soundly beaten in the General Elections last December.

The only prominent personality to emerge for this purpose has been Mr. Nurul Amin, an old Muslim Leaguer and former Chief Minister of the Province who was one of only two non-Awami Leaguers to be elected to the National Assembly. He is now in his seventies. But even Nurul Amin has been careful not to be too effusive. His two public statements to date have been concerned only with the "Indian interference".

Bengalis look with scorn on the few who "collaborate". Farid Ahmad and Fazlul Quadeer Chaudhury are painfully aware of this. Farid Ahmad makes a point of keeping his windows shuttered and only those who have been scrutinised and recognised through a peephole in the front door are allowed into the house. By singularly blunt methods the Government has been able to get a grudging acquiescence from 31 Awami Leaguers who had been elected to the national and provincial assemblies. They are being kept on ice in Dacca, secluded from all but their immediate families, for the big occasion when "representative government" is to be installed. But clearly they now represent no one but themselves.

ABDUL BARI the tailor who was lucky to survive is 24 years old. That is the same age as Pakistan. The army can of course hold the country together by force. But the meaning of what it has done in East Bengal is that the dream of the men who hoped in 1947 that they were founding a Muslim nation in two equal parts has now faded. There is now little chance for a long time to come that Punjabis in the West and Bengalis in the East will fell themselves equal fellow-citizens of one nation. For the Bengalis, the future is now bleak: the unhappy submission of a colony to its conquerors. Anthony Mascarenhas, Former Assistant Editor, Morning News, Karachi, in Sunday Times, London, June 13, 1971

Here a blog loaded with old newspapers from that time

https://g71.blogspot.nl/

Liberation War 1971 and BALTIMORE SUN

- Liberation War 1971 and DAILY AMERICAN
- Liberation War 1971 and DAILY TELEGRAPH
- Liberation War 1971 and DETROIT Free Press
- Liberation War 1971 and FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW
- Liberation War 1971 and HERALD TRIBUNE
- Liberation War 1971 and KAYHAN (International)
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and KUWAIT TIMES (Kuwait)</u>
- Liberation War 1971 and NEW YORK TIMES
- Liberation War 1971 and NEWSWEEK
- Liberation War 1971 and PARIS AFP-165
- Liberation War 1971 and THE CANBERRA TIMES (Canberra)
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE DAILY AL MADINA (Jeddah)</u>
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE DAILY AL TIIAURA (Tripoli)</u>
- Liberation War 1971 and THE DAILY AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA (Calcutta)
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE DAILY AYANDEGAN (Teheran)</u>
- Liberation War 1971 and THE DAILY FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (West Germany)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE DAILY LE MONDE (Paris)
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE DAILY MORNING POST (Nigeria)</u>
- Liberation War 1971 and THE DAILY MOTHERLAND (New Delhi)
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE DAILY SEARCHLIGHT (Patna)</u>
- Liberation War 1971 and THE EVENING STAR (Washington) N
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE FINANCIAL TIMES (London)</u>
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE GLASGOW HERALD (Glasgow)</u>
- Liberation War 1971 and THE GLOBE AND MAIL (Toronto)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE GUARDIAN (London)
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE HAMPSTEAD AND HIGHGATE EXPRESS (London)</u>
- Liberation War 1971 and THE HINDUSTAN TIMES (Now Delhi)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA

- Liberation War 1971 and THE INDIAN NATION (Patna)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE INDONESIAN OBSERVER (Jakarta)
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE LA LIBRE BELGIQUE (Brussels)</u>
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE LE SOLEIL (Dakar) Senegal</u>
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE NATION (Freetown)</u>
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE OBSERVER</u>
- Liberation War 1971 and THE OTTAWA CITIZEN (Ottawa)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE SCOTSMAN (Edinburgh)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE SPECTATOR
- Liberation War 1971 and THE SUNDAY TIMES
- Liberation War 1971 and THE TIMES
- Liberation War 1971 and THE TIMES OF INDIA (Bombay)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE TORONTO TELEGRAM (Canada)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE WEEKLY BLITZ (Bombay)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE WEEKLY ECONOMIST
- <u>Liberation War 1971 and THE WEEKLY FRONTIER (Calcutta)</u>
- Liberation War 1971 and THE WEEKLY NEW AGE (New Delhi)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE WEEKLY RADIANCE (Delhi)
- Liberation War 1971 and THE WESTERN MAIL (Cardiff)
- Liberation War 1971 and TTHE DAILY AL BILAD (Jeddah)
- Liberation War 1971 and U.S. DIPLOMATIC MESSAGES: RTT File
- Liberation War 1971 and U.S. Govt. Top Secret Report
- Liberation War 1971 and WALL STREET JOURNAL
- Liberation War 1971 and Weekly Time
- Liberation War 1971 and THE INDIAN EXPRESS (New Delhi)

This entry was posted in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Liberation War.



And off course the Pakistani have an opposite opinion

Mascarenhas' 1971 "GENOCIDE" Story Biased Media Coverage of East Pakistan 🔀



http://www.pakalumni.com/profiles/blog/show?id=1119293%3ABlogPost%3A115815&commentId=1119293%3AComment%3A115711&xg_source=activity_

http://www.riazhag.com/2017/07/mascarenhas-1971-genocide-story-biased.html

Pakistani journalist Anthony Mascarenhas' sensational story headlined "GENOCIDE", published by London's Sunday Times on June 13 1971, had a profound effect on all subsequent media coverage of East Pakistan, according to veteran BBC South Asia correspondent Mark Tully.

Mascarenhas (1928-1986) worked for "Morning News", a Karachi-based English language daily, when he was sent to report on East Pakistan in 1971. It's not clear how he ended up reporting for Sunday Times (now owned by Rupert Murdoch) but it's known that he and his family moved to take up residence in England before the publication of his "GENOCIDE" story. Here's how the BBC reported it: "Pretending he was visiting his sick sister, Mascarenhas then travelled to London, where he headed straight to the Sunday Times and the editor's office".

In a <u>radio interview</u>, Tully said in Urdu: "There are still significant questions in my mind as to whether the media coverage of Pakistani military crackdown in 1971 was balanced.....it (balanced coverage) became especially difficult after the Mascarenhas' exclusive dispatch (headlined "Genocide") published in The Sunday Times".



Mascarenhas' "Genocide" story was accepted on face value and widely disseminated by major western and Indian media outlets without any verification or fact-checks. Decades later, Sarmila Bose, an Indian journalist and scholar, finally scrutinized the story and found it to be "entirely inaccurate".

Bose's investigation of the 1971 Bangladeshi narrative began when she saw a picture of the Jessore massacre of April 2, 1971. It showed "bodies lie strewn on the ground. All are adult men, in civilian clothes....The caption of the photo is just as grim as its content: "April 2, 1971: Genocide by the Pakistan Occupation Force at Jessore." Upon closer examination, Bose found that "some of the Jessore bodies were dressed in shalwar kameez 'an indication that they were either West Pakistanis or 'Biharis', the non-Bengali East Pakistanis who had migrated from northern India". In Bose's book "Dead Reckoning" she has done case-by-case body count estimates that lead her in the end to estimate that between 50,000 and 100,000 people were killed on all sides, including Bengalis, Biharis, West Pakistanis and others, in 1971 war.

Here are the relevant excepts on the Mascarenhas story in Sarmila Bose's Dead Reckoning:

On Page 10: "An interesting example is Anthony Mascarenhas' famous report in Sunday Times published on 13 June 1971. His eyewitness description from Comilla of how a Bengali, especially a Hindu, could have his life snuffed out at the whim of a single army officer serves as a powerful indictment of the military action, but his description of the army's attack on the Hindu area of Shankharipara in old Dhaka on 25-26 March--where he was not present--given without citing any source and turns out to be entirely inaccurate according to the information obtained from my interviews with survivors of Shakharipara".

On Page 73: "In his (Mascarenhas') book that followed his report in the Sunday Times condemning the military crackdown in East Pakistan, Anthony Mascarenhas wrote," In Shankaripatti an estimated 8000 men, women and children were killed when the army, having blocked both ends of the winding street, hunted down house by house:". This is not an eyewitness account, as Mascarenhas was not there, and he does not cite any sources for his information---which in this case s totally wrong in all aspects.

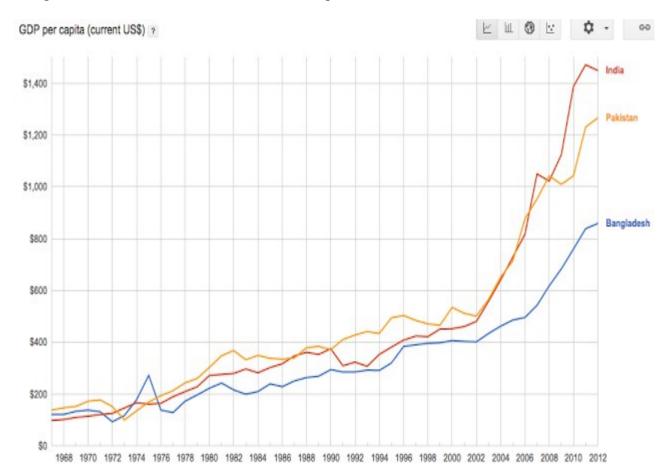
Mascarenhas' reports, like many foreign press reports in 1971, are a mixture of reliable and unreliable information, depending on where the reporter is faithfully reporting what he has actually seen or is merely writing an uncorroborated version of what someone else has told him......According to survivors of Shankharipara, the army did not go house to house. They entered only one house, Number 52".

Aided and abetted by the Indian and western media with stories like Mascarenhas', the Bangladeshi Nationalists led by the Awami League have concocted and promoted elaborate myths about the events surrounding Pakistan's defeat in December 1971.

Sheikh Mujib's daughter and current Bangladesh Prime Minister Shaikh Hasina alleges "colonial exploitation" of Bengalis by Pakistan and "Bengali genocide" by the Pakistan Army. They claim economic disparities between East and West Pakistan as the main cause of their "war of independence" in which "Pakistan Army killed 3 million Bangladeshis".

Let's examine the Bangladeshi claims on the basis of real facts and data known today as follows:

1. The per capita income in West Pakistan was 60% higher than in East Pakistan in 1971. But they never tell you that the <u>per capita income in East Pakistan was higher than in West Bengal</u> and India. They also don't tell you that the ratio of per capita incomes between Bangladesh and Pakistan has changed little in the last four decades since "independence'.



2. Bangladeshi nationalists claims that "three million people were killed, nearly quarter million women were...". These claims have failed the scrutiny of the only serious scholarly researcher Sarmila Bose ever done into the subject. Bose's investigation of the 1971 Bangladeshi narrative began when she saw a picture of the Jessore massacre of April 2, 1971. It showed "bodies lie strewn on the ground. All are adult men, in civilian clothes....The caption of the photo is just as grim as its content: "April 2, 1971: Genocide by the Pakistan Occupation Force at Jessore." Upon closer examination, Bose found that "some of the Jessore bodies were dressed in shalwar kameez ' an indication that they were either West Pakistanis or 'Biharis', the non-Bengali East Pakistanis who had migrated from northern India". In Bose's book "Dead Reckoning" she has done case-by-case body count estimates that lead her in the end to estimate that between 50,000 and 100,000 people were killed on all sides, including Bengalis, Biharis, West Pakistanis and others, in 1971 war.

- 3. Dr. M. Abdul Mu'min Chowdhury, a Bengali nationalist who actively participated in the separatist cause, in his publication "Behind the Myth of 3 Million", challenges the falsehood. Citing an extensive range of sources to show that what the Pakistani army was carrying out in East Pakistan was a limited counter-insurgency, not genocide, the scholar discloses that after the creation of Bangladesh, the new de facto government offered to pay Taka 2,000 to every family that suffered loss of life but only 3,000 families claimed such compensation. Had there been three million Bengalis dead, a lot more of such families would have come forward. The actual fighting force of Pakistan was 40,000 not 93,000. They were given the responsibility to maintain law and order and protect civilians from the India-backed insurgents of Mukti Bahini. India's Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw praised the professionalism and gallantry of Pakistani soldiers facing the Indian Army's 50:1 advantage in the 1971 war.
- 4. Now declassified <u>US State Department transcript</u> of an April 6, 1971 conversation between then Secretary of State William Rogers and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger reveals that the US diplomats in Dhaka were also misled by false media reports of mass graves. Kissinger told Rogers that a reported mass grave of 1,000 dead Bengali victims of "genocide" turned out to be baseless.

Recent books and speeches by Indian officials, including <u>Prime Minister Narendra Modi</u> and <u>ex top RAW officials</u>, confirm what Pakistanis have known all along: <u>India orchestrated</u> the East Pakistan insurgency and then <u>invaded East Pakistan</u> to break up Pakistan in December 1971. Unfair and inaccurate media coverage payed a large role in helping India succeed.

Here's Sarmila Bose, the author of "Dead Reckoning" on the events of 1971:

Sarmila Bose On 1971 East Pakistan War 6 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OihBdcLvETA

Here's a video of Indian Army Chief Field Marshal Manekshaw talking about Pakistan Army in 1971 War: https://vimeo.com/55461334

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw on Pakistan Army's gallantry in 1971 War from cherie22579 on Vimeo.

What Happened in East Pakistan (Yuri Bezmenov Former KGB Psychological Warfare Expert). Yuri Bezmenov ex KGB Psychological Warfare Expert Explains What Happened in East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) in This Video

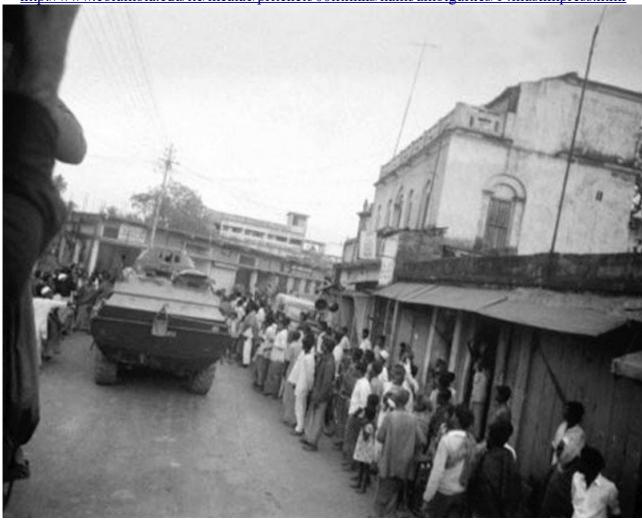
What Happened in East Pakistan (Yuri Bezmenov Former KGB Psychological Warfare Expert)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bb fXONk2Y

1971: Manekshaw Prepares for War
1971 War: Airborne Operations
1971 War: Battle of Shakargarh Bulge
1971 War: The Battle of Fazilka
1971 War: The Battle of Hussainiwala
East Pakistan: The Mukti Bahini takes shape
1971 War: Battle of Chhamb
1971 War: Battles of Burj and Fatehpur
1971 War: The Ganganagar Sector
1971 War: The battle of Chicken's Neck
1971 War: Battle of Poonch
Defence of Khalra and Khemkaran
1971: Defence of Kashmir Valley

http://www.indiandefencereview.com/idr-issues/?issue_id=48&page=1

Muslim Press in India and the Bangladesh Crisis

http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00litlinks/naim/ambiguities/14muslimpress.html



The crisis in Bangladesh lasted roughly the entire year of 1971. The various events related to it went through a progression that culminated in a brief war and a resolution of the crisis in favour of the people of that land. Our purpose in this article is to examine how Muslim public opinion responded to those events, how those responses compare with the reactions in Pakistan, and whether that crisis left any lasting effect on the thinking of Indian Muslims.

The data consists of editorials and articles in the Muslim press in India, from a number of Urdu dailies and weeklies of more than local circulation and from one English news weekly, *Radiance.*/1/
The data gain significance from the fact that these journals enjoy relatively wider circulation than most, and the Urdu-speaking Muslims of North India have been politically the most active of all Muslims of the subcontinent. Their fears and aspirations are in that sense highly significant. For better or for worse, they do direct the thinking of the community as a whole. The Pakistani data are from Urdu sources alone./2/

To facilitate the study we have set up four phases of the crisis. The first encompasses the period preceding 23 March 1971, during which negotiations went on between Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Yahya Khan; the second, the period from 25 March 1971, when the Pakistani military action started in East Bengal, to 3 December 1971, when actual hostilities broke out between India and Pakistan; the third, the short period of war which ended on 17 December 1971, with a ceasefire; and the fourth, the period of some three weeks after the ceasefire when a kind of stock-taking took place in both the countries.

Phase One (Prior to 23 March 1971)

During the first three months of 1971, Muslim public opinion in India was uniformly against the military dictatorship in Pakistan and favoured an early return to democracy in that country. Yahya Khan was criticised for delaying the transfer of power to the newly elected National Assembly and catering to the whims of Z. A. Bhutto, who was looked upon as the real villain behind the scenes. Conversely, the attitude toward Sheikh Mujib was on the whole quite sympathetic and approving; he was viewed as being sufficiently committed to conservatism as well as democracy. The following quotation from *Radiance* (Delhi; 14 March 1971) nicely conveys the general reasoning. "The people of East Pakistan," the editorial said, "have risen as one man in support of Sheikh Mujib. The only force which stands in the way of a totally Marxist and independent East Bengal is Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. As such he deserves to be welcomed with open arms by the Western wing, notwithstanding his six points and four conditions."

In Pakistan (the erstwhile West Pakistan), only one major political party, the National Awami Party (NAP), was sympathetic to the Six Points of Sheikh Mujib. Its own political base was strictly regional and its political goal was a similar regional autonomy. [3] Some support for the Six Points was also vocalised by the votaries of the Jiye Sindh movement at their convention in February 1971. [4] The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of Mr. Bhutto was, of course, totally opposed to the demands of the Bengali leaders; its supporters believed that the Six Points were a threat to the integrity of Pakistan. The Jama'at-e-Islami, on the other hand, kept shifting its position. Earlier its leaders were equally opposed to both the PPP and the Awami League, but by March 1971 they had come round to a position similar to that expressed by *Radiance* in India. The 22 March 1971 issue of *Zindagi* (Lahore) carried an editorial that included the following remarks:

"We would be acting like an ostrich if we were to ignore the changes that have occurred in national politics after the elections of December 1970. Before the elections we opposed Sheikh Mujib because his opponents were Nurul Amin and Ghulam Azam. We supported Nural Amin and Ghulam Azam. But now, under the present circumstances, if prudence is not displayed in resolving the issues, the reins of state are likely to fall into the hands of extremists and communists. We foresee Bhashani and Ataur Rahman taking over if Sheikh Mujib were to fail at this juncture. That is why we support Sheikh Mujib."

How fickle that support was became clear very shortly.

Phase Two (23 March - 3 December 1971)

We shall study the issues of this phase under four separate headings.

(1) The military action: Once Yahya Khan let loose his troops in East Bengal, both the PPP and the Jama'at-e-Islami in Pakistan came out with unequivocal support for the military action, which they regarded as absolutely necessary for the preservation of the unity of Pakistan. "The dangers that threatened the integrity and security of our beloved country have disappeared, if only temporarily," declared *Zindagi* on 5 April 1971. "Suitable treatment is being meted out," it continued, "to those who wanted to change East Pakistan into 'Bangladesh.' The Awami League has been banned, Sheikh Mujib is in prison, and our army is busy crushing the enemies of the country and the millat. Without any fear of contradiction, President Yahya Khan was left with no other choice but to order military action in East Pakistan."

In India the Muslim press generally condemned the severity of the military action, but not always in such unequivocal terms as were used by the national press. Some Muslim journals felt the government of Pakistan had no other recourse left to it to obtain a modicum of law and order in East Bengal. They supported their stance with reports of the atrocities perpetrated by Bengali mobs in Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong in the days immediately before the military action and which had been glossed over in the national press in general.

When an unequivocal condemnation of the Pakistani action was issued by Maulvi As'ad Madani, a Congressite Muslim, the *Jamiat Times*, for example, wrote this rejoinder (Delhi; 23 April 1971): "You don't know what brutalities were committed by the Bengalis against the non-Bengalis. You should ask the grieving relatives in Delhi. Destiny never forgives a tyrant." A similar opinion was expressed by Maulana Minnatullah Rahmani of Monghyr (Bihar) when he refused to sign the statement of condemnation circulated by Jayaprakash Narayan on behalf of the Insani Biradari. The Maulana said, "Why must you now condemn Pakistan when earlier you did not condemn India for communal riots? The Bengalis did more brutal things to the non-Bengalis." (Reported in the *Jamiat Times* of 11 June 1971.)

(2) India's role in the crisis: The government of India maintained throughout the crisis that the entire issue was an internal matter for Pakistan, to be settled through negotiations between the two parties involved, the people of East Bengal and the government of Pakistan. Even the joint statement issued in October 1971 by Premier Kosygin and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi took that position. In this regard, the Muslim press was in full accord with the expressed sentiment of the government of India and the more sober elements in the national press, and against the war cries of some of the extremists. The Muslim press quoted with approval the statements of such persons as Piloo Modi, General (Retd.) Cariappa and the late C. Rajagopalachari, who advised against any recognition of the Bengali government in exile.

Though no one in India publicly suggested any element of conspiracy on the part of the government of India, much of Muslim public opinion as well as a significant part of the national press felt that India had displayed undue interest in the affairs of East Bengal. In pursuance of such feelings they urged upon the government of India a policy of "wait and see." On 4 April 1971, *Radiance* wrote with approval of India's "balanced policy," and urged continued discretion. An editorial in the Jamiat Times (9 April 1971) was, however, a bit more critical, even somewhat cynical. It equated the issue of Bangladesh with that of Kashmir, twitted the government of India for showing concern for the Muslims of East Bengal but neglecting the Muslims of India, and suggested that the government of India should either act in this instance the same way it did vis-a-vis communal riots in India, i.e. do nothing, or else it should recognise the Bangladesh Government in Exile and "turn Pakistani lies into truth."

Some other suggestions, made in the initial stages as well as later in the year, were: (i) the government of India should actively discourage the East Bengalis lest their example come to be imitated by the dissidents in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu; (ii) the government of India should hold direct talks with Yahya Khan on all issues in order to settle them bilaterally; (iii) the government of India should avoid open hostilities at all costs and thus prove itself worthy of the heritage of Mahatma Gandhi. The government of India was not unaware of the nature and significance of the opinions expressed in the Muslim press. At various times it issued veiled threats, and, as a countermeasure, in June 1971, sponsored a conference of some sixty-five Muslim Urdu journals and newspapers, which were handpicked for supporting the official line all the way but which in fact had only local and restricted circulations. Later, in November 1971, restrictions were placed on the publication of *Nasheman* (Bangalore), the only Urdu political weekly with a nationwide circulation. Still later, after the war started in December, the editors of *Nasheman* (Bangalore), *Da'wat* (Delhi), *Radiance* (Delhi), *Sangam* (Patna), and the *Jamiat Times* (Delhi) were taken into custody under the Internal Security Act and held without trial for several weeks.

For the Pakistan press the crisis was naturally an internal issue to be resolved by the Pakistanis themselves. They were, from the very beginning, suspicious of the motives of the government of India in giving shelter to the refugees. They accused India of sending money, arms, and infiltrators into East Bengal. According to them the crisis was the product of a conspiracy between the government of India, the Hindus of East Bengal, and the top echelon of the Awami League. One example will suffice to convey the spirit of these unanimous accusations. The following excerpt is from an editorial in *Nusrat* (Lahore; 4 April 1971), which was at that time edited by Mr. Hanif Ramay, who is now the Chief Minister of the Punjab in Pakistan:

"Events have turned a somersault. The armed forces of Pakistan, which had until now patiently suffered the obduracy of Sheikh Mujib, moved into action and within hours put out the fires of anarchy in East Pakistan. Sheikh Mujib had thought that the time had come for him to declare the independence of Bangladesh, and that everyone who had voted for him was like him a traitor and an enemy of the integrity of Pakistan. He had forgotten that among those who supported the Awami League there were not just those ten million Hindus who provided him with money and gangsters, there were also millions of other Bengalis who for centuries had suffered under the exploitation by Hindu banias and who had staked their lives and property for the creation of Pakistan. Such Muslims could never desire to tear apart the Pakistan which they and their fathers had toiled to bring about. The blatant manner in which Bharat has been supporting Mujib makes it evident that he was an agent of that country. No matter how much Mujib and his ten million Hindu supporters hold India in favour and desire trade with her, the common Bengali and non-Bengali Muslims of East Pakistan can never regard Bharat as their friend."

Such analyses and accusations were repeated ad nauseam by all Pakistani papers. What should be noted here is the charge levelled so unequivocally against all the Hindus of East Bengal, a charge that was never made, for obvious reasons, by any Muslim journal in India, though some of them were quite unequivocal in their condemnation of East Bengali Muslims, as we shall see later.

(3) The question of the refugees: It is often forgotten that of the ten million or so refugees who came to India, not all were non-Muslims; nor were all of them Bengalis. A substantial number of non-Bengali Muslims also sought refuge in India at various times. Those who did so in the early months of the crisis generally returned to East Bengal when and if they got a chance, or escaped into Nepal. But those who came later in the year, after the various Bahinis had started their retributive action, were kept in camps separate from other refugees. They were little reported upon in the world press or in the press in general. A section of the Muslim press in India did, however, report occasionally on their plight. Sangam of Patna, in particular, carried a few articles about the so-called "Bihari" camps. These articles were then commented upon or reprinted in other Urdu journals.

The Pakistani press, on the other hand, gave little or no coverage to the exodus of refugees from East Bengal, except to minimise the enormity of the problem and suspect the humanitarian motives of India. The figures as they grew were always questioned; the reports that appeared in international press were denied or ridiculed; the refugees, when they did get any mention, were alleged to be all Hindus, who, having failed in their alleged subversive activities, were fleeing to India with their Indian instigators.

But the truth that there were also Muslim Bengalis among the sufferers came out in other ways. A few eye-witness accounts by non-Bengalis published in Urdu journals in Pakistan mentioned that fact, if only in passing. They indicated that atrocities were perpetrated by both sides, not so much on the basis of religious antagonism as on the basis of linguistic and political differences. The lawless activities of the so-called "Peace Committees" and of the Al-Badr and Al-Shams youth groups set up by the Jama'at-e-Islami in East Bengal were brought to light and condemned by the political opponents of the Jama'at in Pakistan. Such statements were issued by Z. A. Bhutto, Asghar Khan and the leaders of the Muslim League (Qayyum Group) and the Jamiat-ul-Ulama-i-Pakistan. [5]
Some of this was indirectly acknowledged even by the Bengali chief of the Jama'at-e-Islami in East Bengal. Professor Ghulam Azam, who now lives in Pakistan, published an article soon after the ceasefire in *Eshiya* (Lahore; 30 January 1972), in which occur the following most telling remarks. "Even when military action had been decided upon," he declared in his analysis of the causes of the debacle in East Bengal, "the government's *half-hearted* policy continued. What reason was there to show such weakness once that decision had been made?

The local people who stepped forward should have been taken into confidence and their advice should have been sought in forming all policies. Yahya Khan, however, neither accepted their advice nor made any correct decision of his own." (Emphasis added.) One only wonders what "whole-hearted" action the Professor had in mind if the carnage that actually occurred was, according to him, the result of a "half-hearted" action.

(4) The role of the Bengalis: The government of India favoured the view that the struggle in East Bengal was supported by all Bengalis, Hindu and Muslim alike. Much the same view was held by the national press in general. Of the Muslim press, a significant section held a rather curious view of the struggle, which shall be discussed a little later.

In Pakistan, the crisis was viewed, for most of the year, as merely a breakdown of law and order, caused by the Hindus of East Bengal, a minority of the Muslim supporters of Sheikh Mujib, and alleged Indian infiltrators. It was expected that with the help of loyal Bengali and non-Bengali Muslims the army would soon have things properly under control. Though both the news and the victims of Bengali mob violence reached Pakistan in sufficient numbers, a surprisingly low-key coverage was given to them. Even after the military action was started, all major political parties tried to maintain an attitude of condemnation only toward Sheikh Mujib and his supporters, and not toward all Bengalis. Nobody called all Bengalis traitors, at least in public. No doubt for obvious reasons, East Bengal remained a part of Pakistan till the very end of 1971, while such prominent Bengalis as Nurul Amin, Ghulam Azam and Mahmood Ali were visibly active on the national political scene and were also used by the government to present the Pakistani side of the issue at international gatherings. 6/Also, the results of the supplementary elections held in East Bengal to replace the Awami League members of the proposed National Assembly gave a semblance of Bengali Muslim support for a united Pakistan. We earlier quoted from Mr. Hanif Ramay's editorial of 4 April 1971 as one example of the prevalent attitude in Pakistan. That view was only slightly modified by the end of the crisis, as is evident from the editorial that appeared on the front page of the highly regarded daily *Imroz* (18 December 1971) immediately after the ceasefire:

"Our people (in West Pakistan) had suspicions that the people of East Pakistan were groaning under exploitation, and that the latter believed, rightly or wrongly, that West Pakistan would not share power with them. These suspicions were temporarily allayed by the propaganda machinery of the government; we were told that what was happening was simply the doing of a small number of subversives and extremists. But the recent tragedy has aroused those doubts again. New we believe that though our Bengali brethren may not have been against the integrity of a united Pakistan, a very large number of them were indeed so disaffected that Bharat succeeded in catching them in her snares."

As opposed to such interpretations, a more dogmatic one was offered by a significant section of the Muslim press in India. According to this group, the crisis in East Bengal was a rebellion against a Muslim government and therefore reprehensible in terms of their interpretation of Islam. The learned editor of *Sidq-i-Jadid* (Lucknow), Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi, wrote in the issue of 11 June 1971, that "the Islamism of Pakistan deserves little comment, yet the government there was after all a Muslim government, rebellion against which cannot be forgiven." He maintained this stance even a year later. "Pakistan is after all a Muslim state," he wrote, "like Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Those who rebel against it are to be condemned as are all those who rebel against a Muslim state. This is a *shar'i* fact which cannot be glossed over by using such labels as 'Mukti Fauj' and 'Freedom Fighters'" (*Sidq-i-Jadid*; 2 July 1972).

In November 1971, at the time of the Eid-ul-Fitr, the three hundred and fifty-odd members of the Bangladesh mission in Calcutta chose to say the Eid prayers by themselves, instead of joining the local congregation, as a protest against what they felt to be the unsympathetic attitude of Indian Muslims. In response to this news, the *Jamiat Times* of Delhi editorialised as follows:

"We wrote earlier, and we do not fear to write again, that whether it be the present tension between India and Pakistan or the massacre of Bengalis and non-Bengalis in East Pakistan or the influx of lakhs of homeless refugees, the responsibility for everything lies squarely with the leaders of East Pakistan. One man can set fire in a moment to an entire garden. We curse all traitors, be they in India or in Pakistan. A man should concern himself with the welfare of the country where he lives, otherwise he should leave it and go some other place" (3 December 1971).

That issue of the *Jamiat Times* also reprinted with approval an editorial from the daily *Da'wat* (Delhi; n.d.) which said in part:

"The Muslims of India consider many complaints of these angry (Bengali) elements to be just. Yet they also totally disapprove the way these elements have torn apart their own state. Those who committed that crime may have gained some temporary honour, but Muslim public opinion will always regard them as subversives, and history shall describe them as those who tore to pieces the integral unity of the *millat*."

The same editorial went on to lament the fact that "no leader like the late Maulana Muhammad Ali arose at this time in India to wage a campaign like the Khilafat Movement and thereby protest the dissolution of the *millat-e-Islamiya*."

Phase Three (The War)

Outright hostilities between India and Pakistan began on 3 December 1971. Prior to that, on 26 November 1971, Mufti Zia-ul-Haq had written in his Jamiat Times: "When our own borders are endangered we are ready to forget our complaints and make every sacrifice for our country." *Radiance*, on 5 December 1971, carried an editorial that expressed much the same sentiments, as did the editorials in the Hindustan Times of the previous week, namely that Yahya Khan should be given a chance to get out of the mess in some rational manner, and that there should be direct talks between India and Pakistan on the issue of refugees. In spite of such sentiments and avowals, on 8 December 1971, the government of India arrested, under the Internal Security Act, several prominent Muslims, including Mufti Zia-ul-Haq of the Muslim Majlis and the *Jamiat Times*, Maulana Abul Lais and Maulana Muhammad Yusuf of the Jama'at-e-Islami (Hind), the leaders of the Tamir-i-Millat and the Ittihad-al-Muslimin of Hyderabad, and the editors of Dawat, *Radiance*, *Sangam*, and *Nasheman*. Some of them were kept in prison, without trial, for as many as forty-one days! No one from the national press protested against these arrests, which were entirely unnecessary besides being, to say the least, legally questionable.

Phase Four (After the War)

For a majority of Indian Muslims, the pervasive mood in the days immediately after the war was a mixture of despair, confusion, and anger. In terms of actual acts and deeds, of course, they behaved no differently from their non-Muslim compatriots, but emotionally, unlike the latter, they could be neither jubilant nor sanguine. The following quotation from *Haqeeqat* (Lucknow: n.d.) conveys well the feelings at that time:

"The chief reason for the resentment of the Muslims is that the event of the independence of Bangladesh and her severance of all ties with Pakistan was generally celebrated in India as if the 'victory' had been gained against the Muslims themselves. Insulting and provocative slogans were raised against them in public meetings in this country. A second reason is that the Muslims in general do believe that the war was primarily fought for the purpose of destroying the integral unity of Pakistan. Our Ministry of Information hands out all sorts of propaganda but does nothing to dispel the dejection and resentment of Indian Muslims" (Quoted in *Sidq-i-Jadid*; 21 January 1972.

How confused and desperate their thinking was at that time can also be gauged from a most outrageous explanation offered by *Nida-i-Millat* of Lucknow. In its issue of 16 January 1972, it reprinted prominently an item from the *Akhbar-al-Alam-al-Islami*, the official journal of the Rabita-al-Alam-al-Islami (Muslim World League), published from Mecca. According to the undisclosed sources of the organisation, 300 Zionist agents were sent by Israel to Bangladesh for the purpose of fomenting trouble and training Bengali rebels. It was also asserted that Rahman Sobhan, a prominent economist and radical of Bangladesh, had met in Paris with Daniel Cohn-Bendit ("a Jew"), who then went on to Israel to arrange for the agents while Rahman Sobhan himself came to India to coordinate plans with Indian communists. After reprinting this illuminating report, the worthy editor of *Nida-i-Millat* added the following comment: "We are abstaining from commenting on this article because only the future will tell what the facts were and what actually caused the secession of East Pakistan. We only desire our country to be aware of the delicate (*nazuk*) sentiments and feelings of the Muslim world, especially of the Arabs."

But by far the most telling thing in this respect was the publication, within a week of the ceasefire and in both India and Pakistan simultaneously, of the alleged prophesies of Shah Ni'matullah Wali. These prophesies occur in two poems ascribed to the famous 15th century Iranian saint and are by all accounts total forgeries. They are not found in any authentic collection of his verses; their language is full of Indianisms of recent origin; and they made their first appearance in the late 19th century in India. They have, however, a most curious hold over the minds of average Indian Muslims. It is a measure of the latter's ignorance and emotional insecurity that these verses begin to circulate among them any time an event occurs that they regard as a blow to their peculiar vision of a triumphant Islam. The fascination of these poems lies perhaps not so much in the fact that their verses can be interpreted to have foretold events of recent history, as in their implication that what was happening was part of a grand scheme ordained by the Almighty and therefore to be accepted sanguinely. Further, since they promise near the end a resurgence of Muslim authority in India and the arrival of the promised Mahdi, they help soothe the wounds of the psyche. These poems first appeared in minor journals but were soon reprinted in major magazines, including the Shabistan Digest, one of the most popular Urdu magazines in India. What is so amazing -- and so revealing of a uniform prevalence of ignorance -- is that these poems appeared in print within a week of the ceasefire in both India and Pakistan, and quite independently.

The commentators in the Muslim press adopted various tacks to shore up this collapse of morale. One theme that was repeated incessantly by all journals was that it was Pakistan, a country, and not Islam, an ideology, that had suffered defeat in the recent war; that it was one variety of nationalism that had lost to another; and that the ideology of Islam still remained as meaningful and relevant as before. Pakistan met with this calamity because the Pakistanis failed to make Islam a reality in their social and political life. The implied thrust of such arguments was that there had been nothing wrong with the original separatist and exclusivist interpretation of Islam; that those values still held true and would certainly come to the fore again in both Pakistan and Bangladesh; and that what was lacking were true believers who would put those values into effect.

A corollary to the attempts to vindicate Islam were the breast-beating and self-condemnation that found expression in so many editorials, commentaries and letters from the readers. Perhaps the most vivid expression was the commentary by Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi. Writing under the heading "Four Divine Slaps" (*Sidq-i-Jadid*; 3 March 1972), he began by stating that the Muslim nation (*qaum*), like other nations, was not exempted from divine judgement and retribution. The Muslims, in their long history, have had to suffer punishment several times for their folly and transgression. He then went on to list four such occasions that he had himself witnessed in his life:



"In 1924, not any non-Muslim but Mustafa Kemal abrogated the 1,300-years old, venerable and exalted institution of Caliphate while the entire Muslim world watched helplessly. In 1948, after a three-day battle, the lamp of the Saltanat-i-Asafiya was extinguished; an earthshaking transformation destroyed it [the State of Hyderabad] and changed 'Muslim' into 'secular.' In 1949, Israel was created. And now, the latest calamity of this nature has occurred in the guise of the establishment of Bangladesh and the destruction of a united Pakistan. Who is at fault? Who is the guilty person? Such questions do not concern us. What matters for us is the consequence, the fact that millions of Muslims cut themselves off from their origin (*asl*), and that enmity has come to exist between two Muslim communities. Common to all the four calamities are the disintegration of the *ummat* and the guilt and sinfulness of the Muslims. It is a time to feel ashamed, recognise our faults, seek forgiveness of God, and improve our condition through deeds and acts."

A less hysterical analysis was the editorial in *Aza'im* (Lucknow; 28 December 1971). It laid emphasis on the fact that the emergence of Bangladesh as a separate nation was by no means a unique event in world history, or, for that matter, in the history of Muslim countries -- after all, Sudan separated from Egypt, and Singapore from Malaysia. What was unique to the case of Bangladesh was the vastness of brutality done against innocent people. In a later editorial (7 February 1972), *Aza'im* was a bit more categorical:

"Pakistan was created through the efforts of the Muslims who lived outside of the Pakistan regions. Consequently, we (the Indian Muslims) have had to pay the price for the partition of the country. In India we have paid it for the past twenty-four years; in Bangladesh we are paying it now; and, God forbid, we may have to pay it even in Pakistan in the coming years, or so it becomes more clear every day."

Another tack to counter the dejection was offered by Shah Muinuddin Nadvi, a well-known scholar at the Dar-al-Musannafin, Azamgarh. In a note in *Ma'arif*, the monthly journal of the scholarly academy, he wrote:

"The laws that Allah has ordained for the rise and fall of nations are identical for all the nations of the world. In the battle of Uhud the Muslims committed a mistake and the result was their defeat. The revolutionary change in Pakistan is also a consequence of that divinely ordained tradition. The people of Pakistan proved themselves unworthy of the boon they had received. No matter what kind of government is formed in East Bengal it will remain for all purposes a Muslim majority country. If, on the one hand, its secession caused injury to a united Pakistan, on the other there has now emerged one more independent state of Muslims. Wisdom demands that forgetting the past we should try to come together. Bangladesh should treat the non-Bengalis with kindness. Her leaders cannot forever remain indifferent to Islam and Muslims" (Reprinted in *Aza'im*; 21 January 1972).

For a final, and rather comprehensive, example we should look at a lengthy unsigned article that appeared in two installments in *Nida-i-Millat* (Lucknow; 20 & 27 February 1972), under the heading "Bangladesh, an Analysis." It vividly displays all the conflict that beset the Muslim mind at that time, as well as the full range of defences put up against those fears and doubts. The following is a summary of the points raised by the anonymous author (probably the editor himself).

(1) Pakistan came into existence through the sacrifices of Indian Muslims, who then had to pay dearly for it. They were abandoned by their erstwhile leaders. Many of them had to leave their relatives and properties and go to live in an alien land, where they were now in grave danger. Those who stayed behind have had to suffer similarly in communal riots.

- (2) The Muslims of India, when they raised the cry for Pakistan, had not been duped by the leaders of the Muslim League. Their demand was a deliberate political move. The majority that supported that demand felt that in a separate Muslim state their one religion, one language, and one culture would flourish, and a kind of Islamic renaissance would take place. At that time, there was no demand for separate regional cultures. If such a demand had been raised, Pakistan would have been rejected by all the Muslims.
- (3) The creation of Bangladesh does in no way negate the validity of the original movement for Pakistan. Even in India a strong nationalism has not succeeded in keeping intact old state boundaries.
- (4) Bangladesh is a Muslim country, like Iran or Jordan.
- (5) If the East Bengalis are so keen about a separate Bengali culture they should not have joined the Pakistan Movement in the first place. Further, if their Bengali nationalism is so important for them they should now merge their country with the Indian Bengal.
- (6) In 1946, when the erstwhile North Western Frontier Province and the united Punjab had shown little enthusiasm for Pakistan, it was the Bengali Muslims who came out so strongly for a united Pakistan. It is now meaningless, therefore, for the Bengalis to claim that they have won their independence from West Pakistan. It should perhaps be put the other way around.
- (7) It is incorrect to say that the old East Pakistan did not make sufficient progress. After all, it was, to begin with, a most backward region.
- (8) The leaders of East Bengal displayed a lack of patience and forbearance. They responded too emotionally and thereby caused great loss of life. They should have known that the Pakistani army would be tough in its reprisal.
- (9) It is wrong to blame the Pakistani army for all the destruction. Were not, in the early stages of the crisis, the various Bahinis being praised for their guerrilla activities?
- (10) Finally, if the initial partition of the country was all that bad, as the Bengali leaders now claim, then Bangladesh should now join India. That may persuade even Pakistan to do the same. That would indeed be a glorious day for Indian Muslims.

Let us turn now to Pakistan. What were the responses there immediately after the ceasefire? There was sorrow and despair, but mixed with such intense anger that disregarding all caution people poured out into streets to demand Yahya Khan's head, and for the first time in many years newspapers published bold critiques of the military rulers. Their shock was the greater for their having been kept in the dark about the realities of the events in East Bengal. On 14 December 1971, only two days before the debacle, they had been told by their government:

"Two brigades of Indian paratroopers that had landed at Dacca and Tangel have been wiped out. Hand-to-hand fighting goes on in the vicinity of Khulna between the Indian army and Pakistani soldiers and civilians. Fighting also continues in Jessore. All arrangements have been completed to send fresh troops and supplies to East Pakistan. Ships of the American fleet are on the alert in the Strait of Malacca, waiting for further orders. According to an Australian radio report four Chinese battleships are steaming toward the Bay of Bengal to challenge the Indian naval blockade" (20 December 1971).

But on the 16th came the surrender in the East, followed on the 17th by Yahya Khan's acceptance of the Indian offer of a ceasefire in the West. "We are not willing to accept," wrote *Nawa-i-Waqt* of Lahore on 18 December 1971, "that we have lost the war or that the war has ended. The nation can never accept that an army which was regarded as the finest in the world could hand over Dacca to the enemy without offering any resistance. What has happened in East Pakistan is not a defeat of the army, or of the people. It is a defeat of certain very high officials; it is a defeat of the bureaucracy; it is a defeat of our channels of communication; it is a defeat of those official spokesmen who kept the nation in the dark and are still doing so."

A signed editorial in *Zindagi* (20 December 1971) was titled "The Entire Gang Should Resign. The Entire Gang Should be Tried." It began by calling the defeat "a breach in the fortress of Islam," and blamed Yahya Khan and his cohorts exclusively for all the events, while reminding its readers that though Muhammad Ghori lost the first battle of Tarain he came back "with renewed determination to unfurl the banner of Islam over the Kafir land of India."

Somewhat better thought-out was the front-page article by the editor in *Imroz* (18 December 1971). It called the debacle "the most shameful chapter in our history," but added that the defeat was of "our politics, not our army." It urged its readers to engage in self-criticism and not try to find scapegoats, to ask fundamental questions instead of petty bickering among themselves. "The inner fault," wrote the editor, "the major fault, the most fundamental fault lies in the fact that soon after the death of the Quaid-i-Azam, Pakistan gave up the path of people's government and people's trust." He then went on to accuse the leadership of the old Muslim League, the bureaucrats who gained ascendance under the former's encouragement, and those army officers who eventually took advantage of the circumstances to grab power and serve their own selfish ends.

The editorial in the daily *Musawat* (Lahore; 18 December 1971), a mouthpiece of the PPP, began: "Today the entire nation weeps tears of blood. Today the Indian army has entered Decca. Today for the first time in 1,000 years Hindus have won a victory over Muslims. Today we are prostrate with dejection." It then went on to say: "If the people are not told why the war was stopped in East Pakistan they would be forced to conclude that the only purpose of the recent war was to lose East Pakistan on the battlefield." It demanded to know: "When will the remaining part of Pakistan be returned to her people? Why did nearly one lakh regular troops and the same number of Razakars lay down their arms when not more than a few thousands of them had laid down their lives for their country? What are the plans now of those who were responsible for this defeat?" It ended by calling upon Z. A. Bhutto: "Quaid-i-Awam, come quickly to the masses. They await you. Come and lead them. Come and take up the reins of the nation. Come and consolidate people's power, to turn this defeat into a victory."

As we know, Yahya Khan resigned, but in his last act helped perpetuate one-man rule and disregard for constitutional processes by transferring power not to the duly elected National Assembly but to Mr. Z. A. Bhutto, whom he personally appointed as Chief Martial Law Administrator. Within a short time bureaucratic tyranny, regional separatism, politics of vendetta, and other ills of the previous days returned to dominate the scene as if nothing of import had ever occurred. The radical change in politics and society that one could have expected to follow a traumatic national experience of such magnitude did not take place./7/

Conclusion

No radical change occurred in the thinking of the Indian Muslims either. Their immediate reaction to the various developments in the crisis were, as we saw above, more imbued with fundamentalism in some respects than the responses of the Pakistanis. One got the feeling that the thinking of a significant and large group of Indian Muslims was still very much governed by two potentially most dangerous notions, namely: (1) there is one Muslim nation, one Muslim language, and one Muslim culture; and (2) those who are not with them in these beliefs are against them, and, therefore, against Islam itself.

It was similar irrational thinking that had led them, prior to 1947, to give overwhelming support to the demand for Pakistan, a demand that allegedly arose out of a desire to protect Muslim minorities but which in its fulfillment left them high and dry. That demand got the support that it did because it appealed to the Indian Muslims' belief that, having "ruled over India for one thousand years," they could only be either kings (in Pakistan) or king-makers (in India). Mr. Jinnah asked the Indian Muslims to unite for Pakistan, without offering them any details of what that Pakistan was going to be like. "Unite and remain separate from the non-Muslim, who should have no say in Muslim affairs," that was the cry in those days. That still seems to be the cry raised by a large number of the leading elements in the community.

It is a dismal picture indeed.

NOTES

/*/ Originally published in *Quest* (Bombay), #94 (March-April 1975).

/1/ The following Indian Urdu journals were directly consulted: Jamiat Times (Delhi), Nida-i-Millat (Lucknow), Aza'im (Lucknow), and Sidq-i-Jadid (Lucknow). The material from Sangam (Patna), Nasheman (Bangalore), and Da'wat (Delhi) was indirectly obtained from the files of Organizer (Delhi) and Zindagi (Lahore). These Urdu journals, together with the English news weekly Radiance (Delhi) and a couple of other journals from Hyderabad and Bombay, comprise the Muslim press in India. Needless to say, only a small sample of the data has been included in the article.

[2] The Pakistani material is from the following Urdu journals: Eshiya (Lahore) and Zindagi (Lahore), which are closely identified with the Jama'at-e-Islami in Pakistan; Nusrat (Lahore) and Musawat (Lahore), which are close to the PPP; and Chatan (Lahore), which is rather independent in its views. Zindagi has the largest circulation of all political weeklies. I have also used scattered issues of Dihqan (Lahore). Again, only a small sample of the material is presented here.

[3] One leader of the NAP, Mir G. B. Bizenjo, declared soon after the ceasefire that Pakistan was a country of four nationalities. "We are one Muslim nation (qaum);" he said, "but within it there are four separate nationalities (qaumiyat): Baluch, Punjabi, Pushtun and Sindhi." (Zindagi; 3 April 1972). According to Mr. Bizenjo, "a group which has linguistic and cultural unity and lives within one geographical area is a qaumiyat." What he thinks of the Urdu-speaking muhajirs and Sindhi-speaking Hindus is not available for record.

/4/ Though the Jiye Sindh movement began in 1945, it gained strength only in recent years. At its convention in February 1971, one of its leaders declared that the muhajirs were "Pakistani 'Jews'," and should be treated accordingly! (Zindagi; 8 March 1971).

/5/ The Al-Badr group consisted entirely of Bengali Muslim supporters of the Jama'at-e-Islami and acted as a paramilitary group. The condemning statements appeared in *Nusrat*, 24 October 1971; *Dihgan*, 11 October 1971; and *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 14 October 1971.

<u>/6/</u> The presence of Raja Tridev Roy did not, however, stop the fanatic elements from denouncing the Hindus of East Bengal in unequivocal terms!

<u>/7/</u> Within a few weeks of the ceasefire the "Islamists" and the "non-Islamists" were at loggerheads about such issues as Mr. Bhutto's fondness for champagne, or the habit of some of his supporters to dance bhangra on occasions of celebration. One of the most ridiculous debates was about whether the colour of Islam is red or green. One scholar on the PPP side pointed out that the Prophet used henna to dye his beard and not some green colour! (For details see the various issues of *Zindagi* and *Nusrat* for the first six months of 1972.)

A Resistance Fighter Tells His Story

By JAMES P. STERBA

CALCUTTA, India, April 2—Santi Kamal was dressed in civilian clothes on Friday, March 26, when he saw several hundred West Pakistani soldiers arriving in trucks at Khulna, a town of about 20,000 in the south of East Pakistan.

The soldiers, trailing a few artillery pieces behind their trucks, came from the north, presumably from Jessore, and camped at about 1 P.M. inside the walled grounds of the Circuit House in Khulna. Patrols mmediately moved out of the camp and disarmed the local police and the Bengali members of the East Pakistani Rifles, a regional security force.

Most of the officers of the East Pakistani Rifles were from West Pakistan and they joined the soldiers, Santi Kamal said.

At about 4 P.M., the troops, he said, began patrolling the streets of Khulna and shortly afterwards opened fire on a crowd in front of the local movie theater. Santi said he saw at least 30 bodies.

Santi Kamal arrived in Calcutta this morning to seek aid from the hastily formed underground on this side of the border. He was met by chance at the home of a well-to-do local resident and agreed to talk only if his real name was not used. The reason, he said, was that his wife and five children remained behind in a village near Khulna.

A thin nervous man, 28 years old, he spoke in Bengali and was closely questioned by an interpreter. He said that he was a platoon leader of the Ansars, a local home guard, in the village of Kalaroa, in Khulna district.

When word spread in Khulna about the disarming of the local forces, said Santi, several hundred persons, mostly youths, began parading through the streets demanding independence for East Pakistan.

He joined one parade and heard shots from near the movie house. About a dozen soldiers, he said, were firing into a group composed of demonstrators and people heading home after seeing the afternoon movie. The soldier, he added, were shooting at adults and using bayonets and rifle butts on children.

During the firing, Santi said, he rushed toward the soldiers at one point and was shot. After that he ran away, but less than an hour later, he said, he saw soldiers shoot down another group of about 10 persons.

Later in the day, about 8 P.M., the soldiers broke up another large demonstration and then began moving from house to house, shooting and setting fires with oil torches, said Santi.

A few hours later he left town on a bicycle and, after six hours of pedaling, reached Kalaroa, where his Ansar unit was located and where efforts were under way to march on Jessore. The West Pakistani soldiers, he said, maintain a large garrison about three miles from that city.

Two hundred local militiamen set out the next morning in a borrowed bus and several trucks, he said, and once in Jhinkargacha on the outskirts of Jessore were instructed by the noncommissioned officer who commanded them to find the West Pakistani soldiers and fight them.

One patrol of 28 militiamen, including Santi, surrounded a house in which soldiers were billeted and waited until a group of 25 left, he said.

"We waited until they were all outside," he said. "They were walking, they weren't running. They probably thought we had gone."

Santi said he and a friend opened fire, hitting several of the soldiers before they found cover.

"They didn't fire back, they ran, and they didn't run back inside the house," he said. "They ran the other way and we hit some more."

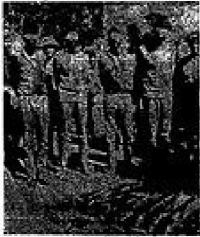
That night, said Santi, he hitchhiked back to Kalaroa and spent the next day there helping to arrange supplies for the men in Jessore. Then on Tuesday, he said, he was told to come to India to seek aid.







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Indo-Pakistan war: For a Consul UN Council to discuss situation

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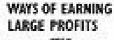
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INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER

The PAXISTAN Eastern Command agree to surrender all PAKISTAN Armed Forces in BANGLA DESH to Lieutenant-General JAGJIT SINGH AURORA, General Officer Commanding in Chief of the Indian and BANGLA DESH forces in the Eastern Theatre. This surrender includes all PAKISTAN land, air and naval forces as also all para-military forces and civil armed forces. These forces will lay down their arms and surrender at the places where they are currently located to the nearest regular troops under the command of Lieutenant-General JAGJIT SINGH AURORA.

The PAKISTAN Eastern Command shall come under orders of Lieutenant-General JAGJIT SINGH AURORA as soon as this instrument has been signed. Disobedience of orders will be regarded as a breach of the surrender terms and will be dealt with in accordance with the accepted laws and usages of war. The decision of Lieutenant-General JAGJIT SINGH AURORA will be final, should any doubt arise as to the meaning or interpretation of the surrender terms.

Lieutenant-General JAGJIT SINGH AURORA gives a solemn assurance that personnel who surrender shall be treated with dignity and respect that soldiers are entitled to in accordance with provisions of the GENEVA Convention and guarantees the safety and well-being of all PAKISTAN military and para-military forces who surrenders. Protection will be provided to foreign nationals, ethnic minorities and personnel of NEST PAKISTAN origin by the forces under the command of Lieutenant-General JAGJIT SINGH AURORA.

(JAGJIT SINGH AURORA)

Lieutenant-General General Officer Commanding in Chief India and BANGLA DESH Forces in the

Eastern Theatre

16 December 1971.

AAK Niezjidt dan

(AMIR ABDULLAH KHAN NIAZI)
Lieutenant-General
Martial Law Administrator Zone B and
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Dated: December 15, 1971 Indian army soldiers attacking Naya Chor, Sindh in support of Bengali rebels of the liberation army. PHOTO: AFP

During a recent visit to Dhaka, I had the opportunity to do research in the National Archives of Bangladesh and the Library of Dhaka University. Although the <u>creation of Bangladesh</u> was not the focus of my research, I was anxious to learn more about the tragic events resulting in the death of countless civilians and the dismemberment of Pakistan.

For this purpose, I picked up the files of two English newspapers, *Morning News* and *Pakistan Observer*, published from Dhaka and examined their contents for the months of November and December. I looked at the headlines, feature articles and advertisements printed in these newspapers between November 23, 1971 and December 30, 1971. It was <u>during this period</u> that emergency was declared in Pakistan, war broke out with India and the independent State of Bangladesh came into existence.

It did not come as a surprise to me that newspapers in East Pakistan were under strict State control and used for propaganda purposes. Anyone who tried to report accurately was snubbed and declared an enemy of Pakistan. General Niazi, the commander of Pakistan's forces in East Pakistan, described BBC as "Brahman Broadcast" and refused to take its reports seriously. He was more content with the reports appearing in Morning News and Pakistan Observer. During the period of active combat starting from late November, these newspapers projected an image of Pakistan as being in complete control of the situation. Both newspapers, till the very end of the war, kept on reporting on the advance of Pakistan's military and the huge losses incurred by the Indian military.

The idea was to keep the people (especially of West Pakistan) in the dark about the atrocities being committed in East Pakistan and the rapid military advancements made by Indian troops to exploit Pakistan's precarious internal situation. But it seems that it was not just the people of Pakistan, but the military command itself which started believing in this propaganda. This is why the <u>decision to surrender</u> came as a huge shock to many of the military men as well.

A cursory glance at these newspapers of the last few weeks of united Pakistan should serve as an eye-opener for those who believe that censoring media and <u>suppressing voices</u> of dissent are justified under the larger banner of serving the 'national interests' of Pakistan. A time comes when those trying to control the thoughts of masses through repressive means start believing in their own deceits and distortions. This happened in Pakistan during 1971 <u>and it continues</u> to be the case when it comes to media's coverage of Balochistan and tribal areas. These areas are generally off-limits to independent media and one simply has to rely on information funneled through the tweets of ISPR's spokesperson.

Just because the media is not allowed to report on the <u>missing persons of Balochistan</u>, large-scale displacement of population from tribal areas and collateral damage of military operation, it does not mean that there is no political turmoil or unrest in these regions. Nor does it mean that a media blackout will help to control or resolve the situation amicably. Among the <u>most important lessons</u> to be learnt from 1971 is the failure of such policies.





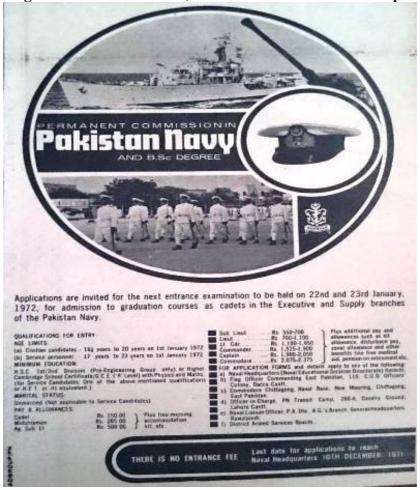
The news of the victory of Pakistani forces over India and occupation of its areas were repeated on almost daily basis till December 16.



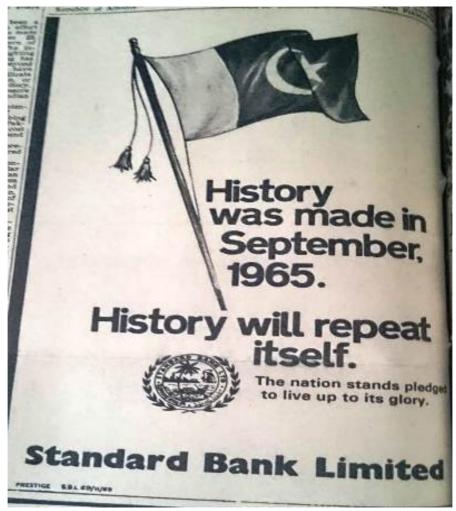
In order to give a semblance of the situation under control while the war was ravaging major parts of East Pakistan, Morning News published a feature on the popularity of miniskirts



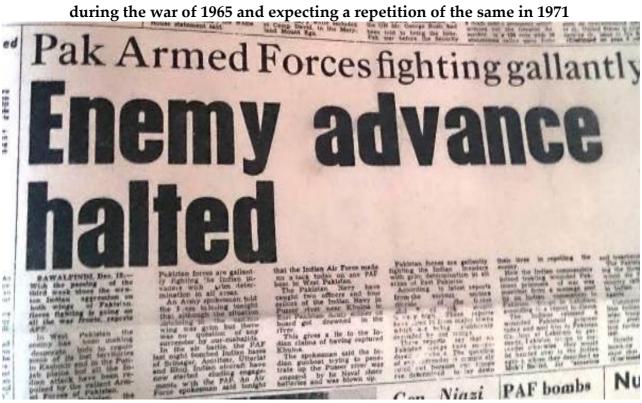
Headline of Morning News on December 11, 1971 when the war was at its peak on both fronts



Recruitment ads were still being printed as war had broken out on the Eastern Front with the overwhelming number of Bengalis opposed to the Pakistani military



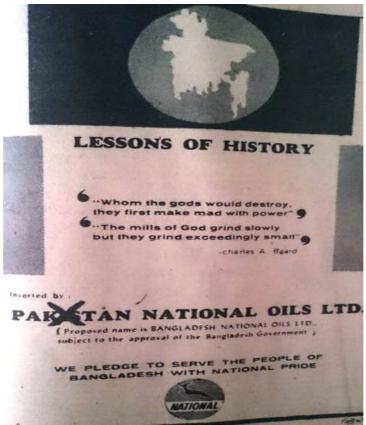
Making people believe in the myth of Pakistani military's victory over India during the war of 1965 and expecting a repetition of the same in 1971



Headline of Pakistan Observer just three days before surrender



Pakistan Observer becomes Observer as East Pakistan becomes Bangladesh



An ad published in Morning News on December 27, 1971 in which the name Pakistan has been crossed out

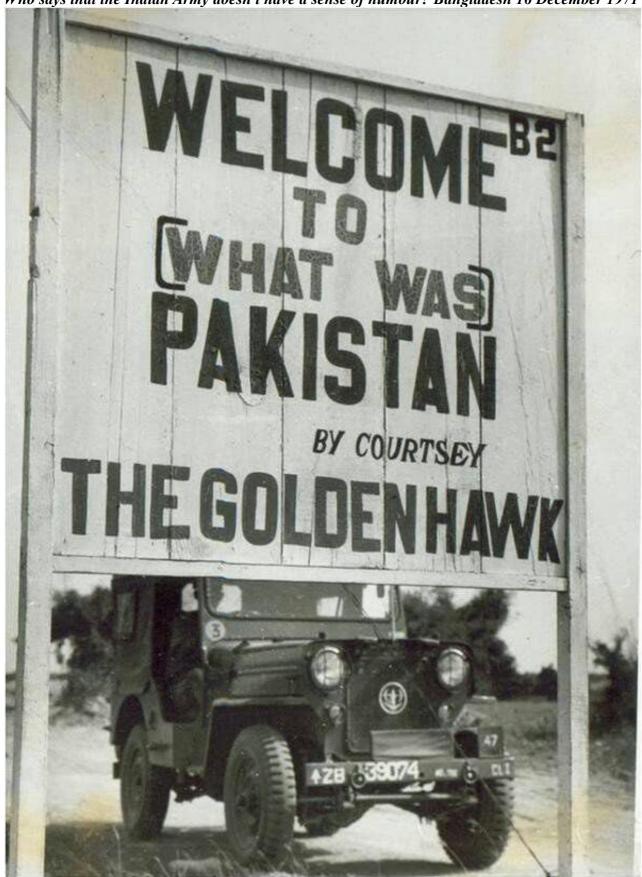
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Foreign Relations, 1969-1976, Volume XI, South Asia Crisis, 1971

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Who says that the Indian Army doesn't have a sense of humour? Bangladesh 16 December 1971



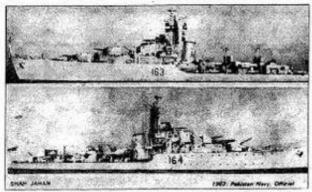


THE TIMES OF INDIA





DESTROYERS AND SUB SUNK



Jawans make deep thrust into Sind

"The Times of India" News Service NEW DELHI, December 5.

NEW DELMI, December 5.

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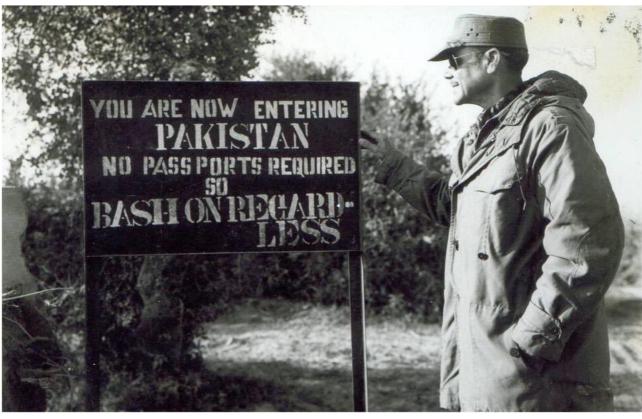
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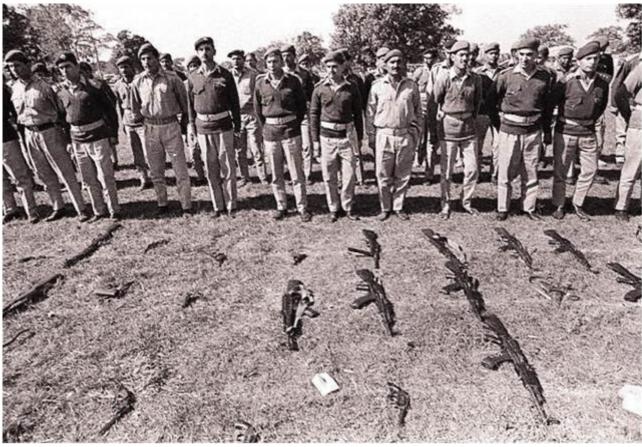






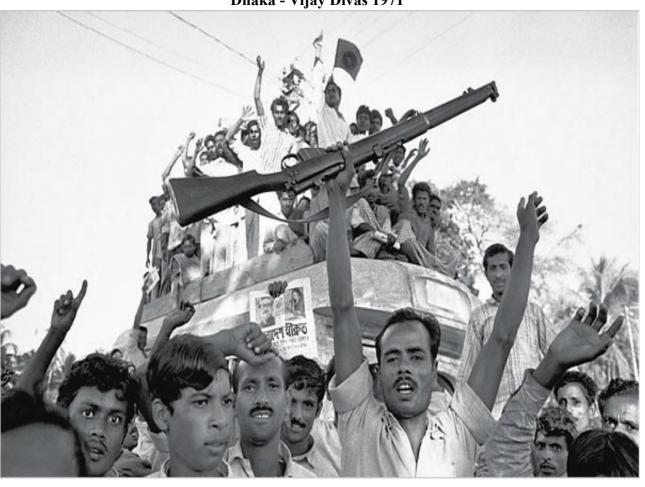




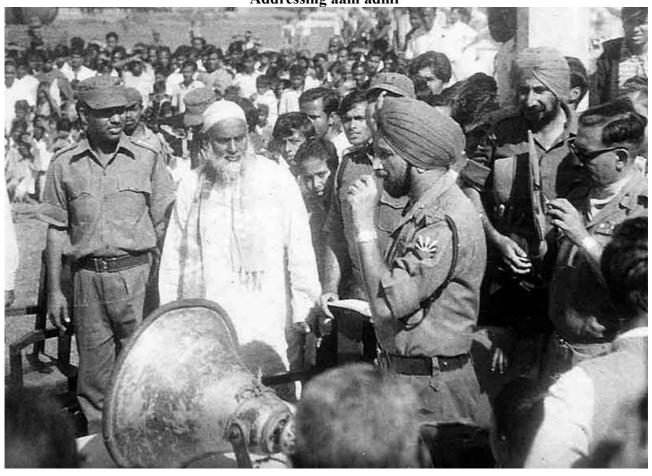




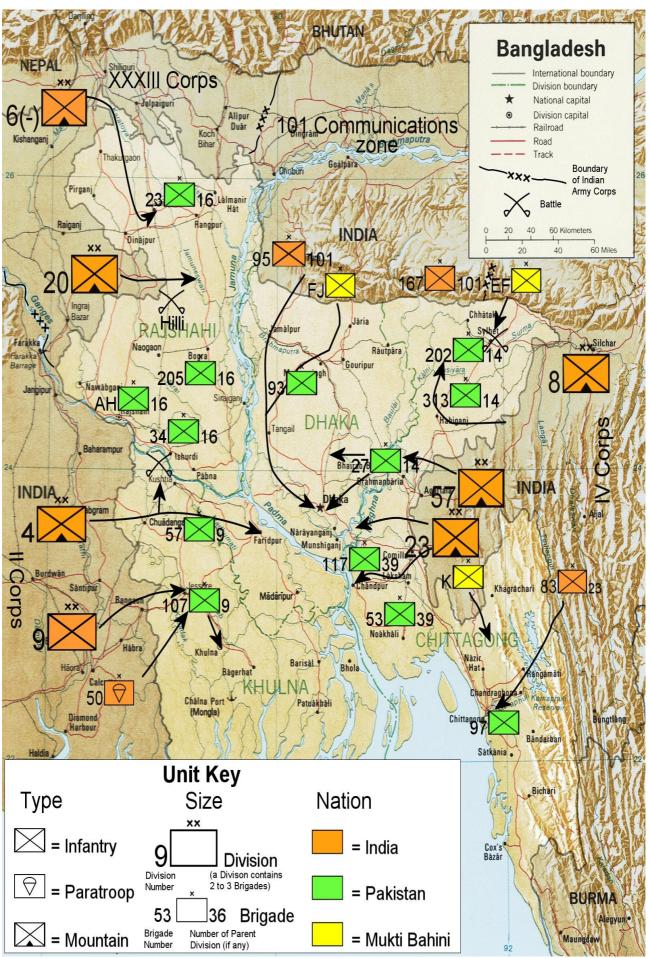
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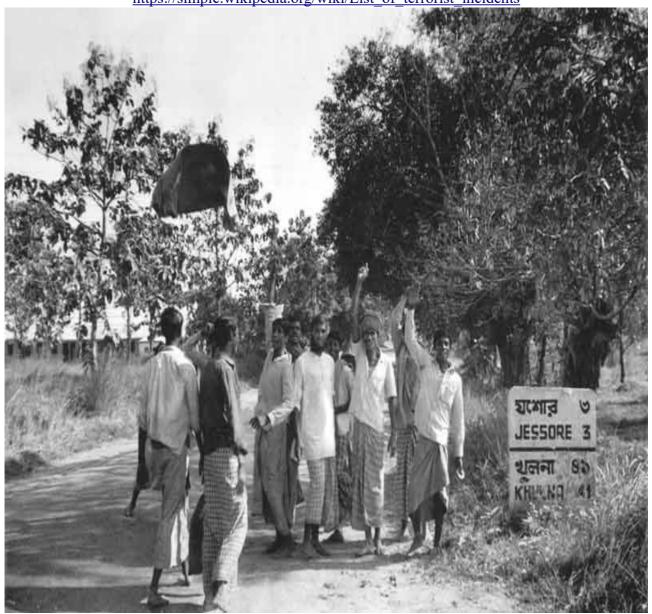
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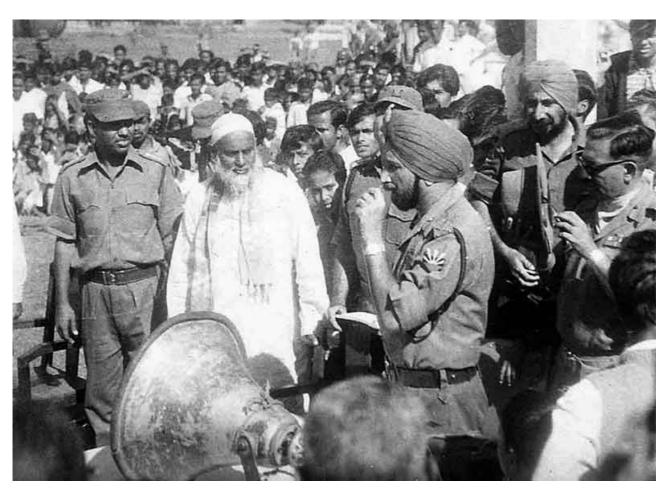
Mukti Bahini

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mukti Bahini

A formal military leadership of the resistance was created in April 1971 under the Provisional Government of Bangladesh. The military council was headed by General M. A. G. Osmani[8] and eleven sector commanders.[9] The Bangladesh Armed Forces were established on 4 April 1971. In addition to regular units, such as the East Bengal Regiment and the East Pakistan Rifles, the Mukti Bahini also consisted of the civilian Gonobahini (People's Force).[10] The most prominent divisions of the Mukti Bahini were the Z Force led by Major Ziaur Rahman, the K Force led by Major Khaled Mosharraf and the S Force led by Major K M Shafiullah. Awami League student leaders formed militia units, including the Mujib Bahini, the Kader Bahini and Hemayet Bahini.[9] The Communist Party of Bangladesh, led by Comrade Moni Singh, and activists from the National Awami Party also operated several guerrilla battalions.[11]

On 9 June, Mukti Bahini members hijacked a car and launched a grenade attack on Dhaka Intercontinental Hotel, the office of the Pro-Junta Morning Post and the house of <u>Golam Azam</u>.[43] https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of terrorist incidents









Aispatch

Good Afternoon

Today Is Saturday, March 27, 1971

on, N.C. Volume 89 Number 28

Rebel Forces Claim Pakistan Region Free

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anyone aphaving their mped should e contractor's tent permit h department is authorized NEW DELHI (UP1) — Heavy flying raged today in East Pakistan where rehels proclaimed the region independent. Pakistani Radio reported Sheikh Mujibar Rahman, leader of the secessionist forces, had been arrested.

Pakisten Radio in a broadcast mentored in Lendon, said the sheikh was arrested at his home in Dacca Friday.

But Rahman later went on

what his followers called "Free Bengal Radio" and said, "I am as free as the Bangla Desh Bengali homeland." Indian reports said Rahman was in Chittagong, East Pakistan's principal seaport and reportedly in the hands of the rebels.

ly in the hands of the rebels. The broadcast was heard in Shillong, India.

All-India Radio in nearby India said Pakistani government troops were using tanks against rebellious forces. Reports also said villagers were fighting government troops with spears and clubs in some East Pakistani areas.

All-India Radio said widespread fighting had broken out not only in the East Pakistani capital of Dacca but in several other parts of the east region, separated from West Pakistan by 1,000 miles of India.

The civil war crupted Friday

troops to search homes for weapons and subversive literature.

The Pakistani government imposed a total news blackout on the East wing of the nation.

on the East wing of the nation.

Radio Pakistan never mentioned the fighting in broadcasts from Karacht. Decca Radio, which until Friday was in the hands of Italman's robels, apparently was silent

Pakistan Radio reported Fri-



WARNING: MANY OF THE FOLLOWING IMAGES ARE GRAPHIC IN NATURE AND MIGHT BE DISTURBING TO SOME VIEWERS



The Boat Blog Soll I at the arts appropriate ENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

DI-2

DIA SPOT REPORT

26 March 1971

War

REFERENCE:

Pakistan was thrust into civil war today when Sheikh Mhjibur Rahman proclaimed the east wing of the two-part country to be "the sovereign independent People's Rapublic of Bangla Desh." Fighting is reported heavy in Dacca and other eastern cities where the 10,000 man paramilitary East Pakistan Rifles has joined police and private citizens in conflict with an estimated 23,000 West Pakistani regular army troops. Continuing reinforcements by sea and air combined with the government's stringent martial law regulations illustrate Islamabad's commitment to preserve the union by force. Because of logistical difficulties, the attempt will probably fail, but not before heavy loss of life results.

- 2. Indian officials have indicated that they would not be drawn into a Pakistani civil war, even if the east should ask for help. Their intentions might be overruled, however, if the fever of Bengali nationalism spills across the border.
- 3. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is little interested in foreign affairs and would cooperate with the United States if he could. The west's violent suppression, however, threatens to radicalize the east to the detriment of US interests. The crisis has exhibited anti-American facets from the beginning and both sides will find the United States a convenient scapequat.

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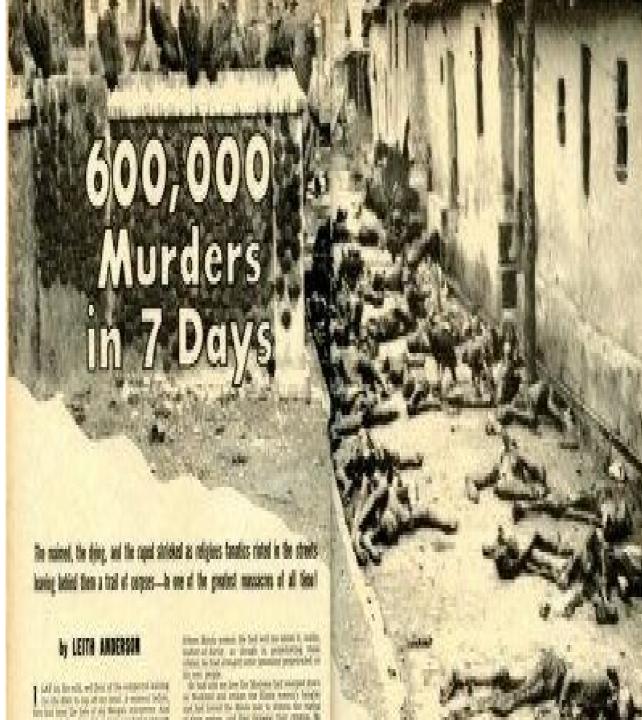
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Genocide by Pakistan army 1971







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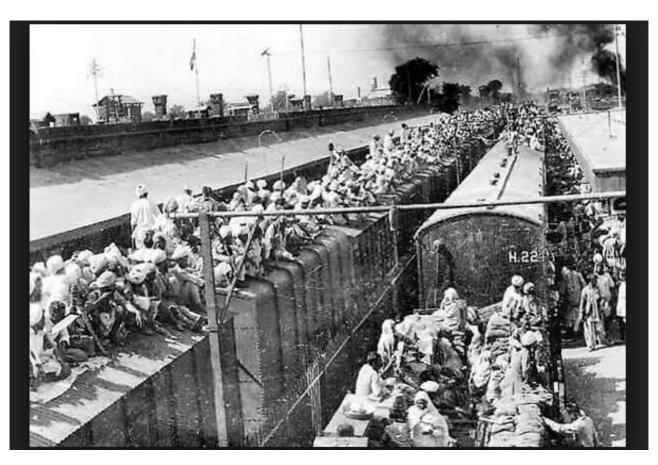
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Train to Pakistan being given an honour-guard send-off. New Delhi railway station, 1947



Refugees going to Punjab province of Pakistan

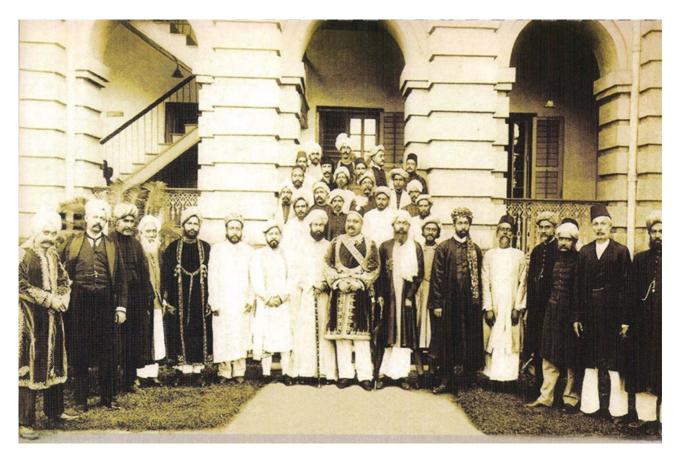








http://dhakadailyphoto.blogspot.nl/2006/11/partition-of-bengal-1905-and-its.html





http://iloveegame.blogspot.nl/2013/08/partition-of-bengal-1905-and-its.html









Police action against mass demonstration

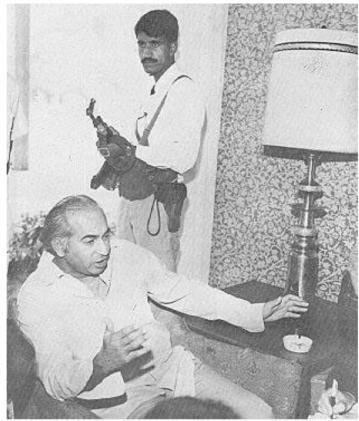
1971 Bangladesh Liberation War https://1971liberationwar.weebly.com/march-1971.html



Bhutto arrives in Dhaka, March 1971. He was defeated by Mujib in December 1970 general election and threatened to boycott the assembly and oppose the government if Mujib take the power



Bhutto visits leaders of Awami League to form a negotiation. He was defeated in December 1970 general election to Shekh Mujib. He threatened to boycott the assembly and oppose the government if Mujib takes the power.



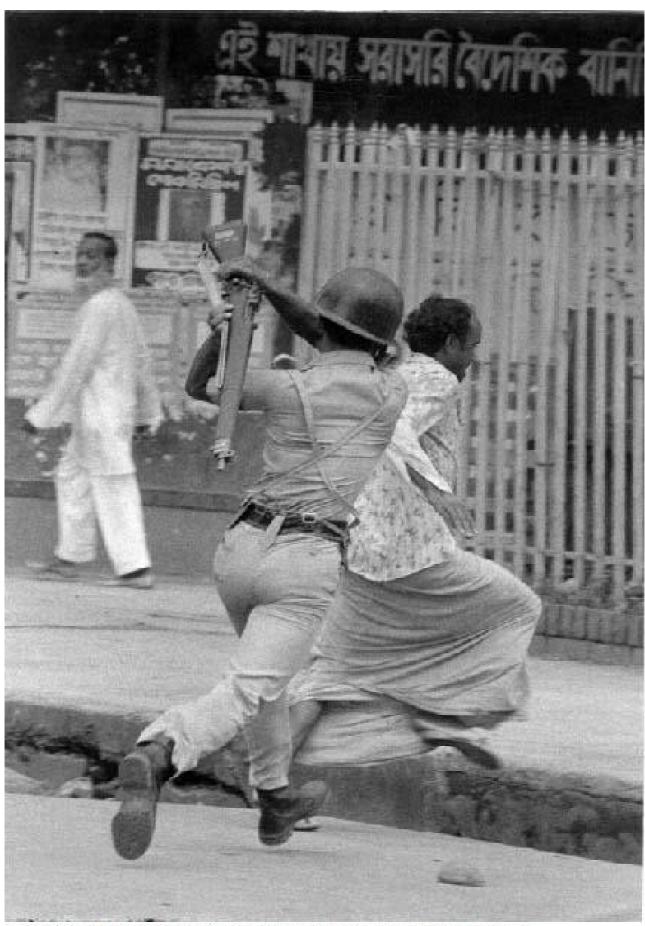
Bhutto with journalists at Hotel Intercontinental





Police action against mass demonstration





A Pakistani soldier beating up an unamed common. Before the war.



A shameles act of atrocity by pakistan army. As per the policy of pakistan military, this soldier is checking the private part of the Bangalee man for sign of circumcision to determine his religion.



STOP WINS £500

Edinburgh



Bangabandhu raises the flag of independent Bangladesh before the jubilant crowd at House 32. 23 March 1971

THE SUNDAY TIMES, JUNE 13 1971



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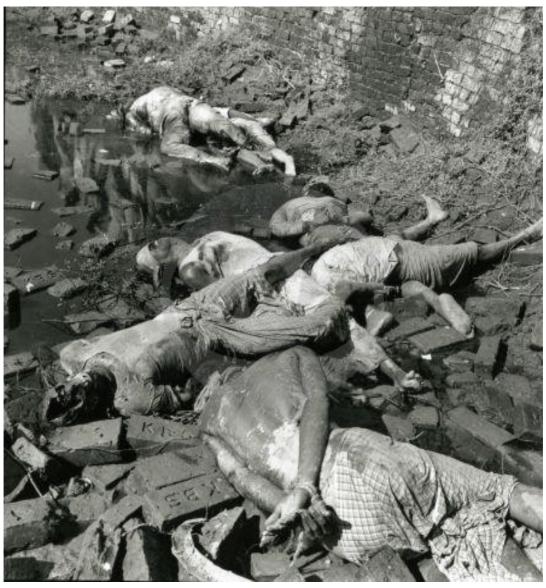
On 15 February 1971, the Joy-Bangla Bahini presented a guard of honour to Bangabandhu with the raising of a new flag. On 02 march 1971 leaders of the Chhatra League raised the flag at a rally in the Dhaka University campus.





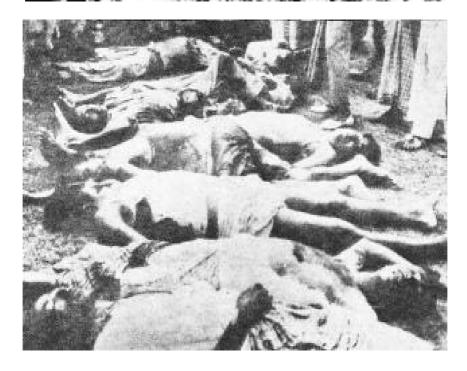




















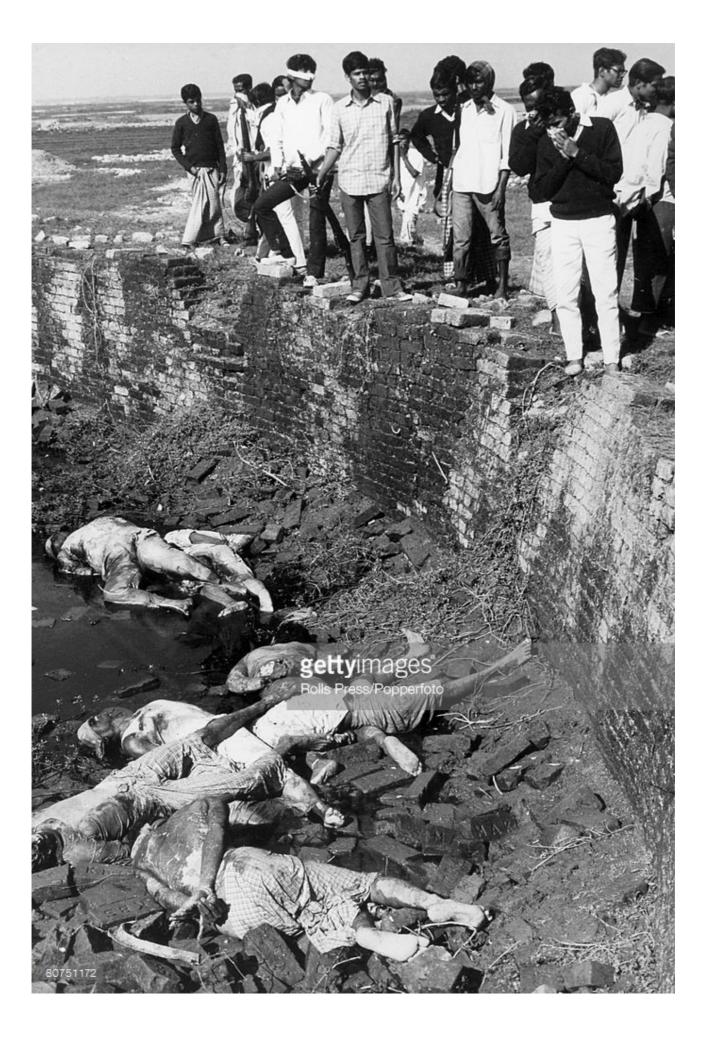


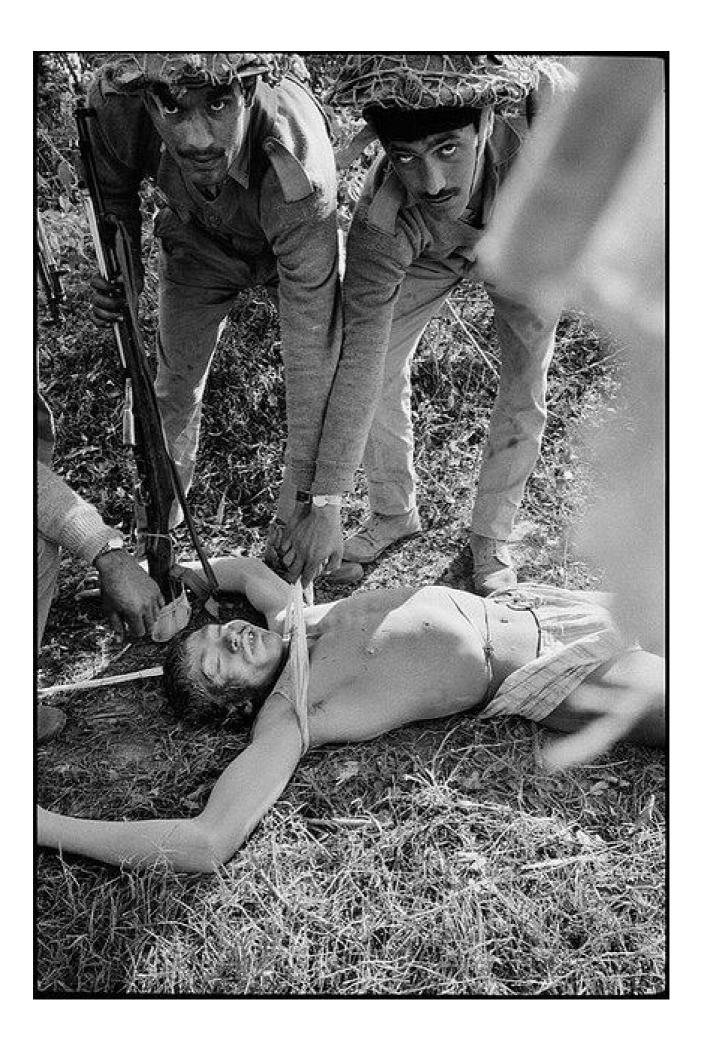






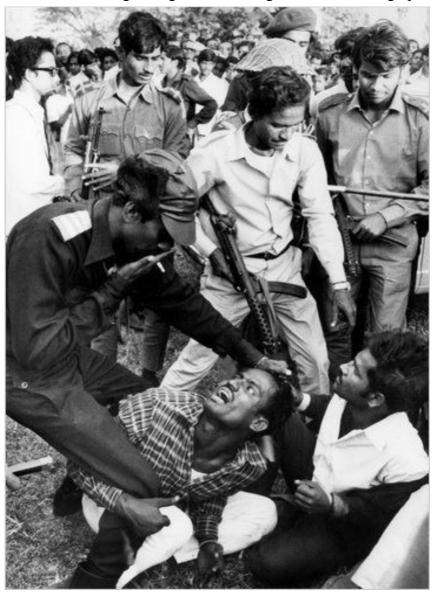
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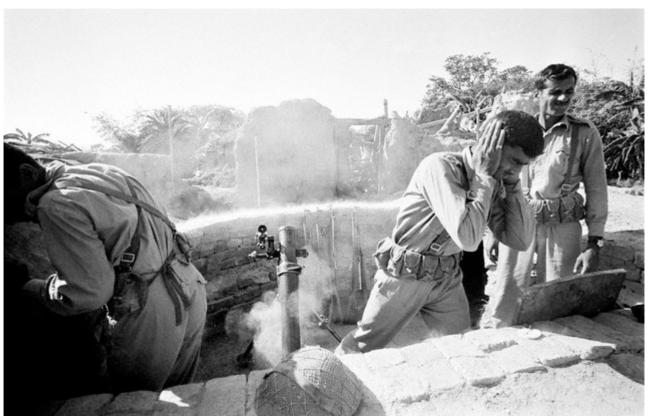
Pro-independence militia in training during the 1971 Bangladesh war. Photograph: Begart Institute







Bongobondhu, Tajuddin, Nazrul and other bangali leaders



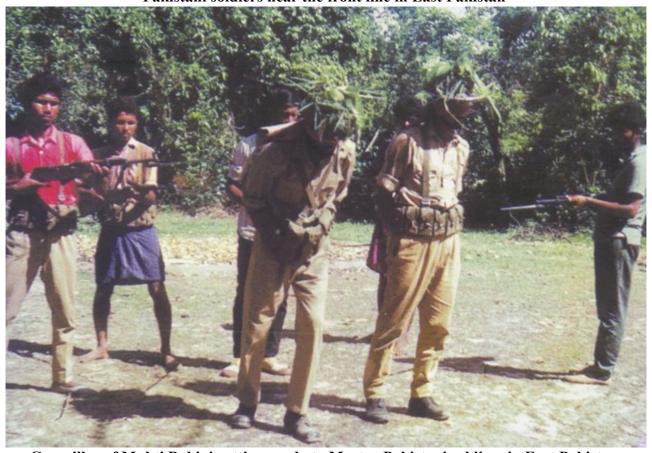
Pak Army soldiers in combat with the Indian Army



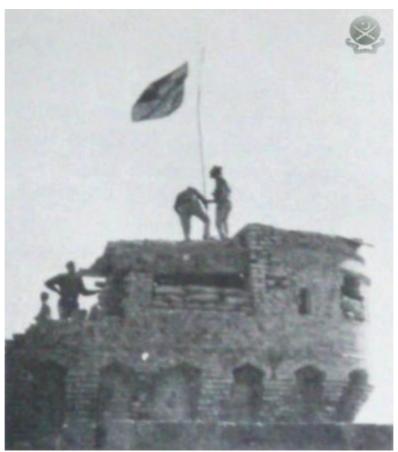
Pakistani soldiers carry a dead body of an Indian officer killed during the war



Pakistani soldiers near the front line in East Pakistan



Guerrillas of Mukti Bahini getting ready to Martyr Pakistani soldiers in East Pakistan



Troops raise Pakistani flag at Kaiser-e-Hind in Hussainiwala inside Indian territory.



Pakistani troops fire a mortar in a defensive emplacement 2000 yards from the Indian troops occupying the village of Dangapara. 27 Nov 1971



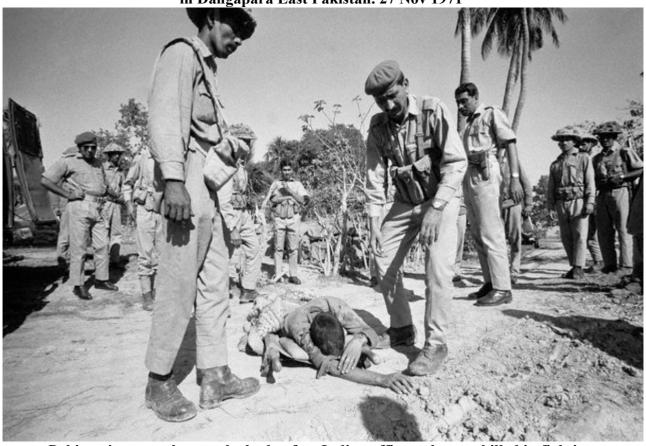
Pakistani soldiers look at a body of a dead Indian soldier in Burinda village six miles inside East Pakistan



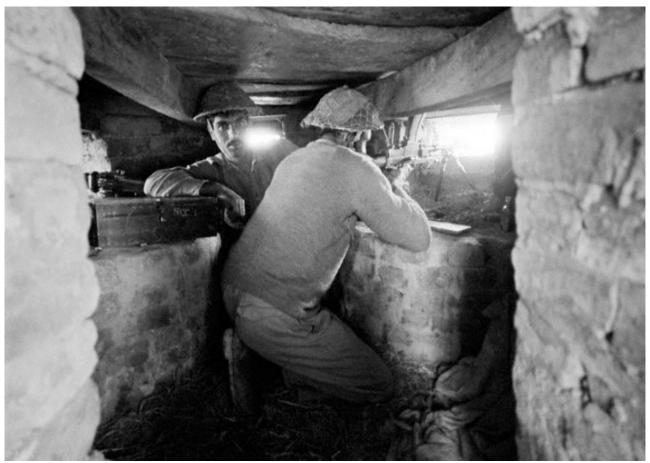
IAF MiG-21 shot down by Pak Army ground fire at Chammb. 12 Dec 1971



Pakistani soldiers hold their position 2000 yards from Indian troops in Dangapara East Pakistan. 27 Nov 1971



Pakistani troops observe the body of an Indian officer who was killed in fighting near Jessore during the war. 29 Nov 1971



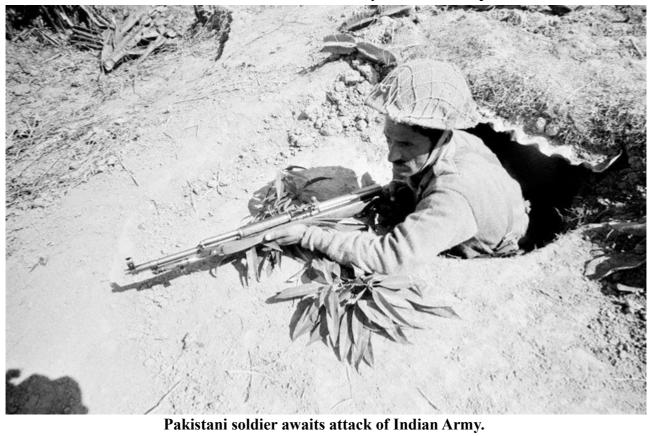
Pakistani soldiers in their bunker await the attack of Indian paratroopers.



Lt General Assan Ali Khan visits the front line troops in Hilli on the north west border of East Pakistan.



Indian officer killed in combat by Pakistani troops.



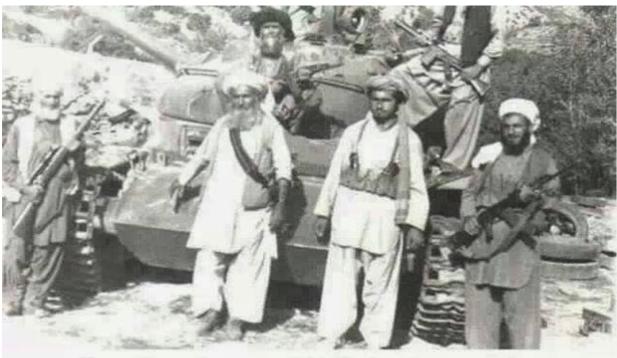


Lt. Gen Niazi head of east command accompanies soldiers wounded at the front in a plane. 29 Nov 1971



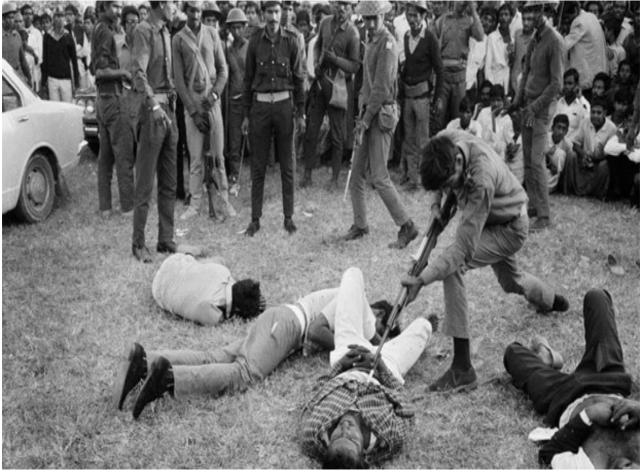
Lt Gen Niazi and Lt Gen Aurora arrive at Ramna Race Course in Dacca for the signing of surrender document by Pakistan Eastern Command. East Pakistan got separated through Indian conspiracies as India fully exploited Pakistan's internal crisis. Pakistan Army was being fought by Indian Army and the rebel Mukti Bahini fighters supported and funded by India. Due to a civil war scenario and seeing no vision and positive end in sight, Pakistan finally surrendered on 16 December 1971.





یہ 1965 کی پاکستان اور انڈیا کی جنگ کی تصویر ہے، جس میں پشتون قبائلی علاقوں کے غیور قبائل نے پاکستان کی فوج کے شانہ بشانہ ہندوستان کے خلاف جہاد کیا تھا















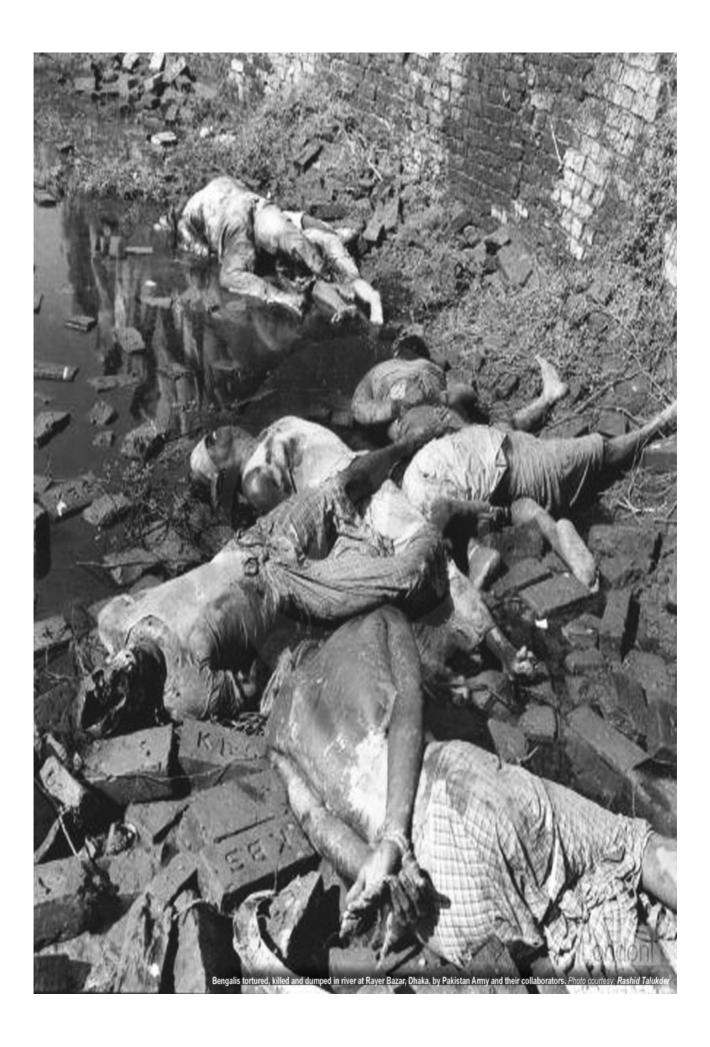


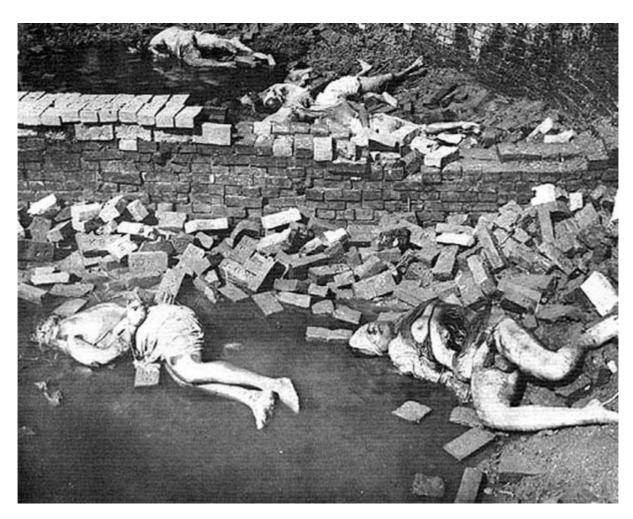


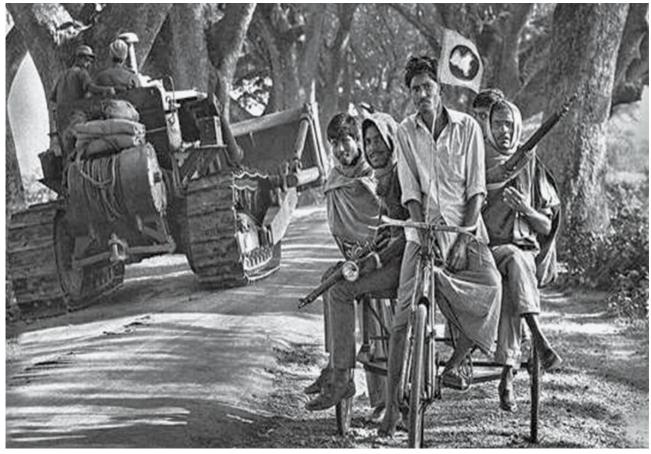




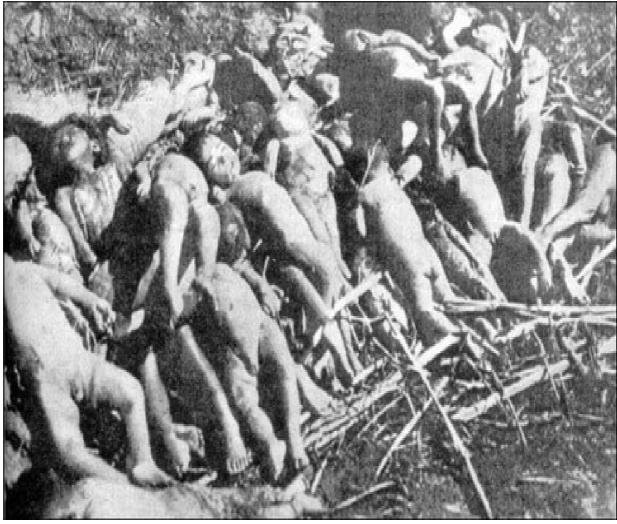




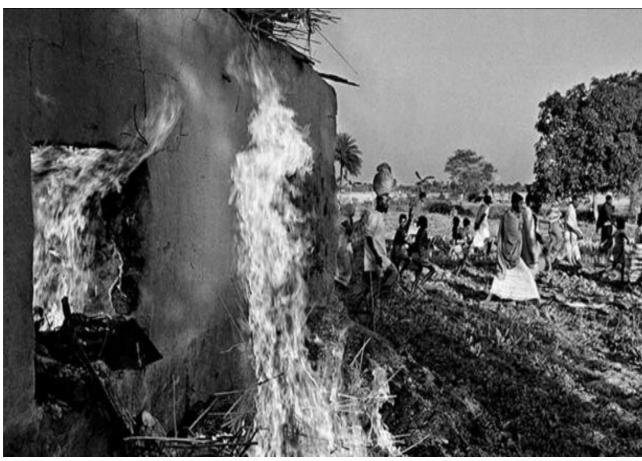






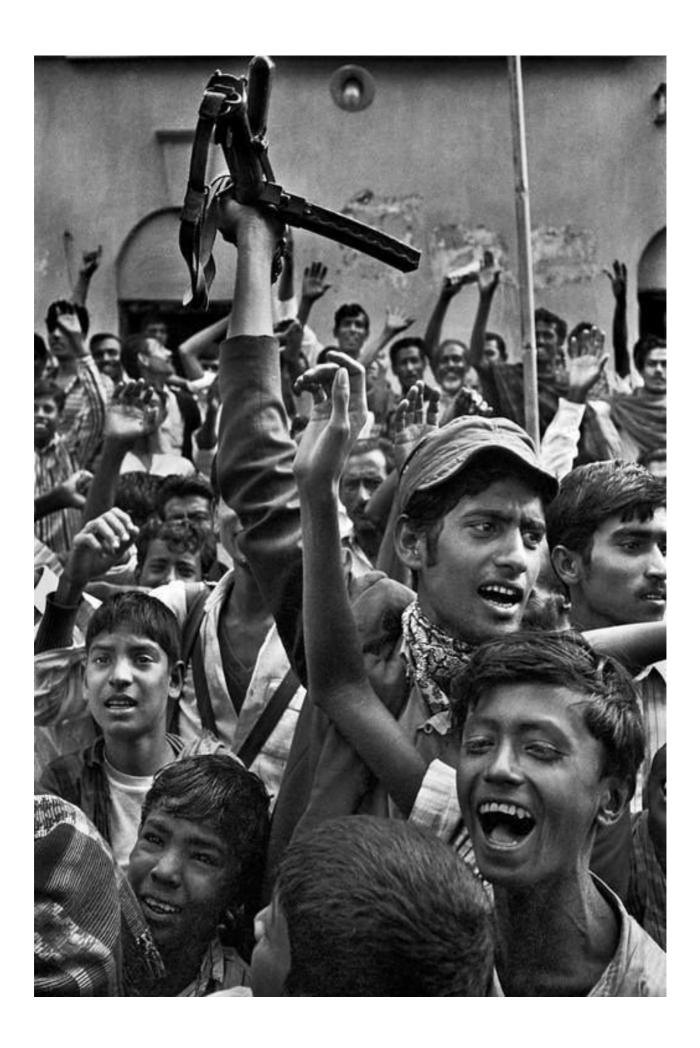














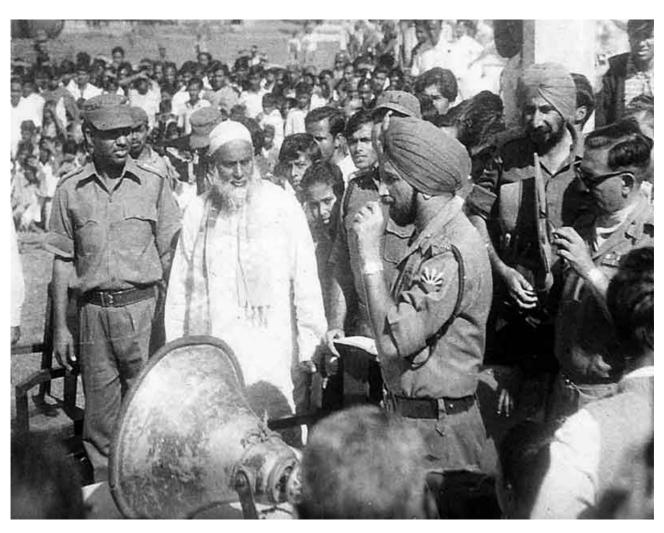




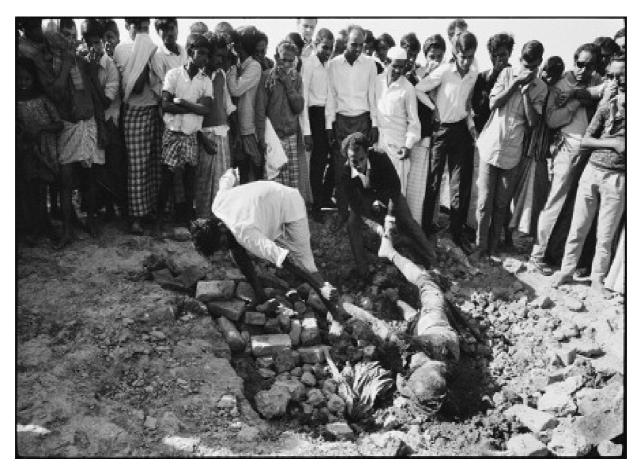






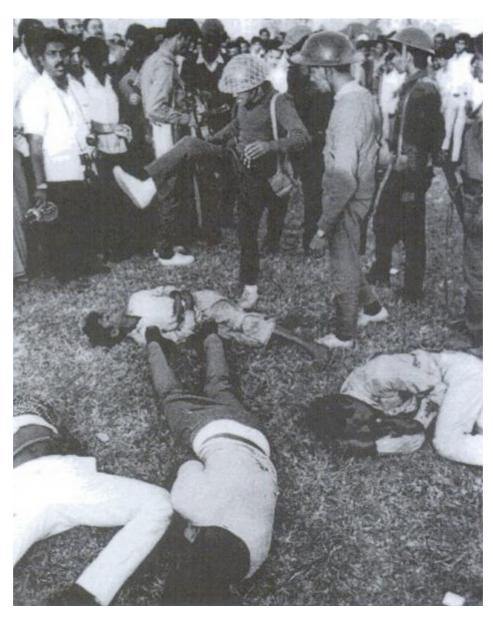








Freedom fighters during training. Photo: Collected from the book on photographs of liberation war.





The suspense is killing them.

East Pakistan's plea has gone unanswered for too long. Finally, there is an organization to help you help.

Last November, the people of East Pakistan waited through a cyclone and flood. A half million of them didn't make it.

cyclone and flood. A flaif minion of them didn't make it.

Last March, a man-made flood began. A flood of people by the milions forced to leave their homes and face disaster—or to stay and face death. Every day 100,000 are still making the decision. Adding to the seven million war-torn refugees who are still waiting for help.

Waiting through mile-long lines for today's cup of rice. Waiting in drainage pipes to see if they can outlive the monsoon. Waiting one more day, because one more day has become all the lifetime they can hope for.

Help hasn't been coming for a sickeningly simple reason: concerned people haven't known how to help.

There is a direct route.

concerned people haven't known how to help.

There is a direct route through Oxfam-America.

Over our 30 years in international development, Oxfam's first goal has always been helping people in trouble And never have people been in more desperate trouble than today in East Pakistan.

Oxfam-America funds for East Pakistan refugees are di-



AMERICANS FOR FAST PARISTAN REFUGEES OXFAM AMERICA TUND

rected two ways. First, to India's Ministry of Rehabilitation, which is doing a remarkable job in the midst of horior. Second, through Oxfam field directors through Oxfam field directors who distribute your money lo-cally, where supplies cost far less than if we shipped them from here. Oxfam has built a strong corps of Indian volunteers—and has a keen eye for which local agencies can best serve the most

agencies can best serve the most people.

We're using the money first for medicine and field hospitals to fight the ravages of cholera, pneumonia, dysentery, conjunc-tivitis, typhoid and typhus.

Second, for food such as chicken soup powder, milk pow-der and vitamins to combat mal-nutrition.

nutrition.

Third, for corrugated plas-Third, for corrugated plas-tic sheeting for shelters, plus mats and blankets we hope will last through the monsoons. Fourth, for basic clothing, especially for the women, who have had to share their last rags with their children.

We're paying for transpor-tation for supplies that can't be bought locally. We're using the money effi-ciently, because we can't afford not to. The lives involved can't

not to. The lives involved can't wait.

Now that you know how to help, please help today. And share the message with your church, your company, your clubs, your friends who have wanted to help, too,

East Pakistan can't stand the suspense much longer.



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Mr. Nehru Calls For Big Effort From People

"INCESSANT STRIVING TASK OF FUTURE"

Assembly Members Take Solemn Pleage

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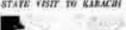
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GREETS PAKISTAN

Mr. Jinnah Re-Affirms Firm
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Pak Army jeep on patrol during the war.



1971 War, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Image source: herald.dawn.com



1971 Bangladesh Pakistan War. Image source: defence.pk 481

New clashes over Bangladesh war crime verdict



https://www.dawn.com/news/784038/new-clashes-over-bangladesh-war-crime-verdict



Bangladeshi commuters move past a bus which was set on fire by activists of the country's largest Islamic party Jamaat-I-Islami during a strike in Dhaka, Feb 5, 2013. — Photo by AP

DHAKA: Police fired rubber bullets Wednesday at hundreds of activists from Bangladesh's largest Islamic party during a second day of rioting sparked by the conviction of a top opposition figure for war crimes.

After four people were killed during violence that flared late into the night on Tuesday, dozens more Jamaat-i-Islami supporters were wounded when riot police tried to disperse fresh protests on Wednesday near Dhaka and the southwestern district of Khulna. The violence erupted after the party's fourth most senior official, Abdul Quader Molla, was jailed for life on Tuesday for committing mass murder during the 1971 war of independence against Pakistan. The sentence was handed down by a domestic war crimes tribunals which lacks any international oversight.

Jamaat says the war crimes charges against Molla and eight other senior party officials due to face trial including its leader and deputy leader are bogus and part of a wider political vendetta. The party enforced a nationwide strike on Tuesday and Wednesday and threatened to call indefinite protests if the trials are not halted. It had called a series of protests last week that left at least three people dead. The government maintains the trials are needed to heal the wounds of the deadly ninemonth war in which it says three million people were killed, many by pro-Pakistani militia whose members allegedly included Jamaat officials.

The local police chief for Narayangani, the suburb of Dhaka which saw the worst of the violence on Wednesday morning, said about 15 people had been injured by rubber bullets. The private Independent TV channel said at least 12 people were injured in Khulna after police fired rubber bullets. Security has been tightened across the country. In Dhaka, the government deployed border guards as reinforcements to stem spiralling violence while at least 10,000 policemen were also on patrol. Thousands of pro-government protesters also staged a night-long candlelit rally at a key crossing in central Dhaka, demanding the death sentence for Molla. Border guards were also deployed in Chittagong, the country's second largest city, where another person died of bullet wounds in a hospital to take Tuesday's death toll to four, the city's deputy police chief Bonoj Kumar told AFP. The tribunal, which was created by the country's secular government in 2010, is also trying two senior officials of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Jamaat's denial of 1971 and our collective failure



http://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-11057

Jahed Ahmed

"The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it." -- Albert Einstein

In the context of the current controversy surrounding a few noted anti-liberation elements' statements denying the occurrence of genocide and terming the 1971 war merely a "civil war," instead of "Liberation War" as it is known to the people of Bangladesh and the rest of the world, Einstein's above saying points out at least one important aspect of our nation: we have miserably failed to deal with an issue that largely defines our country's birth, history, and glory.

Needless to say, the statements made by the Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mujahidi, Jamaat sympathiser Shah Abdul Hannan, and Jamaat leader Qader Mullah are false and outrageous. Yet, I think we cannot get away from our own responsibilities simply by showing our anger against them. They said it because we, collectively, may have helped them arrive at a stage where they think they do not, or need not, remember their anti-liberation role in 1971. They see themselves more as the legitimate leaders of an Islamic political party which exerts significant influence in the political arena of Bangladesh. And that did not happen overnight.

Years of opportunistic, unpatriotic, and power-hungry political trends -- common among the main stream political parties including the one that led to our Liberation War -- have raised their level of confidence. Or else, how many nations do we know of where documented war criminals dared to deny the very country's sovereignty and birth 36 years after its independence?

On the contrary, we know that even 62 years after World War II, collaborators and sympathisers of Nazis are still being prosecuted and brought to justice in many European countries. A few months ago, a man as eminent as German Nobel laureate, author Günter Grass, drew acrid criticism -- some even demanded that the Nobel laureate title be withdrawn from him -- after he confessed his involvement with the Waffen SS -- an organisation known to have committed many war crimes during WW II.

I see a lot of protest and reaction coming from the people of Bangladesh: intellectuals, freedom fighters, politicians, and secular cultural and progressive organisations. This is a good sign that shows that our nation still has not forgotten its greatest heroes and their sacrifice for liberation, and, however factionalised we might be, we will not let anyone go unchallenged if the legitimacy of this nation's birth and sacrifice is doubted.

Yet, I wonder whether we will ultimately be able to initiate trials of war criminals and collaborators. I think this way, not because we have any lack of proof, documents or witnesses as to who cooperated with the Pakistan army in killing several hundreds of thousands of freedom fighters, or who formed Al-Badr, Al-Shams, etc, but because my concern lies elsewhere. I am afraid that, in a nation with a long history of dementia, these outbursts and protests may soon turn out to be merely whimsical, or someday the issue might lose priority in our minds. It is also not impossible that political opportunism would go in favour of those whom we are trying to put on trial, as it has happened in the past. But I truly hope that my fears do not come true.

The current interim government of Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed has taken quite a few essential and bold steps that were long due, which most probably would not have been taken if any, given their past records, mainstream political party were currently in power.

For example, separation of judiciary from the executive branch, and prosecution of corrupt political leaders regardless of their personal status and rank. May I request his excellency the chief adviser of the caretaker government that his government take initiatives to start trials of 1971 war criminals and collaborators?

If the Mujahid-Hannan-Qader Mullah coterie could be so impudent as to deny our Liberation War when several thousand freedom fighters and political leaders, and other direct and indirect victims at the hands of the Pakostan army and their appointed local agents in 1971, are still alive, what will happen when we lose these people? Do we wish to leave behind a history of our nation's birth with a question mark for our present and future generations? We must find answers to these questions. Let us also not forget, Bangladesh was not liberated for becoming a platform for any opportunistic person, political party or organisation which aims to deceive people in the name of religion.

If history is to be taken into account, the use of religion in politics has always had a deleterious effect on people and society. Hence, the use of religion is banned in many countries around the world. It is not a question of East or West. It is for our own sake, and for facilitating ways to a pluralistic, democratic, and progressive Bangladesh that we need to ban all political use of religion, be it Islam or any other kind. We do not want our motherland getting transformed into another Afghanistan, Pakistan, or Nigeria. Of course, those who did not recognise this country's liberation and have no faith in its sovereignty would always try otherwise.

I was born in 1972 in independent Bangladesh. All my knowledge about 1971 is based on secondary information and sources: books, tales from eyewitnesses, and the media. But, in the independent Bangladesh, I have seen to what extent Jamaat-Shibir could become dishonest, cunning, and immoral in order to grab power.

They have been deceiving and exploiting the religiosity of this country's people in the name of Islam. I vividly remember the wall writing of Jamaat during elections in Bangladesh: "Vote dile pallaye, Khushi hobe Allaye" (cast your vote for scale and Allah shall be happy). As if Jamaat-e-Islami was the authorised sole agent of Islam and Allah in Bangladesh!

Therefore, I need not be any more convinced than I am already about what ideals Jamaat really stands for and what role it played in 1971. Likewise, I do not have even a shred of doubt about the courage, devotion and patriotism of several millions of men and women who sacrificed their lives for our independence (the exact figure, whether 3 million or less, is hardly an issue to me).

However, I am yet to be convinced that our leaders and politicians really care about this country and its people. If they do, I am sure they will unite, work collectively and take steps to ensure that no one will dare to raise questions about the legitimacy of our Liberation War. For this, identifying our enemies is just as important as identifying our heroes.

Echoing the words of valiant freedom fighter Maj. Gen. Syed Muhammad Ibrahim (Daily Star, Oct 29), I would also like to say, let us "resolve this issue once and for all."



AI expects govt to initiate the process X

http://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-18017



Irene Khan

Global human rights watchdog Amnesty International (AI) yesterday asked the caretaker government to try war criminals. "We want the present government to initiate some process. The future democratic government will have to take the issue forward. But some steps regarding that should be taken at this moment," Irene Khan, AI secretary general, told reporters after attending a seminar on 'Campaign for Human Dignity' in the capital. Irene is leading a special AI delegation to Bangladesh to discuss human rights issues with the government, political parties and civil society on the eve of the first anniversary of declaration of the state of emergency.

AI and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) jointly organised the seminar at LGED Bhaban at the launching of a six-day AI mission which will focus on rule of law with special attention to institutional changes needed for protection and promotion of human rights. In her speech at the seminar and statements before the media, the AI chief also touched upon different rights-related issues including the state of emergency. Coinciding with the demand for war criminals' trial getting momentum recently, Irene's visit will feature meetings with the government where her team will share AI's experience in Latin America, Cambodia and Africa on trial of war crimes and crimes against humanity. "While sharing our experience, we'll tell the government what and how they can do something in this regard," Irene told reporters.

Saying that there have been a lot of progress in international laws regarding war crimes and crimes against humanity since 1971 to facilitate the trial, she said, "The present international principle, Principle of Universal Jurisdiction, means any war criminal, no matter where he is staying, needs to be tried for the crimes he had done, no matter where he has done that." Asked whether the AI would pursue the trial of war criminals in international arena in case the government does not initiate the process, Irene said, "

Amnesty International doesn't lodge such cases directly, but other organisations do...If they (war criminals) go to other countries, they can be arrested and cases can be lodged against them." Irene noted that the history of Bangladesh is turbulent, full of injustices. But the current situation brings her hope. "To my own feeling, this is a window of opportunity to initiate institutional reform that can turn the trend this country has suffered from."

The culture of impunity 'which goes back to 1971' is almost an institutional problem now, she said, "Therefore, you need institutional change." She stressed the need for an independent judiciary, police reform, actions to address maltreatment and torture, a strong national human rights commission and freedom of information legislation. The AI is going to launch "Campaign for Human Dignity" next year with focus on accountability of governments, big businesses and others, access of the poor to justice, services and rights, discrimination, and participation of people.

The AI delegation will meet senior members of the caretaker government including Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Law Adviser Mainul Hosein. The schedule for meeting Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed is yet to be fixed.

At its meetings with the government, the AI will raise the issue of release of cartoonist Arifur Rahman, whom it terms 'a prisoner of conscience'. Arif was arrested and detained in September last year for 'hurting religious sentiment' in a cartoon published in Alpin, a satire magazine of the Prothom Alo. After holding meetings with all the stakeholders, the AI will launch a memorandum on the state of human rights in Bangladesh through a press conference on Thursday. "We'll say there how trial of all human rights violation incidents that took place in last few years can be held," she said, adding they will also raise the issue of trial of such violations in 1971.

Admitting that rights of both general people and political leaders are violated, Irene said, "We need a change where everyone, not only political leaders but also ordinary people, is protected by law and has the right of fair trial." On whether she thinks the state of emergency should be lifted to give back people's fundamental rights, she said human rights can be ensured even when a state of emergency is in force. "A state of emergency and human rights violation are not the same. We'll ask the government to lift restrictions on freedom of expression with special emphasis on freedom of media, protection of rights workers, and freedom for those working for poverty, environment and women rights issues to organise people."

She said there is some restriction on fair trial, assembly and press freedom. The government must work out how people will do political activities while emergency is in force. Protesting extrajudicial killings, Irene said, "We saw last year and before that no investigation was done when army or Rab beat up someone. If there was any investigation, the report was not done appropriately, and, if that was done, prosecution was not done." MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam delivered the welcome address while David Petrasek, Amnesty's special adviser on poverty and human rights, spoke on the Campaign for Human Dignity.

Razakars' list being made by Jamaat http://english.thereport24.com/article/15052/index.html



Kawsar Azam, Thereport24.com, Dhaka:

Jamaat-e-Islami has started preparing countrywide lists of 'rajakars', the collaborators and persons who opposed the war of independence from Pakistan, said party insiders. The leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, which directly opposed the birth of Bangladesh in 1971, have been collecting the names of chairmen and general secretaries of Shanti (Peace) Committee units since August this year. The Shanti Committee was formed by the Pakistan government to annihilate guerrilla fighters during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

The lists include razakars of every political parties including ruling Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat, itself, sources said. One of the sources said the party considered the proposal on making lists of collaborators as it was made by the Jamaat lawyers of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT). "Dr Shafiqur Rahman, acting secretary general of Jamaat directed grassroots level units of the party to make the lists of razakars at the end of the month August through issuing a letter," he told the **report24**.com on the condition of being anonymous.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islam is facing an acute leadership as well as identity crisis with its top leaders now held in jail for playing their part in the liberation war. The apex court awarded capital punishment to the Jamaat leader who was finally executed before the January 5 election through which the AL retained power for another five-year term. The trial of war criminals, which some of the Jamaat's top leaders have been facing has not been completed. Third and fourth graders are now running the party as acting chief of the party. Acting top leaders do not come to the fore.

On the other hand, thousands of leaders and activists have been earlier thrown into different jails after indicting them in rafts of cases. More than two hundred activists were killed in clashes with police during violent demonstrations by the Jamaat-Shibir combine. As a result, the party is facing a dearth of serious leaders. Even, the government is thinking over enacting a law to ban Jamaat for its alleged crimes against humanity committed during the country's Liberation War in 1971 as a political party. The letter issued by Dr Shafiqur Rahman, acting secretary general of Jamaat says that the incumbent government is plotting to wipe out all the Islamist parties from the country and Jamaat is a victim of its plan.

Dr Shafiqur Rahman directed the grassroots level leaders in six points. Firstly, the leaders were directed to record the incidents held during War of Liberation in 1971 briefly. Secondly, they were asked to collect the names of chairman and secretary of Shanti (Peace) Committee's district units.

Thirdly, the district leaders were asked to collect Liberation War related books, published by any person, district authority or Muktijuddha Parishad. Besides other directions, the leaders were asked in the letter to accumulate other documents about local collaborators and traitors during the Liberation War. Faridpur district Jamaat secretary Badar Uddin confirmed the**report24**.com about Jamaat's plan to list names of razakars. "We are collecting various texts and books where names of Shanti Committee members in Faridpur district are recorded," he said.

Mohammad Shahabuddin, Jessore district press secretary confirmed the**report24**.com that they are making countrywide razakar list but declined to comment on it. However, central Jamaat leaders including Jamaat's lawyer Tajul Islam remained mum to inform over making razakar list. (This report has been translated by Imam Hossain Bijoy for thereport24.com/English)



Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, the mastermind of all political killings and patron of various Mujahedin forces and Jihadist terrorist cells. The chief of operations of the al-Badr (Jamati death squad) forces, Motiur Rahaman Nizami is responsible for the murder of thousands of Bengalis involved in or connected to the liberation war. Son of Khondokar Lutfar Rahman of Monmothpur village under Sathia PS in Pabna district.

Razakar (Bengali: বাজাবর) was the name given to a paramilitary force organized by the Pakistan Army during the Bangladesh Liberation Warin 1971. The word *razakar*, originating from Persian, literally means "volunteer". The Razakar force was composed of mostly pro-Pakistani Bengalis and Urdu-speaking migrants living in erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Initially, the force was under the command of local pro-Pakistani committees, but through the East Pakistan Razakar Ordinance (promulgated by General Tikka Khan on 1 June 1971) and a Ministry of Defence ordinance (promulgated 7 September 1971), Razakars were recognized as members of the Pakistan Army. Razakars were allegedly associated with many of the atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army during the 9-month war (see 1971 Bangladesh atrocities).

Creation

In 1971, after military cracksdown, **Razakar** force was created under Pakistan Army Act Sub-Section 1. Under Sub-Section 2 and 5 two other paramilitary forces Al-Badr and Al-Shams were created as well in 1971. The Pakistan government published gazette of these in Spetember,1971 from Rawalpindi's Army Headquarter. After gazette the Razakars started excuting and eliminating pro-independence Bangladeshis. Later on, Pakistani President published notification, and Razakars were receiving monthly salary and ration (food supplies). Major General Jamsid was head of Razakar force. Al-Badr force was created in October and started operation in November.

Shanti Komiti (Peace Committee) was created politically where Golam Azam and Khza Khairuddin was in charge of peace committee ^[1]These Pakistani offsprings were organized into Brigades of around 3-4000 volunteers, mainly armed with Light Infantry weapons provided by the Pakistani Army. Each Razakar Brigade was attached as an auxiliary to two Pakistani Regular Army Brigades, and their main function was to arrest and detain nationalist Bengali suspects. Usually such suspects were often tortured to death in custody. The Razakars were trained in the conventional army fashion by the Pakistan Army.

Following the liberation of East Pakistan as the independent country of Bangladesh, most of the leading Razakars, allegedly includingGhulam Azam, fled to Pakistan (previously West Pakistan). Ghulam Azam maintains that he went to Pakistan to participate in the Annual General Meeting of his organization, the Jamaat-e-Islami, but he was forced to remain overseas until General Ziaur Rahman allowed him to return to Bangladesh. Many of the lower ranking Razakars who remained in Bangladesh were killed in the course of reprisals immediately after the end of fighting while as many as 36,000 were imprisoned. Of the latter many were later freed mainly because of pressure from US and China who backed Pakistan in the war, and because Pakistan was holding 200,000 Bengali speaking military and civilian personnel who were stranded in West Pakistan during the war. [2]

After the restoration of democracy in 1992, an unofficial and self-proclaimed "People's Court" (Bengali: গণিতাত Gônoadalot) "sentenced" Ghulam Azam and his ten accomplices to death for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

However, as the Islamist *Jamaat-e-Islami* party was already a part of the ruling alliance in Bangladesh, the "verdict" was ignored. Moreover, the then Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government re-granted Bangladeshi nationality to Ghulam Azam, as it had been taken from him after the war. Subdued during the rule of Awami League from 1996-2001, Jamaat-e-Islami returned in full force after the next election in October 2001 in which a four party alliance led by BNP won a landslide victory. The new leader of Jamaat after Ghulam Azam's retirement, Motiur Rahman Nizami, a Razakar and among the ten people tried by the Gônoadalot, became an influential minister in the government.

The word বাজাবাবzakar today carries the meaning "traitor" in common Bangladeshi Bengali parlance, similar to the usage of the word Quisling after the Second World War.

War Criminal Nizami & Genocide Bangalee In 1971

Motiur Nizami, 2004: the mastermind of all political killings and patron of various Mujahedin forces and Jihadist terrorist cells. The chief of operations of the al-Badr (Jamati death squad) forces, Motiur Rahaman Nizami is responsible for the murder of thousands of Bengalis involved in or connected to the liberation war. Son of Khondokar Lutfar Rahman of Monmothpur village under Sathia PS in Pabna district, Motiur has nothing to do with the title Nizami (Nizam means aristocrat i.e. Nizam of Hyderabad, India) at all . Like his other Islamist peers Motiur took up his title Nizami in order to make his name sound respectable, conceal his lowly origin and his base nature. The people of his village hated him so much for his shameless betrayal of his own countrymen that they still call him Moitya Dalal (traitor). Motiur is presently the minister for industries in Khaleda Zia's cabinet—a reward for Motiur's support of the Pakistani hunks Khaleda desrted her husband for in 1971.



Motiur carried out a wide range of activities against the Bangladesh liberation war of 1971. Motiur was the president of Jamat's youth front, the Islami Chhatra Sangha (now known as Islami Chhatra Shibir or the Islamic Students' Association). Under Motiur's direct supervision and leadership, the al-Badr (para-militia) force was organised in order to eliminate the freedom fighters and supporters of liberation movement. Motiur was the commander-in-chief of al- Badr forces.

Apart from killing the freedom fighters and supporters of liberation movement, the aim of ideological warfare waged by the al-Badr forces was to Islamization (Talibanisation) of Bangladesh. One of the main objectives of al-Badr forces was to short list the secular Bangalee intellectuals and eliminate them. Horrifying stories of killing of intellectuals by Motiur's al-badr forces were published in newspapers, home and abroad, during and after the liberation war.

- 1. During the war Motiur acted as one of the top Jamati ideologues instigating his cohorts and followers by means of public speech and newspaper articles to support the Pakistani occupation army in killing the freedom fighters and supporters of liberation war. In one of the issues of Daily Sangram, the Jamati mouth piece, Motiur wrote: The day is not far away when the young men of al-Badr, hand in hand with the armed forces, will defeat the Hindu forces (enemies) and raise the victorious banner of Islam all over the world, after the destruction of India. (Daily San Nov 14,1971)
- 2. On April 12, 1971, Motiur joined Gholam Azam and other leading collaborators such as Sabur Khan to lead a procession in Dhaka to demonstrate their support for Pakistan. The procession, under the banner of peace committee ended with a special prayer for the victory of Pakistan. (Daily Sangram April 13, 1971).
- 3. In Jessore, a bordering district, Motiur, in addressing the assembly of the para militia forces at the district head quarter of the Razakar force, said: In this hour of national crisis, it is the duty of every razakar to carry out his national duties to eliminate those who are engaged in war against Pakistan and Islam. (Daily Sangram Sept 15, 1971)
- 3. People from Motiur's home district, Pabna, have brought allegations against Motiur's direct involvement in killing, rape, arson and lootings. One such person is Aminul Islam Dablu of Brishlika village under the Bera Police Station (in Bangladesh, due to the colonial legacy, all administrative units below districts are organised under a police station, PS, hence all sub-districts are called Thana or PS). Dablu told the commission that his father Mohamed Sohrab Ali was killed on the orders of Motiur. Dablu further said that a number of people from the area were killed on Motiur's orders such as: Profulla Pramanik, Bhadu Pramanik, Manu Pramanik and Shashthi Pramanik. Dablu said there were many eye witnesses to those killings.
- 4. Abdul Quddus, a freedom fighter from Madhabpur village in Pabna, once spent two weeks in an al-Badr torture cell following his arrest in an uneven war. Quddus said he heard plans to kill freedom fighters and local supporters of the war were discussed and drawn up by al-Badr men under Motiur's supervision.
- 5. On November 26 a razakar commander named Sattar took Pakistani troops to the Dhulaupara village where 30 freedom fighters were arrested and subsequently killed. As per Quddus's testimony, Sattar carried out the execution on Motiur's order. Quddus told the commission that he managed to attend a secret meeting of al-Badr forces which Motiur presided and gave instructions to kill freedom fighters. In the meeting the al-Badr men listed the houses of Awami League leaders and the bases and hide-outs of the freedom fighters. Motiur sternly ordered his men to finish off Awami League supporters and possible bases and safe houses being used by freedom fighters were identified. Quddus said Motiur gave orders to finish off Awami League supporters and destroy bases of the freedom fighters. The day after the meeting, Al-Badr forces, in cooperation with Razakars, surrounded Brishlika village and burnt it to the ground.



- 6. Quddus also said Motiur himself bayoneted to death one Bateswar Saha of Madhabpur village in Sathia PS.
- 7. In Pabna Motiur led the killing of a young freedom fighter Latif and his group. Latif was only 19 years old and a first year student of Pabna Edward College. Latif's small group was captured by the Pakistani occupation army in an uneven combat at Dhuliuri. They were then handed over to Motiur's gang for execution. Motiur's lieutenants publicly slew Latif's co-fighters with big camp knifes especially used for slaughtering bulls for sacrifice (during Islamic festival called korbani) as a part of Islamic ritual. The bastards in Motiur's group celebrated the killing of the captured freedom fighters with cannibalistic zeal. They gouged Latif's eyes, chopped off his genitalia and tied his dead body on a stick at Shanthia (Badshah, a socialist activist was killed in the same way by one of Motiur's top killer gang-JMJB in May 2004, please see Islamist Extremism in Bangladesh page). Latif's father Sufian Paramanik is a witness to his son's brutal murder and the razakars' frenzied outburst of pleasure in killing the brave sons of the soil.
- 8. Latif's brother Shahjahan Ali, a freedom fighter himself from Madhabpur village, nearly met the same fate. After slaughtering Shahjahan, along with his co-fighters, in Islamic manner, Motiur's people left him taking him for dead. But Shahjahan was a die hard freedom fighter. The slayer's knife could not take his life. Deadly wounded, Shahjahan lay on ground for hours. Foxes smelled at him, dogs bit him. Fortunately his relatives came by before it was too late and saved his life. Motiur's knife could not take Shahjahan's life, but took away his voice: now Shahjahan is paralyzed and can't talk carrying a big scar on his throat-Motiur's kiss of death.

Verifiable list of people killed by Motiur and his al-Badr forces: Mohd Sohrab Ali Profulla Pramanik Bhadu Pramanik Monu Pramanik Shashati Pramanik Bateswar Saha Freedom fighter Latif 30 freedom fighters in Latif's group Dara, Chand Muslem Akhter, Kabir

In 1971 Motiur was personally involved in killing of hundreds of Hindus and confiscating their assets and properties. By confiscation and extortion of large amount of money, jewellery and assets from the wealthy Hindu families, Motiur became a millionaire within nine months of the war. During the Sheikh Mujib government (1971-75) Motiur went underground in order to escape conviction as a war criminal. In 1976, as a part of General Zia's razakar rehabilitation program, Motiur resurfaced and took charge as the second in charge of Jamat-e-Islam. Motiur is presently the chief of Jamat-e-Islam.



Besides his involvement in assassination, murder, extortion and confiscation, Nizami is also committed to establish Jamati ideological hegemony (a Maududi version of Islamic fundamentalism) to perpetuate the Islamic fundamentalism in Bangladesh. Since 1976, thanks to the political backing of the so-called freedom fighter Gen Zia and financial generosity of the Islamic countries like Saudi Arab, Iran and Libya, Motiur and his gang invested millions of dollars to open hundreds of Islamic kindergartens around the country.

The syllabi and curricula of those kindergartens are based on the precepts of Maudoodi, the spiritual guru of Jamat-e-Islam. This network of schools enabled Jamat-e-Islam to sustain a huge number of their cadres as employees of those schools. From organizational point of view, those schools are a big success for Jamat-e-Islam: it secured them a sustaining source of income (education is the most thriving business in Bangladeshi cities) and employment for its cadres in education industry. But intellectually those schools cripple the students forever as they teach pre Copernican /Ptolemaic world views, orient them to alien Arabic culture and emotionally invest them with jejune Islamic sentiments.

Jamat's goal to render intellectual bankruptcy is not confined to pre school stage only. Motiur successfully expanded its mission to the tertiary level as well. Motiur's wife founded an English medium college in the most aristocratic residential area in Dhaka city. The college boasts of having international educational standard as its name indicates "Manarat International College". The offsprings of the Muslim Bangladeshi elites swarm into that so-called English medium college. Manarat is an English medium college in the limited sense that it disseminates its knowledge in English language.

But what constitutes its epistemological corpus? Koran and all forms of Arabic medieval precepts. The graduates from Manarat college are apparently smart (as the definition of smart in Bangladesh means ability to speak trash in English) but intellectually and attitudinally medieval: perfect elements for Islamic fundamentalism. Politically Gholam Azams and Mainuddins are feared monsters, but culturally Motiur's and Saidi's are more corrosive and their impact on society is far reaching.

Other crimes by Motiur Nizami

- 1. After the election in 2001, Motiur Nizami's armed men forced the members of 20 Hindu families in Pagla Haldar Para, part of Nizami's constituency, to eat beef. (Daily Janakantha 10 Oct 2004)
- 2. Although Jamat preaches Wahabism its head Nizami gave a lavish Iftar party in the most expensive hotel in Bangladesh (Sonargaon) on 11 November 2003 when the northern districts of Bangladesh were devastated with famine. In the Iftar party Nizami invited top 550 elites of the country and spent 300,000 taka.

GENOCIDE BANGALEE IN 1971

The <u>genocide</u> committed by the Pakistan army during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 is no exception. Because of the scale of the atrocities in 1971 against a civilian population of 70 million people it has proved impossible for genocide deniers to claim that the atrocities did not occur. Instead, they have focused on two tactics used to try to deny the Holocaust: that the scale of the genocide was not that great, and that the Pakistan army had no systematic policy of genocide.

Most <u>estimates</u> of the 1971 genocide put the death toll between 300,000 and 3 million Bangladeshis dead, with between 200,000 to 400,000 women raped. R.J Rummel, in his <u>book</u> Statistics of Democide: Genocide and Mass Murder Since 1900, puts the death toll at around 1.5 million. According to <u>Gendercide Watch</u>:

The number of dead in Bangladesh in 1971 was almost certainly well into seven figures. It was one of the worst genocides of the World War II era, outstripping Rwanda (800,000 killed) and probably surpassing even Indonesia (1 million to 1.5 million killed in 1965-66). Susan Brownmiller, in her book Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape, puts the number of women raped by the Pakistan military and their local collaborators, the Razakars, between 200,000 and 400,000. She writes: Rape in Bangladesh had hardly been restricted to beauty. Girls of eight and grandmothers of seventy-five had been sexually assaulted ... Pakistani soldiers had not only violated Bengali women on the spot; they abducted tens of hundreds and held them by force in their military barracks for nightly use.

On March 25, 1971 the Pakistan army unleashed a systematic campaign of genocide on the civilian population of then East Pakistan. Nine months later a defeated Pakistan army left in its wake one of the most concentrated acts of genocide in the twentieth century. After the Bangladesh Liberation War the government of Pakistan produced a report on the actions of the Pakistani army during 1971 known as the Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report. While the report acknowledged that the Pakistani army had indeed committed atrocities in Bangladesh, it downplayed the extent of the atrocities and denied that there was any systematic policy of genocide:31.



In the circumstances that prevailed in East Pakistan from the 1st of March to the 16th of December 1971, it was hardly possible to obtain an accurate estimate of the toll of death and destruction caused by the Awami League militants and later by the Pakistan Army. It must also be remembered that even after the military action of the 25th of march 1971, Indian infiltrators and members of the Mukti Bahini sponsored by the Awami League continued to indulge in killings, rape and arson during their raids on peaceful villages in East Pakistan, not only in order to cause panic and disruption and carry out their plans of subversion, but also to punish those East Pakistanis who were not willing to go along with them.

In any estimate of the extent of atrocities alleged to have been committed on the East Pakistani people, the death and destruction caused by the Awami League militants throughout this period and the atrocities committed by them on their own brothers and sisters must, therefore, be always be kept in view.

- 32. According to the Bangladesh authorities, the Pakistan Army was responsible for killing three million Bengalis and raping 200,000 East Pakistani women. It does not need any elaborate argument to see that these figures are obviously highly exaggerated. So much damage could not have been caused by the entire strength of the Pakistan Army then stationed in East Pakistan even if it had nothing else to do. In fact, however, the army was constantly engaged in fighting the Mukti Bahini, the Indian infiltrators, and later the Indian army. It has also the task of running the civil administration, maintaining communications and feeding 70 million people of East Pakistan. It is, therefore, clear that the figures mentioned by the Dacca authorities are altogether fantastic and fanciful.
- 33. Different figures were mentioned by different persons in authority but the latest statement supplied to us by the GHQ shows approximately 26,000 persons killed during the action by the Pakistan Army. This figure is based on situation reports submitted from time to time by the Eastern Command to the General Headquarters. It is possible that even these figures may contain an element of exaggeration as the lower formations may have magnified their own achievements in quelling the rebellion. However, in the absence of any other reliable data, the Commission is of the view that the latest figure supplied by the GHQ should be accepted.

An important consideration which has influenced us in accepting this figure as reasonably correct is the fact that the reports were sent from East Pakistan to GHQ at a time when the Army Officers in East Pakistan could have had no notion whatsoever of any accountability in this behalf.

The Report's estimate of 26,000 dead stands in stark contrast to every other study of the death toll, which put the death toll between 300,000 to 3 million. The Report was an attempt by the Pakistani government and army to dictate the narrative before the true extent of the genocide became evident to the world. The Pakistani Report has nonetheless stood as the document of last resort for most 1971 genocide deniers.

Following up on her 2005 <u>paper</u> denying the <u>extent</u> of the 1971 genocide published in the <u>Economic</u> <u>and Political Weekly,Sarmila Bose</u> has now published a <u>paper</u> denying the extent of the rapes of Bangladeshi women by the Pakistan army and the Razakars. In her paper entitled "Losing the Victims: Problems of Using Women as Weapons in Recounting the Bangladesh War" she states in the introduction:

That rape occurred in East Pakistan in 1971 has never been in any doubt. The question is what was the true extent of rape, who were the victims and who the perpetrators and was there any systematic policy of rape by any party, as opposed to opportunistic sexual crimes in times of war. At the very beginning of her paper, she lays down the two tactics familiar to all genocide deniers: she questions the extent of the rape and questions whether there was any systematic policy of rape. Ms. Bose argues that claiming "hundreds of thousands" were raped trivializes "the possibly several thousand true rape victims" of the war.

She however does not offer a good explanation as to how she reached the "several thousand" number other than saying that so many rapes would not be possible by the size of the Pakistani army in 1971. She also, unsurprisingly, quotes the passage from the Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report that I cited above to support her assertion that so many rapes could not have occurred.



To try to bolster her argument that the Pakistani forces in Bangladesh could not have raped so many women, she claims: The number of West Pakistani armed forces personnel in East Pakistan was about 20,000 at the beginning of the conflict, rising to 34,000 by December. Another 11,000 men — civil police and non-combat personnel also held arms. For an army of 34,000 to rape on this scale in eight or nine months (while fighting insurgency, guerrilla war and an invasion by India), each would-be perpetrator would have had to commit rape at an incredible rate.

[A Pakistan stamp depicting the 90,000 PoWs in Indian camps. This stamp was issued with the political aim of raising the POW issue at a global level in securing their release.]

The <u>actual number</u> of Pakistani forces at the end of the war, and taken PoW by the Indians, was 90,368, including over 54,000 army and 22,000 paramilitary forces. It is not unreasonable to conclude that a force of 90,000 could rape between 200,000 to 400,000 women in the space of nine months. Even if only 10% of the force raped only one woman each in nine months, the number of rapes are well over "several thousand" claimed by Ms. Bose.

Since Ms. Bose does the math in her paper, I will do the macabre calculation for the total force here. To rape 200,000 Bangladeshi women a Pakistani force of 90,000 would have to rape 2 to 3 women each in nine months. Not only is this scale of atrocity possible by an army engaged in a systematic campaign of genocide, it also has parallels in other modern conflicts (for example, the rape of between 250,000 to 500,000 women in Rwanda within 100 days). Ms. Bose also paints a picture of the Pakistani military as a disciplined force that spared women and children. She writes:

During my field research on several incidents in East Pakistan during 1971, Bangladeshi participants and eyewitnesses described battles, raids, massacres and executions, but told me that women were not harmed by the army in these events except by chance such as in crossfire. The pattern that emerged from these incidents was that the Pakistan army targeted adult males while sparing women and children.

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2015/06/09/kishoreganjs-razakar-commander-hasan-ali-getsdeath-for-bangladesh-genocide-in-1971



Kishoreganj's absconding Razakar commander Syed Md Hasan Ali will have to die for massacring his own people to stop Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan, a court says.

The first war crimes tribunal delivered the verdict on Tuesday after five out of the six charges had been proven beyond doubt. The verdict by the International Crimes Tribunal-1 said the "death be executed by hanging the accused by the neck till he is dead or by shooting him till he is dead".

Ali has been given the death penalty on two counts, prison until death in three counts and acquitted from the remaining one after being found not guilty. Ali, son of a local collaborator, is the fifth person to be convicted of war crimes in absentia since the trials started in 2010. His notoriety in Tarhail Thana during the war earned him nicknames like 'Razakar Daroga' and 'Razakar OC'.

An estimated three million people were killed and millions of others were displaced and forced to seek shelter in India during the nine-month war in 1971. Trying those who sided with Pakistan during the war remains an emotional issue in Bangladesh. Most of those convicted in the last 18 verdicts are from Jamaat-e-Islami, a party accused of committing war crimes.

Ali can challenge the court's verdict within a month but he will have to surrender before the court, which seems unlikely.

Whereabouts of the 68-year old war criminal remains unknown.

'Like father, like son'

Ali's father Syed Musleh Uddin was a madrasa teacher who became Nejami Islami's general secretary during its formation in 1952.

He was the vice chairman of East Pakistan Democratic Party during the Liberation War.

According to the prosecution's investigation, Uddin came out strongly in support of a united, nonsecular Pakistan and many of his comments were published by newspapers at the time.



He became chairman of Kishoreganj Upazila's 'Peace Committee' unit.

Ali, born on Aug 18, 1947 in Brahmanbarhia, was inspired seeing his father and joined Razakar para-militia, the case documents say. Razakar, like Al-Badr and Peace Committee, was formed to assist the Pakistan occupation army to thwart Bangali struggle for freedom. Ali provided all assistance to Pakistan army when they set up their camp at Kishoreganj's Tarhail and later became the Upazila's Razakar commander, according to case details. Prosecution's investigation arm claimed Ali had perpetrated crimes against humanity with his cohorts in Tarhail and Kishoreganj. He was directly involved in the torching and looting of houses of Hindus and Awami League supporters.

Timeline of the trial

On June 6, 2013, prosecution investigators started their probe against Syed Md Hasan Ali. Investigator Hari Debnath filed his findings on June 19, 2014. Prosecutor Abul Kalam Azad pressed charges against Ali on Aug 21, 2014. On Aug 24, the tribunal took cognizance of the charges. An arrest warrant was out for Ali, but the police failed to arrest him, when the tribunal ordered prosecution to put out newspaper advertisements. Later, Ali was declared absconding and the tribunal ordered trial in absentia. On Sept 15, the state appointed Abdus Shukur Khan as the defence counsel. On Nov 11, the trial started after Ali was indicted on six counts.

Testimonies of 26 prosecution witnesses were recorded between Dec 7 last year and Mar 31 this year. The defence did not produce any witnesses. The war crimes tribunal kept its verdict pending on Apr 20 after hearing closing statements of the prosecution and defence.

Charges and punishments

Charge 1 Verdict: Not guilty

On Apr 27, 1971, Syed Md Hasan Ali led a group of Razakars accompanied by the Pakistani army to the Sachail Purpboparha Village of Tarhail Upazila and lootef seven houses of Hasan Ahmed alias Hachu Bepari and Sadot Ali alias Kontu Miah before setting them on fire by gunpowder.

Charge 2 Verdict: Guilty, Sentence: Prison until death

A group of Razakars led by Hasan Ali shot dead Tofazzol Hossain Bhuiyan alias Lalu Bhuiyan at Tarhail Upazila's Konabhawal Village on Aug 23, 1971. The collaborators looted his house and abducted two others.

Charge 3 Verdict: Guilty, Sentence: Death penalty

The Hindu community of Tarhail Upazila's Shimultala Village was attacked by a group of Razakars on the afternoon of Sept 9, 1971. At least 10 houses were looted before setting them on fire. Razakars led by Syed Md Hasan Ali killed 12, including one Akroor Paul. The prosecution said it views the act as an "intent to destroy" to the Hindu community.

Charge 4 Verdict: Guilty, Sentence: Death penalty

On Sept 27, 1971, Razakars led by Syed Md Hasan Ali killed eight people, detained 10 others—all of them members of the Hindu community— at Borgaon Village of Tarhail Upazila.

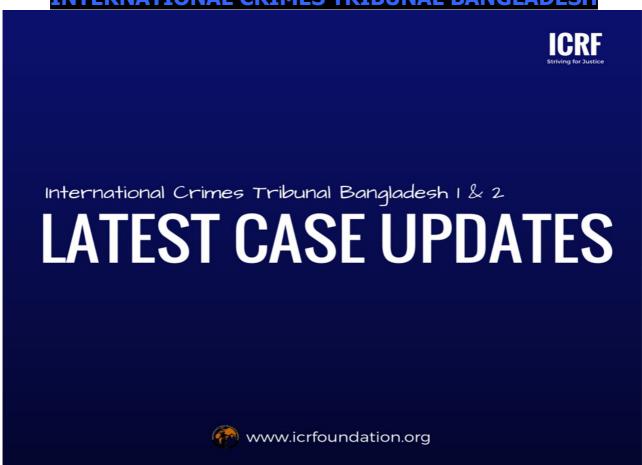
Charge 5 Verdict: Guilty, Sentence: Prison until death

Kamini Kumar Ghosh and Jibon Thakur were abducted and later shot dead by Razakars at the behest of Syed Md Hasan Ali on Oct 9, 1971 at Araiura Village of Tarhail Upazila. The collaborators also looted at least six houses belonging to members of the Hindu community in the village.

Charge 6 Verdict: Guilty, Sentence: Prison until death

On Dec 11, 1971, Razakars led by Syed Md Hasan Ali killed Rashid Ali Bepari of Sachail Pashchimparha Village and looted and set fire to at least 100 houses of the village.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL BANGLADESH



http://icrfoundation.org/home/ictbd-12-case-updates/



In 2009, almost 40 years after the events of 1971, a report published by the War Crimes Fact

Finding Committee of Bangladesh accused 1,597 people of war crimes, including rape. Since 2010
the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has indicted, tried and sentenced several people to life imprisonment or death for their actions during the conflict.

Razakars taken to court INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL BANGLADESH

http://icrfoundation.org/home/ictbd-12-case-updates/

In this topic you will get the information of recent court cases against Razakars
Those are members of Jamaat the party of traitors to Bangladesh.
These members were in control of Bangladesh for many years as their political party was boss
But now that there is a new government, the new politicians are taking the old leaders to court.

Many of these leaders have tortured and slaughtered many Bangladesh civilians And now finally the children of the murdered ones get to see justice



01 Chief Prosecutor v. Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, 21 January 2013

http://www.internationalcrimesdatabase.org/Case/169/Azad/

4.1Abul Kalam Azad (Bachchu)

www.international crimes database.org/Case/169/Azad

Chief Prosecutor v. Moulana Abul Kalam Azad

Court	International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-2), Bangladesh	60 1	
Case number	05 (2012)	12 /	
Decision title	Judgment		
Decision date	21 January 2013	2/1	
Parties	Prosecutor Moulana Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar	(Source picture: iLawyer)	
Other names	Bachchu Razakar		
Categories	Crimes against humanity, Genocide		
Keywords	crimes against humanity, enforced disappearance, genocide, Murder, Non-international armed conflict, pillage, rape, torture		
Links	Judgment		
Other countries involved	India Pakistan		

Summary

The Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 opposed East Pakistan and India to West Pakistan and resulted in the secession of East Pakistan, which became the independent nation of Bangladesh. The conflict commenced as a result of a military operation launched by the State of Pakistan (then West Pakistan) against Bengali civilians, students and armed personnel who were demanding the military regime of the State of Pakistan to either honor the results of the 1970 democratic elections, which had been won by an East Pakistan party, or allow the secession of East Pakistan from West Pakistan.

In response, Bengali military, paramilitary and civilians formed the Mukti Bahini and engaged in guerrilla warfare against the West Pakistan Army with the financial, logistical and diplomatic support of India. The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up in Bangladesh to prosecute those in Bangladesh responsible for committing atrocities in the course of the armed conflict. The present judgment was rendered by the ICT against Moulana Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar, a member of the Islamist political party Jamaat-e-Islami opposed to an independent Bangladesh.

He provided aid to the Pakistani Army and subsequently became the leader of the Al-Badr force, a paramilitary wing of the West Pakistan Army, which operated in East Pakistan against the Bengali nationalist movement. On 21 January 2013, in its first ever judgment, the ICT convicted Azad and sentenced him to death for his crimes. The sentence cannot, however, be carried out until Azad has been located. His trial was held in absentia as he is believed to have fled Bangladesh.

Procedural history

4.1Abul Kalam Azad (Bachchu)

On 3 April 2012, the International Crimes Tribunal issued an arrest warrant for the Accused, Moulana Abul Kalam Asad, for crimes against humanity committed in the course of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

On 25 September 2012, a notification was published in national daily newspapers asking the Accused to appear before the Tribunal within 10 days of the notice. Nevertheless the Accused failed to show up and attempts to locate him were unsuccessful; hence, on 7 October 2012, the Tribunal decided to hold Azad's trial in absentia.

On 4 November 2012, the Tribunal indicted the Accused on eight charges of crimes against humanity including murder and rape. The charges are based on eight incidents that have left at least 12 unarmed people dead and two women raped in Faridpur (charges reproduced in newspaper The Daily Star).

The trial commenced on 14 November 2012.

Related developments

Despite the arrest warrant the ICT issued in April 2012, Bachchu Razakar fled the country and remained traceless in March 2015.

Legally relevant facts

The indictment alleges that on 14 May 1971, the Accused, accompanied by 10-12 armed Razakars (an Islamist East Pakistani militia that aided the Pakistani Army), attacked the village of Jolaram of Boalmari in Faridpur Town. In the course of this attack, the Accused killed a father and grievously injured his son.

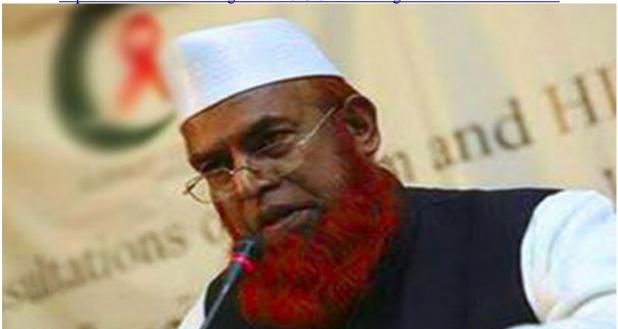
- On 16 May 1971, the Accused again accompanied by armed Razakars captured Madhab Chandra Biswas, an individual who used to provide assistance to freedom fighters during the war. The Accused shot Madhab to death.
 - On 17 May 1971 the Accused accompanied by 30-35 armed Razakars launched an attack on the Hindu dominated village of Hasamdia, looting and burning homes and shooting 7 to death.
- On 18 May 1971, the Accused attacked the home of Guru Das and abducted his daughter, who was subsequently tortured and detained for 7-8 days.
 - On 8 June 1971 the Accused, accompanied by armed Razakars, attached the house of Sudhir Biswas, took away two females from the house and raped them.

In the first week of June 1971, Azad and his accomplices apprehended Ranjit Nath in Faridpur Town and took him to the Pakistani Army Camp at Faridpur Circuit House and subsequently to the home of Rashid Mia where he was confined and tortured. The victim managed to escape by breaking a window.

- On 3 June 1971, Azad and 10-12 armed Razakars attacked the Hindu dominated village of Fulbaria, looted the houses there and killed one individual.
 - On 26 July 1971, some local Razakars apprehended Anu Yusuf Pakhi and handed him over to the Pakistani Army at Faridpur Stadium. In consultation with the Accused, the decision was made to detain and torture Yusuf at a camp.

Azad gets death for war crimes, 2013-01-21

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2013/01/21/azad-gets-death-for-war-crimes



Abul Kalam Azad (aka Bachchu Razakar)

4.1Abul Kalam Azad (Bachchu)

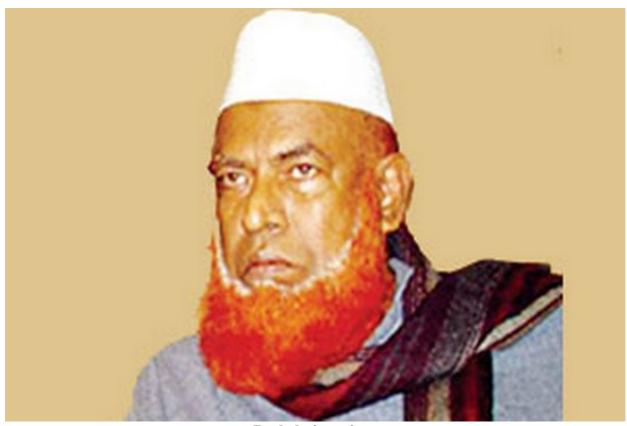
Bangladesh's second war crimes tribunal sentenced Abul Kalam Azad (aka Bachchu Razakar) to death by hanging on Monday in its first verdict on those who are blamed for large-scale atrocities during the 1971 Liberation War. Many called the verdict historic, as this may be the prelude to similar judgments against other Islamist leaders who sided with Pakistan in 1971 and may be found guilty of involvement and for abetting "crimes against humanity".

Expelled as a full member of Jamaat-e-Islami and popular as a television show host on Islam, Abul Kalam Azad was found guilty of seven charges and acquitted in one. The three-judge International Crimes Tribunal – 2, set up in March 2012 to expedite war crimes trials, found Azad (Bachchu Razakar in his native Faridpur) guilty of genocide in one charge and of murder in three others. The court also found him guilty on three other charges of rape, abduction, confinement and torture. ICT 2 chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan read out from the summary of his tribunal's 112-page judgement which said that although Bachchu's lesser crimes warranted imprisonment, the judges were unanimous in awarding a single 'sentence of death' for his major crimes like murder.

Why death penalty

"We have taken due notice of the intrinsic gravity of the offence of 'genocide' and murders as 'crimes against humanity' being offences which are particularly shocking to the conscience of mankind," the verdict said. The tribunal, deliberating on the seventh charge, said it showed beyond doubt that Azad was guilty and went to prove his culpability in genocide. Azad was found guilty on three other charges of murder, one charge for rape and two charges of abduction, confinement and torture.

The order explained that although Azad had been sighted at an army torture camp, the second charge of abduction, confinement and torture was not proven beyond doubt. "No separate sentence of imprisonment is being awarded to the accused Abul Kalam Azad Bachchu for conviction relating to the offence of crimes against humanity ... of which too he has been found guilty as the 'sentence of death' has been awarded to him in respect of four other charges, " the last portion of the verdict said. It said the order would be "executed after causing his arrest or when he surrenders before the tribunal, whichever is earlier".



Bachchu's options
4.1Abul Kalam Azad (Bachchu)

Azad's state appointed counsel, Abdus Shukur Khan said the accused does not reserve the right to appeal in absentia. "However, he may appeal against the sentence when he is arrested or surrenders" When asked whether he would file a review application, Shukur Khan told bdnews24.com he would not. According to law, one can appeal against a verdict within a month. But Azad will not get the chance if he does not surrender or is arrested. 'The historic verdict has fulfilled the nation's aspirations," tribunal Prosecutor Saidur Rahman told journalists after the verdict.

Tight security

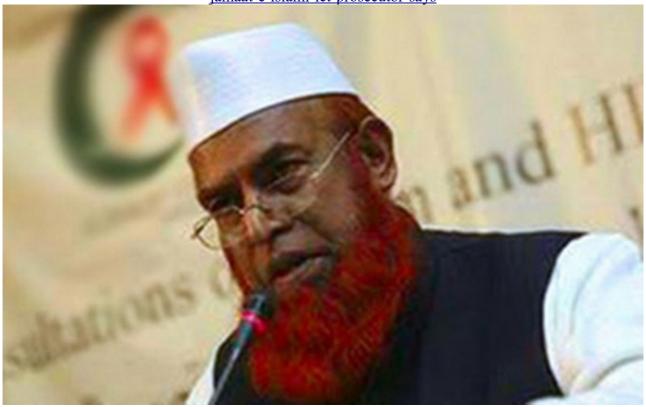
Tight security was put in place ahead of the verdict. The court had to move to ICT-1 as the second war crimes tribunal could not accommodate everyone. The ICT-2 chief read out the verdict in a tightly packed courtroom after requesting everyone to cooperate in presence of other judges of the tribunal. Trying the war criminals was an election-time commitment of the ruling Awami League.

The government set up the first tribunal on Mar 25, 2009 and the second tribunal was set up three years later to expedite the trials. The tribunals have been dealing with nine such cases since then. Two more cases are close to verdicts. The prosecution on Sept 2 had submitted formal charges linking Azad to crimes against humanity including genocide, murder, rape, arson, loot, abduction, deportation and persecution. The ICT-2 on Sept 9 accepted charges and ordered his arrest and production by Sept 23.

An arrest warrant for Bachchu Razakar was issued in April. Police failed to find him during raids on his office and residence, as he is believed to have fled to Pakistan via Nepal. The tribunal on Oct 7 decided to continue Azad's trial in absentia as he did not turn up despite public notices for his appearance. The tribunal on Nov 4 framed charges against him and ordered trial. Additional police contingents have been deployed at key points in Dhaka . specially around the Old High Court Building, and other major cities of Bangladesh, specially where the Jamaat-e-Islami enjoy some support.

Bachchu Razakar in Europe in shelter of Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami, ICT prosecutor says

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2015/12/26/bachchu-razakar-in-europe-in-shelter-of-pakistan-jamaat-e-islami-ict-prosecutor-says



4.1Abul Kalam Azad (Bachchu)

2015-12-26, Absconding death-row war criminal Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar is moving around in Europe, 'sheltered' by Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami, says a counsel of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT). The government could not find any significant lead in the hunt for Bachchu Razakar after he fled three years ago. Asked about his whereabouts, ICT Prosecutor Zead-Al-Malum said, "As far as we know, he was in Pakistan for some time after he fled [Bangladesh].

"Then he has been frequently traveling around European countries, including England and Sweden, under the shelter of Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami," he said. "He stayed in England for some time. He was last seen in Sweden. We received this information six months ago," he said. Former Rukon of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, Bachchu Razakar was sentenced to death on Jan 21, 2013 for crimes against humanity that included genocide, murder, rape and looting during the Liberation War.

He has been absconding since the filing of the case. He fled Dhaka amidst detective surveillance on Mar 30, 2012. According to the law-enforcing agencies, he entered India through Hili border to flee to Pakistan. Police could not provide any information on his whereabouts since then. Referring to a journalist staying in Sweden, ICT Prosecutor Malum said the war criminal is in that country and the information is 'authentic'. "Those we are fighting are strong enough in and outside the country. They can do anything to thwart the trial by using foreign lobby," he said.

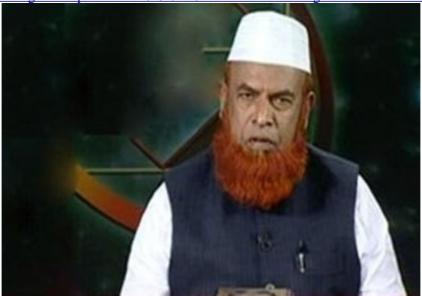
"That's why we have been maintaining communication with pro-Liberation War forces, individuals and organizations in and outside the country since the tribunal was constituted," he added. bdnews24.com contacted Sabbir Khan, a Bangladeshi expatriate in Sweden, who is the international affairs secretary of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, to know about Bachchu Razakar's whereabouts.

"We've heard such news [that he is in Sweden], but we haven't seen him," he said. He did not rule out the possibility of Bachchu Razakar's presence in Sweden. "His brother-in-law lives here. Besides, the Jamaat community is strong here," Khan said. According to him, another death-row war crimes convict Zahid Hossain Khokon, who had headed the Razakar force in Faridpur, is in Sweden now. He has been seen in several programmes of Jamaat here, Khan said.

Khokon was an associate of Bachchu Razakar during the war. He lives in Stockholm with his son and daughter. Earlier this year, the government formed a committee of home ministry, foreign ministry, law ministry and law-enforcing agencies to bring back war criminals staying abroad. The head of the committee, the home ministry's Additional Secretary (Political) Abu Hena Rahmatul Mumin toldbdnews24.com that the issue of Bachchu Razakar has been forwarded to the Interpol. "No update from them till now," he said.

BACHCHU RAZAKAR: RAGE, SATISFACTION AND FRUSTRATION TOO

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2013/01/25/bachchu-razakar-rage-satisfaction-and-frustration-too/



The court verdict to hang Abul Kalam Azad aka 'Bachchu Razakar' for crimes committed in 1971 has been welcomed by all. He had lived a charmed life till only a few years back and it's only expected that the cheering sounds on the streets after the verdict against him should be heard so loudly. But along with the verdict, now to be appealed, certain troubling issues must be faced particularly on trying any criminal who is a higher up. This affects our social, institutional and political life. 'Bachchu Razakar' and his life history is a good example for what goes on in Bangladesh.

The term 'Razakar' has now developed a generic meaning for a traitor but in 1971 it was generally the rural poor who in a difficult economic year took up this village based paramilitary jobs. The Pakistan state never built a law and order infrastructure in East Pakistan so when in 1971 the situation demanded the building of a network to uphold the flag they chose the "Razakar' system. It was also a carte blanche for committing criminal activities. It was not just loot and plunder by themselves but also helping scout out wealthy rural people to loot or women to take for the pleasure of the Pakistan army.

In a classical class sense they belonged to the lumpen proletariat in most cases and basically in return for defending "Pakistan" in the villages, they could do whatever they want. However, in cases they were just a very poor lot with a horrible job and more under the control of the village leaders rather than any political leader. Research also brings up few examples of a politically committed Razakars. Most were happy to loot and steal and kill. Political traitors came from the Jamaat-e-Islami, Muslim League, etc. Like Bacchu.

Bachchu Razakar comes from a different world. He is a man who was not paid to serve Pakistan but a man of will and intent who did so out of conviction. He is in a different league of his own and there should be no confusion that it's such people who were capable of committing war crimes. We are not going to go into the quality of the trial and the controversies that have been generated unfortunately around the ICT but the social evidence has been there for long 40 years and in the minds of many witnesses, he was always guilty. That is not a legal issue of course but much more about the perception of the criminal in this society.

In most of the villages where the Razakars committed atrocities, they met with social justice after 1971. It means mobs attacked the criminal Razakars and killed many of them. We have documented such 'mob justices' in at least three places where large scale Razakar killing had occurred. In the places where they had done nothing, little happened. Between the day of liberation and the day when the formal state began to intervene, we notice such events. Since, the formal legal sector takes such a lot of time to bring even one criminal to task, the people often go for immediate mob justice, however illegal or horrible that may be. Mob justice will end only when the state legal system strengthens.

This also points to the fact that Bachchu Razakar was arrested but let go after 1975 because of political reasons and that puts the link between crime and politics in full focus. But it would be wrong to think that this involves war crimes only. In every sector there are big criminals whether murderers, looters, bank scammers or the less glamorous ones like share market manipulators, bank loan defaulters, and so on who survive through political protection. Their criminal sectors may be different but the essential, structure, process and system of immunity for criminals are the same.

However, this is not only about protecting criminals but also a lack of astonishing competence of our law and order forces. Bachchu Razakar was a war criminal and very well known yet our security agencies failed to arrest him on time and he is now thumbing his nose at us all. Some think that this is deliberate and they let him go after being paid but our history shows that the law and order forces simply didn't have enough capacity to do the job. The state didn't have the ability to do so in 40 years although the entire people — barring a few of their supporters — were behind the state. It's a bit embarrassing that a known criminal managed to escape the feeble net of criminal justice and may never pay for his crimes.

Bachchu Razakar had a large number of followers thanks to his TV role. He was considered a Maulana, a respected scholar, etc. His link with the religious institution of Islam made him revered and he shone using the light of his association with Islam. This is a lesson for us. We should neither support nor accept anyone simply because they belong to the camp we also support. Bachchu Razakar was a criminal who hid behind the walls of Islam.

In the end, while the verdict brings relief, the verdict itself also may become an academic matter because the convicted is missing. Many reasons can be cited for this but it's obvious that we are still somewhat behind in delivering full justice. When the criminal escapes, justice escapes too. Nevertheless this verdict goes someway and hopefully it's not contested on legal and factual grounds.

Since it takes around 40 years to try a war criminal, it will probably take longer to try the economic war criminals. So maybe we should start now.

Meanwhile congratulations to all and let's hope Bachchu Razakar is caught and returned to Bangladesh wherever he may be.

Afsan Chowdhury is a journalist, activist and writer.

January 23, 2013

02 Bangladesh Islamist Abdul Kader Mullah hanged for war crimes

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-25356034 12 Dec 2013
4.2Abdul Quader Mollah



The BBC's Mahfuz Sadique reports from Dhaka as Abdul Kader Mullah is executed

Bangladesh has executed the Islamist leader Abdul Kader Mullah, who was convicted of atrocities committed during the 1971 war of independence with Pakistan. He is the first person convicted by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) to be executed. The ICT was set up in 2010 to investigate abuses committed during the 1971 conflict. Mullah was a senior leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party.

At his trial earlier this year, he was described by prosecutors as the "Butcher of Mirpur", a suburb of Dhaka where he is alleged to have carried out his crimes. These included the massacre of unarmed civilians and the killing of intellectuals who supported independence from Pakistan.

Mullah always denied the charges.

Four other leading figures in Jamaat-e-Islami have also been convicted by the ICT and face the death penalty.

There was a lot of drama in Dhaka before the execution of Abdul Kader Mullah. His family members met him for a final time late on Thursday. It appeared the government rushed through the execution after days of legal wrangling. The execution is likely to trigger further tensions in Bangladesh. Mr Mullah's party said the death sentence was politically motivated and there would be dire consequences if it went ahead.

Bangladesh's major Western partners will view the execution with concern. Supporters of the trial would say this is a historic moment as it came just days before Bangladesh's victory day on 16 December. But many are concerned that this could polarise the country further.



Celebrations



A man chants slogans as he attends a sit-in protest demanding capital punishment for Jamaat-e-Islami's senior leader Abdul Quader Mullah (Reuters)

The execution of Abdul Kader Mullah took place at Dhaka Central Jail at 22:01 local time (16:01 GMT) on Thursday evening, officials announced. His family were allowed a final meeting with the 65-year-old and found him "calm". "He told us that he is proud to be a martyr for the cause of the Islamic movement in the country," his son, Hasan Jamil, told the AFP after the meeting.

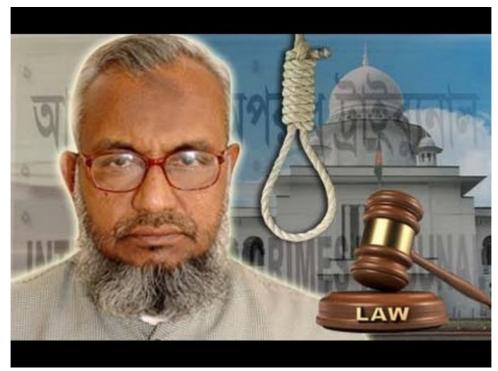


Hundreds of people gathered in central Dhaka to celebrate the news of his death. News that Mullah had been given a death sentence was greeted with delight in some quarters

But Jamaat-e-Islami - which has warned it will avenge his death - called for a general strike on Sunday. Security has been tightened in Dhaka and around the country amid fears the execution is likely to inflame tensions.



At least three people are reported to have died on Thursday in sporadic clashes between Jamaat-e-Islami supporters and security forces.



Human rights concerns

Bangladesh broke away from Pakistan 42 years ago after a war which saw killings on a mass scale, the exodus of more than 10 million refugees and military intervention by neighboring India.

The government set up the special court to deal with those accused of collaborating with Pakistani forces who attempted to stop East Pakistan, as Bangladesh was then, from becoming an independent country. The two wings of Pakistan were held together mostly by a shared religion.

While many Bangladeshis have welcomed the work of the ICT, Jamaat supporters say it is a politically-motivated attempt to eradicate its leaders. Human rights groups have also expressed concern that the special court falls short of international standards.

UN human rights commissioner Navi Pillay had written to the Bangladeshi authorities urging them to stay the execution of Abdul Kader Mullah, saying the trial had not met the international standards required for the death penalty.



Mullah had been scheduled to be hanged on Tuesday, before gaining a reprieve pending a last-minute appeal against his death sentence. His appeal was dismissed earlier on Thursday by the Bangladeshi Supreme Court. Jamaat is barred from contesting elections scheduled for 5 January but plays a key role in the opposition movement led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Abdul Kader Mullah Hangs: Bangladesh Executes Islamist 'Butcher' as Last Minute Appeal Fails https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZLcXmZR5uA

4.2Abdul Quader Mollah

Abdul Qadir Mola video before hanging https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgF9Cg-IJYc



4.2Abdul Quader Mollah







War Crimes

https://warcriminalsinbangladesh.wordpress.com/top-razakars-in-central-shanti-committee/ Abdul Kader Molla was known as a "butcher" to the Bengalis in Mirpur area (outskirts of Dhaka city) during 1971. Mirpur at the time was mainly populated by Behari (non Bengali) Muslim migrants from India, who were among the most ardent supporters of the Pakistani occupation of Bangladesh.

One of the largest mass graves of people butchered by Pakistani troops and their allies was discovered in the Shialbari area of Mirpur after independence. According to the locals of Mirpur area Molla was instrumental to the killing of thousands of Bengalis in Shialbari and Rupnagar areas of Mirpur during the war. Many of them confirmed that Molla began his killing spree even before the army had began its operation.

On March 6, a public meeting was arranged in front of the gate of Ceramic Industry at Section 6 in Mirpur, to press for demands of the Bengali people. As the people raised the nationalist slogan Joy Bangla (Victory to Bengal), narrated M Shahidur Rahman who was present at the meeting, Kader Molla and his gang attacked the meeting with swords, machetes and other sharp weapons, injuring many.

According to M Firoze Ali, a resident of Block B at Section I in Mirpur, Kader Mollah was behind the killing of his brother Pallab Tuntuni, an 18-year old student. Young Tuntuni was an active supporter of the nationalist leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and that was why his name was penciled into Molla's hit list. On March 29, Molla's hit men kidnapped Tuntuni from another part of the city and took him to Mirpur. The boy was then dragged from one part of Mirpur to another, and back again, with his hands tied behind his back.

At a big play ground used usually for major religious congregations, Tuntuni was tied to a tree and left for two days. Later, Molla's men returned and chopped off the boy's fingers.

On April 5, a week after being kidnapped, Molla ordered his men to shoot Tuntuni dead. The boy's dead body was left dangling from the tree for another two days as a warning to others in the area, before being thrown in a mass grave with seven other bodies, Feroze Ali said.

Another eyewitness to Molla's criminal activities in 1971 was M Shahidur Rahman Chowdhury. He said that Razakarmen under the command of Kader Molla brutally murdered woman poet Meherunnessa in October at Section 6 of Mirpur.

He said one Shiraj, who lived in the poet's home, lost mental balance at the sight of the murder. Shiraj still suffers from psychological disorder, Chowdhury said.

There are also allegations from the inhabitants' of Mirpur area that Molla organized local non-Bengali people of Manipur, Sheorapara, Kazipara areas of Mirpur into armed groups under his own command. With those (Behari) armed bands, Molla organized killings of thousands of Bengalis at various killing fields of Mirpur.

03 Bangladesh war crimes trial: Delwar Hossain Sayeedi to die, 28 February 2013 http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-21611769



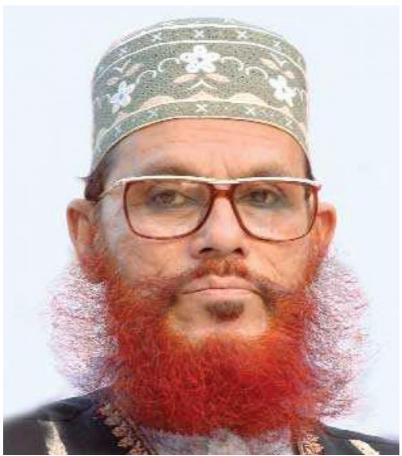
A tribunal in Bangladesh has sentenced Islamist leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedi to death for crimes committed during the country's 1971 war of independence. The Jamaat-e-Islami chief was found guilty of charges including murder, torture and rape. He is the most senior figure convicted so far.

The verdict was cheered by his opponents but set off protests in which at least 30 people were killed. Critics said the charges were politically motivated. Lawyers for Sayeedi say they plan to appeal in the Supreme Court. The Jamaat-e-Islami party rejects the tribunal and staged a strike on Thursday in protest. After the verdict was announced it called a further two-day stoppage for Sunday and Monday. Thousands of police have been deployed in Dhaka to maintain security.

As well as the 30 killed, at least 300 people were injured in clashes between police and Jamaat supporters across the country, police told the Reuters news agency. Jamaat was opposed to Bangladeshi independence but denies any role in war crimes committed by pro-Pakistan militias. Official estimates say more than three million people were killed in the war.

Angry demonstrations

Security was tight around the capital, Dhaka, as the judgement was being read out. On hearing the verdict, protesters gathered at a busy intersection in the city erupted into cheers. "We've been waiting for this day for the last four decades," one man told local television, the Agence France-Presse news agency reports. Thousands had staged a protest in the capital on Wednesday, demanding the death sentence be handed down to him.



Recent weeks have seen a series of angry demonstrations demanding the execution of Jamaat leaders being tried by the tribunal. But there have also been protests against the court. The verdict is the third issued by the controversial tribunal, which is trying a total of nine Jamaat leaders and two members of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Sayeedi was accused of working with the al-Badr group during the independence struggle and carrying out numerous atrocities, including forcibly converting Hindus to Islam.

His critics say that during the war he formed a small group to loot and seize the property of Bengali Hindus and those who supported independence. The tribunal found Sayeedi guilty of eight out of the 20 charges levelled against him. These were murder, torture, rape and forcibly converting Hindus to Islam. State prosecutor Syed Haider Ali described the verdict as a "victory for the people", AFP reports. But in court Mr Sayeedi protested, blaming the judgement on the influence of bloggers and pro-government forces.

Earlier this month another Jamaat leader, Abdul Kader Mullah, was sentenced to life for crimes against humanity. Huge crowds have been demanding he be executed. In January, former party leader Abul Kalam Azad was found guilty in absentia of eight charges of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death. In the wake of the public outcry calling for the execution of Abdul Kader Mullah, Bangladesh's parliament earlier this month amended a law which will allow the state to appeal against his life sentence.

The special court was set up in 2010 by the current Bangladeshi government to deal with those accused of collaborating with Pakistani forces who attempted to stop East Pakistan (as Bangladesh was then) from becoming an independent country. But human rights groups have said the tribunal falls short of international standards. Jamaat and the BNP accuse the current government of pursuing a political vendetta.

34 killed in Bangladesh after death sentence to Islamist leader, March 01, 2013

https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/34-killed-in-bangladesh-after-death-sentence-to-islamist-leader-514826



Dhaka: At least 34 people were killed in Bangladesh in a wave of violence on Thursday as Islamists reacted furiously to a ruling that one of their leaders must hang for war crimes during the 1971 independence conflict. At least 23 of them were shot in clashes between police and protesters that erupted after Delwar Hossain Sayedee, the Jamaat-e-Islami party's vice president, was found guilty of war crimes, including murder, arson and rape.

Sayedee is the third person to be convicted by the controversial domestic tribunal whose previous verdicts have also been met with outrage from Islamists who say the process is more about score settling than delivering justice. Thursday's death toll was compiled by sources after talking to police in the 15 districts where protests turned deadly. They were the most violent political clashes in more than two decades in the impoverished country's history.

The latest unrest brought the overall death toll to 50 since the first verdict was delivered January 21.



Among Thursday's dead were four policemen, two of whom were beaten to death after protesters hurled small homemade bombs at a police station in Gaibandha in Bangladesh's north and attacked it with sticks, local police chief Monjur Rahman said.

"At least 10,000 Jamaat supporters attacked us. We were forced to open fire," Rahman told sources.

About 300 people, including scores of policemen, were also injured, doctors, police and local media said. Police also reported attacks on several Hindu homes and temples by Islamists in the southern Noakhali and Chittagong districts. One old Hindu man was killed in the attack in Chittagong, district police chief Hafiz Akter told sources.

Security forces had been braced for trouble ahead of the verdict against Sayedee, who reacted to the judgment by saying it had been influenced by "atheists" and pro-government protesters who have been demanding his execution. Sayedee, now best known in Bangladesh as a firebrand preacher, was convicted for setting ablaze 25 houses in a Hindu village and abetting the murders of two people including a Hindu man, according to a copy of the verdict.

He led a pro-Pakistani militia who abducted three Hindu sisters and raped them for three days at a Pakistani camp, said the verdict. He also forced at least 100 Hindus to convert to Islam and made them say Islamic prayers, it added. His lawyer Tajul Islam described the verdict as "a gross miscarriage of justice", adding that Sayedee did not live in the town at the time when the alleged crimes took place.



"It's a case of mistaken identity. We're stunned. We're going to appeal the verdict," he told sources.

Under a newly amended war crimes law, the appeal process must be completed within 90 days, meaning Sayedee would be hanged later this year if the country's highest court upholds the verdict. Rival protesters at a central Dhaka intersection erupted in jubilation as news of Sayedee's sentence filtered through. "We've been waiting for this day for the last four decades," a protester told Somoy TV.



There was no immediate reaction from Jamaat to the verdict, but the party has enforced a nationwide strike demanding a halt to the trials. The cases against eight more Jamaat leaders are still being heard.

Earlier this month, the tribunal a local court with no international oversight sentenced Jamaat's assistant secretary general Abdul Quader Molla to life imprisonment. While angering Jamaat supporters, that verdict also enraged secular protesters, tens of thousands of whom have since poured onto the Shahbag intersection in central Dhaka to demand the execution of Jamaat leaders.

In January the tribunal handed down its first verdict when it sentenced fugitive Muslim TV preacher Maolana Abul Kalam Azad to death. The tribunal has been tainted by controversies and allegations that it is targeting only the opposition with trumped-up charges. Rights groups say its legal procedures fall short of international standards. A judge presiding over Sayedee's case resigned after leaked internet calls showed there was collusion between him and the prosecution. A key defense witness was also abducted from the court premises by policemen, allege Sayedee's lawyers.

The government rejects the accusations, saying the tribunal is independent and the trials are fair and necessary to heal the wounds of the war that it says killed three million people. It accuses Jamaat leaders of being part of pro-Pakistani militias blamed for much of the 1971 carnage. Independent estimates put the war toll much lower, between 300,000 and 500,000.



Bangladesh Islamist leader spared death sentence, 17 September 2014

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/17/bangladesh-islamist-militant-delwar-hossain-sayedee-spared-death

4.3Delwar Hossain Sayeedi

Delwar Hossain Sayedee convicted by war crimes tribunal for mass killings, rape and atrocities during 1971 Pakistan war



Delwar Hossain Sayedee emerges from the Bangladesh war crimes tribunal in Dhaka in 2011.

Photograph: Strdel/AFP/Getty Images

4.3Delwar Hossain Sayeedi

Bangladesh's supreme court has commuted the death sentence of an Islamist political leader whose conviction last year for war crimes during the country's 1971 war for independence sparked deadly protests. *Delwar Hossain Sayedee, one of the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, must remain in prison "for the rest of his natural life"*, said the chief justice, Muzammel Hossain. The judge did not explain his decision for reducing the sentence.

A war crimes tribunal convicted Sayedee in February 2013 for eight counts involving mass killings, rape and atrocities committed during the nine-month war against Pakistan in 1971. His death sentence sparked days of clashes that killed at least 70 people across the country. Jamaat-e-Islami, the largest Islamist party in the Muslim-majority country, campaigned against the independence war but denies committing any atrocities. Bangladesh claims 3 million people died during the war and millions fled to neighbouring India.

The prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, has called the trials a long-overdue effort to obtain justice against war criminals four decades after Bangladesh split from Pakistan. But critics say she is using the tribunals to weaken the country's opposition parties. Prosecutor Tureen Afroze says she guardedly welcomed the verdict but needed to see the full decision before she could comment further. Sayedee's defence said he would appeal.

04 KAMARUZZAMAN TO HANG ▼

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/11/20/kamaruzzaman-to-hang/ 20 Nov 2014 4.4Muhammad Kamaruzzaman

WAR CRIMINAL



WAR CRIMINAL

A war crimes tribunal has ruled that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mohammad Kamaruzzaman must die for the crimes he committed in 1971 against Bengalees fighting for the birth of Bangladesh. A former head of Jamaat's diplomatic relations and liaison team, this former Al-Badr man committed crimes at the age of 19 when he was a local leader of Jamaat's erstwhile student wing, the Islami Chhatra Sangha, in and around Sherpur.

Justice Obaidul Hassan-led International Crimes Tribunal-2 gave out the verdict. The Jamaat itself perpetrated war crimes – listed by the Guinness Book of Records as among the five deadliest 20th-century killing – during the war against Pakistan and facing widespread call for being outlawed as a political party. Justice Mohammad Shahinur Islam began reading the 62-page summary of the 215-page verdict at 11:21am in an overcrowded courtroom, bdnews24.com Correspondent reported.

Judge Md Mozibur Rahman said five of the seven charges levelled against him had been proven. He said, according to the charges brought by the prosecution, Kamaruzzaman was the 'chief organiser' of the Al-Badr, a militant outfit formed to assist the Pakistan army to thwart Bangladesh's freedom struggle in 1971, of greater Mymensingh region.

The prosecution had presented a report run by the Jamaat mouthpiece Daily Sangram during the war to support its allegation. Judge Rahman said the defence had failed to prove otherwise. Charges of Genocide at Sohagpur, torture of lecturer Abdul Hannan, muder of Golam MOstafa, and the murder of five were proved. The verdict said that the charges of killing eight against Kamruzzaman could not be proved beyond doubt.

Kamaruzzaman was brought to the courtroom at 11:45am. Five minutes later the judges arrived. Chairman of the International Crimes Tribunal-2, Justice Obaidul Hassan, thanked the lawyers of both prosecution and defense, and began reading out the details of Kamaruzzaman's case.

Justice Mohammad Mojibur Rahman Mia read out the second part of the verdict with ICT-2 Chairman giving the final verdict. Kamaruzzaman was clad in a white shirt and black trousers. When brought, he headed straight to the place designated for him without looking anywhere. His oiled hair was brushed neatly, and was not wearing a cap.



Freedom Fighters, eminent personalities and leaders of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee were seen at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) premises despite a drizzle on Thursday morning, awaiting the verdict of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mohammad Kamaruzzaman.

The three-member judge panel of ICT arrived at the court premises at around 10:00am. Media, lawyers, and many others from various walks of life were gathering at the tribunal premises since morning, bdnews24.com Correspondents at scene reported.

Jamaat's Assistant Secretary General Kamaruzzaman was brought to the tribunal from Dhaka Central Jail at around 9:30am. Ghatak Dlal Nirmul Committee chief Shahriar Kabir, Professor Muntasir Mamun, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote President Nasiruddin Yousuf Bachchu were present at scene and were talking to journalists. They were all hoping for capital punishment for Kamaruzzaman and all war criminals.

Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Command Council members arrived at tribunal premises with national flags and their own flags at around 10:45am. Council Chairman Retired Major General Helal Morshed Khan was seen leading them. They were chanting slogans demanding execution of war criminals.

Special security arrangements were made at the tribunal premises, Ramna zone police Assistant Commissioner (patrol) Imanul Islam told bdnews24.com. Traffic has been curbed through Doyel Chattar, Kadam fountain and other areas. Police and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) were seen alert outside the tribunal premises.

ICT-2 started hearing Kamaruzzaman's case on Jun 4 last year. The Jamaat leader has been charged on seven accounts of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. The prosecution accused Kamaruzzaman, who then was the head of the Mymensingh unit of Jamaat's student affiliate Islami Chhatra Shangha, of setting up the Al Badr collaborator force with handpicked activists in Jamalpur on Apr 22. The force was accused of involvement in genocide, killing, rape, looting, arson, and deportation of people in the greater Mymensingh district including Jamalpur, Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Sherpur and Tangail, the prosecution said.

Kamaruzzaman is the fourth defendant to be convicted of crimes against humanity since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government opened the war crimes tribunal in 2010.

The tribunal sentenced former Jamaat leader **Abul Kalam Azad** to death in January for crimes during the war.

Abdul Quader Mollah was sentenced to life in prison on Feb 5 on similar charges.

Jamaat's number two **Delwar Hossain Sayedee** was found guilty on eight counts involving mass killings, rape and atrocities on Feb 28.

Five other top party leaders are currently on trial while Jamaat-e-Islami guru **Ghulam Azam**'s verdict is expected any day.

Bangladesh JI Leader Loses Final Appeal Against Hanging

http://www.allpakistaninews.com/bangladesh-ji-leader-loses-final-appeal-against-hanging.html
4.4Muhammad Kamaruzzaman

April 6, 2015 Bangladesh's highest court Monday rejected a final appeal by Jamaat-e-Islami leader to overturn his death sentence in a case of 1971 war, clearing the last legal hurdle to his execution.



JI leader Mohammad Kamaruzzaman

The review petition is "dismissed", Chief Justice S.K. Sinha ruled at the Supreme Court, upholding original death sentence of JI leader Mohammad Kamaruzzaman. The JI leader was sentenced to hang in May 2013 by a domestic war crimes court. An appeal court in November last year upheld the verdict, raising the prospect of his becoming the second Islamist to be hanged for war crimes.

Another Jamaat leader, **Abdul Quader Molla**, was executed in December 2013. But lawyers for Kamaruzzaman, who is the third most senior member of the Jamaat, made a last legal appeal arguing that there were "serious discrepancies" in the testimonies of prosecution witnesses at his trial. Secular activists who attended the brief court session were delighted.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told AFP that prison authorities would now ask Kamaruzzaman whether he would seek clemency from the president. "If he refuses, he could be hanged any moment," he said. Molla was executed just hours after his review petition was rejected by the Supreme Court.

The upholding of Kamaruzzaman's execution order could worsen the ongoing unrest in the country, which has been hit by deadly protests over the opposition's bid to topple the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh suffered its deadliest chapter of political violence in 2013 after the war crimes court handed down a series of death sentences to Jamaat leaders for their role in the 1971 conflict.

Bangladesh hangs Jamaat-e-Islami leader for 1971 war massacre

https://www.dawn.com/news/1175312/ April 12, 2015



JI Bangladesh leader Mohammad Kamaruzzaman.—AFP/File 4.4Muhammad Kamaruzzaman

DHAKA: Bangladesh authorities on Saturday hanged a top opposition leader for overseeing a massacre during the nation's 1971 independence war. "Mohammad Kamaruzzaman has been executed at 10.30pm Bangladesh time (1630 GMT)," law and justice minister Anisul Huq told AFP.

Kamaruzzaman, the third most senior figure in the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was convicted of abduction, torture and mass murder.

An ambulance carrying Kamaruzzaman's body left the jail for his home village in northern Bangladesh more than an hour after the execution, jailor Farman Ali told reporters, adding that the vehicle was escorted by a convoy of elite security officers. The Jamaat party condemned "the government's pre-planned murder of writer, journalist and Islamic scholar" Kamaruzzaman and called a nationwide strike for Monday to protest the hanging.

Hundreds of government's supporters burst into cheers and made victory signs as news of the hanging was announced in central Dhaka.

Kamaruzzaman, 62, became the second politician to be hanged for atrocities during the 1971 war. *Abdul Quader Molla*, Jamaat's fourth-highest ranked leader, was hanged in December 2013.



A relative of Kamaruzzaman shows the victory sign after a meeting him at the central prison

Tight security

Police said security was tightened outside the capital's main jail and across the country ahead of the hanging. "We are alert to prevent any violence or subversive acts," Dhaka police spokesman Jahangir Alam Sarker told AFP.

Bangladesh went ahead with the execution despite last-minute pleas by the United Nations, the European Union and human rights organizations to halt the hanging. The UN said the trial did not meet "fair international" standards. Just hours before the execution, Kamaruzzaman's family visited him at the prison.

"We found him in good health and not worried about his fate at all," his eldest son Hasan Iqbal told AFP after seeing his father. "In his last comments, he regretted he did not see the victory of Islamic movement in Bangladesh. But he was confident it would be victorious here one day," he said.

The family had dug a grave at his village in northern Sherpur district where he would be buried on Sunday, he added. The country's Supreme Court cleared the last hurdle for execution of Kamaruzzaman on Monday after rejecting his final appeal against the original death sentence handed down by a controversial war crimes court in May 2013.

He was given several days to seek clemency from the country's President Abdul Hamid to avoid death. But his son said his father did not seek any mercy.

"My father said only Allah can give or take life, not a president," he said.

Bangladesh executes Islamist leader for massacre during 1971 Pakistan war Apr 12, 2015 http://www.9news.com.au/world/2015/04/12/03/13/bangladesh-hangs-top-leader-for-1971-crimes



Journalists surround a vehicle carrying Mohammad Qamaruzzaman in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was executed shortly after. (AAP)

4.4Muhammad Kamaruzzaman

Bangladesh authorities have hanged a top Islamist leader for overseeing a massacre during the nation's 1971 independence war against Pakistan. "Mohammad Kamaruzzaman has been executed at 10.30pm Bangladesh time," law and justice minister Anisul Huq said. Four specially trained convicts took him to a makeshift gallows, set up near his prison cell, and hanged him using a rope, in line with Bangladeshi jail procedure. He was declared dead by a magistrate and a government doctor.

Kamaruzzaman was convicted of abduction, torture and mass murder as one of the leaders of a pro-Pakistan militia that killed thousands of people during Bangladesh's bloody independence struggle. Hundreds of secular supporters burst into cheers and made victory signs as news of the hanging was announced at Shabagh square in central Dhaka where they gathered to celebrate the death of a man they called a "war butcher".

Kamaruzzaman is the second Islamist to be hanged for atrocities during the 1971 war of independence against Pakistan. **Abdul Quader Molla**, the fourth-highest ranked leader of the party, was hanged in December 2013. Bangladesh went ahead with the latest hanging despite last-minute pleas from the United Nations, the European Union and human rights organizations to halt the execution. The UN said the trial did not meet "fair international" standards.



Bangladesh tightens security after hanging of Islamist 4.4Muhammad Kamaruzzaman

Just hours before the execution, members of Kamaruzzaman's family visited him at the prison surrounded by tight security. "We found him in good health and not worried about his fate at all," his eldest son Hasan Iqbal said after seeing his father. "In his last comments, he regretted that he did not see the victory of Islamic movement in Bangladesh. But he was confident that it would be victorious here one day," he said.

The family has dug a grave at his village in northern Sherpur district where he would be buried on Sunday, he added. The country's supreme court cleared the last hurdle for execution of Kamaruzzaman on Monday after rejecting his final appeal against the original death sentence handed down to him by a controversial war crimes court in May 2013. He was given several days to seek mercy to the country's president Abdul Hamid to avoid death. But his son said his father did not seek any mercy. "My father said only Allah can give or take life, not a president," he said.



Mohammad Kamruzzaman

http://bd71.blogspot.nl/2007/12/mohammad-kamruzzaman.html



Mohd Kamruzzaman was the former executive editor of the Jamati mouthpiece Daily Sangram, and presently editor of the weekly Sonar Bangla. In 1971, Kamruzzaman was the leader of the Islami Chattra Sangha (Islamic students organization) in Mymensingh. He was also the principal organizer of the Al-Badr force. An article in the Daily Sangram on August 16,197 1, said, "A rally and symposium were organized in Mymensingh by the Al-Badr to celebrate the 25th independence day of Pakistan. The chief organizer of the Al-Badr, Mouhammed Kamruzzaman presided over the symposium held at the local Muslim Institute."

Kamaruzzaman's war crimes

- 1. According to one Fazlul Huq of Sherpur area, father of a martyr, an 11 member Al-Badr squad led by Kamruzzarnan took away his son Badiuzzaman sometime in June or July in 1971. Huq said his son was taken to the Pakistan army camp in nearby Ahmednagar and murdered. After independence, the late Badiuzzaman's brother Hasanuzzaman filed a case at the Nalitabari police station, with Kamruzzaman as the principal among the 18 accused in the murder of Badiuzzaman.
- 2. In the same Sherpur area, one Shahjahan Talukdar told that cadres of the Al-Badr kidnapped his cousin Golam Mostafa on August 24, 197 1, in broad daylight. Mostafa was then taken to the local Al-Badr camp which was set up in a house on Surendra Mohan Road of Sherpur town. After brutally torturing Mostafa at the camp, Al-Badr forces took him to the nearby Sherry Bridge and shot him dead. Kamruzzarnan was known to have ordered the killing. Many others in Sherpur confirmed that the killing of Golam Mostafa was carried out on Kaniruzzaman's direct order.
- 3. Allegations of torture at the Al-Badr camp in Sherpur were also made by Tapas Shaha, a former student leader of the area. He said men, women and youth of the area used to be taken forcibly to the camp where Al-Badr cadres under direct supervision of Kamruzzaman used to carry out gruesome acts of torture. For instance, one Majid, at the time an elected office-bearer of the town council, was taken to the camp and kept inside a darkened hole for a whole day.

- 4. In the middle of May, the then head of the Dept of Islamic History and Culture at Sherpur College, Syed Abdul Hannan was paraded through the streets of the town, totally naked, with his head shaven and a "garland" of shoes around his neck. Kamruzzaman and his cohorts dragged the professor around the town in mid-day, beating him with leather whips as he was dragged, Tapas Shaha told the Commission.
- 5. Ziaul Huq, a former leader of Awami League, said he was taken by three Al-Badr men on August 22 at around 5pm. He was then kept at the camp for two days, in the darkened hole. He said Kamruzzaman run the torture center. He was released after being told to leave the area, otherwise he was told he would be killed.
- 6. Emdadul Huq Hira, a former freedom fighter and currently a leader of the Jatiya Party, said his home was burnt down by Pakistani troops who were being guided by Kamruzzaman. He told the Commission that the troops set up five bunkers in the premises of his home, and used a big tree in the courtyard to tie up prisoners before shooting them dead.
- 7. Another eye-witness Musfiquzzaman, currently a teacher at the Haji Jai Mamud College in Sherpur, said that homes and business establishments at Tin Ani Bazar were looted in the middle of August in the presence of and under the leadership of Kamruzzaman.
- 8. One eyewitness, who worked as a driver of trucks which were used to carry troops as well as prisoners and dead bodies, said that Kamruzzaman guided Pakistani troops to the house of a freedom fighter identified only as Honta. The troops burned the house down, the driver said. There were also allegations that Kamruzzarnan organized and led robbery gangs in the area.



http://www.thedailystar.net/news/gallows-for-mueen-ashraf
4.5Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin





Mueen Uddin

Ashrafuzzaman

A special court in Dhaka today awarded death penalty to Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan for their offenses during Bangladesh's war of independence 42 years back. The judgement was delivered in absence of the convicts as the International Crimes Tribunal-2's efforts to get them in the dock failed. All the <u>eleven charges</u> levelled against Mueen and Ashraf by the prosecution were proved beyond doubt, Justice Obaidul Hassan, head judge of the International Crimes Tribunal-2, announced in a jam-packed courtroom in the afternoon.

The convicts received death penalty for abduction and killing of nine DhakaUniversity teachers, six eminent journalists and three physicians in December 1971 with the intent that the new nation becomes devoid of intellectuals. This is the ninth verdict in the sensational war crimes trial that was initiated 42 years into the country's birth and the Jamaat-e-Islami is strongly against it. The death sentence will be executed after the arrest or surrender of the convicts, the tribunal chief said.

The judgement was pronounced at 12:48pm after reading out of a 41-page excerpt of the 154-page verdict. Earlier, the tribunal started its day's proceedings at 11:00am. Al-Badr operation-in-charge Mueen is now in London where he has made his name as a community leader. Apart from serving as the chairman of Tottenham Mosque, he also became the director of Muslim spiritual care provision in the National Health Service of the UK, the prosecution said.

Ashraf, chief executor of Al-Badr, is now in New York and has been involved in the conservative Islami Circle of North America. This is the second war crimes case that is going on with the accused absent. The first case was against expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad who was awarded capital punishment.

BACKGROUND

Right after the war and liberation of Bangladesh, newspapers carried photos of Mueen and Ashraf asking people to help capture the two "killers and Al-Badr leaders". The trial of Mueen and Ashraf was done within just over three months largely because the tribunal-appointed defence lawyers did not have the cooperation of the families of the accused.

The lawyers could not even get one defence witness to testify whereas the prosecution brought in 25. Thirty days after completing the case proceedings, tribunal-2 on Thursday fixed today for announcing the verdict. The prosecution and the defence placed their <u>closing arguments</u> between September 23 and September 30.

In their closing arguments, the prosecution said the duo "deserved" capital punishment for the crimes "they had committed" in 1971 while the defence sought acquittals claiming that the prosecution "failed to prove the charges". The charges are related to the abduction and killing of 18 intellectuals and professionals.



LIST OF VICTIMS KILLED BY MUEEN, ASHRAF

Dhaka University teachers Prof Mofazzal Haider Choudhury, Prof Munier Chowdhury, Prof Giasuddin Ahmed, Prof Sirajul Haque Khan, Dr Abul Khayer, Dr Faizul Mohiuddin, Prof Rashidul Hasan, Prof Anwar Pasha, Prof Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya, journalists Serajuddin Hossain, Syed Najmul Haque, ANM Golam Mostafa, Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Selina Pervin, Shahidullah Kaiser, and physicians Fazle Rabbee, Alim Chaudhury and Mohammad Martuza.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL PROGRESS REPORT

The two tribunals dealing with the war crimes cases have so far delivered verdicts in eight cases.

The tribunal-2 awarded death penalty to expelled Jamaat leader **Abul Kalam Azad**, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General **Muhammad Kamaruzzaman** and Jamaat Secretary General **Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed** on January 21, May 9 and July 17 of this year respectively.

The tribunal also awarded former BNP minister **Abdul Alim** imprisonment till death on October 9 for committing genocide and crimes against humanity during the country's 1971 War of Independence.

The Tribunal-1 awarded Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee and BNP standing committee member Salauddin Quader Chowdhury death penalty on February 28 and October 1 for their war time offences.

It also awarded 90-year jail to former Jamaat-e-Islami chief **Ghulam Azam** on July 15, while Jamaat Assistant Secretary General **Abdul Quader Mollah** was given life sentence on February 5 by Tribunal-2.

The Supreme Court on September 17 awarded death penalty to **Mollah**, responding to appeals against the trial court verdict.

Ashraf, Mueen to hang for intellectuals murder, 2013-11-03

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2013/11/03/ashraf-mueen-to-hang-for-intellectuals-murder

Al Badr leaders Ashrafuzzaman Khan and Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin have been sentenced to death for killing 18 Bengali intellectuals during the last days of the 1971 Liberation War. The two have been found guilty of abducting, torturing and murdering nine Dhaka University teachers, six journalists and three doctors during the war. Ashrafuzzman is said to be now living in the US and Mueen-Uddin in the UK.

Justice Obaidul Hassan-led International Crimes Tribunal-2 delivered the verdict in absentia on Sunday in a courtroom packed with lawyers, journalists and observers. It is the second sentence by the ICT in absentia. The maiden verdict of the tribunal was also delivered in absentia in January this year on former Jamaat-e-Islami leader **Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar** as he is also absconding.

Those sentenced in absentia are not eligible to challenge the court's verdict. The presiding judge said the prosecution proved all the 11 charges against the two 'beyond reasonable doubt' and ordered that both Ashraf and Mueen-Uddin be 'hanged by the neck till they are dead'. Hassan said, "We are unanimous that there would be failure of justice in case 'capital punishment' is not awarded for all the massacres." The two other tribunal judges -- Justice Md Mujibur Rahman Mia and Judge Shahinur Islam read out parts of the 154-page verdict.

Sunday's verdict described how these former leaders of the Islami Chhatra Sangha, Jamaat's student affiliate in 1971, had abducted and killed the intellectuals between Dec 11 and Dec 15 in 1971. Ashrafuzzaman was the "chief planner" and Mueen-Uddin was the "operation in-charge" of the massacre that took place in those five days. Ashrafuzzaman's diary, which was recovered after independence from his Nakhalparha residence in Dhaka, had contained the plan for the massacre and a list of targets.

The tribunal ordered the two to walk the gallows for the killings of renowned film-maker and

Dhaka University Professor

Munier Chowdhury,
Prof Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury,
Giasuddin Ahmed,
Dr Sirajul Haq Khan,
Dr Abul Khair,
Dr Faizul Mohiuddin,
Prof Rashidul Hasan,
Prof Anowar Pasha and
Dr Santosh Bhattacharva.

Journalists

Siraj Uddin Hossain,
Syed Nazmul Haq,
ANM Golam Mustafa,
Nazim Uddin Ahmed,
Selina Parvin,
Shahidullah Kaiser, and doctors
Md Fazle Rabbi and
Alim Chowdhury.

The prosecution expressed satisfaction, but said the verdict must be executed as soon as possible after bringing the convicts back to country.



However, one defense counsel said the verdict did not meet their expectations. This is the ninth verdict delivered by two tribunals on the crimes committed against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. Six former and current Jamaat top leaders and two BNP leaders, including a standing MP, have been convicted so far.

No appeal without surrendering

The ICT-2 Chairman started the proceedings with his initial remarks at 11am. A total 41 pages of the 154-page verdict was read out. Justice Shahinur Islam read out the first part of the 41-page summery verdict and Justice Mujibur Rahman Mia read the second part. Justice Mia said the involvement of Ashrafuzzman and Mueen-Uddin with the killings of 18 intellectuals had been proven conclusively.



At times, they carried out the murders, sometimes they instigated and encouraged them, said the judge. The two had complete control over the Al Badr during the Liberation War, said the verdict. Then Justice Obaidul Hassan delivered the judgments on the two Al Badr leaders. He said, "Since the convicted have been absconding, the 'sentence of death' as awarded above shall be executed after causing their arrest or when they surrender before the Tribunal, whichever is earlier."

"Let conviction warrant be issued accordingly. Let a copy of the Judgment be transmitted together with the conviction warrant to (1) the Inspector General of Police, Bangladesh Police, Police Head Quarters, Dhaka and (2) the District Magistrate, Dhaka for information and necessary action and compliance." Freedom fighters waiting outside the court and the Ganajagaran Mancha supporters at Shahbagh hailed the sentence. Hundreds turned out on the streets in Gopalganj and Feni -- home districts of the two convicts -- to celebrate the verdict. They demanded its swift execution.

Jamaat 'fascist'

Following the previous verdicts, the observations of the judges on Sunday's verdict also shed light on Jamaat's direct involvement in war crimes as a party. The court said the Jamaat acted as a fascist organisation during the war. Jamaat had control over the 'killer squads' of Al-Badr.



The verdict says that there was 'an organized plan designed by the fascist JEI (Jamaat-e-Islami) for implementing which a 'killer squad' comprising Al-Badr activists was formed. Intention was to wipe out the Bengali intellectuals'. About the abduction and killing of journalist Selina Parvin, the judgment says: "Selina Parveen begged her life, appealed to spare her as she had a kid and there was none to take care of him excepting her. But the brutal killers did not spare her. She was instantly killed by charging bayonet, as narrated by prosecution witness 22." Selina Parveen was a mother. The killing was a case of 'matricide'.

This indescribable brutality shocks the human conscience indeed. Earlier, the ICT-1 termed the Jamaat a 'criminal party' in its verdict against former chief of the radical party Ghulam Azam. Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin. Mueen-Uddin was born in November, 1948 at Chanpur in Feni's Dagonbhuiyan to Delowar Hossain. He was a student of Bangla department at Dhaka University during the Liberation War and worked as a staff correspondent of Dainik Purbadesh.

According to case details, Mueen-Uddin was a central leader of Jamaat's student front and member of the notorious militia outfit Al Badr. He was given 'important' position in Al Badr and he spearheaded the execution of the Bengali intelligentsia towards the end of the Liberation War. Mueen-Uddin's family, too, had come out strongly in support of Pakistan, according to the prosecution. He fled to Pakistan and to the UK from there, after Bangladesh gained independence. He has been residing in London since.



Apart from discharging important duties of Jamaat-affiliated 'Dawatul Islam' in London, he is also the executive editor of weekly Dawat. He is one of the directors of National Health Services, a trustee of the Muslim Aid and chairman of Tottenham mosque's executive committee. On his website, the former Al Badr leader has admitted to his war-time role for a 'unified Pakistan'. In an interview to Al-Jazeera's Jonah Hull for the program 'Talk to Al-jazeera' in July, he said the tribunal was a 'joke'.

4.5Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin Ashrafuzzaman Khan

Ashrafuzzaman was born in 1948 at Chilerparh in Gopalganj's Maksudpur. His father's name is Azhar Ali Khan. He got himself admitted to the Islamic studies department at Dhaka University after passing higher secondary examination from Sidheswari Degree College in 1967. The Chhatra Sangha central leader obtained his bachelor degree in 1970. He was given the task to lead the Al Badr in Dhaka during the war. The tribunal prosecution has accused him of being the mastermind of the the plan to eliminate the intellectuals.

According to case documents, Ashrafuzzaman was the commander of Al Badr's Gazi Salahuddin Company. Like Mueen-Uddin, he, too, fled to Pakistan where he worked for a while. He then moved to the US. Ashrafuzzaman is said to be living in New York's Jamaica. He is a member of Islamic Circle of North America.

Before and after cases

Md Shahjahan Kabir investigated the charges against Ashrafruzzaman for the tribunal. Md Ataur Rahman investigated the charges against Mueen-Uddin.

On April 28 this year, the prosecution formally pressed its charges against the two former Al-Badr leaders. The tribunal on May 2 took cognizance and issued arrest warrants against them. As the prosecution reported to the tribunal that Ashraf and Mueen-Uddin could not be found, the tribunal asked its registrar to publish public notice in two dailies asking the two accused to appear for trial within ten days.

But neither turned up at the tribunal -- so the trial began in absentia. 11 charges were framed against the two Al-Badr leaders for committing 'crimes against humanity' during the 1971 Liberation war. Two lawyers were tasked to represent the defendants at the trial. 25 witnesses, including two investigation officers, gave evidence in the tribunal for the prosecution.





Mueen-Uddin

Ashrafuzzaman

Martyr Prof Giasuddin Ahmed's niece Masuda Banu Ratna on July 15 testified as the first prosecution witness. As the defendants were on the run, none gave witness for them. After arguments for and against charges ended on Sept 30, the court said it will announce the verdict soon.

4.5Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin Ninth verdict

The much-awaited trial proceedings have begun after the present government formed the tribunal on March 25, 2010. In its first verdict, the war crimes tribunal sentenced former Jamaat leader **Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar** to death in absentia on Jan 21 this year. Jamaat's Assistant Secretary General **Abdul Quader Molla** was given life in prison in the second verdict on February 5. That led to a mass upsurge because thousands considered Molla's verdict 'too lenient'.

The government amended the law to give equal opportunity of appeal to both prosecution and defense, after which the Supreme Court was moved against Molla's life sentence. Later, the Supreme Court's Appellate Division revised the sentence and handed down death penalty to Quader Molla on Sept 17. Jamaat's number two **Delwar Hossain Sayedee** was sentenced to death on Feb 28 in the third verdict.

This verdict was followed by countrywide violence unleashed by the Jamaat-e-Islami and its affiliates. At least 70 people including several policemen were killed in the mayhem. The party's Assistant Secretary General **Mohammad Kamaruzzman** was also ordered to walk the gallows in the fourth verdict delivered on May 9. In the fifth verdict, Jamaat's Liberation erstwhile East Pakistan chief, **Ghulam Azam**, was sentenced to 90-year in prison on June 15.



The tribunal said it did not give him death sentence considering his age and failing health. On July 17, Jamaat's Assistant Secretary General **Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed** was sentenced to death in the sixth verdict. BNP MP **Salauddin Quader** was given death penalty on Oct 1 in the seventh verdict. Former BNP Minister **Abdul Alim** was jailed for life on Oct 9 in the eighth verdict.







06 90 years for Jamaat guru Ghulam Azam, 15 July 2013 🔀

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2013/07/15/90-years-for-jamaat-guru-ghulam-azam 4.6Ghulam Azam

Ghulam Azam, the Jamaat-e-Islami supremo who has left deep emotional scars in the collective national psyche by engineering war-time atrocities in 1971, will spend the next 90 years behind bars and "die in jail". The 91-year-old has been found guilty by the war crimes tribunal of all five categories of crime - conspiracy, planning, incitement, complicity (abetment) and murder.

For the first two charges he was given 20 years, for the third and fourth 20 years each and for the fifth another 30 years in a judgment delivered on Monday afternoon. Azam will serve the sentence "consecutively or till his death", said presiding judge Justice A T M Fazle Kabir. Justice Kabir was scathing in his indictment of the Jamaat-e-Islami that Azam led in the then East Pakistan and later in

independent Bangladesh, says Tanim Ahmed at the courtroom.



Former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam being taken to the International Crimes Tribunal-1 as the verdict on his trial is due

'Foul role, fanaticism'

"Jamaat-e-Islami **played a foul role**" during the independence of both Pakistan and Bangladesh, the ICT-1 chair said. "It can be safely observed that Jamaat-e-Islami utterly failed to realise the pulse of the common people on both the historic occasions," he said, in a clear reference to the 1947 creation of Pakistan which Azam's political guru Syed Abul A'la Maududi opposed. Justice Kabir blamed it on "probably the lack of its far-sightedness caused by fanaticism".

"It is a matter of great anxiety that anti-Liberation elements are still at the helm of Jamaat and hold public offices (in Bangladesh)," Justice Kabir said. The judge asked the government to take steps towards barring these people from holding public offices. The comments on Jamaat, which has two seats in Bangladesh's 300-strong parliament, came much in line with those made in the four **previous verdicts**.

"In fact, the judges went further in condemning the Jamaat-e-Islami," says bdnews24.com Chief ICT Correspondent Tanim Ahmed, who has been covering the proceedings since the trial process began in Oct 2011. Justice Jahangir Hossain, one of the three ICT-1 judges, read out a part of the **243-page verdict**.

"Ghulam Azam in effect took part in the killing by giving 'negative signals' to sub-ordinates," said Justice Hossain. "That's why he is 'criminally liable' and found guilty." A defence lawyer called the judgement "unfair" and said **Azam would appeal**. The judges said they took into account his age and state of health in sentencing him. "Having considered the attending facts, legal position and the gravity and magnitude of the offences committed by the accused we unanimously hold that he deserves the highest punishment i.e. capital punishment," they said.



"Facts remain that the accused is now an extremely old man of 91 years coupled with his long ailment.

"These two aforesaid facts are considered by this Tribunal as an extenuating circumstance taking a lenient view in the matter of awarding punishment to the accused. "Having regard to the above facts and circumstances, we are of agreed view that the ends of justice would be met if mitigating sentence is inflicted upon the accused." Zead-al-Malum, who led the Azam prosecution team, said the people's sentiments would have to be considered and so an appeal was inevitable.

M K Rahman, an additional Attorney General and coordinator of the prosecution team, however, said they would await the copy of the full verdict before a decision was made.

Azam had been charged with 61 counts of crimes in those five categories. This was the fifth and possibly the most-awaited verdict on the war crimes cases. "Ghulam Azam's case is a unique one. Ghulam Azam was not physically present during these crimes but he has been accused of being the main man and the overseer of the war crimes during 1971," said Justice Fazle Kabir in his introductory remarks made in Bangla. He began speaking at 11:08am in a courtroom packed with lawyers, journalists and observers.





4.6Ghulam Azam

A second judge, Justice Anwarul Haque, gave the summary of arguments that <u>ended on Apr 17</u>. Justice Haque analyzed whether or not crimes against humanity at all took place in the various parts of Bangladesh.

'Worst after World War II'

"The country was then divided. On the one side were Awami League and other pro-Liberation organizations and the Hindu community," he said.

"On the other were some religion-based political parties and Biharis. Among them, the Jamaat-e-Islami was the most significant and ran a massive campaign against Bangladesh."

Added Justice Haque: "It is undeniable that a massive genocide took place in 1971 in the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) which is perhaps the greatest massacre after the atrocities of the Second World War. "This massacre can only be compared with the slaughters committed by Nazis under the leadership of Hitler." "And that genocide was committed by Pakistan and their collaborators in this country," he added. Then Justice Hossain took over and read out the rest of 75-page summary verdict.

The most prominent protégé of controversial politician of the subcontinent, Maududi who founded Jamaat-e-Islami, Azam, standing in the dock, quietly awaited judgment as all three judges made statements one after another. This was a case that became a national war crimes justice cause celebre. The former Pakistan provincial minister made a feeble protest - or did he? - when the verdict was being read out.



Rejection, tears, smiles

The conviction was greeted with 'rejection' and angry shouts outside the courthouse. There were smiles too. A group of freedom fighters outside the court burst into tears and lamented that the man they viled so much "kind of got away scot free", said bdnews24.com Correspondent Golam Mujtaba Dhrubo at the scene. One of the prosecutors, Tureen Afroz, also wept as she came down the stairs, says bdnews24.com Correspondent Suliman Niloy, while one of Azam's sons Abdullahil Amaan Azmi, a former Brigadier in Bangladesh army, smiled in the courtroom.

News from Shahbagh's Ganajagaran Mancha which has been demanding death to all war criminals was one of "rejection". The Mancha supporters took out processions in protest and put up blockades on the roads. They later called a day-long general strike for Tuesday. Sector Commanders' Forum said the freedom fighters were "dissatisfied" and urged the prosecution to appeal.

Tension inside

Inside the courtroom, the atmosphere was tense. Tanim Ahmed says the **three-month wait**, which he described as very unusual, led to apprehensions and speculations. "In many ways, it is the watershed, setting the benchmark for others to follow." Security was tighter than ever before. "There was longer procedure and were more stages of screening, resulting in fewer people actually getting in compared to previous judgement days."

In the past several months, Jamaat has spearheaded violent street campaigns to thwart the trial of their leaders particularly in their strongholds as deadly violence over the trial has left over 100 people dead. The sombre finale to trial of Azam, "who sat almost motionless", marked a dramatic turnaround for the man who once fought tooth and nail to prevent the birth of Bangladesh. He remains a figurehead for the powerful remnants and sympathisers of Pakistan in a deeply polarised society.

It also represents a symbolic moment for generations of Bengalees as they still come to terms with the legacy of his campaigns in 1971 that made him more reviled than any other perpetrator.

'No justice at all'

The chief Jamaat counsel, Abdur Razzaq, also the party's Assistant Secretary General, said it was a **travesty of justice**. "We will most certainly appeal against this decision." Keeping with the trend of verdict-day protest, Jamaat has enforced a nationwide shutdown which many see as a prelude to letting loose **violence**. A former general secretary of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union who claimed to have joined the Language Movement of 1952, Azam's verdict came after an unusual **three-month wait** since the hearing ended on Apr 17.

Perhaps the most significant trial in Bangladesh's history, the 'ICT-BD Case No. 6' began on <u>May</u> 13, 2012 and went on for <u>almost a year</u>, through hiccups, including an application for retrial that was squashed and numerous adjournments due to the absence of the defence.





A political science graduate who later went on to teach for a while at the Carmichael College in Rangpur, Azam was **brought to court** on Jan 11, 2012 and was **sent to jail** that day. He was **transferred** to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University because of his delicate health that same day. On Dec 12, 2011, the prosecution brought a 52-point charter of charges against Azam and **pleaded for his arrest**. Later, following the tribunal order, charges were re-arranged and presented to the tribunal on Jan 5.

Ghulam Azam's <u>indictment hearing</u> began on Feb 15 and the court <u>charged him</u> on May 13. Azam was among the key people who pioneered anti-Liberation efforts in 1971 colluding with the Pakistani military junta of that time. He is widely perceived to have been among the core group of right-wing backers of the Pakistani Army, who came out strongly in support of a united Pakistan and mobilised infamous social platforms centrally.

He was instrumental in setting up the infamous Peace Committee at the national level. The Razakars, an auxiliary force set up mainly to actively thwart the liberation forces, are said to have been mobilised through the Peace Committees across Bangladesh. Among the most notorious vigilante militia are the Al Badr, whose membership is said to have been mainly dominated by the Jamaat's student wing called the Islami Chhatra Sangha at that time. The current chief of Jamaat, Matiur Rahman Nizami, is in custody and facing charges as the key organiser of Al Badr.

The Al Badr is widely known to have spearheaded execution of the intellectual elites of Bangladesh just days before the victory on Dec 16, 1971. Azam also spoke in favour of Pakistan to the Middle Eastern countries during the war, according to the prosecution. He fled the country sensing a lost war, stayed in London for seven years and after the assassination of founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, he returned to Bangladesh in 1978 during BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's rule. Having led Jamaat from the front for long, Azam retired from active politics in 1999.

His party remains a key ally of the main opposition BNP. Two Jamaat leaders, both behind bars facing war crimes charges, have even served as ministers during the BNP's last tenure in government between 2001 and 2006, when Azam's party was part of the ruling coalition.

(Tanim Ahmed reported from the courtroom and contributed to background, with additional reporting and contribution by Gazi Nasiruddin Ahmed, Jahidul Kabir, Monirul Islam, Mamunur Rashid, Ashik Hossain, Quazi Shahreen Haq (courtroom), Suliman Niloy (courtroom), Golam Mujtaba Dhrubo, Tanjir Rahman, Samin Sababa and Zoglul Kamal)

Bangladesh Islamist Ghulam Azam found guilty of war crimes, 15 July 2013

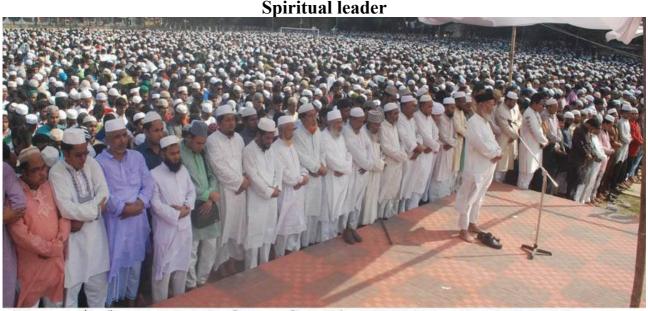


Some believe anything less than a death sentence is not a worthy verdict, says the BBC's Mahfuz Sadique

A war crimes court has found Islamist leader Ghulam Azam guilty of five charges relating to Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence with Pakistan. Ghulam Azam was sentenced to 90 years in jail for his involvement in mass killings and rape during the war. Supporters of Bangladesh's main Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami party, which he led from 1969 until 2000, clashed with police ahead of the verdict. It is the fifth sentence passed against current and former party leaders.

The court found Mr Azam, 90, guilty of five charges including conspiracy, incitement, planning, abetting and failing to prevent murder. He faced more than 60 counts of crimes against humanity for his role in setting up militia groups which carried out atrocities during the war. Mr Azam has denied the charges, which his supporters say were politically motivated. The prosecution had been seeking the death penalty. But the three-judge panel said that while Mr Azam deserved capital punishment, he received a prison term because of his advanced age.

4.6Ghulam Azam



চউগ্রাম প্যারেড মাঠে অনুষ্ঠিত বাংলাদেশ জামায়াতে ইসলামীর সাবেক আমীর ভাষা সৈনিক অধ্যাপক গোলাম আজমের গায়েবানা জানাজার একাংশ।

The mood in Bangladesh is tense, with police on all major streets of the capital and security beefed up around the country, the BBC's Mahfuz Sadique in Dhaka says. Before the verdict was announce, police reportedly fired rubber bullets to disperse Jamaat-e-Islam supporters protesting in Dhaka and several other cities on Monday.

Journalists were among a number of people hurt in the violence in the Dhalpur district of Dhaka, police say. On the eve of the verdict there were sporadic clashes in different parts of the capital with reports of some injuries, he adds.

Previous verdicts for former Jamaat leaders have led to deadly protests involving party supporters. More than 100 people have been killed since January in political violence sparked by verdicts handed down by the International Crimes Tribunal. Pro-government groups have also taken to the streets demanding death sentences for those being tried, accusing the tribunal of being too lenient.

In February, thousands staged vigils in Dhaka demanding the death penalty for Abdul Kader Mullah, who was sentenced to life for crimes against humanity. Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedi and the party's assistant secretary-general, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, were both sentenced to death by the tribunal earlier this year. The International Crimes Tribunal in Bangladesh was set up by the current Awami League-led government in 2010 to try alleged collaborators of the Pakistani army during Bangladesh's war of independence.

Human rights groups have said the tribunal falls short of international standards. Mr Azam's defense lawyers say the charges are based only on newspaper reports of Mr Azam's speeches at the time, and none have been proved. Jamaat has called for a general strike in protest. Mr Azam was the party's leader from 1969 until 2000 and is seen by many as its spiritual leader.

Described by party colleagues as a writer and Islamic thinker, Mr Azam was strongly opposed to Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan, arguing at the time that it would divide the Muslim community. There is a range of estimates for the exact number of people killed in the nine-month Bangladeshi war of secession. Government figures suggest as many as three million people died.

Protest funeral of 1971 war criminal Ghulam Azam in Bangladesh, Oct 26, 2014

 $\frac{https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/Protest-mars-funeral-of-1971-war-criminal-Ghulam-Azam-in-Bangladesh/articleshow/44939930.cms$



The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on July 15 sentenced the 91-year-old former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam Azam to 90 years in prison for masterminding crimes against humanity, genocide, and other offences during the country's 1971 War of Independence.

DHAKA: Protest rallies were held during the funeral of Bangladeshi war criminal Ghulam Azam here, demanding that the body of former chief of fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami be sent to Pakistan for burial there. Five handmade bombs exploded near the Baitul Mokarram National Mosque ahead of the arrival of Azam's body at the mosque for funeral prayer on Saturday, but no casualty was reported, police said.

"The janaza of a war criminal can never be held at the national mosque," Ziaul Hasan, chairman of Bangladesh Sommilito Islami Jote, an alliance of progressive Islamic parties, said at a human chain near the mosque. 92-year-old Azam, who was sentenced to 90 years in jail for masterminding atrocities during the 1971 independence war against Pakistan, died on Thursday at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University hospital in the capital Dhaka after suffering a stroke. He was also suffering from old age ailments including heart and kidney disorders.

He was buried at the family graveyard in the capital. He was kept at the hospital's prison cell since his arrest three years ago for 1971 war crimes. He was also suffering from old-age ailments including heart and kidney disorders. Last year Azam, the ideological linchpin of Jamaat, was sentenced to 90 years in jail after being found guilty of charges relating to 1971 war of independence with Pakistan.



Ghulam Azam waving to supporters on his way to a Dhaka court in 2012. (AP file photo)

Azam, who has left deep emotional scars in the collective national psyche by engineering war-time atrocities in 1971, was found guilty of all five categories of crime, conspiracy, planning, incitement, complicity and murder. His conviction sparked deadly protests by Jamaat and widespread celebration amongst secular groups.

Azam, however, declined to have committed any crime in 1971 and refused to regret. Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami in Pakistan also held funeral prayers in different parts of the country, mourning the death of Azam, local media reported.

Last wish sparks row.

Earlier, Azam's last wish before his death had sparked controversy as he wanted his funeral prayers to be led by one of the two fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami leaders also convicted for atrocities during the 1971 independence war against Pakistan. "He wished to be buried at family graveyard at Moghbazar in Dhaka and have his funeral prayers led by (Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and war crime convicts) Delwar Hossain Sayedee or Matiur Rahman Nizami," Azam's counsel said on Saturday.



পিতাকে শেষ বিদায় জানিয়ে কান্নায় ভেঙ্গে পড়েন স্যারের ছেলে বিগ্রে: (অব.) আব্দুল্লাহিল আমান আল আজমী





4.6Ghulam Azam





4.6Ghulam Azam



Bangladeshis crowd around an ambulance carrying the body of former Bangladeshi Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami party leader Ghulam Azam in Dhaka, on October 25, 2014. (AP photo)

Azam's elder son and sacked army brigadier Abdullah Hil Aman Azmi endorsed the comment saying his father expressed his last wish that his funeral prayers or namaj-e-janaza should be administered by either or the two fellow war crime convicts. A special tribunal will soon pronounce verdict on the alleged war crimes of Nizami, who headed the infamous Al-Badr militia forces in 1971, while Bangladesh's apex court has already sentenced Sayeedi to imprisonment "until his death", commuting an earlier death sentence by the tribunal.

However, Azam's last wish, to have war-crime convicts administer his funeral prayers came under sharp attack from leading campaigner of 1971 war-crime trials Shahriar Kabir, who accused Azam of playing "politics even in death".



Supporters pray as they stand outside an ambulance carrying the body of Ghulam Azam at his home in Dhaka, on October 25, 2014. (AP photo)



"Before death, people usually apologize for their misdeeds. But his lawyer said Azam had ordered holding his funeral prayers led by convicted war-crime convicts and people facing trials," Kabir said, adding, "now other convicts might express similar wishes".



চির নিদায় শায়িত জাতির শ্রেষ্ঠ সন্তান, বিশ্ব ইসলামী আন্দোলনের প্রাণ প্রিয় নেতা অধ্যাপক গোলাম আযম No comment was available from the government whether any of the two jailed war-crime convicts and Jamaat leaders would be paroled to administer the funeral prayers of the ideological linchpin of the party, which was opposed to Bangladesh's Liberation War.



The family and party sources said Azam's burial will take place after the return of his five sons from abroad, and in the meantime, his body would be kept at a refrigerator van in front of his Moghbazar residence.



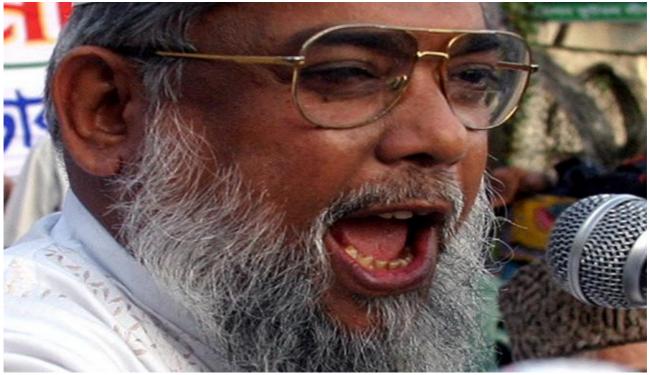
Pakistani supporters of religious party Jamaat-e-Islami offer funeral prayers in absentia for former Bangladeshi politician and convicted war criminal Ghulam Azam in Islamabad, on October 24, 2014. (AFP photo)

Thousands Attend Ghulam Azam's Janazah https://ghulamazam.net/2014/10/25/thousands-attend-ghulam-azams-janazah/

07 Ali Ahsan Mojaheed: Bangladesh Sentences Convicted War Criminal To Death 07/17/13

http://www.ibtimes.com/nuremberg-east-bangladesh-sentences-another-convicted-war-criminal-death-1349461

4.7Ali Ahsan Mojaheed



Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed, Photo: Reuters

More than 40 years after it won independence from Pakistan in a bloody and destructive civil war, Bangladesh continues to deal with those it considers disloyal collaborators from that long-ago conflict. In an ongoing case that will likely have serious implications for Bangladesh's fractious and chaotic political climate (as well as next year's elections), a court in Dhaka has sentenced the secretary-general of Jamaat-e-Islami, the country's leading Islamic fundamentalist party, to death by hanging for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 war of independence.

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed was convicted of commanding Al-Badr, a pro-Pakistan death squad militia that operated in Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) and opposed efforts by Bengali nationalists to declare independence from West Pakistan (now Pakistan). Al-Badr executed intellectual elites and pro-independence figures and also committed uncounted acts of mass murder, abduction, torture and rape, particularly against the Hindu minority community.

Mujaheed, 66, was convicted by the International Crimes Tribunal, a court established three years ago by the ruling Awami League Party to prosecute suspected war criminals. However, as Jamaat is an ally of the nation's principal opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, anti-government figures allege the trials and convictions are politically motivated to discredit the BNP and keep Awami in power.

"This is a gross injustice," Mujaheed himself said in the dock after the verdict was read out, according to BDNews24. "It has been given because of my Islamic movement. ... The Islamic movement will continue." Mujaheed denied all charges and even claimed that members of Jamaat did not oppose independence for Bangladesh. Mujaheed's sentence follows the application of a 90-year prison sentence to Ghulam Azam, a former Jamaat leader who was also convicted of various war crimes. The tribunal has thus far convicted five senior Jamaat figures.



Mujaheed's attorneys vowed to appeal the death sentence. "With due respect to the tribunal, this is a wrong verdict," said chief defense counsel Abdur Razzaq. "They have failed to evaluate the customary law in this regard. They have failed to evaluate the evidence." Mujaheed's son Ali Ahsan Mabrur claimed his father is a "victim of injustice." "We are upset because he has been punished on the basis of some impressions and not on hard evidence," he said.

Naturally, prosecuting attorneys were elated by the verdict. "The mass murder of our intellectuals was an unforgettable element of our Liberation War. This verdict of [a] death sentence for ... Mujaheed has finally provided justice for those mass murders," said M.K. Rahman, prosecution coordinator and additional attorney general. "Finally we can breathe easy."

Veterans of the 1971 independence movement also expressed their satisfaction with the disposal of the case, but called for a quick execution. "Though we are satisfied, we'll be happy only when the hanging is carried out," said former freedom fighter Jahir Uddin Jalal. "Jamaat must be rooted out from this land. Every war criminal must be hanged. No one will understand what kind of torture [Al-Badr] unleashed on us. They supervised horrific torture sessions in lock-ups.

They put our mothers and sisters at the hands of the Punjabi-Pathan troops. Those who did not see it can never feel it. The Razakars [paramilitary forces loyal to Pakistan] would have hanged freedom fighters to death if they were in power now." According to reports, Mujaheed, then only in his mid-20s, took control of Al-Badr in late 1971 from founder Motiur Rahman Nizami, who is now facing similar charges. Both Mujaheed and Nizami even served as Cabinet ministers in a BNP-led coalition government from 2001 to 2006. Mujaheed served as the country's minister for social welfare.



Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed

Mojaheed, SQ Chy to hang for war crimes as SC upholds ICT verdict, November 18, 2015 http://www.thedailystar.net/country/war-trial-sc-hearing-sq-chys-review-plea-174262?utm source=hootsuite



Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed (left) and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

The Supreme Court (SC) has upheld death sentence for war criminals Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury. The SC passed the verdict by rejecting appeals by the criminals to review their death penalty for crimes against humanity during the country's 1971 War of Independence.

A four-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha delivered the verdict at 11:30am today wrapping up the judicial process regarding the trial of the two key war criminals -- Mojaheed of Jamaat-e-Islami and Chowdhury of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Jamaat worked against Bangladesh's independence by collaborating with Pakistan and its military in then East Pakistan and participated in the genocide that followed.



A man shows "V" sign and holds a symbolic gallows at the Supreme Court premises after the apex court on Wednesday maintains its ruling upholding death penalties for BNP leader Salauddin and Jamaat's Mojaheed for crimes in 1971. Photo: Palash Khan

The SC bench ended hearing on Mojaheed's petition yesterday and fixed today for delivering its verdict. As the bench sat this morning, it also decided to deliver verdict on SQ Chowdhury's petition on the same day.

READ MORE: GALLOWS for Mojaheed

The bench delivered both the ruling together.

After the verdict, Khandker Mahbub Hossain, principal lawyer of Mojaheed and Salauddin, said no one can refute today's verdict as it came from the Appellate Division. Asked about their next steps, Mahbub said, "It depends on the government and the convicts. The government can pardon the convicts if it wants or the convicts can seek presidential clemency."

ALI AHSAN MOHAMMAD MOJAHEED

The Supreme Court on June 16 this year upheld <u>the death penalty of Mojaheed</u>, chief of infamous Al-Badr force, for planning and instigating the killing of intellectuals and professionals towards the end of the country's Liberation War. The top court also upheld his life sentence, originally handed by a war crimes tribunal, for killing composer Altaf Mahmud, Jahir Uddin Jalal, Badi, Rumi (son of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam), Jewel and Azad at the Old MP Hostel at Nakhalpara in Dhaka. The court upheld his five years' jail term for confining and torturing Ranjit Nath, a civilian, at a Bihari camp in Faridpur.

On July 17, 2013, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 found Mojaheed guilty of abducting and killing journalist Serajuddin Hossain. But the court did not give any separate sentence for this, as the offence was merged with those of the killings of intellectuals and professionals, for which the tribunal awarded him the death penalty.

The tribunal had also given Mojaheed death penalty for mass killings at Bakchar village in Faridpur, but the SC commuted his death sentence to life term on this charge. On October 14, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mojaheed submitted the review petitions. The International Crimes Tribunal issued death warrants for the Jamaat leader on October 1, a day after the SC released the full verdicts.



Activists of Bangladesh Swadhinota Parishad bring out a procession demanding death penalty for war criminals Salauddin and Mojaheed Wednesday morning. Photo: STAR/ Md Kawsar

On June 21, 2012, Mojaheed was indicted for planning to kill of intellectuals just before Bangladesh's liberation on December 16, 1971.

SALAUDDIN QUADER CHOWDHURY

The apex court started hearing on Chowdhury's review plea around 9:10am, which lasted little more than an hour. During the hearing, the apex court said the documents submitted by Chowdhury on his study at a Panjab University in 1971 were not acceptable. There are many anomalies in the statement of the university certificates given by a professor to Chowdhury, the court said.

Earlier, defence claimed that Salauddin was in Bangladesh during the Liberation War. He went to Pakistan on March 29, 1971 for studying in Punjab University and he returned to the country in 1974, they said. Sentenced to die for war crimes, Chowdhury on October 14 filed the review petition to the SC seeking acquittal on all the charges levelled against him.

READ MORE: SC upholds death for SQ Chy

The International Crimes Tribunal issued death warrant for him on October 1, a day after the Supreme Court released its full verdict of the appeal hearing. The SC upheld his capital punishment in July after hearing his appeal against the verdict delivered by the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

On October 1, 2013, the tribunal found Salauddin, now 66, guilty of nine of the 23 charges brought against him of committing crimes against humanity. He was handed death penalty for four charges – involvement in the killing of Natun Chandra Singha, Awami League leader Mozaffar Ahmed and his son; and genocide in Raozan. Law enforcers arrested Salauddin on December 16, 2010 at Banani in the capital in connection with torching a car in Moghbazar on June 26. He was shown arrested on December 19 following a warrant issued by the tribunal.

Intellectuals murdered in cold blood

The bodies of interlectuals, professors, writers, doctors and journalists, who had failed within of selective killing by the surrendering military junts of Pakistan were found in different brick kilns and ditches in and around the marshy land near Raverbaran on the outskirts of Dacon reports ENA.

The victims of the ghastly not some of whom were found-blind-folded and handcuffed with builts and bayone; injuries in the cheis and head, were lying exposed in shallow water in the kills and ditches. In some cases carnivers had attacked the bodies

This reporter who visited one such death scene and identified the bodies of Professor Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. Fazle Rabbee and Dr. Abul Khair on Friday evening, recovered the body of Dr. Azad, and telephonically informed the sele-



Ser studdin Moserin

Saturday morning.

The world news, T.V. and radio network representatives visited the spot and came across the harrowing scene of houselfur. There also located



ANN Marie

the prison camp at the Physical Training institute where rooms are still blood-sained and instruments for coruring the victims scattered around. Towards the end of the Liberation Way of Bendadesh the



Shahldullah Kalas

Army sunta, para military unit railed Razakar, Al-Badar and Al-Shams, drawn from fanetis right-wing parties, particularly Jamaat-e-Islami, kidnapped thrae victims. Those picked up the sincluded Mr. Sirajuddin

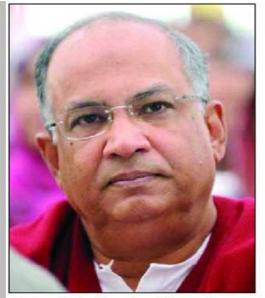
Report to COUT OFFICES

[WATCH NOW] Mojaheed: Fall of a war criminal

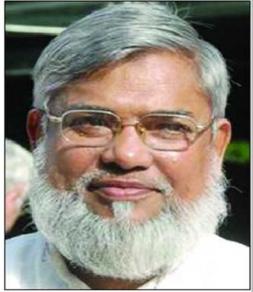
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4.7Ali Ahsan Mojaheed

Bangladesh executes SQ Chy, Mujaheed for war crimes, November 22, 2015







Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid

https://businessnews-bd.net/bangladesh-executes-sq-chy-mujaheed-for-war-crimes/Dhaka, Bangladesh (BBN)— Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury have been hanged for their crimes against humanity during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971. The executions took place just 24 days before Bangladesh is set to celebrate the 45th Independence Day. SQ Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed walked the gallows at 12:55am simultaneously Saturday night, jail sources said. The family members of the two executed war criminals met with them inside the Dhaka Central Jail before the execution. Hours before the execution, additional law enforcers including the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were deployed in different strategic points of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

According to jail sources, the body of Chowdhury will be taken to his ancestral home in Raozan while Mujaheed's body will be taken to Faridpur, the home village of the Jamaat leader.

BACKGROUND:

On April 11, 2015, Jamaat-e-Islami leader **Mohammad Kamaruzzaman** was hanged for his atrocities during the Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971.

Earlier on December 12 in 2013, 42 years into Bangladesh's bloody war of liberation, **Abdul Quader Mollah**, a key ally of the Pakistani occupation force, was hanged inside Dhaka Central Jail for his wartime offenses.

On November 18 this year, Bangladesh Supreme Court rejected appeals of the two condemned war criminals to review the apex court's previous ruling upholding the death penalty to them for their crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

ALI AHSAN MOHAMMAD MUJAHEED:

Earlier on June 16 this year, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh upheld the death penalty of condemned war criminal **Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed**, rejecting his plea for reviewing the capital punishment for his crimes against humanity.



Mujaheed, 67, had led a "death squad" named Al-Badr that worked as an auxiliary force for the Pakistani army during the Liberation War of the country. The Jamaat assistant secretary general had led the systematic killing of intellectuals at the fag end of the 1971 war.

On July 17, 2013, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced Mujaheed to death for unleashing his ruthless Al-Badr militias on unarmed intellectuals including a top journalist to snuff out the dream of Bangladesh four decades ago. He was found guilty on five out of seven charges brought against him by the prosecution. He was given death penalty on two charges – for abetting and facilitating the killing of intellectuals and participating in and facilitating the murder of nine Hindu civilians in Faridpur.

Mujaheed was arrested on June 29 in 2010 in connection with hurting religious sentiments of Muslims. The investigation agency, designated to probe war crimes, started investigation his alleged crimes during the war on July 21, 2010, and completed its probe in October, 2011. Mujaheed, who was a top leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the student wing of Jamaat in 1971, was shown arrested in the war crimes case on August 2, 2010.

On June 21 in 2012, He was indicted on seven charges. The tribunal was set up in 2010 by the current Awami League-led government to try alleged local collaborators of the Pakistani army during Bangladesh's War of Independence. Like many other Jamaat leaders he went into hiding soon after independence of Bangladesh, but resurfaced after Gen Ziaur Rahman came to power in a military coup in 1977. He later became social welfare minister in the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-led government from 2001-2006.

There is a range of estimates for the exact number of people killed in the nine-month War of Independence in Bangladesh. Bangladesh government figures suggest as many as three million people died during the war.

SALAUDDIN QUADER CHOWDHURY:

On July 30 this year, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh upheld the death penalty of condemned war criminal BNP leader **Salauddin Quader Chowdhury** rejecting his plea for reviewing the capital punishment for his crimes against humanity. The BNP leader had served as the parliamentary affairs adviser of the then prime minister Khaleda Zia during 2001-06.



Salauddin, 66, the infamous war criminal of Raozan upazila in Chittagong, was awarded death sentence on four charges. The apex court also upheld 20 years' imprisonment of the BNP leader in two other charges and five years' for two more charges including killing. Salauddin was acquitted in one charges involving killing of Satish Chandra Palit, a Hindu inhabitants of Raozan area. BNP standing committee member Salauddin is the son of Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, chief of convention Muslim League, which actively opposed the Liberation War in 1971.

On October 1, 2013, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 found the BNP leader Salauddin guilty of nine of the 23 charges brought against him for committing crimes against humanity. The war crimes include genocide abduction, torture and murder of individuals during the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh against Pakistan. The BNP Standing Committee member challenged the verdict on October 29 the same year.

Prosecutors said Salauddin joined Pakistani forces and other auxiliary forces in committing atrocities in Chittagong and took part in large scale killing of unarmed Hindus. He denied the charges, saying he was not in the country at the time, but the tribunal said evidence proved otherwise. The special tribunals in Bangladesh have sentenced at least 10 opposition leaders for war crimes since 2010.

Both the BNP and the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami parties denounce the trials as politically motivated attempts to target opposition members. According to documents, local collaborators and Pakistani occupation forces killed 3 million people, raped 200,000 women and displaced about 10 million to refugee camps in neighboring India during the Liberation War in Bangladesh. BBN/AD/AI



Ali Ahsan Mojaheed

08 Bangladesh Quader Chowdhury sentenced to hang, 1 Oct 2013

4.8Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury

http://articles.latimes.com/2013/oct/01/world/la-fg-wn-bangladesh-war-crimes-sentence-20131001



Bangladeshi police officers stand guard outside a special war crimes tribunal.

NEW DELHI -- A special Bangladeshi court sentenced a top opposition politician to hang Tuesday after he was found guilty on charges of murder, arson and crimes against humanity linked to the country's 1971 war of independence against Pakistan. The ruling prompted police and paramilitary forces to step up security across the country.

The 172-page verdict against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party is the sixth death sentence handed down against Islamist opposition leaders by a special war crimes tribunal. A seventh defendant received a sentence of life imprisonment.

Chowdhury, 64, was convicted on nine of 23 charges, including aiding and abetting in the murder of at least 200 people, mostly Hindus, four decades ago. The standing committee member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and his father, a key figure in the Muslim League party, supported Pakistan in the brutal conflict, although Chowdhury denies committing any crimes.

Family members vowed Tuesday to appeal the decision. "We will do whatever we need to do to show the world that this is a farce," Chowdhury's wife, Farhat Quader Chowdhury, told reporters outside the packed courthouse in Dhaka. Shortly after the verdict was announced, Chowdhury supporters reportedly set fire to several motorcycles owned by ruling-party activists who were out celebrating the ruling in the southeastern port city of Chittagong, which has elected Chowdhury to Parliament six times.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party also called for a general strike in Chittagong on Wednesday to protest the verdict, as authorities braced for more violence.

"There are deep divisions in Bangladesh society," said Bobby Hajjaj, a business consultant and newspaper columnist. "There's a minority that want the trials to go ahead. The majority don't care either way about the trials themselves, but are concerned about the political strife that's resulted." "So far, we haven't seen a lot of violence," he said. "But we'll have to see what happens."

The tribunal is not recognized by the United Nations, and human rights groups have criticized it for not following international standards. The government, which campaigned on a pledge to hold the trials, sees the proceedings as a way to bring closure to a brutal period in the nation's history. The opposition sees them as a political vendetta in advance of January elections. Over 100 people have been killed in demonstrations linked to war-crimes verdicts over the past nine months. Last month, after Jamaat-e-Islami party leader Abdul Kader Mullah was sentenced to hang, violent demonstrations broke out for and against the verdict.

Atty. Gen. Mahbubey Alam told journalists outside the court Tuesday that Chowdhury received the death sentence in four murder and genocide cases, 20-year jail sentences in three cases and five-year prison sentences in two cases. The Bangladeshi government says Pakistani soldiers and local collaborators killed about 3 million people and raped 200,000 women during a nine-month war in 1971. Other researchers place the number of deaths at between 300,000 and 500,000.

Of the six people convicted of war crimes by the tribunal, four are top officials of Jamaat-e-Islami, the country's main Islamic party, one is a former party chief and one an expelled party member. Chowdhury was found guilty Tuesday by the three-judge tribunal of ordering the abduction of seven Hindus in April 1971, six of whom were tortured to death at the family's residence in Chittagong's Good Hills neighborhood.

He was also found guilty of genocide, crimes against humanity, complicity, looting, arson and deportation in various other cases, most of which involved leading Pakistani troops to his victims. In one case, two accomplices were found guilty of leading Hindus to a courtyard on the pretext of attending a "peace meeting." Once there, the Hindus were reportedly fired on, killing 32. The house was then burned, presumably to destroy the evidence.



Bangladesh Supreme Court upheld the death penalty of senior politicians Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid Wednesday. In this photo, dated Oct. 1, 2013, Chowdhury arrives at the war crime tribunal in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photo: Reuters/Khurshed Rinku

War-time terror Salauddin Quader Chy to die, 2013-10-01 **▼**

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2013/10/01/war-time-terror-salauddin-quader-chy-to-die 4.8Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury



Salauddin Quader Chowdhury will hang for genocide and deadly torture of Hindus and Awami League supporters in Chittagong when the Bengalees sought to establish their own independent state of Bangladesh in 1971.

A war-crimes court, trying those accused of horrendous crimes and set up to provide the intended closure to the civil-war turmoil in East Pakistan during the bloody struggle to secede from Pakistan, found him guilty on Tuesday of crimes against humanity. A flamboyant showman now grizzled at 64, the son of Muslim League leader Fazlul Quader Chowdhury was convicted of unleashing a reign of terror that convulsed Raozan, Boalkhali, Ragunia, Hathazari, Boalkhali and Chittagong City during the war and cast a dark, long shadow on survivors that reached across the years.

Among the <u>horrific crimes</u> was his running a torture cell with his father in their house. He and scores of local collaborators of Pakistani rulers were complicit in the spate of atrocities, killing and forcing millions to flee to India to escape the carnage. Abduction, grabbing of Hindu households and forcing the people of this community to leave the country were the hallmarks of his campaign, according to the gruesome details revealed at the trial. The International Crimes Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir <u>delivered the judgment</u> at around 1:10pm on Tuesday in a courtroom packed with lawyers, journalists and observers.

"We are of the unanimous view that the accused deserves the highest punishment for committing such crimes that tremble the collective conscience of mankind," he said.

The BNP has called general strikes in Chittagong and Rangamati districts for Wednesday protesting his death sentence. But the main opposition will give its formal reaction at a press briefing on Wednesday. A key BNP figure, Salauddin Quader, who joined politics through Muslim League which collaborated with the Pakistani Army during the war, is the first sitting MP to be convicted of war crimes. The verdict said the prosecution had proved his involvement in **nine of the 23 charges** of crimes beyond reasonable doubt. He was given capital punishment for killing Kundeshwari Oushadhalaya owner and philanthropist Nutan Chandra Singha, genocide of Hindus at Sultanpur and Unsattar Parha and abducting and murdering a Hathazari Awami League leader and his son Sheikh Alamgir.



The verdict depicted how Salauddin Quader had led Pakistani Army to murder, loot during 1971 and how he had abducted freedom fighters and supporters of independence, took them to his hilltop residence at Goods Hill in Chittagong and tortured them. The judge pronounced the 'hang until death' order for the maverick politician weeks after anonymous calls **threatening** that Bangladesh will go up in flames if he was given death penalty. The sentence was cheered by freedom fighters and pro-liberation forces outside the tribunal, by those gathered at Shahbagh's Ganajagaran Mancha and the general public in different areas including Chittagong. They demanded quick execution of the verdict, which came after over four decades after the crimes had been committed.

The tribunal prosecution expressed satisfaction over the judgment, but the defence, clearly unhappy, said they **would challenge** it in the higher court. Meanwhile, Salauddin Quader's family expressed displeasure alleging the verdict had been 'leaked' a day before on the internet. They also said they would appeal against the verdict. The tribunal is **looking into** the allegations of the verdict being leaked reportedly from the law ministry.



Death for four charges 4.8Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury

Justice ATM Fazle Kabir started reading out the verdict at 10:43am after Salauddin Quader was brought to the court. The two other judges of the first war crimes tribunal – Justice Jahangir Hossain and Justice Anwarul Haque – also read out two parts of a summary of the **172-page verdict**. At the end, Justice Kabir pronounced the punishment at 1:10pm. The verdict said the prosecution had successfully proved nine of the 23 charges framed against the BNP policymaker, from 2 to 8, 17 and 18. The six-time MP from Chittagong was given the capital punishment for each of four other charges — 3, 5, 6 and 8 — that include murder, genocide and murder after abduction.

The BNP Standing Committee member was also given 20 years in prison for three charges -2, 4, and 7 - each which include murder, complicity in genocide, loot, arson and deportation; and five years each for another two charges -17 and 18, which include abduction and torture. But the prosecution failed to prove charges 1, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19, 20 and 23. Remaining six charges (9, 13, 15, 16, 21 and 22) were not evaluated as the prosecution failed to produce any witnesses to substantiate them.



Insolent Salauddin

Once a seemingly untouchable 'big man' – he stepped into the limelight many times for his 'indecent' and controversial remarks- the BNP stalwart, donning white Panjabi and Pajamas, was seen talking continuously from the dock as the verdict was being read out on Tuesday. His wife Farhat Quader Chowdhury, two sons Faiyaz Quader Chowdhury and Hummam Quader Chowdhury and daughter Farzin Quader Chowdhury were also present at the courtroom.

The BNP leader, known for his theatrics and antics, several times enlivened proceedings, mostly for the worse, sometimes shouting even at the judges. He even went so far as to address Justice Nizamul Huq, former Chairman of the tribunal, as 'Mr Nizamul Huq' when the presiding judge addressed him with a harsh 'Mr Chowdhury' trying to caution him. That outburst triggered an order barring the BNP man from courtroom for his unruly behaviour.

His attitude was the same on Tuesday. When reading out a part of the verdict, Justice Anwarul Haque had said, "He was elected MP for five times." Salauddin reacted by standing up in the dock. "Five, five? No, six times," the Chittagong-2 MP told the judge, reminding him of his being elected in the short-lived 1996 Parliament. At around 11:45am, Salauddin Quader and his lawyer Tajul Islam talked about the verdict already being available online. He stood up in the dock at 11:48am and said, "No need to read all these. All these were available online over the past two days."



The judge paused reading the judgement for a few moments. "Read the rest that you could not complete reading yet. Finish it fast, let's go home," said Salauddin with a grin. At one point, he started making indecent remarks towards the judge. Justice Fazle Kabir observed that Salauddin Quader deviated from the norm of addressing High Court judges as 'Justice' or 'My lord' but addressed them by their surname or merely as 'Mr Chairman'.



Photos form Channel I footage - At PG hospital in the middle of his torture. Blood on his shirt, nose and bandages on his chest is visible

Justice Kabir said his 'unruly' behavior were not in keeping with his position as a sitting MP, especially someone who had been elected six times. The judge also noted that the BNP leader at times would not even stand up to show respect to the judges when they left. Salauddin Quader protested with a booming, "Never!" The judge said, "Needless to say that this will not affect the judgement in any way."

Earlier, during the trial he had said that he was born in a Chittagonian Muslim family, not in a Bengali family. He had said his mother tongue was Chatgaian [Chittagong's local language], not Bangla. While defending himself on June 17, he had said, "If I am not hanged, no one will be hanged," meaning that if anyone were to hang it would have to be him first.

"Don't send me to a Kolkata prison," he had also said once, feigning imploration at the war crimes tribunal indicating the government's close ties to India. The BNP – which did not exist at the time of the war – earlier had described his trial as nothing but a political vendetta by the Awami League that led the nation to freedom. This is the seventh verdict in similar cases to come over war crimes. The war crimes tribunals of Bangladesh had convicted six former and current leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami in as many previous verdicts.

The Jamaat had called nationwide general strikes for the day before and the day of the verdict in every case, but the main opposition BNP has kept mum regarding the case and verdict of Salauddin Quader.



As Justice Kabir moved on to announce the sentence, a lull descended in the packed court. The silence was broken only after the presiding judge cited the charges for which the defendant was to hang, with the press pack elbowing each other to get out of the courtroom to break the story. In his immediate reaction, Salauddin Quader's lawyer Ahsanul Haque Hena said they would challenge the death penalty in the Supreme Court.

"I know that we won't get justice," said Salauddin's wife Farhat Quader Chowdhury. "But we will go though the entire process. We will file an appeal and see who are there to judge it."



Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said, "The mass murder of the Hindu community and other people by SQ Chowdhury was heinous. The judgment is just." Tribunal prosecutor Zead-AL-Malum said, "We will decide future steps after evaluating the verdict. We'll decide about appeal about the charges of murder and torture which were not proved."

However, BNP-affiliated lawyers' platform, Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, at a press briefing rejected the verdict. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Advisor Khandaker Mahbub Hossain said, "Everyone related with the trial will be tried some day on this soil." "We are shocked at the verdict," the party's Standing Committee member Moudud Ahmed said to reporters. He hoped Salauddin Quader would be proved innocent in the Supreme Court after the appeal. Before his arrest, Salauddin Quader had openly criticised Moudud over ways to foil government initiative when Khaleda was evicted from Dhaka Cantonment residence.

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbub-Ul Alam Hanif said the verdict had fulfilled the expectations of the nation. "This judgment will remain an instance for establishing the rule of law. We hope the tribunals will be able to give verdict according to people's expectations against other accused also," he said.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said that the nation had been expecting this verdict for long. President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "This is a fair justice. The nation has long been waiting for this verdict. We hope the verdict will be implemented immediately." Meanwhile, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, also the JaSaD President, asked the BNP chief to welcome the verdict. Addressing her, he said, "No one should take the sides with the war criminals. No steps should also be taken to protect them or foil the trial."



Stain removed

In the mean time, ruling Awami League's Raozan unit took out celebratory procession at the Upazila, Salauddin Quader's ancestral home, after the verdict was pronounced. Sweets were distributed. Raozan unit President Shafiqul Islam Chowdhury said the people there were waiting for this verdict. "Justice has been served. People of Raozan are proud because it is the birthplace of 'Masterda' Surya Sen, but it was also tainted as the birthplace of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury. The verdict has removed the stain."

Prafulla Ranjan Singha, son of Kundeshwari Oushadhalaya owner Nutan Chandra Singha who was killed by Salauddin Quaderin 1971, said, "This is a relief that my father's killer got his punishment after 42 years. We now just want the verdict to be executed."

M Salimullah, the second witness in this case who was tortured at Salauddin Quader's Goods Hill residence, said, "He committed genocide and rape at Raozan and in the [Chittagong] city in 1971. He deserved the death penalty." He demanded fast execution of the verdict. "This will give peace to those who were killed here by the Pakistani Army with his help during the war."

Freedom fighter Jahiruddin Jalal, better known as 'Bichhu Jalal', expressed satisfaction over the verdict. He said this has proved that war criminals were among the top brass of the BNP.

Another freedom fighter Shahidul Haque said, "Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's arrogance has been destroyed after 42 years. The nation welcomes this verdict. Only one death penalty is enough for this kind of heavyweight trial."

Historian Prof Muntasir Mamun said, "Prosecution sought punishment for genocide as we did... and we got it."

The Sector Commanders' Forum has also demanded that the verdict is carried out without delay.



Allegations of verdict leak

Though the first war crimes tribunal delivered the verdict on Tuesday, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and his family alleged that it had been available on the internet for the last two days. Before the verdict, his younger son Hummam Quader Chowdhury told reporters that he read the verdict earlier from www.justiceconcern.org "We are here to witness charade of a trial," he said.

His father also said held similar view and asked the judge to stop reading out the verdict. After the verdict, his wife Farhat Quader Chowdhury told reporters, "We have seen the copy of the court's verdict on multiple websites. We have learned that the document is of the law ministry. We are astounded to see how judges can read a copy from the law ministry." Brushing off the allegations, Attorney General Alam said, "Leaking of the judgment is out of question. It is not correct. It's merely an assumption." Prosecutor Zead-AL-Malum said this was part of a new conspiracy and 'a new drama' to question the trial.

He also urged the law enforcement agencies to probe the matter at the soonest. However, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said, "We are investigating the allegation. Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Corporation has been informed about the matter. Journalists will be briefed about the findings of the probe." He said the conspirators will also face trial.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu believed the propaganda was being spread intentionally to confuse the people. Inu said a computer operator named 'Alam' had been blamed for leaking the judgment allegedly from the computer of the Information Secretary who sits on the seventh floor. "But the Information Secretary sits on the fifth floor and no one named Alam works in the law ministry."



Vehicles torched, livelihood unaffected

This was the seventh verdict in similar cases to come over war crimes. The war crimes tribunals of Bangladesh had convicted six former and current leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami in as many previous verdicts. The Jamaat had called nationwide general strikes for the day before and the day of the verdict in every case, but the main opposition BNP has kept mum regarding the case and verdict of Salauddin Quader.

<u>Security</u> measures were cranked up around the International Crimes Tribunal and adjacent areas ahead of the verdict on Tuesday morning, but it was somewhat less demonstrative than on days when verdicts on Jamaat leaders were expected. Traffic in the streets adjacent to the tribunal was normal. Police and RAB personnel cordoned off the tribunal and Supreme Court area since early morning. Journalists and observers were searched before being allowed into the tribunal premises.

Different pro-liberation war organizations and activists had come in processions and had gathered in front of the tribunal in the morning, like other past verdicts, demanding capital punishment for the war criminals. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) troopers were also deployed at five Upazila's in Chittagong, including Salauddin Quader's constituency, Fatikchharhi, and ancestral home, Raozan.

Salauddin Quader was transferred to the Dhaka Central Jail from Kashimpur jail on Monday night. He was <u>taken to the tribunal</u> in a prison van that entered the court premises around 10am. He was sent back to Kashimpur jail after the verdict was announced. He was stripped of VIP privileges and put into the condemned cell of the jail on Tuesday night. Jailer Md Mojibur Rahman of Dhaka Central Jail-1 in Kashimpur at Gazipur told bdnews24.com that the convict had been transferred from the Dhaka Central Jail around 9pm amid tight security and taken to the cell where he will await execution.

Meanwhile, Salauddin Quader's supporters, Chhatra Dal and Juba Dal activists, in Chittagong's Rangunia torched four motorcycles and an auto-rickshaw right after his verdict was delivered. Attempts were also made to blockade the Chittagong-Kaptai road at Ghatchek with logs. Several youths also set fire to a human hauler at Chittagong City's Station Road. A covered van and a truck were torched in Dhaka's Bongabazar and Fakirerpool areas after the verdict. A driver was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital with burns.



Courting controversy

Salauddin Quader was born on Mar 13, 1949, at Gohira village under Raozan Upazila in Chittagong. His father Fazlul Quader was also the Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan. He took to politics through Muslim League. Later, he joined Jatiya Party and then NDP. Finally, he joined the BNP in the 1990s.

The six-time MP has been no stranger to controversy since he was first elected MP from Raozan on a Muslim League ticket in 1979. He switched allegiance to Jatiya Party during the regime of despot Hussein Muhammad Ershad to foray into mainstream politics. Salauddin Quader was elected MP from his constituency Raozan in 1986 again on a Jatiya Party ticket, only to be expelled later. He floated his own party, the NDP, contested the 1991 election and was elected from Raozan again.

Some time later, the NDP merged with the BNP and he ran for Parliament with BNP ticket again in 1996 and got elected. He won the right to represent Rangunia constituency in 2001 elections. The stalwart was also an adviser on parliamentary affairs to the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during the regime of BNP-led coalition government. The charismatic politician also helmed ministries like the relief and rehabilitation, housing and public works and health and family welfare during Khaleda and Ershad's rule.

He had run from both Rangunia and Fatikchharhi in the 2008 general elections and was elected MP from Fatikchharhi, Chittagong-2 constituency, but lost in Rangunia. He is currently a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. Salauddin is eldest of his father's four sons. His younger brother Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury is the President of Chittagong district north BNP unit. His two other brothers, Saifuddin Quader Chowdhury and Jamal Uddin Quader Chowdhury, are said to have no direct involvement in politics.

The BNP leader had hogged headlines many times in the last two decades for his flashy, 'arrogant' and sometimes 'obscene' remarks. He was criticized for making 'indecent' remarks about Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in the past disregarding his close family and political ties with the Awami League leaders. Party leaders had also been harsh on him for making similar comments about BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her eldest son, Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman.

The Election Commission had taken steps to cancel his membership in Parliament for providing <u>'false information'</u> when he had mentioned 'no educational qualification' in his affidavit submitted for the ninth parliamentary elections. But the matter did not move forward due to 'legal limitations'.

Finally in the dock



A case was filed against him on July 26, 2010 at the International Crimes Tribunal. That year, in the early hours of December 16, the Victory Day, he was <u>arrested</u> at his home in another case for killing a commuter by setting him on fire during an opposition strike. The Chittagong-2 MP was shown arrested for war crimes charges on Dec 19, 2010. The prosecution on Oct 4, 2011 submitted a 119-page report on him. Formal charges were pressed against him on Nov 14, 2011, and the tribunal took them into cognisance three days later.

He was <u>indicted</u> on Apr 4 last year on 23 war crimes charges and witness deposition in the case began on May 3 same year through opening remarks of the prosecution. Four persons, including the BNP leader, testified for the defence. The other three are: his college and university friend Nizam Ahmed, trustee board member of Asia-Pacific University Qayum Reza Chowdhury and former Ambassador Abdul Momen Chowdhury.

A total of 41 witnesses including investigation officer Md Nurul Islam deposed for the prosecution. The tribunal also accepted testimony of four other witnesses who had testified before the Investigation Officer. The ICT-1 finished hearing the case on Aug 14 this year but kept the **verdict pending**.





In its <u>maiden verdict</u>, the tribunal sentenced former Jamaat leader **Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar** to death in absentia on Jan 21 this year.

Jamaat's Assistant Secretary General **Abdul Quader Molla** was given life in prison in the <u>second verdict</u> on February 5. The 'too lenient' lifer for the 'Butcher of Mirpur' gave rise to an unprecedented mass uprising dubbed 'Bangla Spring' at Dhaka's Shahbagh. The government had <u>amended</u> the law to bring equal rights for appeal for both parties in the case. Following appeals by the prosecution and defence, the Supreme Court's Appellate Division revised the sentence and handed down <u>death penalty</u> on Sept 17.

Jamaat's number two **Delwar Hossain Sayedee** was sentenced to death by hanging on Feb 28 in the **third verdict** which led Jamaat to unleash a string of violence across the country. At least 70 people including policemen died in the skirmishes.

The party's Assistant Secretary General **Mohammad Kamaruzzman** was also ordered to walk the gallows in the **fourth verdict** delivered on May 9.

In the <u>fifth verdict</u>, Jamaat's Liberation War-time chief of East Pakistan unit, **Ghulam Azam** was sentenced to 90-year in prison on July 15. The tribunal said it went for the jail term considering the convict's age and health condition.

On July 17, Jamaat's Assistant Secretary General **Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed** was sentenced to death in the **sixth verdict**.

(Reporting from court by Tanim Ahmed, Quazi Shahreen Haq and Suliman Niloy, additional reporting by Liton Haider, Moinul Hoque Chowdhury, Golam Mujtoba Dhrubo, Sajidul Haque, Faizul Siddiki, Farhan Fardaus; Mintu Chowdhury and Mithun Chowdhury from Chittagong office, Uttam Sengupta from Raozan and writing by Tanjir Rahman Bhuiyan and Zoglul Kamal)



International Crimes Tribunal -1 (ICT-1) Old High Court Building, Dhaka, Bangladesh. ICT-BD Case No. 02 OF 2011, International Crimes Tribunal The Chief Prosecutor Versus Salauddin Quader Chowdhury

Charges:

Crimes against humanity, genocide, abetment and complicity to commit crimes.

http://www.ict-bd.org/ict1/ICT1 Judgment/ICT-BD Case No. 02 of 2011 Delivery of judgment final.pdf

Bangladesh 1971 War Crime Charges: Salauddin Quader Chowdhury THE 23 CHARGES ▼

http://empireslastcasualty.blogspot.nl/2013/02/bangladesh-1971-war-crime-charges.html



Murder, torture, genocide, abduction, confinement, deportation, persecution on religious grounds, looting and arson

4.8Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury

Nutan Chandra Singh

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday brought 23 charges against BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in connection with crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. Chairman of the tribunal Justice Nizamul Huq yesterday read out the charges in an open court. The charges brought under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 are published as it is in brief:

Charge No 1

That on 4 or 5 April, 1971 at about 9pm in order to destroy in whole or in part the Hindu community, one of the followers of you named Abdus Sobhan informed you at your residence "Goods Hill" about the meeting of some persons held in the house of Motilal Chowdhury at Ramjay Mohajan Lane under Chittagong Sadar P.S. You being the eldest son of late Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, the President of Convention Muslim League, as well as a member of a group of individuals, gave instruction and accordingly a group of Pakistani Forces riding on 2 trucks went to the house of Motilal Chowdhury and abducted unarmed 7 civilian persons namely (1) Arabindu Sarker, son of late Dhirandra Lal Sarker, (2) Motilal Chowdhury, son of late Gagan Chandra Mahajan, 3) Arun Chowdhury, son of late Nabin Chandra Mahajan, 4) Santi Kusum Chowdhury, son of late Nagendra Mahajan, 5) Jogesh Chandra Dey, all of village Adharmanik, Police Station-Roujan, 6) Paritosh Das of village Comilla, 7) Sunil and took them to your residence "Goods Hill". Out of 7 persons Sunil was chopped by dagger but he was let off considering his tender age and the rest 6 person were inhumanly tortured to death in your presence at your house. The acts of abduction and torture fall within the purview of crimes against humanity and killing the members of religious group like Hindu community falls within the purview of genocide. You had clear presence and complicity in the aforesaid crimes against humanity and genocide.

Thus, you have committed the offences of crimes against humanity and genocide as stated in section 3(2)(a), 3(2)(c)(i) and 3(2)(h) of the Act.

Charge No 2

That on 13th April, 1971 at a bout 6.30/8.00am you along with your accomplices accompanied with Pakistani Army went to Maddhaya Gohira Hindu Para under police station-Raojan, District-Chittagong and raided the area belonging to Hindu community and brought the unarmed Hindu civilian people in the courtyard of the house of doctor Makhon Lal Sharma and then in your presence the Pakistani Army opened fire on them indiscriminately pursuant to pre-arranged plan. As a result 1) Poncha Bala Sharma, 2) Sunil Sharma, 3) Joti Lal Sharma, 4) and Dulal Sharma were killed at the spot and 5) Dr. Makhon Lal Sharma died after 3/4 days. Joyonta Kumar Sharma was seriously injured and was alive for some years as handicapped person. These acts of murder and injury were committed in order to destroy the members of Hindu religious group in whole or in part which is genocide.

Thus you have committed the offence of genocide as stated in section 3(2)(c)(i) and 3(2)(c)(ii) of the Act.

Charge No 3

That on 13th April, 1971 at about 9.30am to 10.00am after killing Hinuds at Maddhaya Gohira you led the Pakistani Army to Kundeshwari Owsadalay of Gohira and raided there and entered into the household of Sree Nuton Chandar Singh; at that time he was performing his prayer in the temple, he was drug out by you from his prayer room. You told the Pakistani Army that you had instruction from your father to kill him after hearing that the army opened fire on him and he fell down after receiving bullet injury. While Mr Singh was trumbling, at that time you again shot him to confirm his death and after that you along with the Pakistani Army left the place of occurrence. This killing of Nuton Chandra Singh was committed against an unarmed civilian population which is murder as crimes against humanity.

Thus you have committed the offence of crimes against humanity as stated in section 3(2)(a) of the Act.



Charge No 4

That on 13th April, 1971 at about 10.30 to 11.00am after killing the Hindus of Maddhya Gohira Hindu Para, in order to destroy member of Hindu religious group you led a team of your accomplices along with Pakistani Army and raided the area of Jogot Mollo Para belonging to Hindu community. Earlier in the morning two of your accomplices went there and told the minority Hindu people to attend in a peace meeting and putting belief in them, those people assembled there in the courtyard of Kiron Bikash Chowdhury and at that time those two accomplices of you brought you and your associates and also the Pakistani Army to that place and in your presence one of the Military men used filthy languages upon them and opened fire to the innocent village people in your presence resulting death of 32 Hindu people. Those killed were (1) Tejendra Lal Nandi, (2) Samir Kanti Chowdhury, (3) Ashok Chowdhury, (4) Sitangshu Bimol Chowdhury, (5) Premangshu Bimol Chowdhury, (6) Kiron Bikash Chowdhury, (7) Surendra Bijoy Chowdhury, (8) Charu Bala Chowdhurani, (9) Nero Bala Chowdhury, (10) Provati Chowdhury, (11) Raj Lakshmi Chowdhurani, (12) Kusum Bala Chowdhurani, (13) Jotindra Lal Sarkar, (14) Hirendra Lal Sarkar, (15) Provati Sarkar, (16) Debendra Lal Chowdhury, (17) Rajendra Lal Chowdhury, (18) Ajit Kumar Chowdhury, (19) Poritosh Chowdhury, (20) Bhabotosh Chowdhury, (21) Gopal Chowdhury, (22) Rani Bala Chowdhurani, (23) Monju Chowdhury, (24) Jheenu Chowdhury, (25) Runu Chowdhury, (26) Debu Chowdhury, (27) Shapon Chowdhury, (38) Fanibhushan Chowdhury, (29) Modhushudan Chowdhury, (30) Bipin Chowdhury, (31) Kamini Rudhura, (32) Annanta Bala Paul. Besides, Amalendra Bikash Chowdhury, Jotsna Bala Chowdhury and Chobi Rani Das were seriously injured. The houses were looted and destroyed by fire. They had to deport India as refugee to take shelter there. This act was committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part members of Hindu religious group which is genocide. The act of looting and destroying houses by fire is considered as persecutions as crimes against humanity and also you conspired to commit the said offence and also you had complicity in that offence and you failed to defend the commission of such offence.

Thus you have committed the offence of genocide as stated in section 3(2)(c)(i), 3(2)(c)(ii), 3(2)(g) and 3(2)(h) of the Act and also persecution of religious ground and deportation as crimes against humanity as stated in section 3(2)(a) of the Act.

Charge No 5

That on 13th April 1971 at about 1.00pm, you and your accomplices led the Pakistani army to attack Bonic para belonging to Hinuds of village Sultanpur in the police station Raujan. Before that you through your followers chanted slogans and told the people of Bonic para not to leave their houses but the local people and the female members and children went to different places. As a result your accomplices and the Pakistani army under the leadership of you and your father entered Bonic para and opened fire upon the unarmed civilian Hindu people pursuant to prearranged plan and thereby killed (1) Napal Chandra Dhar, (2) Monindra Lal Dhar, (3) Upendro Lal Dhar and (4) Onil Boron Dhar. Later on the houses were put on fire and you left the place. Later on Sonaton Biswas and his family who were hiding at that time left the place and went to India as refugee. All these actions were done with intent to destroy in whole or in part the members of Hindu religious group which amounts to genocide and the act of destruction of houses by fire is considered as crime of persecution as crimes against humanity.

Thus you have committed the offence of genocide as mentioned in section 3(2) (c) (i) and persecution as crimes against humanity under section 3(2) (a) of the Act.

Charge No 6

That on 13th April 1971 at about 4.00pm to 5.00pm you along with some of your accomplices led the Pakistani army and attacked Unsattar para under police station Rowjan, being Hindu populated area and brought the local Hindu people to the bank of pond behind the house of Khitish Mohajan telling them to attend a peace meeting and after that in your presence, they brush fired upon them indiscriminately pursuant to pre-arranged plan and thereby killed 1) Chandra Kumer Paul, 2) Tara Charan Paul, 3) Babul Mali, 4) Gopal Mali, 5) Shantosh Mali, 6) Balaram Mali, 7) Avimonnu Paul,

8) Pakhi Bala Paul, 9) Beni Madhab Paul, 10) Dhirandra Paul 11) Biroja Bala Paul, 12) Hemangshu Paul, 13) Shatish Chandra, 14) Shuprio Paul, 15) Durga Chandra Paul, 16) Shanti Bala Paul, 17) Nikunja Behari Paul, 18) Balaram Paul, 19) Sreeram Paul, 20) Fanindra Paul, 21) Tarapada Paul, 22) Pulin Behari Paul, 23) Nikunja Paul, 24) Hemanta Kumar Paul, 25) Shapon Kumar Sen, 26) Dhirendra Lal Chowdhury, 27) Nirmol Chowdhury, 28) Madhushudhan Chowdhury, 29) Santipada Chowdhury, 30) Nironjon Chowdhury, 31) Monindra Chowdhury, 32) Josna Bala Chowdhury, 33) Pritikana Chowdhury, 34) Monikuntala Chowdhury, 35) Kishna Rani Chowdhury, 36), Sree Pati Chowdhury, 37) Milon Dey, 38) Upendra Lal Gosh, 39) Monoranjon Gosh, 40) Babul Chowdhury, 41) Krishna Chowdhury, 42) Ranjit Mohajan, 43) Jogesh Mohajon, 44) Khetran Mohan Rudra, 45) Upendran Chandra Rudra, 46) Panjit Kumar Rudra, 47) Nakul Paul, 48) Protima Das, 49) Junu Gosh and 50) Badal Chowdhury and unknown 19/20 unarmed civilian persons. From the said occurrence Januti Bala Paul got gun shot injuries in her waist and the general Hindu people in order to protect their life took shelter in India as refugee. This act was committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part by killing members of Hindu religious group which amounts to genocide by killing and causing serious bodily harm to members of Hindu religious group and deportation by forcing the people to took shelter in foreign state India as refugee which is deportation as crimes against humanity.

Thus you have committed offence of genocide under section 3(2) (c) (i), 3(2) (c) (ii) and deportation as crimes against humanity under section 3(2) (a) of the Act.



Charge No 7

That on 14th April, 1971 at about 12.00 noon you along with Pakistani Army entered into the house of Satish Chandra Palit of Rowjan Powrasava. Satish Chandra Palit at that time came out of the house and while was talking with the Pakistani Army you told the Army personnel that he is a dangerous man and should be killed, hearing this the Pakistani Army asked Palit to go inside the house and while he was about to enter into the house, the Pakistani Army shot him to death and burnt the house along with the dead body. You then left the place along with the Pakistani Army. After that the members of the family of Satish Chandra Palit to protect their lives went to India as refugee and took shelter there. You had complicity in the murder of Satish as well as burning his house and his dead body which is offence of crimes against humanity and also in the matter of deportation of the family members of Satish to India as refugee which is also crimes against humanity.

Thus you have committed offence of crimes against humanity under section 3(2) (a) and 3(2) (h) of the Act.

Charge No 8

That on 17th April, 1971 at about 11.00am, the founder of Chittagong Awami League Sheikh Mozaffar Ahmed along with his family members while was coming from Roujan to Chittagong town, reached Khagrachory, Rangamati corner of 3 roads and on the showing of you the army persons present there surrounded the private car of him and brought down him and his son Sheikh Alamgir from the car and took them to the nearby army camp. The relatives of them then went to your father Fazlul Qader Chowdhury and requested him to arrange for release of Sheikh Mozaffar Ahmed and his son Sheikh Alamgir to which Fazlul Qader Chowdhury replied that he will look into the matter but the matter was solely at your disposal. Several times Fazlul Qader Chowdhury was contacted but similar reply he gave but the said victims did not return as they were subsequently killed. So it is clear that you had direct complicity in abduction and murder as crimes against humanity by killing the said 2 (two) persons.

Thus you have committed an offence of section 3(2) (a) and 3(2) (h) of the Act.

Charge No 9

In the middle of April, 1971 Pakistani Army came with big trucks to Boalkhali and you in a jeep also came to the Razakar camp of Boalkhali C.O. office at the same time and the said two trucks while were going to Kodur Khali caught hold of Santi Deb of Munsirhat and killed him at Bonic Para, northern side of the police station while you were staying in the nearby Razakar camp. At that time the Pakistani Army and Razakars looted the house of Ram Babu of Bonic para and Hindu para of Kodurkhali and put fire in the houses and destroyed them resulting deportation of the Hindus from the area and they took shelter in India as refugee you had led the whole operation sitting in the Boalkhali C.O office and also you abeted the said offences.

Thus you have committed the offence of genocide as killing members of a religious group under section 3(2) (c) (i), persecution on religious ground as crimes against humanity and deportation as crimes against humanity under section 3(2) (a) and abetment under section 3(2) (g) of the Act.

Charge No 10

After 13th April, 1971 on one day you with Pakistani Army came to the house of Manik Dhar of village Dabua under Rowjan police station and looted one jeep and rice machine and put fire in the house of local chairman Shadon Dhar.

Thus you have committed an offence of persecution as crimes against humanity under section 3(2) (a) of the Act.



Charge No 11

One 20th April, 1971 the Pakistani Army and the Razakars being supporters of Muslim League on the direction of you and your father Fazlul Qader Chowdhury jointly made arms attack in Sakhapura village being Hindu populated area under Boalkhali police station and indiscriminately fired and used bayonet in order to kill the people who had political and religious difference with you and they took shelter in the nearby jungle and paddy field and were killed. Later on it was found that names of 76 deceased persons could be identified who are 1) Foez Ahmed, 2) Jalal Ahmed, 3) Habildar Sekandar Ali, 4) Amir Hamja, 5) Abdul Hashim, 6) Abdul Matin, 7) Habibur Rahman, 8) Ahammad Safa, 9) Arobindo Roy, 10) Nikingo Roy, 11) Derandra Lal Dey, 12) Fanindra Lal Shil, 13) Nikunja Shil, 14) Pranhari Shil, 15) Nogendra Lal Shil, 16) Dibesh Chowdhury, 17) Gouranga Prashad Chowdhury, 18) Bishu Chowdhury, 19) Gouranga Nondi, 20) Topan Nondi, 21) Doctor Modushudon Chowdhury, 22) Ragu Nondon Chowdhury, 23) Neronjon Chowdhury, 24) Shukhendra Bikash Nag, 25) Rabindra Lal Chowdhury, 26) Upendra Lal Chowdhury, 27) Neronjon Chowdhury, 28) Bishsheswar Acharjo, 29) Doyal Hori Acharjo, 30) Kamini Shuklo Das, 31) Jogandra Lala Shuklo Das, 32) Debendra Sharma, 33) Jotindra Lal Sen, 34) Durzzati Boruya, 35) Pondit Romesh Chandra Boruya, 36) Raton Chowdhury, 37) Priotosh Chowdhury, 38) Chandon Chowdhury, 39) Nironjon Chowdhury, 40) Horiranjon Chowdhury, 41) Dilip Chowdhury, 42) Milon Biswas, 43) Shubol Biswas, 44) Brojendra Lal Chowdhury, 45) Gopal Chowdhury, 46) Derendra Chowdhury, 47) Ramoni Chowdhury, 48) Gournago Chowdhury, 49) Dayal Nath, 50) Rakhal Shingho, 51) Monmohan Chakraborti, 52) Shashanko Gosh, 53) Shukhendru Biswas Chowdhury, 54) Derandra Lal Chowdhury, 55) Borda Charan Chowdhury, 56) Monindra Lal Khastogir, 57) Bonkin Chandra Sen, 58) Shadon Gosh, 59) Gourango Chowdhury, 60) Dononjoy Koibarto, 61) Nolini Koibarto, 62) Natun Koibarti, 63) Shumit Ranjon Boruya, 64) Narayan Chowdhury, 65) Jotindra Lal Das, 66) Monindra Lal Das, 67) Romesh Chowdhury, 68) Doctor Shukhendru Bikash Datta, 69) Pradip Kanti Das, 70) Roy Mohan Chowdhury, 71) Lal Mohan Chowdhury, 72) Haripada Chowdhury, 73) Amot Chowdhury, 74) Amullya Chowdhury, 75) Doctor Purno Charan, 76) Modon Kumer Das and many others. As a result of this killing, the remaining people in order to protect their lives went to different places and many of them deported to India as refugee.

Thus you have committed an offence of genocide as killing members of a political and religious group under section 3(2)(c)(i) and deportation being crimes against humanity under section 3(2)(a) of the Act.

Charge No 12

That on 5th May, 1971 at about 10.30am to 11.00am you led Pakistani Army in the village Jagot Mollo Para under police station Rowjan. In your presence the Pakistani Army opened fire and killed Bijoy Krishna Chowdhury Rakhal, Bhevotibushion Chowdhury and Harandra Lal Chowdhury with intent to destroy in whole or in part members of Hindu religious group which is genocide.

Thus you have committed the offence of section 3(2)(c)(i) of the Act.

Charge No 13

On 10th May, 1971 at about evening on the direction of you and your father, your associates Oli Ahmed a peace committee member with Pakistani Army arrived at Ghashi Majhirpar area as the people of that area were supporters of Awami League entered and looted the houses thereat being politically enimical, killed 6 (six) persons by gun shots and 2 (two) were seriously injured and at least five females were raped. The deceased persons were Nurul Alam, Abul Kalam, Jane Alam, Mia Kha, Ayeasa Khatun, Saleh Jahur and injured were Munshi Mia and Khairul Bashar. Many others while were being taken, on hearing a sound of gun shot, the army left and those persons were escaped.

Thus you have committed an offence of genocide as killing members of political or religious group under section 3(2)(c)(i), genocide as causing serious bodily harm to members of a political group under section 3(2)(c)(ii), persecution on political grounds and rape as crimes against humanity under section 3(2)(a) of the Act.



Charge No 14

On 20th May, 1971 at about 4.00pm you along with your accomplice Razakar members and Pakistani Army went to the house of Md. Hanif, a supporter of Awami League at the bank of Karta Digi of Patherhat under Roujan police station, and abducted him and took him to Goods Hill which was under your control. The wife of Md. Hanif and others tried to get release of Hanif with the assistance of Nazma Khatun, a relative of you but she informed that you have demanded Tk. 1,000/- for his release which could not be paid. She also informed that Md. Hanif was being tortured by you. Ultimately Hanif did not return and was killed.

Thus you have committed an offence of abduction, confinement, torture and murder of said Hanif which is crimes against humanity under section 3(2)(a) of the Act.

Charge No 15

In the middle of May, 1971 Sheikh Maimum Ali Chowdhury while was in the house of captain Boktiar at Chandonpur and gossiping with his friends at about 3.00 to 3.30pm you along with Pakistani Army and some unknown persons in civilian dress came in 2 (two) trucks and surrounded the said house and arrested everybody present there. You then wanted to know who is Babu and as Sheikh Maimum Ali Chowdhury's nick name was Babu, he was taken to the nearby car and was taken to Goods Hill torture centre which was under the control of you and on your and your father's direction he was undressed and hands were tightened and he was severely beaten resulting his unconsciousness. Getting this news, his friends contracted the leaders of Razakars and peace committee and he was released.

Thus you have committed an offence of abduction, confinement and torture as crimes against humanity under section 3(2)(a) of the Act.

Charge No 16

That on 7th June, 1971 Omar Faruk was kidnapped by Razakar Maksudur Rahman, you and your father Fazlul Qader Chowdhury with the help of Pakistani Army from Jamal Khan Road and was taken to Goods Hill torture centre which was under the control of you and your father and later on he was killed on your order.

Thus you have committed as offence of abduction, confinement, torture and murder as crimes against humanity under section 3(2)(a) of the Act.



Charge No 17

On 5th July, 1971 at about 7.00/7.30pm you along with 2/3 accomplices and members of Pakistani Army abducted Nizamuddin Ahmed, Shiraj and Wahid @ Junu Pagla from the house of Jahangir Alam Chowdhury of Hajari Lane, Kotowali Police Station and took them to Goods Hill torture centre under your control and they were taken to the drawing room of that house where your father was sitting. They were abused and on his direction, you and your accomplices started beating them with robber clotted cane and then tortured them for 2/3 hours and then kept them in the garage of the house and they were also tortured there and interrogated. They were kept there up to 8.00 to 9.00pm and then they were taken to Chittagong stadium. Where they found more 10/12 persons. Victim Wahid @ Junu was released at one time and the remaining Nazimuddin and Shiraj were kept in cantonment and interrogated. They were kept till independence.

Thus you have committed as offence of abduction, confinement and torture as crimes against humanity under section 3(2)(a) of the Act.

Charge No 18

In the 3rd week of July, 1971 on one morning at about 5.30am a close associate of the father of you and Muslim League leader and chairman of Shikarpur Union Porishad late Shamsu Mia with 3 (three) accomplices went to the house of Abdul Motaleb Chowdhury in village Mohara under police station Chandgoan and kidnapped Md. Salahuddin and took him to the Goods Hill torture by a car of Pakistan Army and in presence of you he was brought down from the car and was taken to the first floor of the garage of the adjacent house by Pakistan Army and was interrogated and tortured and he became senseless and he was thrown out by the wooden shelf and fell in front of you and you asked in front of the Pakistani Military that no water came out from his eyes what type of torture has been done and then you tortured him and then he was kept in a room where in other tortured people were also there and one of them told that he will be taken out soon for murder and then you told that he will now get the result. Then you asked the Pakistani Army to take him out and kill him and he was taken out. Later, on giving bond, he was released.

Thus you have committed an offence of confinement, abduction and torture as crimes against humanity under section 3 (2) (a) of the Act.

Charge No 19

That on 27 July, 1971 at about 8.30pm the Pakistani Army arrested Nur Mohammad and Nur Alam from Mia Bari of Liakot Ali road under police station Hathajari and took them to Goods Hill torture centre after fastening their body with rope and got information as regards their another brother Mahabub Alam by torturing them and on that date at about 10.00 pm took the said Mahbub Alam from the tea stall of Saheb Mia to Goods Hill and tortured all the 3 (three) brothers. You took Tk. 10,000 (ten thousand) and released Nur Mohammad and Nur Alam from that torture centre on the next date but when they asked about their brother you told them that he is sick and can not go by walking. Later on Nur Mohammad came with a car and got information that his brother has been killed.

Thus you have committed an offence of murder, abduction, confinement and torture as crimes against humanity under section 3(2)(a) of the Act.



Charge No 20

That on 27/28 July, 1971 at about 3/4 pm the Razakars arrested Aklash Mia from in front of shop of Khoka of village Kadur Khali under police station Boalkhali and took him to Boakhali CO office Razakar camp from there and he was taken to Goods Hill torture centre under control of you and he was tortured to death from there.

Thus you have committed an offence of confinement, torture and murder as crimes against humanity under section 3 (2) (a) of the Act.

Charge No 21

In the first week of August, 1971 Fazlul Haque Chowdhury the union parishad chairman of Binajuri under Rowjan police station was arrested by you and Pakistan Army and took him to the circuit house torture centre and he was tortured and then he was taken to the Goods Hill torture centre and tortured there and at one point after 3/4 days of torture, he was handed over to Rowjan police station and later on he was released and he became crippled and died on 10 September, 1987. During his life time he told many people regarding the occurrence and also his witnessing of torture and murder at Goods Hills torture centre.

Thus you have committed an offence of abduction, confinement and torture as crimes against humanity under section 3(2) (a) of the Act.

Charge No 22

That in the 2nd week of August, 1971 at about 9.00 pm you and your accomplices of Al-Shams Bahini abducted Md. Nuru Chowdhury from the house of Abdul Hakim Chowdhury of Sadar Ghat, police station Double Morning and took him to Goods Hill and he was tortured there and he lost his conscious. On the next date he was taken to Chittagong Commerce College centre under your leadership to appear in the HSC examination but the college authority denied to allow him to sit in the examination as being injured and you admitted him into Chittagong medical college hospital for treatment. You collected Tk. 6,500/- from the father of Nur Alam Chowdhury and then released him.

Thus you have committed an offence of abduction, confinement and torture as crimes against humanity under section 3 (2) (a) of the Act.

Charge No 23

That on 2nd September, 1971 at about 6.15 to 6.30 pm., the accomplices of you tortured on Hindu employee of M. Salimullah to which M. Salimullah objected and he was threatened for that then they came with a team of Sindhi Police and took M Salimullah to the Goods Hill torture centre under your control and tortured him. After torturing for the whole night, he was released on the next morning.

Thus, you have committed an offence of abduction, confinement and torture as crimes against humanity as mentioned in section 3(2)(a) of the Act.

Thus you have committed the offences, under different provisions of section 3(2) of the Act, punishable under section 20(2) of the Act and within the cognisance of this Tribunal. And we hereby direct you to be tried by this Tribunal on the said charges. You have heard and understood the aforesaid charges.







70 Hindus killed in one day, Daily Star, Dhaka, July 16, 2012

Up to 70 Hindus killed in one day

7th prosecution witness testifies against SQ Chy

4.8Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury

Staff Correspondent

A witness to the genocide committed during the Liberation War in his description of wartime brutality yesterday said he had seen bodies of two pregnant women with their half-born babies.

Abbas Uddin Ahmed, seventh prosecution witness in a case against BNP lawmaker and war crimes accused Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 how brutally the Pakistani occupation force unleashed terror on the Hindus of Unsotturpara village in 1971.

About 60-70 Hindus of Unsotturpara in Rauzan in Chittagong were killed in a raid by Pakistani army on April 14, 1971, Abbas said, adding, he lost his friend in that attack. The witness said he had heard from locals that such killings were also committed in Kundeshwari and Jagot Mollo Para and Salahuddin Quader was involved, but he did not see the BNP leader at that time.



Abbas, 62, chairman of East Gujra Union Parishad of Rauzan, used to live with his family at Unsotturpara village during the War. The majority of people of that village were Hindus in 1971. Residents of Unsotturpara irrespective of age and race took part in the Liberation War, Abbas said, adding, he used to supply kedgeree for the freedom fighters in Chittagong. Locals had set up a check post putting barricade on the road for checking vehicles in Unsotturpara, he added.

Abbas said the erstwhile Muslim League's chief Fazlul Quader Chowdhury became furious over the check post while crossing the village in a Volkswagen car as he and his three sons including Salahuddin Quader and Giasuddin Quader had to get down. "In the evening that day [April 11, 1971], Punjabis patrolled the engineering college area. That's why many people left the place in fear," said Abbas.

The next day, the then chairman of Pahartali union Mofdul Hossain asked Niranjan Dutta Gupta, who had good family relations with Abbas, to call back the Hindus, the witness continued. Assured of no harm, Niranjan had called back the Hindus, Abbas added.

"On April 13, 1971 at about 4:00pm, Mofdul, Piaru and Burma Yousuf asked the villagers to gather at Hitoishi Mohajon's house. "Our leader will talk with you," Abbas quoted one of the three as saying. They however did not mention the name of the leader, he added.

"My friend Babul Mali rushed to my house. He told me that Punjabis came and asked them to gather at Hitoishi Mohajon's house. All Hindus of the village were going there," said the witness.



Abbas and Babul went to Unsotturpara School and saw Pakistani army going from north to south in a couple of cars. There were two civilians in the cars, but the witness could not identify them. Abbas and Babul then decided to move to their respective houses. "As I moved 200 yards further, I heard a loud bang. I looked back and saw Babul falling on the ground. A few moments later I heard the sound of rapid fire from the south," he said.

The next day Abbas learned that Niranjan had committed suicide as he could not bear the remorse that the Hindus, who were killed the previous day, had returned home at his request. On April 15, Abbas along with some of his friends went to Unsotturpara. Abbas said, "At first I saw the body of my friend Babul and his father in a stream. I went to the house of Hitoishi Mohajan where I saw 60-70 bodies." He said he buried the bodies with the help of some locals in a burrow.

As his deposition was made, the tribunal asked the defence to cross-examine the witness. Defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena completed his cross-examination by asking two questions. Ahsanul Huq asked him if it was true that Fazlul Quader and his sons did not go to Unsotturpara.

That is not true, replied Abbas. "Is it not true that you did not hear people saying that Salahuddin Quader was involved in the killing?" asked Ahsanul. Abbas again said that it is not true. Salahuddin Quader, who is facing 23 specific charges of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, was present at the tribunal.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until July 23. Earlier, the prosecution read out the opening statement in another war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami at the tribunal. Prosecutors Golam Arif Tipu and Altaf Uddin Ahmed read out the statement. In the statement, Altaf said Nizami who was chief of Al-Badr, incited people to join the anti-liberation force by holding rallies during the War. Following completion of the opening statement, the tribunal fixed July 22 for recording deposition of witnesses against Nizami. The Jamaat leader was also present at the dock of the tribunal.

On May 28, the tribunal framed 16 charges against Nizami for his alleged war crimes.



Brutally tortured at SQ Chy's residence, May 22, 2012

The Daily Star Ctg businessman tells war crimes tribunal of his harrowing experience
4.8Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury



A prosecution witness yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he was brutally tortured at Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's Goods Hill residence in Chittagong during the Liberation War.

Mohammad Salimullah, a businessman of Chittagong, in his 90-minute testimony told the court how he was abducted on September 2, 1971, taken to the house, tortured and kept hostage in a garage where he would have died had a Sindhi member of the police force not given him water. "I thought they would kill me eventually. I had lost all hope," said the 68-year-old witness. "At one point, the only thing in my mind was my then four-month-old daughter. I prayed to the almighty to protect her and keep her safe," Salimullah said in an emotion-choked voice.

He is the second prosecution witness in a case against Salauddin Quader regarding the BNP leader's alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War. Salimullah, who owned the Muslim Press in Chittagong, said on the evening of September 2, 1971, he was on his way to Goods Hill to appeal for the release of his two Hindu employees.

He had hired a house from a local Hindu person to arrange accommodation for his Hindu employees, who had been facing harassment by the Pakistani soldiers on their way to work at the printing press. The two employees -- Dawal and Swapan -- were abducted by the Al Shams force on false charges.

The notorious Al Shams force, which collaborated with the Pakistani army and actively opposed the country's liberation, used to abduct pro-independence people from different parts of Chittagong at the diktat of Salauddin Quader during the war, the witness said. The hostages were rounded up at the Goods Hill residence of Salauddin Quader's family, he added.

While Salimullah was on his way, the Al Shams force and a group of "Sindhi police" abducted him from Chittagong's Obhoymitraghat Road. Two "Sindhi police" members detained him, forced him into a car and drove him to Goods Hill along with a 70-year-old "Khalifa", the witness said. After reaching the house, Hamidul Kabir Chowdhury Khoka, Chittagong commander of Al Shams force, gave the soldiers an order in Urdu.

"Sala Malaun ka sarfarasti karta hai. Uska pa upar karo, ser niche koro" [he advocates for the Hindus, put his legs up and head down] was the order. Salimullah was then hung upside down from a pillar in the yard of Goods Hill. "They beat me up all over my body with the back of their rifles," he said. Tortured, he and the "Khalifa" were taken to the garage of Goods Hill house and were further tortured there. The garages in the house were used as "torture cells", where the abducted persons were held captive and tortured, said Salimullah. "While I was in the garage, I heard groans coming from two or three adjacent garages," he said.

Extremely thirsty, Salimullah slept through the night although he remembers seeing the headlights of a car outside the garage between 12:00 midnight and 1:00am. "Very early in the morning, I heard gunshots outside," he said. "Apparently, the sons of Fazlul Quader Chowdhury used to receive training in shooting every morning." During that hour, they also used to kill people who needed to be killed, he added. Salimullah told the tribunal he heard the sounds of a Sindhi police member reciting from the Quran in a very sad tone. That Sindhi police member later passed him a mug of water, which he was taking to the toilet. "I regained my life. That water perhaps saved my life that day."

At 8:30am, Al Shams commander Hamidul Kabir Chowdhury Khoka opened the garage door and embraced Salimullah, asking for forgiveness. He later found his nephew Mohammad Ishak and a friend named Shafiqur Rahman waiting outside, who asked him to go with them. Salimullah insisted that he would not leave without the "Khalifa" who had been tortured along with him. The Al Shams commander, however, refused to let the "Khalifa" go. "I never saw 'Khalifa' or my two employees ever again. I believe they were murdered."



বিএনপির স্থায়ী কমিটির সদস্য সাকা চৌধুরীকে শ্লেফতারের পর বৃহস্পতিবার কঠোর নিরাপত্তার মধ্য দিয়ে সিএমএম আদালতে হাজির করা হয় --সনি রামানী/ফোকাস বাংলা নিউজ

While he was being taken outside, Salimullah saw Saifuddin Quader Chowdhury, youngest brother of Salauddin Quader, standing beside the stairs. "My friend Shafiqur Rahman went towards him and angrily said the fact that they formed the Al Shams force and were torturing innocent people would not yield good results." According to the witness, the Chittagong Al Shams force was comprised of Khoka, Syed Wahidul Alam, Jafar alias Mahabub and Saifuddin Quader Chowdhury.

The force took hold of the house of a Runu Babu on Chittagong's Obhoymitraghat Road, and conducted their activities under the supervision of Salauddin Quader and leadership of Salauddin Quader's father Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, the witness added. "They used to travel in a red jeep provided by Fazlul Quader Chowdhury and leave the house at around 8:00am or 9:00am," said Salimullah.

They used to go to Satkania, Boalkhali, Patia, Raozan and other areas in Chittagong, and based on information from "sources", they abducted independence-seeking people, and torched and looted the houses of the Hindus. "If they saw any beautiful young girls, they would abduct them and bring them along," added the witness. The abducted people used to be tortured throughout the night, and the girls were handed over to the Pakistani army, he said, adding that many of the captives were killed and their bodies thrown into the Karnaphuli river from Kalurghat Bridge. He also told the court that in 2010 he identified the garage where he had been tortured and the road from where he had been abducted and showed it to the investigation officer.

"The garage used to have a wooden staircase beside it. I did not see it when I visited it this time," said Salimullah, adding, "I also saw some more tin-shed garages, which were not there when I was held captive. "I want justice. I have waited for this very day for 40 years," he told the court. The witness said the Al Badr, Al Shams and Razakar forces formed two separate Shanti Committees in Chittagong during the War. The Shanti Committee was formed to collaborate with the Pakistani occupation army and actively oppose the Liberation War movement. Salauddin Quader and Fazlul Quader Chowdhury led one of the two committees, the witness added.

The other committee was led by Mahmudun Nabi Chowdhury, he added. At one point during his testimony, the witness exchanged heated words with defence counsel Ahsanul Haq Hena. During the exchange, which involved the witness, defence, prosecution and the tribunal, Salimullah addressed the defence counsel as "Hena saheb" and commented that he was "advocating" for a war criminal. Trying to keep the situation under control, Tribunal Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq said: "He is not an expert witness. That is why there are certain problems." "I know him very well. He is quite an expert," was the answer from Ahsanul Haq.

The defence, which began cross-examining the witness yesterday, will resume it today. Salauddin Quader was produced before the court yesterday. He is facing 23 specific charges of crimes against humanity he allegedly committed during the Liberation War. He is among four Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP leaders facing similar charges at the tribunal-1, the first of the two courts formed to deal with such crimes.



15-16 Hindus murdered, War Crimes Trial, May 28, 2012

Third witness testifies against SQ Chy 4.8Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury

The third prosecution witness against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury told International Crimes
Tribunal-1 that he had heard from a freedom fighter that Salauddin and his men killed 15-16
Hindus at Unosatturpara of Chittagong during the Liberation War. Witness Sirajul Islam said one
Captain Karim on May 21, 1971, told him how the murders were committed. Karim was trying to
recruit Sirajul as a freedom fighter. He claimed that the captain was hiding in a bush near a marsh
along the road to Kaptai when he witnessed the murders.

He also told the court that a freedom fighter, who has now passed away, had told him that he had seen Salauddin kill Nutan Chandra Singh of Kundeshwari Oushadhalaya in Chittagong. Testifying against the lawmaker from Chittagong, the prosecution witness also claimed that Salauddin and his associates had abducted an Awami League leader and his son from Hathazari of Chittagong in April 1971. Sheikh Mozaffar Ahmed and his son Sheikh Alamgir were picked up from Tin Rastar Mor of Hathazari and were later killed. Their bodies were never found, the witness claimed.

The 64-year-old witness began giving his testimony on Thursday in the case against Salauddin, who is facing 23 counts of crimes against humanity charges at the tribunal. Tribunal-1, headed by Justice Md Nizamul Huq, yesterday finished recording the 220-minute deposition of Sirajul Islam alias Shiru Bangalee. The defence began the cross-examination yesterday but the proceedings were adjourned after just one question.



বিএনপির স্থায়ী কমিটির সদস্য সাকা চৌধুরীকে গ্রেফভারের পর বৃহস্পতিবার কঠোর নিরাপন্তার মধ্য দিয়ে সিএমএম আদালতে হাজির করা হয় --সনি রামানী/ফোকাস বাংলা নিউজ

In his testimony, Sirajul said on April 13, 1971, Salauddin along with Pakistani army personnel led a killing mission in the predominantly Hindu areas of Gahira, Sultanpur and Jagotmandal in Chittagong. The Pakistan army and its collaborators shot and killed people of different religions indiscriminately and looted their homes, he said. He said Salauddin's father Fazlul Quader Chowdhury had lost the 1970 general election to a young Awami Leaguer by a considerable margin. Fazlul's family was unhappy and they thought that the Hindu community's votes had cost Fazlul the election.

Salauddin and Fazlul led mass killings, looting and repression on women and forced them to leave the country to assert their dominance in the area, said Sirajul, who learnt this from Capt Karim.

Sirajul told the tribunal that in Khagrachhari he had met Bibhuti Bhushan, who was a freedom fighter from Raozan of Chittagong. Bibhuti has passed away. Sirajul said Bibhuti told him that he had climbed up a tree in Raozan, while he was going to Hathazari from Rangamati, as he had seen a convoy of Pakistani troops approaching. The convoy was moving toward Kundeshwari Oushadhalaya, a herbal medicine store. The Pakistani soldiers dragged the owner of the store, Nutan Chandra Singh, out and interrogated him, said Sirajul, quoting Bibhuti. After the interrogation, the army left, he said.

"As Salauddin Quader found his plan unsuccessful, he returned to the store a few moments later with two or three soldiers," said the witness quoting Bibhuti. "Shoot him," was the order from Salauddin Quader, who also shot a few bullets into Nutan for good measure, Sirajul said. Bibhuti witnessed the whole incident from the tree branch he was sitting on. Sirajul said he along with other freedom fighters had begun capturing collaborators from October 27, 1971. They caught a close aide to Fazlul, Haji Abdus Sattar alias Sattar Haji, during the Liberation War.

"On interrogation, I came to know that Salauddin saheb was injured by a bullet on September 20 during a guerrilla attack but managed to escape alive while his driver was killed," he said, adding, "Sattar showed me the September 21, 1971, issue of the daily Azadi as I had refused to believe his statement." Sirajul said the Al Badr force, led by Mir Kashem Ali, used Hotel Dalim in Chittagong as a torture cell. Sirajul said he had sworn to a martyred freedom fighter that he would kill Kashem Ali but could not keep his promise as Kashem went into hiding after November 15, 1971.

The Al Badr, formed to collaborate with the Pakistani army, actively opposed the country's independence. Salauddin's defence will resume cross-examining the witness today.

Meanwhile, Fakhrul Islam, a defence counsel of Salauddin, yesterday responded to the show cause notice the tribunal had served on him earlier. The notice was issued on May 15 against him in connection with calling prosecution witness Prof Anisuzzaman a liar before the media. According to the document submitted before the court yesterday, Fakhrul apologised unconditionally and sought mercy. Tribunal-1 fixed Thursday for hearing on his application. The tribunal also recorded the cross-examination of the investigation officer in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee for the 12th day yesterday. The cross-examination will continue today.



09 AKM Yusuf Jamaat leader indicted, 2013-08-01 **№**

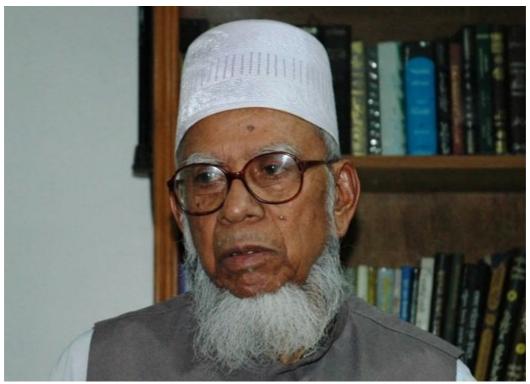
https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2013/08/01/jamaat-leader-yusuf-indicted 4.9AKM Yusuf



The second war crimes tribunal of Bangladesh has indicted Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf on 13 war crimes charges, including killing, genocide and arson. Justice Obaidul Hassan-led International Crimes Tribunal-2 gave an order indicting him of the charges on Thursday. The court fixed Sept 5 for beginning deposition by witnesses in the case.

The first war crimes tribunal ordered Yusuf's detention on May 12 and sent him to jail. The prosecution submitted charges at the ICT registrar's office on May 5. Yusuf's case was shifted to the ICT-2 on Jul 1 after the prosecution applied to the tribunal registrar pleading for the transfer on Jun 23. On Apr 22, a probe panel of the prosecution filed the report accusing Yusuf of involvement in crimes against humanity during the War of Independence.

Probe coordinator Hannan Khan had said they found evidence that the Razakars under Yusuf's command were involved in killing almost 700 people. The vigilante militia group Razakar - which has become synonymous with 'collaborator' in Bengali - supported the war effort of the Pakistani military junta during the 1971 Liberation War and committed widespread crimes against humanity. There were also evidence against Yusuf of looting and setting fire to 300 houses, 400 shops and of forcibly converting 200 Hindus, Khan had said.



4.9AKM Yusuf YUSUF'S BACKGROUND

According to the brief profile of the Jamaat leader read out by the tribunal, Yusuf's son of late Azim Uddin Howlader of Rajoir village in Sharankhola of Bagerhat, joined Jamaat in 1952.

He became the chief of Khulna division Jamaat in 1957. He started his profession as a madrasa teacher in 1952 and became the principal of Khulna Alia Madrasa in 1958.

In 1962, Yusuf was elected as a member of the National Assembly. He was nominated provincial joint secretary of Jamaat in 1969. In 1971, he was the deputy ameer of then East Pakistan Jamaat and he was one of the two provincial ministers from Jamaat.

According to prosecution documents, Yusuf established the Razakar force, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, on May 5, 1971, at an Ansar camp on Khan Jahan Ali Road in Khulna with 96 Jamaat activists.



Rapid Action Battalion men take Jamaat leader AKM Yusuf to Dhanmondi Police Station from Rab-2 office where he was kept immediately after his arrest at his house. Photo: TV grab

Bangladesh war crimes suspect AKM Yusuf seeks bail,13 May 2013

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-22509011



4.9AKM Yusuf

A leader of the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami party in Bangladesh is seeking bail after being arrested on Sunday for alleged war crimes, officials say. AKM Yusuf was detained in Dhaka and charged with offences during the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. His arrest follows the sentencing to death last week of another Jamaat leader, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, for wartime atrocities.

Defence lawyers say that Mr Yusuf is innocent and is being held illegally. They say that he was arrested by police before formal arrest orders were issued. The establishment by the government of a tribunal to prosecute war crimes suspects in Bangladesh is a divisive issue, with large demonstrations both for and against its rulings. More than 100 people have been killed in protests and counter-protests since January, when the tribunal sentenced senior Jamaat leader Abul Kalam Azad to death in absentia.



AKM Yusuf, the leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, was arrested in the capital Dhaka and charged with offences dating back to Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence with Pakistan.

Jamaat opposed Bangladeshi independence from Pakistan in 1971, but denies accusations that some of its leaders committed murder, rape and torture during the conflict. Mr Yusuf is alleged to be the founder of the infamous Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force set up to help the Pakistani army by rooting out local resistance. The Razakars were notorious for their operations targeting Hindus as well as civilians suspected of being sympathetic towards Bengali nationalists.

He is facing 15 war crimes charges, which include genocide, killing, looting, arson and forcing members of minority faiths to convert to Islam. His defence team argued that Mr Yusuf, 87, should be granted bail immediately because of his old age. Prosecutors however opposed the bail application, arguing that Mr Yusuf had remained politically active despite his advancing years and should remain in jail to prevent him influencing trial proceedings.

A judge at the court said that a decision on the bail application would be made on Tuesday. Four men have already been found guilty by the tribunal. Senior Jamaat leader Delwar Hossein Sayeedi was condemned to death in February and the party's assistant secretary-general Muhammad Kamaruzzaman received the same sentence on 9 May.

In February another party figure Abdul Kader Mullah was given a life sentence, while the previous month Abdul Kalam Azad, a former leader of the party's student wing, received a death sentence in absentia. He is thought to be in Pakistan.



Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf died on February 9 reportedly due to old-age complications, at a time when the case against him was at the final stage. He was 87.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami leader dies in prison, 10 Feb 2014

http://www.worldbulletin.net/news/128584/bangladesh-jamaat-e-islami-leader-dies-in-prison
4.9AKM Yusuf



This May 12, 2013 photo shows Rapid Action Battalion men taking Jamaat leader AKM Yusuf to Rab-2 office after arresting him at his Dhanmondi residence in the capital.

Imprisoned AKM Yusuf died while serving a sentence for war crimes on Sunday.

Maulana AKM Yusuf (87), Senior Nayebe Ameer of Bangladesh's Jamaat-e-Islami, died in a prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on Sunday morning. Yusuf was jailed for war crimes in the 1971 liberation war. Yusuf was taken to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital at around 11 a.m. on Sunday, after falling ill in his prison cell at Kashimpur central Jail-1 in Gazipur, about 30 km away from Dhaka.

The body of Yusuf has been handed over to his relatives on Sunday afternoon. Maulana Yusuf's son in law Dr. Abdul Wahab claimed that his father-in-law did not receive proper treatment at the hospital, after he was taken in on Sunday morning. However, BSSMU director, Abdul Majid Bhuiyan, said that the team "did everything possible for a heart patient".

Former Minister and Member of Parliament, Yusuf was senior Vice President of Bangladesh's Jamaat-e-Islami, the largest and leading Islamic party, in Bangladesh. He was a cabinet member of the East Pakistan government during the 1971 independence war of Bangladesh, and was known as the founder of the Peace Committee - created by the former Pakistan government.

After the 1971 war, Yusuf was sentenced to life imprisonment, and was released from jail in 1973, after being granted amnesty. However, in May last year, law enforcers arrested Yusuf after the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), a domestic court of war crimes, issued a warrant against him, 42 years after the 1971 war.

On August 1 last year, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 indicted Yusuf, senior nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, for his involvement in crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. The tribunal considered 13 out of 15 charges of crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War as proposed by the prosecution on May 8 last year which fall under sections 3(2), 4 (1) and 4 (2) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973.

Yusuf died of brain haemorrhage: autopsy, 2014-02-09

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2014/02/09/autopsy-done-yusufs-body-handed-over 4.9AKM Yusuf



Deceased war crimes accused Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf's body has been autopsied at the Dhaka Medical College morgue. "He suffered brain haemorrhage, which is common in case of strokes," Assistant Professor of Forensic Department AKM Shafiuzzaman said on Sunday evening after the autopsy. There was no evidence of external or internal injuries in the body, he added. Samples had been collected for viscera examination.

After the autopsy, Assistant Jailer Abid Ali of Kashimpur Central Jail, where Yusuf was imprisoned, handed the body to his relatives. Yusuf's son Mahbub Rahman told reporters the body would be taken to their Dhanmondi home and further decisions would be made there. Jamaat's Nayeb-e-Amir Yusuf, charged with crimes against humanity committed during 1971 Liberation War, died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital around 11am on Sunday soon after he was brought there from Gazipur's Kashimpur Jail.

In the afternoon, the International Crimes Tribunal had ruled against handover of Yusuf's body without an autopsy. ICT-2 Judge Mujibur Rahman Mia and Judge Shahinur Islam gave the order after the hearing a petition by Yusuf's lawyers, who argued that Yusuf's family had no objections to accepting his remains without an autopsy since it was a natural death. The tribunal, however, said since the deceased was in the custody of jail authorities at the time of death, it would like to know the cause of his death.

It ordered that all formalities be completed according to the jail code before Yusuf's body was handed over to his family. Yusuf's grandson AKM Tahsin around 5pm told bdnews24.com that Yusuf's remains were taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital from BSMMU after the court order. Yusuf's son-in-law Abdul Wahab earlier claimed that his father-in-law did not get proper treatment at the hospital after he was taken there in the morning. BSMMU Director Abdul Majid Bhuiyan dismissed the allegation and said, "We did everything possible for a heart patient."

Investigation had found evidence that Yusuf had formed the vigilante militia group Razakar – a name that has become synonymous with 'collaborator' in Bengali – in Khulna in 1971 and under his command almost 700 people were killed. Razakars aided the Pakistanis during the Liberation War and were responsible for large-scale atrocities. Yusuf was a member of the puppet provincial government formed by Pakistan during the Liberation War. He was also Jamaat's acting chief for some time.

Yusuf was indicted by the International Crimes Tribunal-2 on 13 war crimes charges, including killing, genocide and arson on Aug 1 last year. The tribunal had also set Feb 12 for the prosecution to begin argument. Yusuf was arrested on May 12 at his Dhanmondi residence hours after the tribunal issued the arrest warrant. The same day, the tribunal had taken into cognisance the charges against Yusuf submitted on May 5. According to the prosecution, Yusuf was the one who coined the term 'Razakar' for the auxiliary forces raised to collaborate with Pakistan during that time.

It was Yusuf, then Jamaat's head of Khulna region and a former MP, who trained 96 Jamaat activists as Razakars in Khulna. He also led all the anti-liberation war forces including the infamous Peace Committee, Razakars, Al Badr and Al Shams in the region. The charges also said Yusuf was both directly and indirectly involved in many crimes against humanity including genocide, murder, rape, loot and arson that took place in different areas of Khulna during the war.

After the war, the Jamaat leader was sentenced to life imprisonment under the 1972 Collaborator's Order. But he was released from jail on Dec 5, 1973 after the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman granted general amnesty.



Razakars killed 65 on a single day, January 20, 2014

http://www.thedailystar.net/razakars-killed-65-on-a-single-day-7531

4.9AKM Yusuf

Bagerhat freedom fighter testifies against Jamaat leader Yusuf



A freedom fighter vesterday testified that Razakar force formed by Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf had killed 60-65 people, mostly Hindus, at Ranjitpur village in Bagerhat upazila on May 13, 1971. Dilip Das from Ranjitpur told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that the marauding armed men also torched their houses and chanted slogans "Pakistan Zindabad, Yusuf Bhai Zindabad" while leaving the village.

Two of his relatives were killed in the attack, Dilip, the 21st witness in the case against Yusuf, said. The two-member tribunal led by Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah with Justice Md Shahinur Islam recorded Dilip's testimony before adjourning the case proceeding until today, when he will face cross-examination. Tribunal Chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan was not present at the court yesterday. During his 25-minute testimony, the 65-year-old Dilip said after the historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu and proclamation of independence on March 26, they [villagers] had formed Sangram Committee to guard their village.

"One day, we heard that Razakar force under the leadership of Yusuf Shaheb from Khulna will attack our village. He formed the force in Bagerhat with Razzab Ali Fakir, Siraj Master, Hafizuddin, Ishaq and many others," he said. "At that time, the looting began in Hindu dominated areas in Bagerhat and some people were also killed there," Dilip said. On the May 13 morning, Razakars attempted to attack Ranjitpur but had retreated as the villagers were ready with sticks and locally made weapons to resist them.

But Razakars attacked the village around 2:30pm, when some villagers went home to have lunch. "When some of us were on guard, Yusuf Shaheb's force comprising Razzab Ali Fakir, Siraj Master, Hafizuddin, Ishaq entered our village crossing the nearby river and opened fire (on the villagers)," Dilip said, adding that sensing a sure defeat, they took shelter inside bushes. "The armed men torched our houses and shot dead people who were trying to flee," the freedom fighter said. When attackers left the place, they came out of hiding and found the bodies of 60 to 65 people, mostly Hindus.

"Among the deceased, 24-25 people were from our village. My cousin Gobinda Das and brother-in-law Sanatan Das were also killed," said Dilip. After the incident, Dilip along with his family left for India on the night of May 13. He took arms training there and later participated in the Liberation War. Earlier in the day, Azab Uddin Mia, an assistant librarian of Bangla Academy library, testified as the 20th prosecution witness in the case. Azab, as a seizure list witness, exhibited some copies of newspapers of 1971, which were collected by the investigation officer of the case from the library.

Yusuf's counsel Mizanul Islam completed Azab's cross-examination asking only one question. Yusuf, a nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, is facing 13 charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide committed in greater Khulna district in 1971.



Maulana Abul Kalam Muhammad Yusuf

Bangladesh hit by Jamaat shutdown

http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/05/20135145217704963.html



The conviction of a Jamaat-e-Islami leader for war crimes prompted widespread protests by supporters [Reuters]

Bangladesh's opposition party, Jamaat-e-Islami, has called for a nationwidewide shutdown following the arrest of its leader, local media have reported. AKM Yusuf was arrested on Sunday shortly after an order by a tribunal for suspected war time abuses. Al Jazeera's special correspondent, reporting from the capital Dhaka, said that there had been some vandalism following the call for Tuesday's protests, but that the streets were relatively quiet.

Meanwhile, Ban Ki-moon, the UN chief, called for rival Bangladeshi political parties to calm tensions ahead of an upcoming election. In a meeting with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Ban also "reiterated his increasing concern about the recent wave of violence" linked to Islamic fighters in Bangladesh, said UN spokesman Martin Nesirky. Ban "stressed the critical importance for the political leaders of Bangladesh to engage in constructive dialogue, with a view to defusing tensions and resolving differences, including on governance arrangements during the upcoming election period," said Nesirky.

Collision course

The ruling Awami League and opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) are on a collision course ahead of a national election to be held in January 2014. The BNP and its smaller Islamist allies have threatened to boycott the polls if they are not held under a neutral caretaker government. The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has rejected the demand. The atmosphere has been further poisoned by clashes between police and Islam protesters last week. Dozens have been killed in those protests which started days after a court death sentence order against another Jamaat leader, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, who is accused of masterminding the killing of at least 120 farmers during the country's 1971 independence war.

Ban has sent an envoy, assistant secretary general for political affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, to try to bring the rival parties together. Speaking in Dhaka, Fernandez-Taranco highlighted the "significant increase" in violence in recent weeks, including the clashes between police and Islamist protesters. He said: "The views that I have heard suggest that there is ground for agreement but bridging the gap will require political will and commitment to resolve the remaining differences." SOURCE: Al Jazeera and agencies

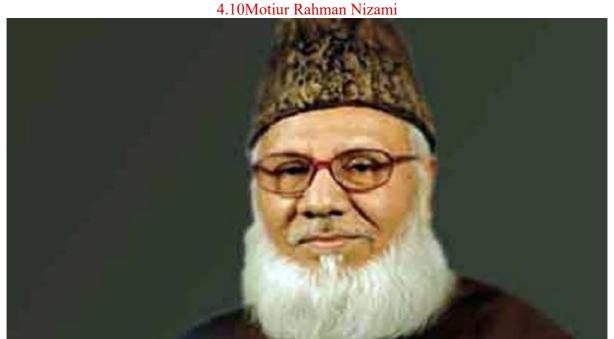


Jamaat-e-Islami supporters clash with police in Rajshahi on May 9. Reuters

10 Bangladesh Hangs Motiur Rahman Nizami For War Crimes, May 10, 2016 X

http://caravandaily.com/portal/bangladesh-hangs-motiur-rahman-nizami-for-war-crimes/





4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

Two ambulances went inside the prison to carry Nizami's body to his village for burial By Mainul Islam Khan

DHAKA – Motiur Rahman Nizami, the leader of Bangladesh's Jamaat-e-Islami group, who was convicted earlier of committing wartime atrocities, has been hanged. Jahangir Kabir, a prison official, confirmed to Anadolu Agency reporter that Nizami was hanged at the Dhaka Central Jail at 12:10 a.m. local time Wednesday (18:10 GMT – Tuesday). Security has been stepped up outside the Dhaka prison facility and all nearby streets have been barricaded and closed to traffic.

Nizami, 73, was earlier sentenced to death in October 2014 and accused of committing atrocities during war of independence of Bangladesh in 1971 by the International Crimes Tribunal. Preparations to execute the Jamaat-e-Islami leader began last Thursday when the country's Supreme Court rejected his request for a review of the death sentence issued against him. On Monday, the court's final verdict was issued and referred to the prison authorities.

The prison authorities then read the verdict out to Nizami, who was asked if he sought the mercy of President Abdul Hamid, to which Nizami reportedly replied in the negative. Nizami was born in 1943 in Sathiya village of the district Pabna – north of Bangladesh. His father was Lutfur Rahman Khan. Nizami attended school at a local madrassah. His political career started with Islami Chatra Sangha – student wing of Jamaat e Islami in the then Pakistan. Later he became the head of the organization of the Pakistan.

Nizami became the head of the Bangladesh Jamaat e Islami in 2001, when the then chief Gholam Azam stepped down. He was the minister of the country in 2001 to 2006 during the Bangladesh Nationalist Party alliance term. He was also the Member of Parliament from his own constituency Pabna-1 in 1991. Nizami had to leave Bangladesh after the independence when the then President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had banned Jamaat for its collaboration with Pakistan army during the war in 1971. He returned to Bangladesh in 1978 when the President Ziaur Rahman's regime.

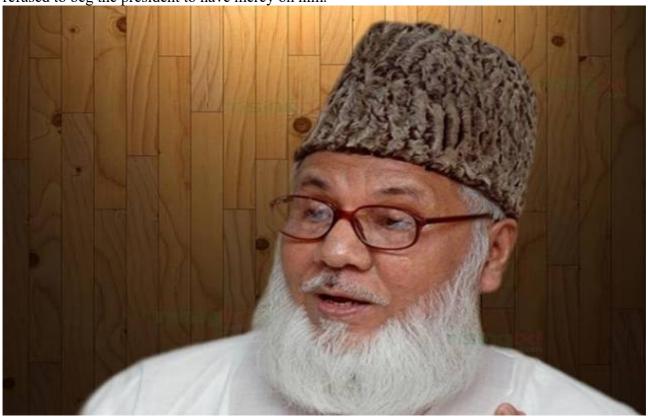
He is survived by his wife, two sons, their wives, grandchildren. His body is taken to his village – Sathiya of Pabna for his funeral and burial.

Bangladesh executes Jamaat-e-Islami chief Nizami for 1971 war crimes

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/bangladesh-executes-jamaat-e-islami-chief-nizami-for-1971-war-crimes/1/665098.html
4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

The executive order to carry on with the execution was passed after the Jamaat-e-Islami chief

refused to beg the president to have mercy on him.



Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami

4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

Fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami was today executed at Dhaka Central Jail for committing war crimes during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told India Today. With this, Nizami became the fifth war criminal to be put to death. The executive order to carry on with the execution was passed after the Jamaat-e-Islami chief refused to beg the president to have mercy on him.

To avoid any untoward incident, police cordoned off the area outside the prison gate at Old Dhaka's Nazimuddin Road. Security was tightened around the prison premises since Tuesday afternoon with additional police and RAB along with plainclothesmen roaming the area. TV footages showed that police formed a 20-yard perimeter around the main gate of the prison pushing back the crowds of reporters and camera crews and asked enthusiastic onlookers to keep a safe distance.

Witnesses said three cars carrying over 20 close relatives including his wife, two sons, their wives and a daughter reached the heavily guarded jail at 7.50 pm and came out at 8.40 pm. Nizami was given capital punishment by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in October 2014 after being convicted of "superior responsibility" as the chief of the infamous Al-Badr militia forces in 1971.

He was particularly found guilty of systematic killings of over 450 people in his own village. His final appeal against his death sentence was rejected by the apex court on May 5. "Motiur Rahman Nizami not only co-operated with the Pakistani invading force in committing various crimes against humanity but also masterminded the formation of Al-Badr Bahini and was a leader of this Al-Badr Bahini," read his appeal verdict.

He was entitled to beg pardon from the president by admitting his guilt, but the home minister at 8:10pm on Tuesday said, "Nizami did not seek mercy. The executive order to carry out the death sentence has been sent to the prison authorities."

Abdul Quader Molla and Muhammad Kamaruzzaman were the first two executed Jamaat leaders. Former BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and top Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid were the third and fourth high-profile political leaders to be executed.

Bangladesh: Terrorist Leader of Jamaat-e-Islami 'Motiur Rahman Nizami' Executed for Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity

https://shariaunveiled.wordpress.com/2016/05/12/bangladesh-terrorist-leader-of-jamaat-e-islamimotiur-rahman-nizami-executed-for-genocide-and-crimes-against-humanity/



4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

DHAKA: Bangladesh has executed head of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami party Motiur Rahman Nizami for war crimes committed during the 1971 war of independence to break away from Pakistan, the country's law minister said. Nizami was hanged at Dhaka Central jail at one minute past midnight local time on Wednesday after the Supreme Court rejected his final plea against a death sentence imposed by a special tribunal for genocide, rape and orchestrating the massacre of top intellectuals during the war.

Thousands of extra police and border guards were deployed in the capital Dhaka and other major cities to tighten security as Jamaat-e-Islami called for a nationwide strike on Thursday in protest of the execution. Previous similar judgments and executions have triggered violence that killed around 200 people, mainly Jamaat activists and police.

4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

Bangladeshi Islamist leader Motiur Rahman Nizami executed for war crimes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOAiX eODjo

Al Jazeera's Tanvir Chowdhury, reporting from Dhaka, said the situation was still calm in the capital by Wednesday and there were no reports of violence in other cities. "Unlike the last few years, Jamaat has not been able to materialize any kind of protest on the streets," he said, adding that this was mainly due to heavy-handed tactics used by the security forces.

"Jamaat supporters are not allowed to gather anywhere. Many of the leaders are behind the bars or on the run," he said. "Human rights groups have criticized the government for extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances. So, it is hard for them to gather anywhere. We will see what will come out of Jamaat's call for a 24-hour strike tomorrow from 6am." Jamaat-e-Islami denies that its leaders committed any atrocities. Calling Nizami a "martyr", it said he was deprived of justice and made a victim of a political vendetta. Nizami had been in prison since 2010.



'False allegations'
4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

A senior Jamaat-e-Islami leader based abroad told Al Jazeera that Nizami was a supporter of Pakistan in 1971 but "all other allegations of killing, murder and rape are not correct. The tribunal has miserably failed to prove any of those allegations." He said Jamaat leaders inside Bangladesh were not giving interviews because their phones were tapped and their families were harassed if they spoke to media.

"Not only leaders, thousands of middle-ranking and ordinary Jamaat workers have been forced to flee their homes due to police repression or harassment. They are refugees in their own country due the vindictive nature of this government," he said. "Their agenda is to wipe out Islam gradually and whoever they think opposes their policies is being targeted." Five opposition politicians, including four Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, have been executed since late 2013 after being convicted by the tribunal.

International human rights groups say the tribunal's procedures fall short of international standards – an accusation the government denies. According to Phil Robertson, the deputy director of the Asia division at the Human Rights Watch, the trial was neither free nor fair as the court was cutting corners on fair trial standards. "For example, Nizami was allowed to have only four defence witnesses as a man fighting for his life.

And the court did allow defence to challenge the inconsistencies in the testimonies of prosecution witnesses," he told Al Jazeera from Bangkok.

"Finally, we have seen a significant problem in all of these war crimes trials, where the presiding judge was having ongoing discussions about judicial strategy with external consultants and prosecutors in a way that raises concerns about the independence of the panel."



4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

David Bergman, an investigative journalist in Dhaka, told Al Jazeera that there was long-standing allegations against Nizami since the end of the war. "So the fact that there was a trial in which he was accused of these crimes is not itself political," he said, while also noting rights groups' criticism of the trials. "There are no doubts that many members of Jamaat-e-Islami are concerned about trials and executions targeting its members, and the party itself is subject to significant repression."

The war crimes tribunal set up by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2010 has sparked violence and drawn criticism from opposition politicians, including leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, that it is victimising Hasina's political opponents. According to the Bangladesh government, about three million people were killed and thousands of women were raped during the 1971 war in which some factions, including the Jamaat-e-Islami, opposed the break from what was then called West Pakistan.

The execution comes as the country suffers a surge in violence in which atheist bloggers, academics, religious minorities and foreign aid workers have been killed. In April alone, five people, including a university teacher, two gay activists and a Hindu, were hacked to death.

Motiur Rahman Nizami: Bangladeshi Islamist leader hanged, 10 May 2016

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-36261197

4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami



Nizami is the fourth leader from Jamaat-e-Islami to be executed in recent years

An Islamist leader has been hanged in Bangladesh for crimes during the war of independence from Pakistan in 1971. Motiur Rahman Nizami, 73, was executed early on Wednesday (local time), Law Minister Anisul Haq confirmed. He had been convicted of genocide, rape and torture. Nizami had led Bangladesh's largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami. Hundreds of people gathered near his prison in the capital Dhaka to celebrate the hanging.

Nizami was the fifth and highest-ranked opposition leader to be executed since December 2013 for war crimes. Bangladesh says the prosecutions are needed to heal the wounds of conflict but human rights groups say the trials fall short of global standards and lack international oversight.

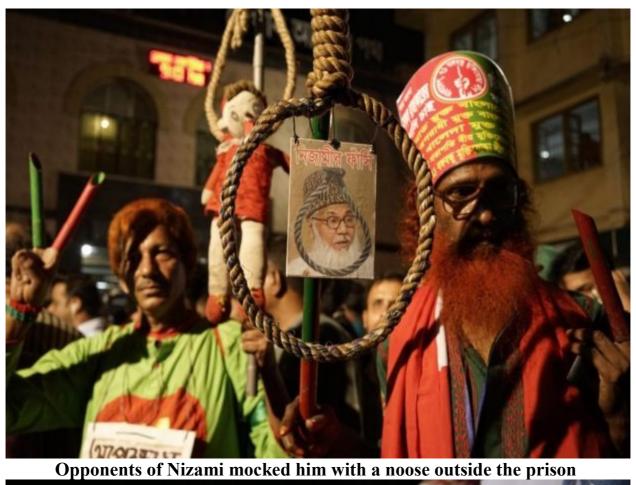
War crimes trial: Key accused
Watershed war crimes moment
Bangladesh country profile

'Deprived of justice'

Last week, Nizami lost his final appeal against the sentence. He was hanged after refusing to seek mercy from President Abdul Hamid.



People outside Dhaka's prison celebrated the execution, showing victory signs





Some people beat an image of Nizami with shoes to show their contempt



Police were deployed around Dhaka's prison before the execution



Nizami's relatives visited him before the sentence was carried out 4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

"Nizami has been deprived of justice," Jamaat's acting leader, Maqbul Ahmad, said. "He's a victim of political vengeance." The party also called for a nationwide strike on Thursday. Security was tightened across the country ahead of the execution.

Nizami is the fourth leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party to have been executed since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina set up a war crimes tribunal to look into abuses during the independence war. A former government minister, Nizami was one of the most important figures to be found guilty. He was convicted of setting up a militia which helped the Pakistani army identify and kill proindependence activists.

Nizami will be buried in his village home in the northern part of Bangladesh. His family met him briefly before his execution but left without speaking to the media, Bangladesh's Daily Star reports. The hanging comes amid a spate of killings of liberal activists, secularists, foreigners and members of religious minorities that the government has blamed on Islamists.

Bangladesh Islamist party leader to hang for war crimes, May 5, 2016

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-bangladesh-warcrimes/bangladesh-islamist-party-leader-to-hang-for-war-crimes-idUSKCN0XW0CZ

4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

DHAKA (Reuters) - Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a final appeal by the leader of the top Islamist party against a death sentence for atrocities committed during the 1971 war of independence, lawyers said, meaning he could be hanged at any time.

Reuters Video

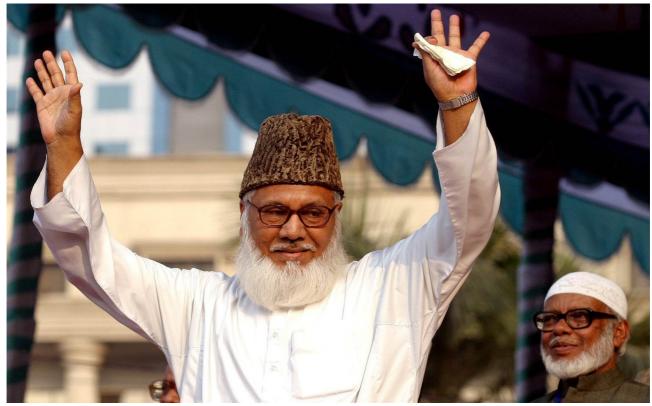
The Supreme Court in January upheld the death penalty for Motiur Rahman Nizami, head of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, for genocide, rape and orchestrating the massacre of top intellectuals during the 1971 war. Nizami, 73, a former legislator and minister under Khaleda Zia when she was prime minister, has been in jail since 2010, when he was charged with war crimes by a tribunal set up by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that year.

The war crimes tribunal has sparked violence and drawn criticism from opposition politicians, including leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, that it is victimizing Hasina's political opponents. "All the legal battles are over," Nizami's lawyer, Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, told reporters. "Now it is up to him, whether he will seek clemency from the president, or not."

Hundreds of people flooded the streets of the capital, Dhaka, to cheer the verdict, but there has been no report of violence, although Jamaat called a nationwide strike for Sunday in protest. Authorities have deployed additional security forces in Dhaka and elsewhere as similar previous judgments triggered violence that killed around 200, mainly Jamaat activists and police.



Police officers stand guard in front of the gate of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) before a verdict against Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami in Dhaka June 24, 2014. REUTERS/Andrew Biraj



4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

No Peace Without Justice, a non-profit body based in Italy, has called the tribunal's proceedings "a weapon of politically influenced revenge whose real aim is to target the political opposition". The government denies the accusations. The verdict comes as the Muslim-majority nation suffers a surge in militant violence in which atheist bloggers, academics, religious minorities and foreign aid workers have been killed.

In the last month alone, five people, including a university teacher, two gay activists and a Hindu have been hacked to death by suspected Islamist militants. The government has blamed the increase in Islamist violence on Jamaat-e-Islami, but the group denies any link to the attacks. Four opposition politicians, including three Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, have been convicted by the war crimes tribunal and executed since late 2013.

About 3 million people were killed, official figures show, and thousands of women were raped, during the nine-month war, in which some factions, including the Jamaat-e-Islami, opposed the break from what was then called West Pakistan. But the party denies that its leaders committed any atrocities.



4.10Motiur Rahman Nizami

11 MIR QUASEM TO DIE FOR WAR CRIMES 🔀

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2014/11/19/mir-quasem-to-die-for-war-crimes/4.11Mir Quasem Ali





WAR CRIMINAL

This is the 11th verdict by the two war crimes tribunals

The International Crimes Tribunal 2 has awarded death penalty to top Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali, known as a key financier of the anti-liberation party, for his alleged crimes against humanity and other offences committed in Chittagong during the 1971 Liberation War. Tribunal 2 led by Justice Obaidul Hasan pronounced the verdict around 11:30am on Sunday. The tribunal 2 has handed down death penalty to war criminal Mir Quasem on the charges 11 and 12 for killing seven people, including one Jasimuddin, after abduction.

He abducted six persons including teenage freedom fighter Jasim and tortured them in confinement from the day of Eid-ul-Fitr in 1971 to November 28, subsequently killing five of them and concealing their bodies. The Jamaat leader also abducted Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Tuntu Sen and Ranjit Das alias Latu and tortured them in confinement, looted and set their houses on fire. Later, he killed Ranjit and Tuntu in November 1971.

10 charges out of total 14, which include killings, conspiracy, planning, complicity, incitement and active participation were proved, the tribunal pronounced. He was awarded a total of 72-year imprisonment on other charges of abduction, conspiracy and planning. The charges no 1, 5, 8, 13 were not proved.

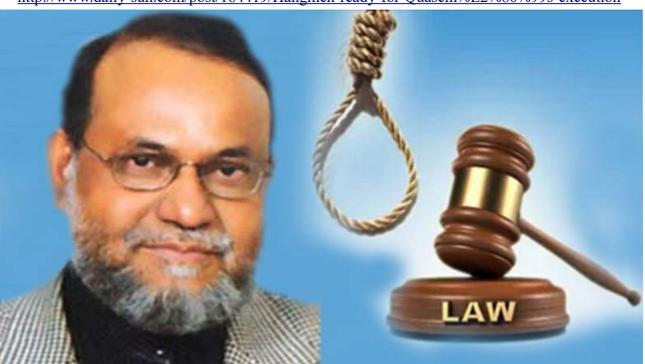
Earlier in the day, the war criminal was taken to the tribunal at 9:25am while at the dock at 10:40am. Justice Obaidul Hasan started reading out the summary of 351-page verdict at 10:55am. This is the 11th verdict by the two war crimes tribunals. Mir Quasem was a top leader of Chittagong unit Chhatra Sangha and in November 1971 became general secretary of the central committee. He was indicted by the International Crimes Tribunal 1 on September 5 last year. Later the case was shifted to tribunal 2 for quick disposal.

As many as 24 prosecution witnesses testified against Kashem. Charges against Quasem, also the chairman of Diganta Media Corporation that runs Diganta TV (operation now suspended) and the Daily Naya Diganta, were taken into cognisance on May 26 last year. Police arrested him on June 17 last year from the office of the daily Naya Diganta in the capital hours after the tribunal issued a warrant for his arrest.

Mir Quasem, who is originally from Munshidangi Sutalori under Harirampur in Manikganj, joined Islami Chhatra Sangha, then student wing of Jamaat, in 1967 while studying at Chittagong Collegiate School. He later became its Chittagong City unit general secretary. Mir Quasem played an important role in forming al-Badr Bahini that orchestrated systematic killing of freedom fighters and intellectuals.

He had set up makeshift torture camps at different places in the port city including Daleem Hotel in Andorkilla, where pro-liberation people were handed down punishment. Other allegations against him include involvement in mass killings in Asadnagar and Panchlaish areas. Mir Quasem in collaboration with the Pakistani occupation forces opened several torture cells in the city including Dost Mohammad Panjabi building and Salma Manjil where M Omar-ul-Islam and Lutfar Rahman Faruk among others were tortured following abduction. The Jamaat leader is also the member secretary of Fouad Al-Khateeb Charity Foundation. Nov 02, 2014

Hangmen ready for Quasem's execution, 3rd September, 2016 http://www.daily-sun.com/post/164419/Hangmen-ready-for-Quasem%E2%80%99s-execution



A total of four hangmen have kept ready for carrying out the execution of the war crime convict Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali. Hangmen Shahjahan Bhuiyan, Deen Islam, Shahin and Ripon are kept prepared for the execution. But Shahjahan Bhuiyan will lead the team. Deen Islam, Shahin and Ripon will assist him. They have already completed exercises related to hang the death-row convict Al-Badr leader Mir Quasem.

Hangman Shahjahan also led the executions of other war criminals, also Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mozahid, Motiur Rahman Nizami and BNP stalwart Salauddin Quader Chowdhury. As a part of the process, Kashim Central Jail authority sent letters to Deputy Commisioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP), Civil Surgeon of Gazipur over the message of executing Mir Quasem. A letter was also served to Mir Quasem's village address.



4.11Mir Quasem Ali





4.11Mir Quasem Ali

Bangladesh SC upholds death sentence for Jamaat leader Mir Quasem Ali for 1971 war crimes In March, the Supreme Court had upheld the death penalty for Mir Quasem Ali, 63, a media tycoon and key financier of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, for murder, confinement, torture and incitement to religious hatred during the war to leave Pakistan. Reuters | Dhaka, August 30, 2016



Mir Quasem Ali. Credit: Reuters

Bangladesh's top court on Tuesday rejected a final appeal by the leader of an Islamist party against a death sentence for atrocities committed during the 1971 war of independence, lawyers said, meaning he could be hanged at any time. The verdict comes as the Muslim-majority nation suffers a series of militant attacks, the most serious on July 1, when gunmen stormed a cafe in the capital, Dhaka, and killed 20 hostages, most of them foreigners.

UPHELD DEATH PENALTY FOR MIR QUASEM ALI

In March, the Supreme Court had upheld the death penalty for Mir Quasem Ali, 63, a media tycoon and key financier of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, for murder, confinement, torture and incitement to religious hatred during the war to leave Pakistan. "Now it is only a matter of time to execute the verdict, unless he seeks clemency from the president," Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters after a panel of five judges headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha rejected the appeal.Lawyers for Ali could not be reached immediately for comment on whether the party leader would seek clemency.

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL SPARKS CRITICISM

The war crimes tribunal set up by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2010 has sparked violence and drawn criticism from opposition politicians, who say it is victimizing her political opponents. The government denies the accusations. Human rights groups say the tribunal's procedures fall short of international standards, but the government rejects that assertion, and the trials are supported by many Bangladeshis. Authorities have deployed additional security forces in the capital, Dhaka, and elsewhere, as similar previous judgments triggered violence that killed around 200, mainly Jamaat activists and police.

PARTY RUBBISHES CLAIMS

Since December 2013, four Jamaat leaders, including former top leader Motiur Rahman Nizami, and a leader of the main opposition party, led by former premier Khaleda Zia, have been executed for war crimes. Official figures show about 3 million people were killed and thousands of women raped during the nine-month war, in which some factions, including the Jamaat-e-Islami, opposed the break from what was then called West Pakistan. But the party denies its leaders committed any atrocities.





Mir Quasem Ali

Present status: Member of Jamaat's Central Executive Council and top financer of Jamaat

Status in 1971: President of Islami Chhatra Sangha in Ctg town and alleged chief of Ctg Al-Badr Force

Charges: 14 (abduction, confinement, torture and killing)

Time and place of offences: November and December 16, 1971; Chittagong

Prosecution witnesses: 24

Defence witnesses: 3



Security tightened around Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur in anticipation of execution of Jamaat leader and war crimes convict Mir Quasem Ali. Picture on Saturday afternoon. Photo: asif mahmud ove

Bangladesh hangs Islamist party's top financier By Afp

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3772950/Bangladesh-hangs-Islamist-partys-financier.html

Published: 08:14 GMT, 4 September 2016

4.11Mir Quasem Ali

Bangladesh has executed a tycoon and top financier for the largest Islamist party for war crimes, dealing a major blow to its ambitions in the troubled Muslim-majority country. Mir Quasem Ali, a key leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, was hanged late Saturday after being convicted by a controversial war crimes tribunal of murder and abduction during the 1971 independence conflict with Pakistan. He was hanged at a high-security jail in Gazipur north of the capital. His body was taken to his ancestral village in the central district of Manikganj, flanked by police, for burial early Sunday.



Bangladeshi activists who fought in the 1971 war, celebrate after Mir Quasem Ali, leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was executed at Kashimpur Central Jail on the outskirts of Dhaka, on September 3, 2016 ©Rehman Asad (AFP)

"Several dozen people, mostly family members, attended his funeral prayers," local police chief Nazrul Islam told AFP. Ali is the fifth prominent Jamaat leader to have been executed for war crimes following their trials at the tribunal set up by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's secular government in 2010. The 63-year-old's death is a major setback for the party which he had helped revive by setting up charities, businesses and trusts linked to it after it was allowed to operate in the late 1970s.

Security was tight before his execution, even though the party has in recent months eschewed violent protests in reaction to war crimes verdicts and there was no immediate sign of unrest. The tribunal has divided the country, with supporters of Jamaat and the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) branding the trials a sham aimed at eliminating their leaders. The hanging comes as the country reels from a rise in militant attacks including a siege at an upscale cafe in Dhaka in July that killed 22 people mostly foreigners. Some 1,000 police were deployed in Gazipur before Ali's hanging, officials said.

Jamaat, which is banned from contesting elections, called a nationwide strike for Monday, saying Ali was "murdered" for playing a "key role in the Islamic movement" in Bangladesh. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan warned Islamists against any "unruly" activities.

Hundreds of people in Dhaka and Chittagong held impromptu street celebrations late Saturday as news of the execution was broadcast on television. The conviction and execution of Jamaat officials plunged Bangladesh into one of its worst crises in 2013, when tens of thousands of Islamist activists clashed with police in protests that left some 500 people dead.

In the same year the government launched a nationwide crackdown on Jamaat activists in which tens of thousands of Islamists were either detained or charged over the protests.

- Notorious militia -

Prosecutors said Ali was a key commander of a notorious pro-Pakistan militia in the southern port city of Chittagong during the war, and later became a shipping, banking and real estate tycoon. Before he was arrested in 2012, Ali headed a corporation which owns a pro-Jamaat daily and a television station that was shut down in 2013 for fueling religious tensions. He was convicted in November 2014 of a series of war crimes including the abduction and murder of a young independence fighter.

Hasina's government has defended the trials, saying they are needed to heal the wounds of the conflict. But a group of United Nations human rights experts last week urged Dhaka to annul Ali's death sentence and questioned the fairness of the trial. Mubashar Hasan, an expert on political Islam who teaches at the country's private North South University, said the executions have decimated Jamaat's leadership, with most of their "kingpins gone".

The party could be forced, as a result, to adopt a more moderate ideology given the strong backlash in Bangladesh against gruesome militant attacks, to retain supporters, Hasan said. "Second, there is a possibility that some members of the party may be inclined to be violent," he told AFP.



Ambulance carrying the body of Mir Quasem Ali, leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, leaves Kashimpur Central Jail on September 3, 2016, after he was executed for war crimes committed during the 1971 independence war with Pakistan ©Rehman Asad (AFP)



Relatives of Bangladeshi Jamaat-e-Islam financier Mir Quasem Ali arrive at Kashimpur Central Jail on the outskirts of Dhaka, on September 3, 2016 ©Rajib Dhar (AFP)



Then Bangladeshi Jamaat-e-Islami party leader, Mir Quasem Ali, waves outside the International Crimes Tribunal court in Dhaka, in 2014 ©- (AFP/File)



An ambulance leaves Kashimpur Central Jail carrying the body of Jamaat-e-Islami party's senior leader Mir Quashem



Family members of Ali arrive to meet him before his execution at the Kashimpur Central Jail



The execution took place amid a spate of militant attacks in the Muslim-majority nation, the most serious on July 1



Bangladeshi security guards in front of Kashimpur Central Jail earlier today



Ali was convicted of 14 war crimes committed during Bangladesh's 1971 independence conflict with Pakistan (Bangladeshi police at the Supreme Court in Dhaka)



Bangladeshi protesters who fought in the 1971 independence conflict celebrated the supreme court's decision to reject Ali's appeal against his death sentence



Bangladeshi activists celebrate after the sentencing of Jamaat-e-Islami party leader Mir Quasem Ali in 2014

12 BNP leader and former minister Abdul Alim 12 Abdul Alim 12 Abdul Alim



Crimes against humanity: Ex-BNP MP Abdul Alim arrested

Dhaka, 27 March: Former BNP lawmaker Md Abdul Alim has been arrested on charges of crimes against humanity in 1971. Police picked him in front of his Joypurhat residence on Sunday evening, said the district's superintendent of police.

Earlier, the International Crimes Tribunal issued the arrest warrant for Alim who was a member of Ziaur Rahman's cabinet. A three-judge panel headed by Justice Nizamul Huq ordered police to produce Alim before the tribunal within 24 hours of his arrest, excluding the journey period. The court, however, directed law enforcers to consider health of Alim, aged over 80, while arresting him and producing him before it.

The tribunal issued the warrant in response to a petition filed by the prosecutors on 23 March. Alim was involved in the killing of more than 10,000 innocent people with the assistance of Razakars and Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War, reads the petition. The petition also stated that Alim, the then peace committee chairman in Joypurhat, killed local Awami League leader Dr Abul Kashem on 26 July, 1971.



Bangladesh ex-minister Abdul Alim jailed for war crimes, 09 Oct 2013



A special war crimes tribunal in Bangladesh has handed a life sentence to a former opposition minister. Abdul Alim of the Bangladesh National Party was found guilty of nine of 17 charges dating back to the country's 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. Six current and former leaders of the main Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami, have recently been convicted by the same tribunal. Alim, 83, was told he was spared the death penalty because of his age and infirmity.

Order to submit Alim's appeal summary, 2014-02-25



The Supreme Court has asked for the summary of the appeal filed against the war crimes tribunal verdict on former BNP minister Abdul Alim.

The five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain on Tuesday asked counsels to submit the summary by Mar 11. Abdul Alim had filed an appeal against the International Crime Tribunal's verdict on Nov 7. His lawyer Tajul Islam told the media at that time: "He had been accused on 17 counts. The tribunal handed down the punishment as nine of the allegations had been proved. We have 120 reasons to argue why Alim should be acquitted".

"We have made it clear in the appeal that the grounds for Alim's punishment are weak," Islam said. He claimed that Alim had no link with the 'Peace Committee', as, according to him, Alim was in hiding in his village home during the entire duration of the war. On Oct 9, 2013, the International Crimes Tribunal -2 had sentenced Alim for life for committing large-scale atrocities with Razakars in Joypurhat to crush the freedom struggle.

The tribunal said that Alim's conviction calls for capital punishment but the judgment takes into account his health and age and has therefore given him life sentence to be kept in prison until he dies naturally. Once a Muslim League leader who went on to serve Ziaur Rahman as a minister, Alim is the second BNP leader to be convicted and the third former minister to be found guilty of crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.



Security personnel stand guard in front of the ICT on Wednesday as the verdict against BNP leader Abdul Alim is being pronounced. Photo: nayan kumar/bdnews24.com



BNP leader Abdul Alim is being taken to the International Crimes Tribunal from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on Wednesday. Photo: tanvir ahammed

BNP leader Abdul Alim is being taken to the International Crimes Tribunal from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on Wednesday. Photo: tanvir ahammed/bdnews24.com















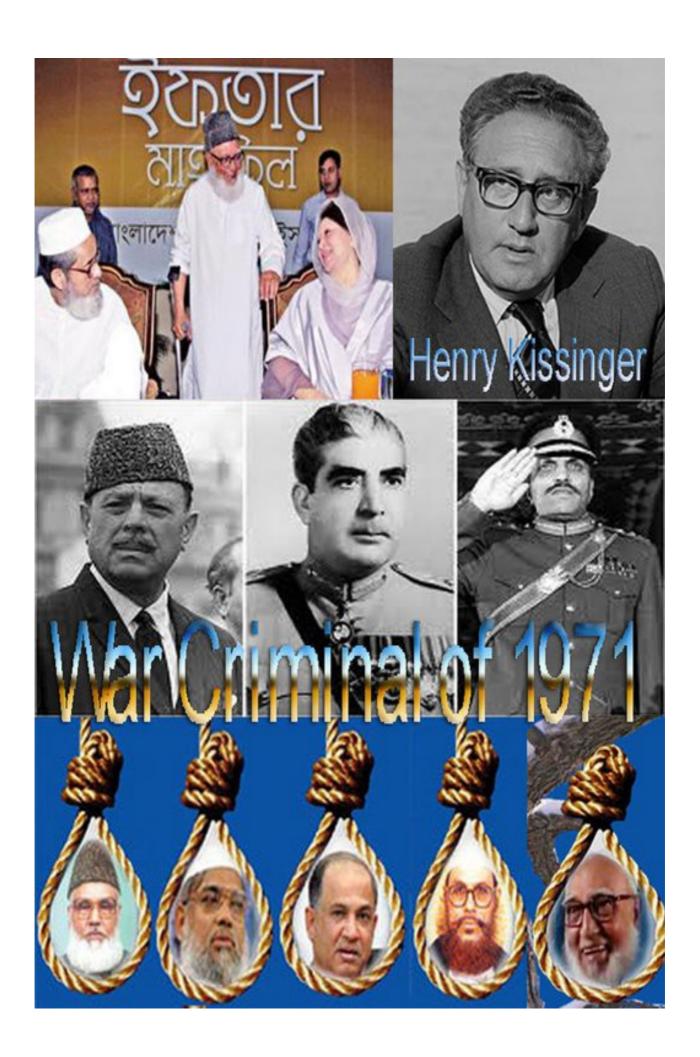




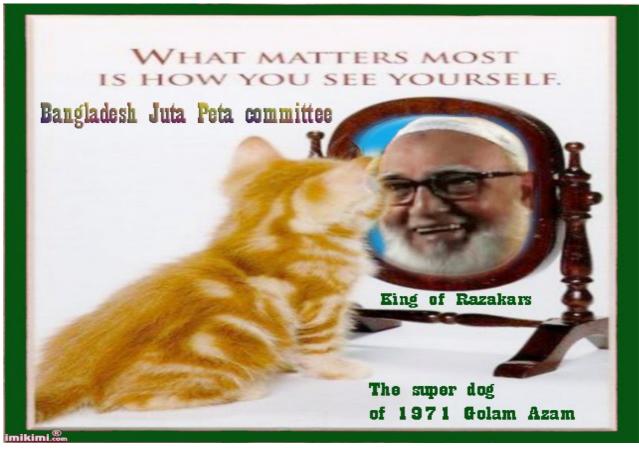














13 Ashrafuzzaman Khan Death-RUN - Nov 3, 2013 🔀



Name: Ashrafuzzaman Khan

Nationality: United States Context: Bangladesh

Charges: Crimes against humanity, Deprivation of life

Status: Sentenced

Judgement Place: Bangladesh

Particulars: Sentenced to death in absentia by the International War Crimes Tribunal (Bangladesh),

on 3 November 2013

Ashrafuzzaman Khan was born on 28 February 1948, in Faridpur, Bangladesh.

Khan studied at the University of Dacca (Bangladesh), where he became a member of Islami Chatra Sangha, the student wing of the Pakistani Islamist Party Jamaat-e-Islami. He graduated from the university in 1970.

In 1971, during the Bangladesh War of Liberation, he was considered to be the "Commander in Chief" of the pro-Pakistani Al-Badr Militia, and said to have participated during the last days of the war, in the abduction and murder of 18 Bangladeshi intellectuals (journalists, doctors and university professors). After the proclamation of Independence by Bangladesh, Khan went to live in Pakistan, then later to the United States of America where he gained American citizenship.

In the United States, he became President of the "Imams of America" Association and Secretary General of the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA). During the time he was a Board Member of the New York branch of the ICNA, Khan was put under investigation by the Investigation Office of the International War Crimes Tribunal (Bangladesh).

On 28 April 2013, the Prosecutor of the Tribunal issued an indictment against Khan and Chowdhury Mueen Uddin, another presumed member of Al-Badr, for the murder of 18 intellectuals during the 1971 War of Liberation, based on the offenses being crimes against humanity.

legal procedure

On 28 April 2013, the Prosecutor of the Tribunal issued an indictment against Khan and Chowdhury Mueen Uddin, another presumed member of Al-Badr, for the murder of 18 intellectuals during the 1971 War of Liberation, based on the offenses being crimes against humanity.

On 28 April 2013, the Tribunal issued an arrest warrant against both of the accused in an attempt to ensure that they would be present at the trial. However, in the absence of an extradition treaty between Bangladesh and the United States, Khan did not present himself for the hearings and was therefore tried in absentia, as was the case for his co-defendant, Uddin.

The trial opened on 15 July 2013. Both of the defendants were charged with 11 counts of indictment. Their defense lawyers argued in favor of their innocence, attributing responsibility for the alleged murders to the Pakistani army. However no defense witnesses were called to the bar to support this premise.

The two defendants were subsequently found guilty on 11 counts, and sentenced in absentia to the death penalty by hanging, on 3 November 2013 by Tribunal 2, for having "encouraged,(....), given moral support and (....)having participated in the murder of 18 intellectuals".

spotlight

Following the announcement of the verdict, violent demonstrations broke out in Dacca, with the opponents to the ruling demanding the departure of the Bangladeshi Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina.

context

THE 1971 BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR

The 1947 partition of India resulted in the emergence of the country of Pakistan out of two territories: West Pakistan (today's Pakistan) and East Pakistan (today's Bangladesh). As a response to the Awami League victory in the 1970 general elections, the Pakistan Army launched Operation Searchlight on 25 March 1971, a massive military operation designed to curb the nationalist movement in East Pakistan. The armed conflict became known as the "Liberation War" and lasted until 16 December 1971.

The conflict involved widespread killings and other atrocities –forced displacement, disappearances, destruction and confiscation of property, torture and sexual violence– carried out by the Pakistan Army with the assistance of religious and political groups from East and West Pakistan. The exact number of victims of the conflict is not established. Bangladeshi authorities claim that 3 million people were killed while a Pakistan Government investigation states the figure of 26,000. The conflict also led to a major humanitarian crisis, with eight to ten millions refugees fleeing to India. Sexual violence was allegedly used as a weapon of war, with an estimated 200.000 women victims of rape.



INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL ACT (ICTA)

On 20 June 1973, the ICTA was adopted to provide for the prosecution of any persons for "crimes against humanity, genocide, crimes against peace, war crimes, violation of any humanitarian rules and any other crimes under international law" committed in Bangladesh. The ICTA, using the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal Charter as a template, was to serve as a basis for a national tribunal.

However, efforts ended with the military coup of 1975. The new regime also repealed the 1972 Collaborator's Act, which had been designed to bring to account those who had collaborated with the Pakistan Army. As a result, prosecutions of "collaborators" who did not fall under the 30 November 1973 amnesty were stopped, and all those detained and convicted were pardoned and released.

In 2008, the ICTA was resuscitated in the election manifesto of the Awami League. In 2009, the elected Awami League government adopted a resolution to initiate the establishment of a civilian court, which led to the 2009 amendment of the ICTA. In March 2010, the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up and its Rules of Procedure were adopted on 15 July 2010.

The ICT has generated criticism from the international community, including the UN Working Group on arbitrary detention, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the US Ambassadorat-large for War Crimes Issues. This criticism mainly addresses the lack of fair trial standards. The European Union has also voiced its concern with regards to the potential application of the death penalty.

LIMITATIONS TO THE TRIAL OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMES

Several legislative and executive orders granted immunity to groups involved in the 1971 Liberation War. In February 1973, shortly before the ICTA, the Bangladesh National Liberation Struggle (Indemnity) Order granted immunity to all freedom fighters for acts committed in connection with the "Liberation Struggle". On 30 November 1973, a general amnesty was declared for all Bangladesh citizens who had collaborated with the Pakistan Army, with the exception of those accused of murder, rape, arson or genocide. Finally, the early 1974 tripartite agreement organised the return of Pakistani prisoners of wars, including those accused of committing war crimes, without charging them.

The ICTA was, however, never repealed. It provides for the prosecution of Bangladeshi nationals who were not granted immunity for international crimes committed during the Liberation War.

Over in neighboring Queens, Ashrafuzzaman Khan, Bangladesh's most wanted war criminal, heads up the local Islamic Circle of North America, whose Islamist thugs beheaded poets and buried professors in mass graves.



Convicted Bangladeshi war-criminal Ashrafuzzaman Khan of ICNA is hiding in NYC's Little Bangladesh.

14 Zahid Hossain Khokon Nov 13 2014 Death - 🔀



Name: Zahid Hossain Khokon

Nationality: Bangladesh Context: Bangladesh

Charges: Crimes against humanity, Deprivation of liberty, Infringment of physical integrity, War

crimes, Protection of civilians, Genocide

Status: Sentenced

Judgement Place: Bangladesh

Particulars: Sentenced to death for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War

of Bangladesh in 1971

Zahid Hossain Khokon, also known as Khokon Razakar, was born on 11 January 1942 in Nagarkanda, a village under Nagarkanda Upazila, in Faridpur, Bangladesh. Khokon was a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader in Nagarkanda during the Bangladesh Liberation War and became chief of Nagarkanda Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force supporting the Pakistani army.

On 21 April, 1971, Khokon took arms training in order to become a Razakar.

In May, 1971 Khokon, along with his elder brother, Zafor Khokon, formed a Razakar Bahini in their local area. After the death of his elder brother in a combat with freedom fighters, Zahid Khokon took absolute leadership, becoming commander of the local Razakar Bahini. Khokon was directly involved in the commission of crimes against humanity and genocide, committed in the district of Nagarkanda, Faridpur.

During the Bangladesh Liberation War, Khokon maintained close and active association with the Pakistani occupation army.

On 27 April 1971 Khokon and his accomplices went to the village of Bangram where they plundered and set fire to the houses of two villagers. They also took seventeen innocent locals to the police station and detained and tortured them there for two days.

Khokon was also involved in several war crimes which left at least 50 people dead, and eight others seriously injured; two women were also raped. In addition Khokon was directly involved in the deportation of seven people and in the forced conversion to Islam of nine Hindus, and in setting fire to numerous houses and two temples.

In the aftermath of the Liberation War, Khokon joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) giving up Jamaat-e-Islami politics. He became the senior vice-president of BNP of Nagarkanda Thana unit and elected Mayor of Nagarkanda Pourashava. The government removed him from office after his trial started in 2013.

The trial against Khokon began on 23 June 2013 when the Chief Prosecutor submitted formal charges under section 9(1) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act of 1973 before the International Crimes Tribunal – 1.

legal procedure

The trial against Khokon began on 23 June 2013 when the Chief Prosecutor submitted formal charges under section 9(1) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act of 1973 before the International Crimes Tribunal – 1 (ICT-1).

On 13 September 2013, the ICT-1 indicted Khokon on 11 charges of crimes against humanity including extermination, murder, rape, abduction, confinement, oppression, arson, looting and forced conversion of Hindus to Islam and deportations. The Tribunal issued an arrest warrant against Khokon, but this remained unserved as he was absconding, most probably in Sweden.

Khokon's defense team has categorically challenged the identity of the accused. However, according to the Judges of the ICT-1, the evidence of witnesses regarding the identity of the accused left no room to doubt that the prosecution has brought the real perpetrator to book.

The ICT-1 agreed the view that all of the charges with the exception of the first charge of abduction brought against the accused have been proved beyond reasonable doubt, thanks to reliable investigations and the evidence provided by several witnesses.

On 13 November 2014, Khokon was found guilty of the offences of murder, torture, deportation, rape, confinement, abduction and other inhumane acts, which fall within the purview of crimes against humanity as specified in section 3(2)(a)(g) and (h) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973. He has been sentenced to death for six charges and a total of 40 years imprisonment for the remaining four. These sentences will be merged into a single death sentence to be applied after Khokon's arrest or when he surrenders before the ICT-1.

After the verdict was handed down, the Prosecutor told reporters that he believed that Khokon had fled to Sweden where he is currently hiding out with his relatives, who are currently residing there.



Tribunal sentences Khokon Razakar to death

ICT-1 headed by Justice M Enayetur Rahim found him guilty of ten among the 11 charges against him on Thursday morning. He has been awarded death for six charges and a total of 40 years of imprisonment in the remaining four. The judges began delivering the 109-page verdict against the absconder at 11am Thursday.

The court said he should be hanged for Charge no 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for genocide, murder, abduction, confinement, torture, arson and loot.

The six charges described violent acts unleashed from the morning of May 30 to the morning of June 1, 1971. Besides that he was given a total 40 years in prison for Charge no 2, 3, 4 and 11 for rape, forced conversions and deportations.

The verdict on Khokon is the war crimes tribunal's third on absconding individuals. The convict can file an appeal before the end of a month, but is only entitled to do it if he surrenders.

Earlier in 2013, the tribunal in its first verdict sentenced former Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad aka Bacchu Razakar to death in absentia. In its ninth, it handed death to former Al-Badr leaders Ashrafuzzaman Khan and Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin, both of whom are living abroad.

Hossain who joined the BNP after Ziaur Rahman came to power, had campaigned for the Jamaat-e-Islami in the election in 1970. The 66-year old was elected the municipality mayor of Nagarkanda in 2011.

The leader of Rajakar Bahini under Nagarkanda Police Station, Khokon took over after his brother 'Razakar Zafor' shot dead by freedom fighters after they fought the Pakistani Army at Chandhat on May 29.

Zafor headed one of Nagarkanda's 'Mujahid Bahini' to aid the Pakistani Army.

Khokon was a member of Ansar who used his training to organise the Razakar Bahini in Nagarkanda, according to writers and freedom fighters who have documented the Liberation war fought in Faridpur.

Meanwhile, law enforcers are clueless about where is he hiding but Bangladeshis living in Sweden said the man was living with his elder son and daughter there.

The prosecution's probe official Satyaranjan Roy investigated Khokon from Apr 16, 2012 to May 28, 2013. He submitted his report on May 29.

The tribunal issued an arrest warrant against the BNP leader on Jul 18, last year after taking the charges into cognisance.

Khokon was summoned by the court through notices published in two newspapers after police failed to find him. The court later indicted him in absentia on Oct 9 and the state appointed a lawyer, Abdus Shukur Khan, for his defence.

A total of 24 witnesses have testified against Khokon, but no defence witnesses were produced since the accused is in hiding.

The ICT-1 wrapped up his trial on Apr 17.

Charges and sentences

Charge 1 (Not guilty)

Khokon joined looting six houses of freedom fighters, including Abdul Hye Mollah and Nazim Uddin Mollah on Apr 27, 1971 and facilitated the abduction, confinement and torture of 19 proliberation people at Bangram in Nagarkanda.

Sentence: Acquitted

Charge 2 (Guilty)

Khokon and his cohorts destroyed the houses of Kanai Mondol and another person at Nagarkanda's Jonggurdi-Bagutia village between Apr 28 to May 6, 1971. He threatened Hindus and forcibly converted them to Islam after setting their houses on fire. He extorted Tk 5,000 from the family of Kanai Mondal and Tk 10,000 from the family of Jibon Das.

Sentence: Five years in prison

Charge 3 (Guilty)

Khokon and his accomplices, assisted by an unknown Moulovi, forcibly converted Jibon Das and his family in village Jonggurdi-Bagutia under Nagarkanda to Islam in a day between May 16 to May 28, 1971. The family, fearing for its young female members, fled to India as refugees.

Sentence: 10 years in prison

Charge 4 (Guilty)

Khokon, his elder brother Rajakar Zafor and other armed accomplices entered a Hindu home at Chandhat's Bonikparha on the morning of May 27 and confined around 16 to 17 Hindus and looted their belongings. Homesteads and a temple were set on fire. Khokon raped Rada Rani Datta, wife of Tagor Das Datta, who had taken shelter in the village. Khuku Rani Datta, an unmarried daughter of late Hokiar Dey also hiding in the village, was raped by Khokon's accomplices.

Sentence: 20 years in prison

Charge 5 (Guilty)

Khokon and other Razakars guided Pakistani Army to Shaheednagar of Kodalia village on May 30, 1971 where they set on fire many houses after loot. They caught around 50- 60 people from a nearby place and shot 16 of them, including women and children, of whom six survived with grave injuries.

Khokon broke teenager Alauddin Sheik's waist for refusing to go with the Pakistani Army at gunpoint. Pakistani soldiers and Razakar killed two including Afzal Hossain near Kudalia Koumia Madrasa while Khokon shot dead Sukor Sheikh while he was trying to escape from the village.

Sentence: Death by hanging

Charge 6 (Guilty)

Khokon with Pakistani soldiers plundered and set on fire many houses and shops at Ishhardi village on the evening of May 30, 1971. They shot at unarmed villagers, killing Salam Matubbar, Srinroti Khatun, Lal Miah Matubbar, Mazed Matubbar and caused grievous injury to Fulmoti Begum, a child.

Sentence: Death by hanging

Charge 7 (Guilty)

Khokon accompanied Pakistani Army to Digholia-Ghorarnara Beel (marshland) at village Shahidnagar Kodalia at 7:30am on May 31, 1971 to salvage the bodies of Pakistani soldiers killed in a battle with the freedom fighters. They set fire to the houses of Pijiruddin, his brother Afaz and their neighbour Sheikh Sadek, burning them to death.

Then they went to Bonogram village around 10am. They plundered and burnt houses including that of Abdul Hye Molla, Ikram Molla, Nazim Uddin Molla, Md Yunus Molla and Abdur Rahman Molla. Later around 11am, Khokon shot dead Asiruddin Matubbar of Meherdia village and aided Pakistani Army in killing Safizuddin Matubbar of Asiruddin village.

Sentence: Death by hanging

Charge 8 (Guilty)

Khokon and Pakistani Army shot dead Rajendraath Roy at the jute-field in Goaldi village around 1:30pm on May 31, 1971. They also shot and killed Bulu Khatun, a two-year-old child, who was in her mother's arms while she and others were fleeing the area. They also plundered and set fire to many houses of that village.

Sentence: Death by hanging

Charge 9 (Guilty)

Armed Razakars including Atahar and Aynal, led by Khokon, and Pakistani Army entered Purapara village around 3:30pm on May 31, 1971and shot Chhotu Khatun alias Noa Chhotu Begum, Safizuddin Sheikh alias Sheikh Shafi, Manik Sardar, Ratan Sheikh, Joynuddin Matubbar and Abdul Barek Molla to death. They also plundered and set fire to many houses in the village.

Sentence: Death by hanging

Charge 10 (Guilty)

Armed Rajakars led by Khokon and Pakistani Army went to Bagat and Churiarchar villages at 6am on June 1 and plundered and set fire to many houses including that of Mini Begum, a supporter of the Awami League. They shot dead Mini Begum's father Malek Matubbar, brother Mosharraf Matubbar, paternal and maternal grandmothers and another man, Amjad Munshi.

They also shot dead 10-15 unarmed villagers including Raton Matubbar, Ayub Ali and Manju Rani at Bagat village when they were fleeing.

Sentence: Death by hanging

Charge 11 (Guilty)

Armed Razakars led by Khokon went to Jonggurodi-Bagutia village on a day between Jul 1 to Jul 17, 1971, where Khokon shot Kanailal Mondol from his own rifle badly injuring him on the right elbow. The victim later had to flee to India to save himself.

Sentence: Five years in prison

From Razakar to mayor

Jahid Hossain Khokon is second of the two sons and two daughters born to Motaleb Miah and Jainab Begum of Nagarkanda. Prosecution's first witness freedom fighter Abul Kashem said Khokon and his brother, who later came to be known as Zafor Razakar, campaigned for Jamaat candidate Mohammad Ali for the national election in 1970.

The brothers welcomed the Pakistani Army when they entered Nagarkanda after the war started. Their arrival heralded the making of two 'Mujahid Bahini' with Jafor as one if its head, and Mawlana Mohammad Ali leading the other.

The two groups unleashed terror on the Hindus of Nagarkand and supporters of Awami League by taking part in genocide, killings, rape, abduction, confinement, torture, deportation and forced conversions to Islam. Two books by Faridpur historian Rabindranath Tribedi and freedom fighter Md Solaiman Ali said Khokon was a member of the Ansar during the war, who used his training to strengthen the organisation of Razakars.

In this, he received support from Abul Kalam Azad, former 'Rukon' of the Jamaat-e-Islami. Azad better known as Bacchu Razakar was the first to be sentenced to death for 1971 war crimes in 2013. Sentenced in absentia, he managed to escape just before there was a warrant out for his arrest.

Bacchu had formed his own group of collaborators in Kharadia - the Kharadia Military – after establishing ties with the Pakistani Army.

On May 29, 1971, freedom fighters fought a big battle against the Pakistani Army at Chandhat.

Jafor Razakar was killed by locals and freedom fighters, after which Khokon took over the helm of the Razakar Bahini.

"Zahid Hossain Khokon was a self-proclaimed Razakar commander ... he used to say it in public. He felt a sense of pride for it," said Md Rafikuzzaman Anu, a BNP leader and chairman of Kodalia-Shaneednagar Union at Nagarkanda Sadar.

Khokon went into hiding after Bangladesh was liberated and returned only after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed with most of his family in 1975.

Khokon Razakar was accused in a case filed under the Collaborators Act in 1972, Journalist and column writer Abu Sayeed Khan wrote in the third part of his series on regional history of the Liberation War.

He became involved with the BNP after Ziaur Rahman assumed state power and later became vice-president of the BNP at Nagarkanda.

Elected Nagarkanda municipality mayor in 2011, he went into hiding right after his oath taking while the prosecution's investigators began probing his war crimes.

The government removed him from office after his trial started in 2013. Khokon and his brother looted numerous homes and extorted money from Hindus during the war, said the witnesses who deposed against him. He owns a three-storey home at Nagarkanda municipality and swaths of land as well, locals say.

His wife Ambia Begum, sons Lenin and Palin live in the country but not in their Nagarkanda home. His eldest son Khairuzzaman Lincon is general secretary of BNP's youth wing Juba Dal in Sweden.

His daughter also lived in Stockholm said Aminul Ehsan, a Bangladeshi living in Sweden.

"Zahid Hossain Khokon is living in Sweden. He was seen with his son-in-law Badiuzzaman Badi in Stockholm just few days back," he told bdnews24.com.

15 Mobarak Hossain Nov 24 2014 Death 🔀



Current Location: Jail
Investigation Update: Completed
Indicted? Yes/No: Yes, 5 Charges
Which Tribunal: ICT-1
Guilty: For the charges 1,3

Not guilty: for the charges 2,4,5

Verdict from Tribunal: 24-11-2014 Death sentence for the charge/s: 1 Life Sentence for the charge/s: 3 Jail (Only certain year/s): None

Jail Until Death: None

Appellate Division Update [AD]: Appealed but yet to be heard

Review Petition [RP]: N/A

Final update: Serving jail and waiting for the appeal petition to be heard

http://icrfoundation.org/home/ict-bangladesh-updates-2/

Brahmanbaria Razakar Mobarak gets death



Md Mobarak Hossain, a former Razakar commander from Brahmanbaria's Akhaurha, has been sentenced to death for war crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1, headed by Justice M Enayetur Rahim, announced his verdict on Monday. Two among the five charges against the 64-year-old had been proved beyond doubt, the judges said in the 92-page verdict. He has been handed death for the killing of 33 civilians on the banks of Ganga Sagar Dighi at Akhaurha's Tanmandayl village on Aug 22, 1971.

He was awarded life imprisonment for the abduction and murder of Abdul Khaleque of Satian Village at Brahmanbaria. Hossain, clad in a white Panjabi, was produced in the courtroom at 11:10am. Born in Akhaurha, he was associated with the Jamaat-e-Islami during the war with Pakistan. A businessman, he is named in the district administration's list of Pakistan Army collaborators in Brahmanbaria. He became a Rokon of Jamaat after collaborators were allowed back into Bangladesh politics during Ziaur Rahman's regime. He, however, changed sides by joining the Awami League. He was the organising secretary of the ruling party's unit in Akhaurha's Mogra Union until he was expelled in 2011.

Security was beefed up in the court area in anticipation of Hossain's verdict, while freedom fighters gathered outside the tribunal, raising slogans for the maximum penalty. The death penalty awarded to the Razakar commander was celebrated at Shahbagh, where supporters of the Ganajagaran Mancha had been awaiting the tribunal's decision.

Charges and sentences

Charge 1 (Guilty)

The killing of 33 unarmed civilians on the west bank of Ganga Sagar Dighi at Akhaurha's Tanmandayl village on Aug 22, 1971. Hossain and other Razakars raided the house of Haji Noor Box after assembling almost 132 villagers there around 2pm. They were then taken by boat to a Pakistani Army camp and tortured by Hossain and his associates who wanted information on freedom fighters. Hossain selected 26 from Tanmandayl village and seven more from Jangail village. The 33 were then detained at Terojhuri Hazat Khana. The next day they were taken to the bank of Ganga Sagar Dighi by Razakars and Pakistani soldiers. They were made to dig waist-deep ditches where they were buried after being shot dead.

Sentence: Death by hanging

Charge 2 (Not guilty)

Hossain and his associates captured a Hindu temple 'Anandomoyee Kalibarhi' and renamed it 'Razakar Manzil'. The temple was looted and idols defaced. The Razakars then wounded and confined college student 'Ashu Ranjan' at the temple for four days after abducting him on Oct 24, 1971. Hossain shot him dead near Kurulia Khal on Oct 28 after the youth from Shimrayl chanted 'Joy Bangla' when the Razakars ordered him to say 'Pakistan Zindabad'.

Sentence: Acquitted

Charge 3 (Guilty)

Abduction and murder of Abdul Khaleque of Satian village at Brahmanbaria.

Khaleque was known for helping freedom fighters. He was abducted on Nov 11 and taken to the Razakar camp at Suhilpur Union, where he was physically tortured. That night, he was shot dead by Hossain at Bakhail Ghat on the west bank of Titas River. Relatives buried him at the Kolamuri graveyard after recovering his body the next day.

Sentence: Life in prison

Charge 4 (Not guilty)

Khadem Hossain Khan was confined and tortured at a Pakistani Army camp in Brahmanbaria College after being abducted on Nov 24 or 25 by Hossain and his cohorts from Station Road at Brahmanbaria Sadar. He was hung upside down and subjected to inhuman torture before being sent to Brahmanbaria jail.

Sentence: Acquitted

Charge 5 (Not guilty)

Abdul Malek of Kharompur village and Md Siraj of Amirparha were abducted from their houses by Hossain and other Razakars around 11pm on Nov 28 or 29, 1971. They were taken to the army camp at Brahmanbaria College and tortured before being sent to the local jail. Hossain then took out Md Siraj and a few others from the jail on Dec 6 and shot them dead at Kurail Khal.

Sentence: Acquitted



16 Syed Mohammad Kaiser Dec 23 2014 Death **▼**



DHAKA: Bangladesh's war crimes court on Tuesday sentenced a former government minister to hang for rape and genocide during the 1971 independence struggle against Pakistan.

Syed Mohammad Kaiser became the 15th person to be convicted of atrocities by the International Crimes Tribunal, which found him guilty of heading a militia that rounded up and killed some 150 people in the nine-month conflict. The 73-year-old, who uses a wheelchair, did not react as the judge read out the verdict and said he would be "hanged by the neck until his death". Lawyers for Kaiser, a former minister with the Jatiya Party which forms part of Bangladesh's ruling coalition, have rejected the charges and say they will appeal. The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina created the International Crimes Tribunal, a domestic court, in 2010. It has mostly focused on the trials of the leaders of the largest religious party, Jamaat-e-Islami, although a former minister of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party has also been sentenced to hang. Prosecutors said Kaiser had raised a pro-Pakistani militia that carried out a series of murders, rapes and looting.

Judge Obaidul Hassan said the prosecution proved "beyond reasonable doubt "that Kaiser had established the militia, which created a "reign of terror". Prosecutor Mohammad Ali said that Kaiser led his militia and Pakistani forces to attack 22 villages in the Brahmanbaria area near the border with India on November 15, 1971. "At least 108 unarmed Hindu civilians were killed. Scores of their houses were looted and set on fire," he said.

Kaiser joined the centre-right Jatiya Party in the 1980s and was elected to parliament. He was made state minister for agriculture by military ruler Hussain Muhammad Ershad. His conviction is unlikely to trigger the kind of protests that plunged the country into deadly unrest last year, after Jamaat's leaders were sentenced to death for their roles in the war. Thousands of Islamists clashed with police in nationwide protests that left some 500 people dead. The BNP and Jamaat have called the trials politically motivated, aimed at eliminating opposition leaders rather than rendering justice. Rights groups have said they fall short of international standards and lack any foreign oversight. The government maintains they are needed to heal the wounds of the war, which it says left three million people dead. Independent researchers put the toll much lower.

https://www.dawn.com/news/1152672

Tribunal sentences Kaiser to death for 1971 war crimes

Former Jatiya Party minister Syed Mohammed Kaiser has been sentenced to death for crimes against humanity in 1971. The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-2 delivered the verdict in Kaiser's presence on Tuesday. The tribunal found him guilty in 14 of the 16 charges brought against him. A Muslim League leader in 1971, Kaiser has been given the death penalty in seven charges, imprisonment until death in three, life in prison in one and 5 to 10 years in prison in another three.

Two of the charges against him were not proven.

ICT-2 Chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan read out a summary of the 484-page verdict in a packed courtroom. The vehicle carrying Kaiser from the Dhaka Central Jail reached the tribunal premises around 8:45am. An hour later, Kaiser was taken to the courtroom when proceedings started after 11am. Kaiser's son Syed Galib Ahmed and his brothers SABM Humayun and SKM Selim were also present in the courtroom. Kaiser had raised a militia in his name - 'Kaiser Bahini'- with 500 to 600 anti-liberation activists to support the Pakistan Army in 1971. He guided the Pakistani troops to various villages to attack and abuse Hindus and supporters of Bangladesh's liberation.

Kasier went into hiding as soon as the country became free and later resurfaced in Bangladesh politics in 1978. He contested as an independent candidate and won the 1979 parliamentary polls from the Sylhet-17 constituency. Kaiser later joined the BNP, when it was founded by the country's first military dictator Ziaur Rahman, and became the president of its Habiganj unit. He later shifted to HM Ershad's Jatiya Party and won from the Habiganj-4 constituency in 1988. He became the Minister for State for Agriculture during HM Ershad's regime.

The charges and sentences

1. Attack on a police post and murder-looting-arson at Kazibarhi village (Guilty)

Syed Md Kaiser and his militia force, 'Kaisar Bahini' attacked a police outpost in Brahmanbarhia Sadr Upazila on the morning of Apr 27, 1971. They then went to the Kazibarhi of Islampur Village and killed Shahjahan Chairman, tortured one Nayeb Ali followed by looting and arson at 15 houses of the village.

Sentence: Life in prison

2. Looting and arson of houses at Katiara Village (Guilty)

The same day Kaiser and his people flanked by the Pakistan Army killed several people at Habiganj district's Madhabpur Thana in the afternoon. They also set fire to houses in Katiara Village and burnt down a market area with businesses mostly owned by Hindus.

Sentence: 10 years prison term

3. Killing of four at Krishnanagar Village (Guilty)

On the night of Apr 27, 1971, Kaiser and his men raided the village at Habiganj's Madhabpur Thana. The 'Kaiser Bahini' men killed Ahid Pathan, Cherag Ali, Jonab Ali and 'Madhu Sweeper' at the village and then looted and set fire to their homes.

Sentence: Death

4. Murder of 15 people at Madhabpur Bazar (Not guilty)

On Apr 28, 1971, Kaiser and his men with the Pakistani forces attacked the Madhabpur Bazar in Habignaj. They opened fire and left 15 people, including Abdus Sattar, Lalu Miah and Barkat Ali, dead. They also looted and set fire to businesses and homes in the area.

5. Murder of seven at a Habignaj warehouse (Guilty)

On Apr 29, 1971, Kaiser and his men attacked a warehouse at Shaistaganj Thana in the district. They confined seven staff of the warehouse and tortured them for a month. On the afternoon of May 29, the seven were taken to bridge nearby and shot dead by the Pakistani army on Kaiser's instructions.

Sentence: Death

6. Murder of Dr Salehuddin and Hirendra Chnadra Roy (Guilty)

On Apr 29, the two were stopped by Pakistani army forces at the behest of Kaiser at the Puran Bazar area of Shaistaganj Thana. The men were dragged out of their car and tortured for hours before they were shot dead.

Sentence: Death

7. Arson and looting at Habiganj Town (Guilty)

The Pakistani forces and men of 'Kaiser Bahini' attacked the district town on Apr 30. 45 houses were looted amid panic created by random firing.

Sentence: 7 years prison term

8. Rape and torture of workers at a Habiganj tea estate (Guilty)

On May 11, Kaiser led a group of Pakistani troops to a tea garden in Habiganj's Chunarughat Thana and tortured the workers. A Santal tribal woman, Hiramoni was raped. The prosecution accuses Kaiser of abetting the rape.

Sentence: Death

9. Murder of eight at Habiganj's Lohaid village (Guilty)

Pakistani forces and Kaiser Bahini men attacked the village and picked up Abdul Aziz, Abdul Gafur, Jamiruddin, Azimuddin, Etimunnesa, Nur Ali, Alamchan Bibi and Abdul Ali and charged them with bayonets before shooting them dead.

Sentence: Imprisonment until death

10. Killing of Shah Firoz Ali at Habiganj army camp (Guilty)

Ali, who was a pro-Liberation supporter, was picked up by collaborators at the behest of Kaiser on Jun 13. He was brought to the Shaistaganj army camp the next day. His son Shah Hossain Ali was captured on Jul 16. He was severely tortured leading to amputation of his leg and released by the end of August. The father died in the army camp in detention.

Sentence: Death

11. Murder, abduction and torture at three villages (Guilty)

Kaiser took his militia to Habiganj's Nasirnagar on Jun 23 to loot, set fire and abduct people from numerous villages. Golam Rauf Master and his family members were severely tortured and Master was whisked away to Kaiser's house. He was held there for a week and released for ransom. Master died after two weeks due to injuries caused by torture.

Sentence: 5 years prison term

12. Rape of Majeda Begum at Madhabpur army camp (Guilty)

In Aug, men of Kaisar Bahini abducted Aftab Mia, his daughter Majeda Begum and his brother Ayub Mia and brought them to the army camp. The prosecution claims Kaiser handed over Begum to the members of the Pakistani army. She was raped for the next 8 to 10 days by the troopers.

Sentence: Death

13. Murder of three at the Nalua tea garden (Guilty)

On Aug 18, three civilians including Abdus Shahid were abducted and brought to the tea garden on Kaiser's instructions. They were tortured and killed later in the day.

Sentence: Imprisonment until death

14. Killing of four freedom fighters at a Habiganj village (Guilty)

On Sept 29, freedom fighters Seraj Ali, Akkas Ali, Abdus Sattar and Wahed Ali were picked up from a house at Mojpur village in Madhabpur Thana. They were shot dead later on a bridge over the nearby Sonai River.

Sentence: Imprisonment until death

15. Murder of Md Nazim Uddin (Not Guilty)

In October, 1971, Md Nazim Uddin was abducted from his home at Shahjibazar Thana upon Kaiser's instruction. He was taken to the Shahjibazar army camp. Uddin was detained and tortured for 20 days before being murdered.

16. Massacre in 22 villages (Guilty)

On Nov 15, 1971, a group of collaborators led by Kaiser and the Pakistani forces attacked 22 villages at the Nasirnagar Thana in Brahmanbarhia. At least 108 unarmed civilians, who belonged to the Hindu community, were killed. Scores of houses were looted and set on fire.

Sentence: Death https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2014/12/23/tribunal-sentences-kaiser-to-death-for-1971-war-crimes



17 Jamat-e-Islami leader ATM Azhar is sentenced to death 17ATM Azharul Islam ✓

http://en.update24.net/newsdetails_jamat-e-islami-leader-atm-azhar-is-sentenced-to-death.html



Dhaka, December, 30: Assistant secretary general of Bangladesh Jamat-e-Islami ATM Azharul Islam is sentenced to death. International Crime Tribunal-1 headed by justice M Enayetur Rahim discloses the verdict today. After the Jamaat-leader was produced before the court around 11:15am, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chairman of International Crimes Tribunal-1 read summery of the 158-page verdict.

Alleged Al-Badr commander of Rangpur, Azharul was facing six charges of murder, genocide and crimes against humanity. Additional law enforcers including police and Rapid Action Battalion have been deployed on the court premises and its surrounding areas to maintain law and order. Transport movement remains halted from Doel Chattar to High Court Mazar area since morning for ensuring security in the court area. Azharul, former president of Rangpur district unit Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat, was charged with two acts of genocide that left more than 1,200 people dead.

The 61-year-old Jamaat assistant secretary general was also charged with torture, looting, arson, abduction, rape, mass killing and conspiracy to kill unarmed civilians in Rangpur. Son of late Nazir Hossain and Ramicha Khatun of Batasan Lohanipara in Badarganj upazila, Azharul was a student of Rangpur Carmichael College during the 1971 Liberation War. Following the formation of Al-Badr, a heinous auxiliary force to the Pakistan army, he allegedly became the commander of its Rangpur unit.

The police arrested Azharul at his Moghbazar house in the capital on August 22, 2012 after the tribunal had issued an arrest warrant for him in connection with his alleged wartime offences. The tribunal indicted Azharul on November 12 last year and the prosecution produced its first witness on December 26 the same year. As many as 19 prosecution witnesses gave their testimonies until July 6 this year, while the defense brought in just one witness. Both the prosecution and the defense placed their arguments between August 18 and September 18 before the tribunal kept the case waiting for verdict. The accused was brought to Dhaka Central Jail from Kashimpur Jail last evening.

Bangladesh Islamist politician sentenced to death for war crimes, 30 December 2014

http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/asia/2014/12/30/Bangladesh-Islamist-politician-sentenced-to-death-for-war-crimes.html



A.T.M. Azharul Islam, 62, assistant secretary general of the Jamaat-e-Islami party was found guilty. (Photo courtesy: Dhaka Tribune)

A Bangladesh war crimes tribunal sentenced an Islamist party leader to death on Tuesday after convicting him of atrocities committed during a 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. A.T.M. Azharul Islam, 62, assistant secretary general of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was found guilty of five out of six charges including mass killing, rape, abduction and torture, prosecutors said. Defense lawyer Tajul Islam rejected the charges and said he would lodge an appeal against the verdict. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2010 opened an inquiry into war crimes committed during the ninemonth war.

The tribunals have angered Islamists who call them a politically motivated attempt by Hasina to persecute the leadership of Jamaat-e-Islami, a key part of the opposition coalition. Bangladesh became part of Pakistan at the end of British rule in 1947 but broke away in 1971 after a war between Bangladeshi nationalists, backed by India, and Pakistani forces. About 3 million people were killed, according to official figures, and thousands of women were raped. The tribunal has convicted 16 people, most of them Jamaat leaders, and sentenced 14 of them to death. One Islamist politician was executed in December 2013.

International human rights groups have said the tribunal falls short of international standards. The government dismissed that criticism. More than 200 people have been killed in violent protests against the tribunal and its decisions, most of them Islamist party activists and members of the security forces. Some factions in Bangladesh, including the Jamaat, opposed the break with Pakistan, but the party denies accusations that its leaders committed atrocities.

Azhar 'committed' 9 types of crimes, July 09, 2013

http://www.thedailystar.net/news/azhar-committed-9-types-of-crimes
17ATM Azharul Islam

Investigation agency submits formal charges to war crimes prosecution



The investigation agency designated to probe war crimes has found "evidence" about Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam's "involvement" in nine types of war crimes committed during the Liberation War. Azhar, the alleged Al-Badr commander of Rangpur, was "involved" in at least six incidents of war crimes, which left over 1,200 people dead between April 3 and December 16, 1971.

The probe body revealed the information before the media yesterday after completing its investigation against the Jamaat's assistant secretary general. "We are submitting probe report [to the prosecution] as the involvement of the accused in crimes against humanity was primarily proved by the evidence collected from Rangpur," said the agency coordinator Abdul Hannan Khan. The nine types of crimes in which Azhar was allegedly involved were: abduction, confinement, torture, rape, looting, arson, inflicting severe injury, murder and genocide.

The agency yesterday also handed over the probe report to the prosecution team, which will submit formal charges against Azhar after scrutinising the report and other documents. Following an arrest warrant issued by the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on August 22, 2012, law enforcers arrested Azhar from his Moghbazar residence in the capital. He was later sent to jail. The tribunal on June 30 asked the prosecution to submit formal charges against Azhar by July 15. Azhar, son of late Nazir Hossain and Ramicha Khatun of Batasan Lohanipara in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur, was a student of Rangpur Carmichael College during the war, Hannan told reporters at the agency's Dhanmondi office.

In 1971, Azhar was the president of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat, in Rangpur district and also the commander of Rangpur Al-Badr force, he said. "He [Azhar] developed a good rapport with the Pakistani army through visiting Rangpur Cantonment regularly," Hannan said. In collaboration with the Pakistani army, Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Sangha men and other anti-liberation elements, Azhar used to collect information about freedom fighters, their family members and pro-liberation people. He was "involved" in their abduction, confinement, torture, killing, conspiracy and genocide, Hannan told reporters.



ALLEGATIONS

Hannan said National Awami Party (NAP-Bhashani) leader and one of the organisers of the Liberation War AY Mahfuz Ali alias Jarrej Mia and 11 others were abducted between March 24 and March 27, and they were tortured for several days. All the detainees were shot dead at Dakhiganj Cremation Ground in Rangpur town on April 3, 1971. Agency sources said Azhar was "directly" involved in the abduction of two among 12 detainees while the others were abducted "in his [Azhar's] association".

Hannan said 15 unarmed Bangalees of Dhap Para in Badarganj were shot dead on April 16, 1971 and houses of the village were torched after looting. Azhar was "involved" in these atrocities, he said. Over 1,200 unarmed Bangalees of Jharuar Beel of Badarganj were killed on April 17, 1971 and Azhar was "involved" in the mass killing, the agency coordinator told reporters. Azhar was "involved" in the abduction and killing of four professors of Rangpur Carmichael College and the wife of one of them, he said.

They were abducted from their houses on the college campus and shot dead near Damdama Bridge on April 30, 1971. Hannan said Azhar was "involved' in torturing a person of Gupta Para at Rangpur town in mid-November. On December 1, 1971, another person was abducted from Betpatti of the town and was tortured in confinement in the Muslim Hostel of Rangpur College, he said. SM Idris Ali, the investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star that after the Liberation War, Azhar went into hiding.

He returned to Rangpur after the political changeover in 1975. During the investigation, which began on April 15, 2012, the investigation officer took statements of over 60 persons and cited 27 persons as prosecution witnesses in the case, said Hannan. Prosecutors AKM Saiful Islam and Nurjahan Begum Mukta were present at yesterday's press briefing.



Name: Maulana Abdus Subhan

Nationality: Bangladesh Context: Bangladesh

Charges: Crimes against humanity, Deprivation of life, War crimes, Protection of civilian objects,

Protection of civilians, Genocide, Torture

Status: Sentenced

Judgement Place: Bangladesh

Particulars: Allegedly involved in war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971; Convicted of war crimes during the Bangladesh Liberation War

in 1971

Maulana Abdus Subhan was born in 1936 in the village of Toilokundi, near the city of Pabna.

Before the Liberation War he acted as chief of the Pabna unit of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI). During the war, he was General Secretary and then Vice-President of the "Peace Committee" in Pabna. The Peace Committee declared the struggle for independence to be a conspiracy hatched by India. He allegedly played a key role in setting up units of Peace Committees as well as paramilitary forces that were used to suppress the Bangladesh movement for independence from Pakistan.

After the war he became a member of the highest policy-making body of JI. He was accused of collaboration with the Pakistani Army during the liberation war and was summoned for trial in 1972. However, he fled to Pakistan before the trial started.

On 20 September 2013 he was arrested and on 31 December 2013 formally charged by the International Crimes Tribunal for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

legal procedure

On 20 September 2013 Subhan was arrested and on 31 December 2013 formally charged by the International Crimes Tribunal for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War. Among the nine charges were murder, genocide, abduction, torturing, looting, arson and conspiracy

On 18 February 2015, Subhan was convicted and sentenced to death by hanging. He was the ninth senior leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami political party to be convicted of war crimes since the Tribunal began in 2010. He is the 17th person to be convicted overall by the Tribunal.

Subhan was found guilty on six of the nine charges, including, murder, genocide, torture, arson, and looting. His lawyers plan on appealing the decision.

The announcement of Subhan's conviction and death sentence sparked violence by alleged antigovernment protesters. In 2013, other death sentences that have previously been decreed by the court against Jamaat-e-Islami leaders have caused deadly clashes with the police.



Jamaat leader Subhan held, September 21, 2012

http://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-250657

Nayeb-e-Ameer Maulana Abdus Subhan

Members of an army intelligence agency yesterday arrested Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Maulana Abdus Subhan at Bangabandhu Bridge toll plaza in Tangail yesterday in connection with a case of violence. A war crimes suspect, Subhan was sent to Pabna jail after he was produced before the executive magistrate's court here around 8:00pm, said sources in police.

Earlier, police had taken him from Tangail to Pabna. "A case was filed in April this year against Subhan and 30 other BNP-Jamaat men on charges of looting, torching and vandalising houses in four villages of Chartarapur union under Sadar upazila in 2003," Jahangir Hossain Matobbar, Pabna superintendent of police, told The Daily Star.

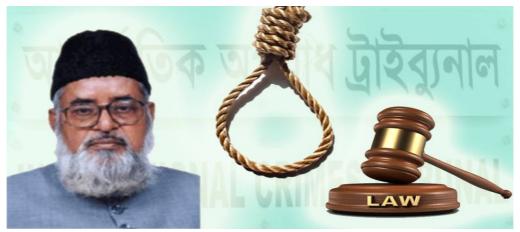
Protesting the arrest, activists of the Jamaat put up barricades of timber in Rajapur, Jafrabad, Jalalpur and a few other places on the Dhaka-Pabna highway around 6:30pm. Movement of vehicles on the highway remained suspended till the filing of this report at 9:30pm. The former lawmaker was arrested at 8:30am when he along with his two sons was on his way to Pabna from Dhaka by a jeep. After his arrest, he was taken to Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station and later handed over to Pabna police around 4:45pm, reports our Tangail correspondent.

Witnesses said as the news of his arrest spread, activists of the Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Shibir, carrying bamboo sticks, brought out a procession after Zohr prayers before Chanpa Masjid in Pabna town. When the procession drew close to the Doi Bazar point, some unruly activists threw brickbats at police, prompting the law enforcers to use batons on them. The clash left at least 20 people, including three police and three journalists injured. A sub-inspector of Pabna Sadar Police Station was admitted to Pabna Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Subhan served the Jamaat-e-Islami as acting Ameer (chief) of its Pabna unit during the Liberation War. He was vice-president of the Pabna unit of the Peace Committee, an organization of Pakistani collaborators, according to the report on the findings of the People's Inquiry Commission on the activities of the war criminals and the collaborators. Field level investigations have revealed that Subhan organised the Al-Badr and Razakars; formed the Peace Committee and was involved in a number of criminal activities.

He was implicated in a special tribunal case for his alleged activities against the Liberation War and killing of freedom fighters, innocent people and assaulting and repressing women. He was asked to appear before the sub-divisional magistrate's court on February 29, 1972. But he fled to Pakistan with Ghulam Azam at that time.

(Source: "Ekattorer Dalalera" by Shafiq Ahmed and Advocate Shafiqul Islam Shibly, Patahrtala Pabna)



Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan

He is the ninth top Jamaat leader to be convicted for war crimes committed during Bangladesh's war of independence from Pakistan.





Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan to hang for war-time atrocities in Pabna, 2015-02-18 https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2015/02/18/jamaat-e-islami-leader-abdus-subhan-to-hang-for-war-time-atrocities-in-pabna



Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan, who has been sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal, had been charged with nine counts of crimes against humanity, including murder, abductions, detention, torture and loot.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 Chairman, Justice Obaidul Hassan, handed down the maximum penalty on Wednesday. With six of the nine charges leveled by the prosecution having been proven beyond any shred of doubt, Subhan was sentenced to be hanged till death. The other two tribunal members, Justice Md Mujibur Rahman Mia and Justice Shahinur Islam, were also present at the time of the sentencing – the 16th conviction for crimes against humanity.

Subhan was the chief of Jamaat's Pabna unit and sat on the party's highest policymaking body during the post-Liberation War era. It came to light in the trial that Subhan, with Pakistani soldiers, had indulged in murders, mass killings, arson and looting s once 'Operation Searchlight' was launched on the night of Mar 25, 1971. He is the ninth top Jamaat leader to be convicted for war crimes committed during Bangladesh's war of independence from Pakistan.

Who is Subhan?

A former MP from Pabna town, Subhan was born on Feb 19, 1936, in the Tailakundi village at Sujanagar. His father was Sheikh Naimuddin, and mother, Nurani Begum. In 1954, he passed the Kamil exams from the Aliya Madrasa in Sirajganj. He later became the head Maulana of the same institution, and subsequently the superintendent of the Ulot Senior Madrasa in Arifpur. He was appointed the chief of the Pabna district unit of the Jamaat once it was formed. From 1962 to 1965 he was a member of the Provincial Council.

He contested in the 1970 election but lost to Awami League candidate Amjad Hossain. Subhan was the General Secretary and subsequently the Vice-President of the 'Peace Committee' in Pabna during the 1971 war, formed to help the Pakistani forces in suppressing the freedom struggle of the Bengalis. It was under his leadership that units of the Peace Committee, Razakars, Al Badr, Al Shams, and Mujahid were formed in police station areas of Pabna district.

Witnesses testified that Subhan orchestrated killings, loot, abductions, and other atrocities in various villages with the help of these vigilante groups and Pakistani soldiers. Korban Ali, the sixth prosecution witness, identified Subhan standing in the dock as the man who, brandishing a pistol, had rounded up villagers and shot them, and told the Pakistani soldiers to shoot as well.

The tribunal was also told that, during the war, Subhan had prepared and supplied to the Pakistani forces a list of local Awami League leaders and activists and Hindus. Sensing the fall of the Yahya Khan regime towards the end of the independence struggle, he, along with Jamaat guru Golam Azam, went over to Pakistan. Subhan later returned to Bangladesh following a change in the political scenario and went on to become a member of parliament.



The case timeline

Investigation into Subhan's war crimes by the prosecution's investigating officers Motiur Rahman and Md Nur Hossain began on Apr 15, 2012. The charge-sheet against the Jamaat leader was filed on Sep 15, 2013. He was arrested at the toll plaza of the Bangabandhu Bridge on Sep 20, 2012. He was was later shown arrested in the war crimes case and sent to jail. The International Crimes Tribunal-1 began *Subhan's trial on Dec 31, 2013* on the basis of nine charges brought against him.

The case, however, was shifted to Tribunal-2 on Mar 27, 2014 before the deposition by witnesses had begun. The hearing got under way on Apr 1, 2014 with the opening arguments by prosecutors Sultan Mahmud Simon and Rezia Sultana. Thirty-one witnesses including investigators Motiur Rahman and Md Nur Hossain testified for the prosecution. On the other hand, the defense was unable to produce any witness, although three had been initially named.





The 16th verdict

The much-awaited trials for crimes against humanity committed during the war began with the constitution of the International Crimes Tribunal on Mar 25, 2010. The tribunal in the first verdict sentenced to death former Jamaat-e-Islami member *Abul Kalam Azad alias 'Bachchu Razakar*' on Jan 21, 2013.

The collaborator of the Pakistani occupation army could not appeal against the verdict as he was absconding. In the second verdict, delivered on Feb 5 the same year, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General *Abdul Quader Molla* was awarded life term in jail. The judgement triggered protests by youths at Dhaka's cultural hub, Shahbagh, who thought the verdict was 'too lenient' and demanded maximum punishment for Molla.

The protests were joined by tens of thousands, leading to the emergence of secular platform Ganajagaran Mancha demanding capital punishment for all war criminals. The movement rippled across Bangladesh, forcing the government to amend the tribunal law giving the prosecution a chance to appeal against verdicts.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court finally sentenced war criminal *Molla to death on Sep 17, 2013*. He was executed on Dec 12 the same year. Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer *Delwar Hossain Sayedee was sentenced to death in the third verdict, delivered on Feb 28, 2013*. His supporters in Jamaat strongholds went berserk after the judgment. According to the government, over 70 people, including police personnel, were killed in violence during the protest against the verdict. Hearing Sayedee's appeal, the apex court lessened his punishment to imprisonment until death on Sep 17 last year.

The tribunal sentenced to death another assistant secretary general of Jamaat, *Muhammad Kamaruzzaman*, on May 9, 2013. The Appellate Division upheld the verdict on Nov 3. Ghulam Azam, who headed Jamaat during the war against Pakistani oppressors, was sentenced to 90 years in prison on Jun 15, 2013 for plotting, planning and instigating crimes against humanity. It was the fifth verdict.

The former Jamaat leader died at the age of 92 in a hospital on Oct 23, when his appeal was being heard. Jamaat Secretary General *Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed was handed down capital punishment on Jul 17, 2013*.

In the seventh verdict, BNP Standing Committee member *Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury was* sentenced to be hanged by his neck until death. Both Mujaheed and Chowdhury have appealed to the Supreme Court.

On Oct 9, 2013, former BNP minister *Abdul Alim was sentenced to prison until death*. The 83-year-old war criminal died on Aug 30 last year. He had served 11 months in a prison cell of a hospital.

Al Badr commanders Ashrafuzzaman Khan and Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin were given the capital punishment on Nov 3, 2013 for killing intellectuals during the war. Both are on the run.

The 10th verdict was delivered on Oct 29, last year.

This time, Jamaat chief *Motiur Rahman Nizami*, who was the chief of the Al Badr vigilante during the war, was sentenced to death. The verdict observed that he used Islam willfully and consciously to uproot the Bangali nation. He, too, has filed an appeal at the Supreme Court. As Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) closest ally, Nizami served as a minister during the 2001-6 tenure of Khaleda Zia. Chittagong Al Badr commander Mir Quasem Ali was sentenced to walk to the gallows. The Shura member of the party is said to be its main financier.

On Nov 13 last year, Faridpur Razakar commander *Zahid Hossain Khokon* was sentenced to death. Brahmanbarhia Razakar commander Mobarak Hossain, expelled by local Awami League, got the death sentence on Nov 24 last year.



Former Muslim League leader from Habiganj, *Syed Mohammad Kaiser*, who became a state minister during military dictator Hussein Muhammad Ershad's regime, was also sentenced to death for war crimes on Dec 23.

The last verdict was delivered on Dec 30, sentencing Jamaat Assistant Secretary General *ATM Azharul Islam* to death.



Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Delawar Hossain Sayedee were arrested in the run-up to the trail. : Star File



Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Moulana Abdus Subhan being escorted out of the tribunal. : Star File

19 Shariatpur's Idris Ali to face death for 1971 war crimes ▼

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2016/12/05/shariatpur-s-idris-ali-awarded-death-penalty-for-1971-war-crimes



A massacre survivor yesterday narrated how 600 to 700 Hindus, including his father and uncle, fleeing to India for shelter were killed in a barrage of gunfire by war crimes accused Sheikh Sirajul Haque alias Siraj Master along with other Razakars, the Pakistani occupation army's auxiliary force, on May 21 during the 1971 Liberation War.

Meanwhile, International Crimes Tribunal-2 fixed February 12 to state whether 49 eminent personalities will be charged with contempt of court for expressing concern over Dhaka-based British journalist David Bergman being convicted over the same charge.

The tribunal ordered those among the 49 present in the country to appear before it on that day.

Premananda Majumder, the 19th prosecution witness, said he and his family found around 4,000 to 5,000 Hindus taking shelter at Dakra Bazar Kali Mandir, where they had stopped on leaving his Boro Katali village of Bagerhat in the morning that day.

At around 2:00pm, they saw around 40 to 50 persons coming on two boats, one of which went towards Dakra High School and the other west of Dakra Bazar, said the 56-year-old.

- "A few moments later, they opened fire indiscriminately at the persons taking shelter at the temple," said Premananda. He and his father were the only ones in their boat at that time.
- "At one stage accused Siraj Master shot dead my father. While he was trying to shoot me, I dived into the river," the witness said, adding that he stayed in the water till evening.
- "After Razakars left, I saw around 600 to 700 bodies lying here and there," he said, adding that among those were that of his father Gopal Krisna Majumder and uncle Radha Nath Majumder. Later locals either cremated or cast away the bodies in the river. After the testimony, state appointed defence counsel cross-examined him before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 adjourned proceedings until tomorrow. Siraj denies the six charges of crimes against humanity and genocide.

BERGMAN

On December 2 last year, the three-member tribunal sentenced Bergman, editor (special reports) of the daily New Age, to imprisonment "till rising of the court" on that day and fined him Tk 5,000.

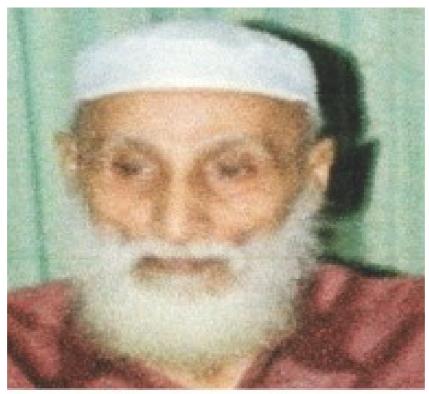
The conviction came over two of three of Bergman's blog posts where he questioned the Liberation War death toll. One article was on the indictment order of Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee and the other two on the verdict on Abul Kalam Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar.

Then on December 20, Prothom Alo ran a report on a statement, signed by 50 eminent personalities, which observed that the tribunal's order would restrict freedom of expression. One signatory, Khushi Kabir, later withdrew her name.

The tribunal then sought explanations over the concern. Till yesterday, replies of four persons who are living abroad were yet to reach the tribunal.

Siraj massacred Hindus in Bagerhathttp://www.thedailystar.net/siraj-massacred-hindus-in-bagerhat-63911





Siraj Master

20 Obaidul Haque Taher and Ataur Rahman Nani 🔀



Verdict in war crimes case against Netrokona's Taher, Noni on Tuesday

Obaidul Haq alias Abu Taher and Ataur Rahman Noni

The verdict in a war crimes case against Netrokona's Obaidul Haq alias Abu Taher and Ataur Rahman Noni will be delivered on Tuesday. The International Crimes Tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque set the date on Monday, said the tribunal's Registrar Shahidul Alam. On Jan 11, the tribunal concluded the trial and kept its verdict pending. According to the tribunal's investigation agency, Taher and Noni had come out strongly against

Bangladesh's independence and joined the local 'Razakar' force, collaborators who assisted the Pakistani occupation army in 1971. They were allegedly known as 'notorious Razakars' for their atrocities committed in various parts of Netrokona including Sadar and Barhatta Thana. Taher, the alleged Razakar commander, occupied Balay Bihari Biswas's house in the town and set up a Razakar camp there, the prosecution investigators claimed. Charges against them include those of abduction, torture, and the killing of 15 unarmed people apart from the torching and looting of about 450 houses. The prosecution's probe body had begun investigations on June 6, 2013 and submitted their findings on Nov 5, 2014. Taher and Noni were arrested on Aug 12, 2014.



The fifth prosecution witness yesterday testified that war crimes accused Obaidul Haque Taher and Ataur Rahman Nani killed his elder brother in Netrakona during the 1971 Liberation War.

Siddiqur Rahman, 60, told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he had seen Taher and Nani take away the martyr, Fazlul Rahman of Mouati in Barhatta upazila, from a local market.

"I want justice," prayed Siddiqur as he identified on the dock the two alleged Razakars, the Pakistani occupation army's auxiliary force, of Netrakona who deny the six charges against them.

He said Taher and Nani, along with a group of Razakars and Pakistani army men, attacked Baushi Bazar on August 17, 1971 and looted and torched 400 to 500 shops.

"Accused Obaidul Haque Taher and Ataur Rahman Nani detained my brother Fazlul Rahman from in front of the shop of Ranjan Saha...I saw this from beside Ranjan Saha's shop," said Siddiqur.

Siddiqur said the Razakars brutally tortured and grievously injured Fazlul as their father was a local Awami League leader and an organiser of the Liberation War in Netrakona.

They also picked up Hannan Chowdhury, Abdul Hay and four or five others from the market and released them after torture, he said, adding that his brother was taken to Netrakona sadar and kept confined in the district resthouse.

Siddiqur said his uncles Bhulu Miah and Saru Miah requested Taher's father Manjurul Haque to release his brother but was denied.

Siddiqur said on the following day they heard that Taher and Nani killed his brother taking him near Netrakona Trimohini Bridge and they did not find the body.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim adjourned proceedings until today after counsels of Taher and Nani completed cross-examining Fazlul.

As Jamaat-e-Islami goes to war, is the AL ready? February 1, 2013

https://mygoldenbengal.wordpress.com/2013/02/01/as-jamaat-e-islami-goes-to-war-is-the-al-ready/



The issue of the War Crimes Trial is not the quality of the trial and obviously it's not something that is ever going to win many defenders anyway. The skype controversy is not the only one that has dogged the trial. The first verdict has drawn a lot of attention internationally for its lack of "fairness and credibility." But then few in Bangladesh are concerned about it because people are looking for revenge not anything else. All they want is a death sentence. And Bachchu Razakar case has confirmed what many had hoped for. That most sentences will lead to the gallows.

Bachchu Razakar sentence was also an easier case to deal with first. He was absconding so he didn't defend himself which made life easier for everyone. His defence lawyer was appointed by the Government so there was no question of an energetic defence. He had almost no political backing so there was no pressure. But now that he is gone, it's the tough ones carrying a much higher political cost that has come in front of us. One hopes the government knows what's on particularly for a government which is now famous for waking up after the thief has fled or sometimes even hiding the thief.

While elsewhere there maybe discussions on the quality of the trial, the main problem on this soil is the obvious intent of Jamaat cadres to take it on the government and it doesn't look like the government is doing too well. Jamaat-e-Islami has called for a series of hartals and managed to disrupt the scene which was their intent. The police looked woefully inadequate and unprepared and have become the butt of jokes. In fact there was a lot of talk that the Jamaat-e-Islami has effectively infiltrated the police forces and these elements were not interested in fighting the Jamaatis. While some of the police must be supporters of Jamaat, the main reason for their weak performance is the low morale, inefficiency and poor quality of leadership of the law and order agencies. People also simply don't have enough confidence in the forces and the police are not doing too well when it comes to managing street violence and crime solving abilities.



Several incidents stand out as indicators. While the police are politicized in every regime, when a policeman is rewarded for beating up an opposition leader, a signal is sent to everyone that party loyalty is more important than the role of a peace keeper and upholder of law and order. Loyalty becomes a substitute for efficiency.

Another is the Sagar-Runi case where the police came out looking like clowns and fools. Even the RAB was pulled in but nothing produced anything. The "Shahara' declaration of 48 hours and the arrest of criminals linked to another case and trying to pass them off as responsible was farcical and further dented the perception as a competent force.

Finally, the Biswajit case showed to what length the government is ready to go to save themselves from political embarrassment. The fact that the police were actually at the crime scene and didn't step in to save the victim while some of the police were in conversation with the killers, makes the police look not just useless but more as an accomplice to a crime. Such a police may look good to the party in power but it doesn't make them more able. When senior ministers say that the "police have failed" there is a time to worry.

Once the verdicts are announced, the Jamaat-e-Islami will become far more desperate and given the way they have been acting one wonders what sort of an effective counter plan exists in official hands. Rumours have it that the police will use very stern measures including bullets but history shows that the desperate are not daunted by such measures. The way the Jamaat-e-Islami managed to assert themselves without much public support is scary.

But it's not Jamaat alone that the AL has to think about because the path to an understanding with the BNP is now even more in doubt. Once sentences are handed out, the BNP may be forced to shut all doors but it's possible that the AL wants actually that. If Jamaat-e-Islami is banned as many are demanding, these supporters will go to the BNP and it will get stronger if the Jamaat leaders are hanged. But going to an election under the AL, the hangers of its closest ally may be impossible for the BNP. So the AL will soon have to face two united enemies. Again, it's not about politics but the collective ability to maintain law and order under great difficulties.



Bangladeshi Islamist activists vandalize shops during clashes with police in Bogra some 120kms north of Dhaka on March 3, 2013. Bangladesh deployed troops in the north of the country after 16 more people were killed in a fresh wave of violence over the conviction of Islamist leaders for war crimes in the Muslim-majority nation. Credit: STR

Chaos doesn't make a government popular and the political problems become big when it reigns. It's not enough to hang its enemies. One must ensure that people don't pay a price for that. One hopes that the political cost and contingency plans were calculated when the trial decision was taken. It was a positive decision but the machinery of law and order must also be ready to deal with the impact.

Afsan Chowdhury is a journalist, activist and writer. January 31, 2013

Cry for Jamaat ban, 2013-02-08 №

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2013/02/08/cry-for-jamaat-ban



The protestors now want to spread their agitation from Tetulia to Teknaf

A sea of humanity thronged the Shahbag intersection, now called "Prajanma Chattar" on Friday demanding that Jamaat-Islami be banned in Bangladesh. The demonstrators, calling for capital punishment for the "war criminals", vowed at the 'grand rally' to continue with their fight until the party, which opposed Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971, was declared outlawed.

The verdicts pronounced by the International Crimes Tribunal-2 so far prove that the members of the Islamist party were involved in war crimes during the Liberation War, which culminated in the formation of Bangladesh. People from different walks of life took to the streets of Dhaka ever since Jamaat's Assistant secretary General Abdul Quader Molla was awarded life term by the ICT-2 for his involvement in war crimes. They are demanding that Molla be hanged. Tens of thousands of people now want to spread their agitation to the farthest corners of the country, from Teknaf to Tetulia.

They also demanded that the people and financial institutions having links with the Islamist party be boycotted. The protestors also joined the Convenor of the Blogger and Online Activist Network, Imran H Sarkar, who presided over Friday's rally, in demanding that the Bangladeshi citizenship of the Jamaat leaders be revoked. The first verdict delivered by the ICT against Abul Kalam Azad alias 'Bachchu Razakar' on Jan 21, underlined Jamaat's role in carrying out war crimes. The tribunal's second verdict provided a more vivid account of the Islamist party's complicity with the Pakistani forces in 1971.



ICT's first verdict described as to how the party set up "armed forces" to "save Pakistan", and in the process helped the Pakistani forces against "unarmed Bengalis". The tribunal, headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan, observed: "There is no way to overlook the selfless sacrifice of the Bengalis in the face of atrocities in 1971. At the time, no country in the world had to undergo such sacrifice and pain to attain freedom." In its second verdict, the tribunal highlighted the involvement of Jamaat and its then students' organisation — Islami Chhatra Sangha, in carrying out war crimes.

The verdict read: "The people of East Pakistan supported Bangladesh and fought for its independence. But a small number of Bengalis, Biharis, others supporting Pakistan and a few religious parties, especially Jamaat-i-Islami and its students' wing Islami Chhatra Sangha, Muslim League in their barbaric efforts to resist the independence of Bangladesh either joined hands with the occupying Pakistani forces or helped them."

"Most of them were either involved in barbaric acts or were conduit to them within the confines of Bangladesh, violating all international norms." The verdict said that in order to identify and eliminate the religious minorities, especially the Hindus, the Bengali intellectuals, the political groups under the Awami League and the pro-Liberation unarmed people, the Pakistani government and its armed forces formed groups like Razakar, Al-Badr, Al-Shams and Shanti Committee.



The tribunal then linked the Islami party with the pro-Pakistani forces and observed: "Jamaat-i-Islami and other pro-Pakistan political parties played an important role in setting up para-military forces to eliminate unarmed Bengalis in the name of saving Pakistan." Thousands of people from various walks of life, in processions with placards and festoons, started pouring into Shahbagh since morning. The intensity of the sloganeering increased with the passage of time.

In order to give the rally an apolitical look, at one stage all partisan banners and festoons were removed, barring those demanding capital punishment for the war criminals. At around 3pm, blogger Shahidul Islam Raju read out the 'Chorompotro', the ultimate call to hang the war criminals, followed by the national anthem. Moderated by freedom fighter Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, the rally was addressed by Mili Rahman, wife of Shaheed Flight Lieutenant M Matiur Rahman Bir Shrestha (one of the most valiant heroes of the Liberation War), educationist and eminent writer Prof Jafar Iqbal, Dhaka University Vice-chancellor AASM Arefin Siddique, and freedom fighter and cultural personalities Kamal Lohani and Hasan Imam.

They chanted slogans standing at the main platform demanding execution of the Razakars and the war criminals. Mili Rahman said, "Our new generation is awake. No-one can stop us. It's that Ekattor when we librated the country. Today you, the youngsters, will build a country free of Razakars and Shibir." The protests, demanding capital punishment for Molla, was started by the Blogger and Online Activist Network and was later joined by other organisations.

https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2013/02/17/parliament-changes-ict-law-to-try-jamaat



The Awami League and its allies on Sunday pushed through Parliament a law incorporating the provision for trying political parties and organisations alongside individuals for 1971 war crimes. The amended 1973 International Crimes Tribunal Act also arms the government with the right, equal to defendants, to appeal against verdicts by the tribunals for 'crimes against humanity' during the War of Independence. The amendment came in the wake of a protest that continued for the 13th consecutive day on Sunday, rallying tens of thousands of people behind the demand of handing death sentence to war criminals.

The Awami League and its fraternal parties enjoy a huge majority in Parliament. The BNP and other opposition parties have been staying away from it in support of their demand for an interim caretaker administration to supervise the national elections. The amended ICT Act will now not only facilitate an appeal against Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Molla's life sentence by the prosecution, but will also allow dragging organisations such as the Jamaat-e-Islami to the special tribunals and charge them for committing 'crimes against humanity'.

The Jamaat-e-Islami opposed the cause of Bangladesh's independence in 1971 and the fundamentalist party sided with Pakistan's army. Its leaders and activists joined the auxiliary support forces like the Razakars, Al-Badr and Al Shams which were responsible for some of the horrendous atrocities during the war. Nine top leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami and two of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) are currently standing trial in the two war crimes tribunals.

Street protests began the day Molla was sentenced to prison for life as a special war crimes tribunal found five of the six charges of crimes against humanity brought against him proved beyond doubt. The verdict outraged the nation, especially the youth, who used social networking sites calling for a protest as the charges proved against Molla included genocide and there had been no provision in the law that allowed victims to appeal against the verdict.



About a hundred blocked Shahbagh intersection on Feb 5 in response to the call, and Shahbagh became the place for entire nation to gather to press for their demands, including punishing organisations that stood against Independence War in 1971 and ensuring war crime victims equal right to challenge a conviction just like a convict. The news of the amendment was greeted with applause and slogans by the protesters at Shahbagh intersection dampened by an untimely drizzle in the afternoon and reeling from the loss of a comrade.

On Friday, one of the Shahbagh activists, Ahmed Rajib Haider, was hacked to death allegedly by Jamaat activists apparently in their desperation to suppress the agitation. The amendment now paves way for appealing against the life term verdict of Molla and also for putting Jamaat-e-Islami in the dock for its war time role in favour of then the West Pakistani occupation force in 1971. Of the nine standing the war crimes trial at the ICTs, seven had led Jamaat and its erstwhile students wing Islami Chhatra Sangha to mobilise people using Islam against the independence of Bangladesh.

In 1971, Jamaat also opened several paramilitary forces, one of which was involved in preparing the list of intellectuals killed on Dec 14, two days before independence, apparently to cripple the nation intellectually in the face of an inevitable defeat. In the two verdicts delivered by ICT, the three-member judge panel unanimously found Jamaat's involvement as an organisation in crimes against humanity committed in 1971. It took four decades to bring the war criminals to justice and still there was no provision in the ICT Act for trying Jamaat as an organisation when the trial began in 2010. The Shahbagh protest raised the demand of trying organisations involved in war crimes arguing that Nazi Party was banned in Germany after the World War II for its war crimes.

Almost all MPs of the ruling Awami League-led coalition passed the International Crimes (Tribunals) (Amendment) Act Bill-2013 by voice vote. The only Independent MP Fazlul Azim was not present. The bill will now be put up for Presidential assent. Once that happens, the amended Act will be applicable to all cases since July 14, 2009 when the ICT law was amended for beginning the war crimes trial. One of the activists leading the Shahbagh protests, Imran H Sarker, saw the passage of the amendment as a 'primary victory'.

The protest organised by Blogger and Online Activists Network spread fast across Bangladesh and beyond. People thronged in their tens of thousands every day, especially on weekends, and promised to not return home until the demands were met. Ministers, politicians, media personalities, and cultural activists threw their weights behind the protesters. Parliament also extended its support to the demands last week.



On Feb 10, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in Parliament that she found all the demands justified and that she would ensure that the demands were respected. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs began working on a draft immediately and the Cabinet gave its nod to the proposed amendments on Feb 13. The Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry was given a day to examine the proposal. The Bill was finally tabled on Feb 13.

Jamaat's trial

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed raised the Bill for its passage on Sunday. Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon proposed amendments to two more points in the law. "Besides an individual, an organisation should also be brought to justice. In the verdict against Bachchu Razakar it was explained how Jamaat has been involved in atrocities(during 1971 war)," said Menon. Speaker Abdul Hamid invited the Law Minister to read Article 47 (3) of the Constitution after Menon completed his speech.

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Constitution, no law nor any provision thereof providing for detention, prosecution or punishment of any person, who is a member of any armed or defence or auxiliary forces or who is a prisoner of war, for genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes and other crimes under international law shall be deemed void or unlawful, or ever to have become void or unlawful, on the ground that such law or provision of any such law is inconsistent with, or repugnant to any of the provisions of this Constitution," read the Article.

Menon suggested that 'or organisation' be added after the word 'individuals' in the section 3 (1) of ICT law. "Nazis were put on trial after the Second World War. The proposal the honourable MP (Menon) has made can be accepted," said the Law Minister. Then the amendments, including the one proposed by Menon, were passed by voice vote. ICT handed former Jamaat leader Abul Kalam Azad, infamous for his wartime role as Bachchu Razakar, death sentence in its first verdict.

In the verdict, the tribunal observed, Jamaat-e-Islam helped Pakistan military in the war against unarmed Bengalis by establishing 'armed forces' in the name of 'saving Pakistan.' The second verdict of the tribunal, given against Abdul Quader Molla, provided more details on Jamaat role in organising auxiliary forces in support of Pakistan.

Regarding Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Shangha, currently known as Islami Chhatra Shibir, the verdict observed that a very few Bengali, Biharis, other pro-Pakistani organisations and religion-based political parties, especially Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shangha, Muslim League, Pakistan Democratic Party, Council Muslim League, Nezam-e-Islami had joined the occupying Pakistani force or barbarically assisted to resist the idea of an independent Bangladesh.

They had committed themselves to barbaric activities in violation of traditional international laws

for assisting the Pakistani occupation force, observed the verdict.



Regarding Jamaat's direct relation with auxiliary forces like Razakar, Al Badr, the verdict observed Jamaat-e-Islami and other pro-Pakistan political parties had played a pivotal role in establishing these types of paramilitary forces (auxiliary forces) for killing civilian Bangladeshis in the name of protecting Pakistan.

Equal right to appeal

The amendment says any 'aggrieved individual' may appeal against a verdict just like a convict for the sake of ensuring justice for both the parties in the tribunal law. Section 21 (4) of the amendment said, an appeal must be settled in 60 days of its filing. Section 21 (1) of the law said, a convict may appeal against his sentence. The Section 21 (2) said, the same way the government or the complainant or he who investigated the case may appeal against a verdict or an order of conviction.

Sections 21 (1) and 21 (2) said the appeal has to be filed in 30 days after the verdict was delivered. In the original 1973 ICT law the prosecution was not given the right to appeal against a verdict. The provision was incorporated through amendments in 2009, but only in case of acquittal of an accused. The Awami League-led alliance made the amendment after assuming power with three-fourth majority in line with one of its major electoral pledges of trying war crimes.

http://pukhtunkhwatimes.blogspot.nl/2013/03/bangladeshmake-country-razakar-free.html



The youth-powered Gonojagoron Mancha organises a rally at the Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka yesterday to mark the historic March 7. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on this day in 1971 delivered his famous speech at this venue, then Racecourse Maidan Photo:

Anisur Rahman

The Suhrawardy Udyan, formerly Race Course Maidan where Bangabandhu delivered his historic March 7 speech, reverberated with anti-Razakar slogans yesterday. On the day in 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announced to the thunderous roars of hundreds of thousands: "The struggle this time is for emancipation. The struggle this time is for independence."

Forty-two years after that independence was won, the Shahbagh demonstrators on the same ground declared the struggle this time was to rid the country of Razakar and Jamaat-Shibir. Marking March 7, the protesters held the rally at the Shikha Chirantan at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, the 31st day of the movement. Once again, demonstrators urged the countrymen to resist Jamaat-Shibir in every neighbourhood.

"March 7 is the inspiration of our sprit of unity and a guideline for our struggle.... Driven by this inspiration, we will continue our movement until our demands are met," said Imran H Sarker, spokesperson for the protest that began on February 5 demanding capital punishment to all war criminals. Marking the International Women's Day today, the protesters will organise a Nari Jagoron Samabesh (rally for awakening women) at the Shahbagh intersection, now popularly known as Projonmo Chattar.

Imran called upon the women of different walks of life to join the rally and urged the garment owners and other organisations to allow a few hours' leave for all women employees to join the rally. The organisers will today announce the date, time and venues of rallies to be held in divisional cities outside Dhaka. Also, the deadline for the mass signature campaign has been extended till March 22.

So far, 4.5 lakh signatures have been registered. Like in previous rallies, Imran administered an oath to the protesters, who vowed to continue the movement until their demands are met. Criticising the filing of a case against Imran over "disgracing the national flag", Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree President Bappadittya Bashu said, "Nothing happens when Jamaat-Shibir men burn the national flag down. But when we call for hoisting the flag, it is denigration of it."

Demonstrators also slammed Jatiya Party Chairman and former autocrat HM Ershad for giving "negative" comments about the Shahbagh movement. Leaders of different student bodies spoke at the rally participated by various professionals and socio-cultural organisations. At the rally, a nine-year-old child, Apurbo, rendered Bangabandhu's full speech of March 7.

Earlier in the morning, protesters brought out an anti-hartal campaign from Shahbagh and marched through Matsya Bhaban, Jatiya Press Club and Purana Paltan before returning to the intersection. Protesters took to the Shahbagh intersection on 5 February, just hours after a war crimes tribunal gave life sentence to Jamaat leader Abdur Quader Mollah for war crimes in 1971. They have been demanding capital punishment to Mollah, saying a life term for him is too lenient a punishment.



No Place for RAZAKARS in Bangladesh



ICR FOUNDATION Press Release





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Mofazzal Haidar Chaudhury



Shahidullah Kaiser



Dr. Fazle Rabbi



Nizamuddin Ahmed



Anwar Pasha



Syed Nazmul Haque



Syed Abdul Mannan



Dr. Abul Kalam Azad







Dr. MAM Faizul Mahi



Dr. MA Khair



Zahirul Haq





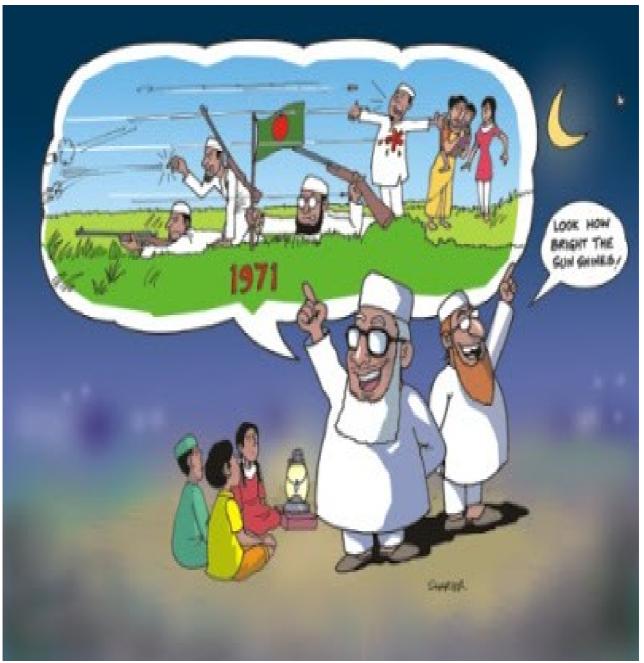




Bangladesh Must Punish the Islamists behind 1971 Genocide during India Pakistan WAR 7 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZP_aI9mFjA

Calls To Put Pakistan On Genocide Watch Amid Mounting Persecution Of Its Religious Minorities-MEMRI

https://www.memri.org/reports/calls-put-pakistan-genocide-watch-amid-mounting-persecution-its-religious-minorities



Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal

- Bangladesh News 24: Ghulam Azam Verdict on Monday
 - Bangladesh News 24: Guilty of All Grisly Acts
- Bangladesh News 24: Former Al-Badr Commander Mujaheed to Hang
- Financial Express Bangladesh: Tribunal Censures Those Renouncing Judgments
 - Dhaka Tribune: ICT 1 Accepts Charges Against 'Khokon Razakar'
- The Indian Express: Bangladesh: Another Islamist Leader Charged for 1971 War Crimes
 - Bangladesh News 24: Prosecution Considers Appeal
 - Bangladesh News 24: Mueen Says ICT a 'Farce'
 - Times of India: Bangladesh to Seek Extradition of 1971 War Crimes Accused
 - Bangladesh News 24: SC hearing on Quader Molla Ends
 - Bangladesh News 24: 'Sayedee Appeal Next'
 - Dhaka Tribune: ICT: AKM Yusuf's Charge Framing Decision Aug 1