

Genesis Of Ekushey

Reminiscence Of Glorious 1948 Movement

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On the occasion of 50th anniversary of Language Day, it has stirred up some of my past memories to the glorious past of Dhaka Medical College students' contribution to the language movement of 1948 and 1952. It has prompted me to write up some of my reminiscence of 1948- the beginning of language movement, which has received least attention. It is in this institution at the hostels, student leaders of the Language Movement planned their strategies. Though it apparently looks like a cultural movement, but it was, in fact, a social, political, economic, cultural movement of self determination, inspired by the spirit and aspiration of Bengali nationalism. Before I venture upon recounting some of my reminiscence on the issue, I would like to focus some of my thoughts on the background, which eventually spared off the issue of language movement and ultimately turned into a national movement that led to the emergence of the sovereign state of Bangladesh.

**Background:** With the cherished hopes and aspiration to have a separate homelands to safeguard the legitimate interest of the downtrodden Muslim minorities of India, Sir Mohammad Iqbal, a poet, philosopher of eminence, proposed for an autonomous state for Muslims in the north-western India, at the Muslim League Allahabad Conference in 1930. There seems to have been no concern shown for Muslims of eastern part of India, particularly of Bengal. Later, the historical Lahore resolution passed by the Muslim League councillors was moved by Sher-e-Bangla A.K Fazlul Haque in March 1940, urging formation of "Independent States" in north west and eastern Muslim majority area of India. The exclusive honour of "Sher-e-Bangla" (Tiger of Bengal) was bestowed on him by the Muslim League in their con-

Bose, the Chief Commander of Azad Hind Fouz.

It is also known, as to how at a later date, the very spirit of self-determination of Lahore Resolution was jeopardised at the "legislators convention" (instead of councillors, ignoring and by passing them in an undemocratic way) held at Delhi a double standard, what was advocated for all India, was not acceptable for Bengal. A joint petition was submitted to Government on 4th June, 1916 by eminent personalities like, Rohindranath Tagore, Saratchandara Chatapadhy, Brojenra Nath Sii, Prafulla Chandra Roy, Shama Prashad Mukherjee, protesting the turning of the hindu community of Bengal to minorities (politically) It was emphasized that, under the British rule, the role played by them in the arena of intellectual, cultural political and commerce was outstandingly remarkable. Though minority by figure, in every other sphere, they were much ahead, and their contribution in all sphere was enormous, including 64 per cent of their share in literacy, they claimed. Saratchandara Chatapadhy, expressing his most concern, sent a telegram to the Secretary of States, of which the other signatories were Judunath Sircar, Romesh Chandra Majumder, Meghnad Shaha and Suniti Kumar Chatapadhy. Within three to four months, as the issue took the shape of a terror infuriated by communalism, Rohindranath Tagore was no more in the forefront. On 20th February, 1947, declaration was made that by June, 1947, the British Government will transfer power to Indians. Hindu Mahashava and a section of Congress demanded partition of Bengal, in the event of partition of India (Chudhury S.I 1999, 2000: 1405 Bangla).

On other hand, it was Desh Bondhu Chittaranjan Das, who realized the root cause of the problem as disparity, inequalities, marginalization, who embraced

**Chudanga**  
Our Chudanga Correspondent writes: The people of Chudanga town have been facing problem to pay homage to the historic language martyrs, who embraced martyrdom of their independence struggle. The people of Chudanga town have been facing problem to pay homage to the historic language martyrs, who embraced martyrdom of their independence struggle. The people of Chudanga town have been facing problem to pay homage to the historic language martyrs, who embraced martyrdom of their independence struggle.

number of hindu members in Provincial assembly was 46 and Muslim was 39. With the inactment of Indian Act of 1935, the position was reversed to 119 for muslims and 83 to Hindus. In the same year, Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Haque became the first Muslim Mayor of Calcutta City Corporation, and in 1937, he became the Chief Minister of Bengal. The elite class was unusually alarmed and to safeguard their vested interest, who hitherto was enjoying the cream of the society, became desperate. Most of them had their zamindari (land lord) and other interest in East Bengal, though by and large they used to reside at Calcutta and other parts of West Bengal.

While All India Congress advocated the tenets of democratic principle for majority rule: but at the same rule of majority in Bengal was denied and no more relished to their taste, obviously for perpetuation of their vested interest. Playing important position in Azad Hind Fouz was an unique example of his ideals. As he was away from the country during the time of independence, he could not play his role in shaping the future of the country. Had he been able to put his foot in India at that crucial period of transition, history would have taken to a different course ensuring harmony among the Hindu and Muslim. The dynasty rule could not be also so deeply rooted. It was made to believe that he died in a plane crash. The plane was said to be so small that, it could accommodate only the pilot and Shuvas Chandra Bose, not even his private secretary. But many, on increasing circumstantial evidence are inclined to believe that, on the end of second world war, he was taken to Russia as a captive prisoner of war, where he was killed.

On the eve of independence of India, the Proposal of Cabinet Mission on 16th May 1946 headed by Sir Stafford Cripps was

in Saturday about the incentive bonus and started payment today. Port sources said BNP backed CBA and 22 labour associations were pressing hard the authority to give incentive bonus on the income target of 2000-2001, which was not achieved. The port workers handled 18 90 crore metric tons of cargoes in 2000-2001 financial year as against the target set at 17,60 crore tons and got incentive bonus equivalent to 75 days salary. The workers argued that although the income target of Tk 482.45 crore could not be achieved they fulfilled the profit target and hence they should be given the incentive bonus also on account of labour associations and CBA entered strike in the port on February 12. Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain visited the port on Feb 14 and in writing directed the port authority to pay the bonus after a meeting with the employ-

tance of the demand for Pakistan by the British, in which case the entire Bengal would go to Pakistan, the Hindu leaders made a demand for division of Bengal, who opposed the division of Bengal, earlier in 1905. The proposal made by Lord Mountbatten for division of India came for discussion in Muslim League Councillors' meeting at Delhi in June, 1947. At the behest of Jinnah and Suhrawardy, it was overwhelmingly accepted. The earlier decision of acceptance of cabinet mission plan by the Muslim League was thus reversed. The Cabinet Mission Plan did not get a fair chance to work.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah, for most of his political carrier was in Congress and was a proponent of identifying himself as "Indian first and then Muslim". Srimati Soronni Naido in 1916 used to adore him as a symbol of unity between Hindu and Muslim. Some used to blame Mohammad Ali Jinnah responsible for partition of India. But, it is Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who once proposed the famous 14 points Programme at all India Muslim Conference Dec 31, 1928-Jan 1st, 1929, in which a federal type of Central government and provincial autonomy were the prominent features. According to Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, "it would not be unfair to say that, Sardar Ballav Bhai Patel was the architect of partition of India". In his book "India Wins Freedom" Moulana Azad recalled that in his young days, he wanted to join the revolutionary party.

struggling for freedom. Being a muslim, he was considered ineligible to join freedom movement. No doubt the movement was against the British, but it was also to establish a Hindu kingdom in place of British rule, said Muzaffar Ahmed. On the other hand, Gandhi advocated for establishing Ram Rajatay (Ram's Kingdom). In the ultimate analysis, it is the disputeful attitude of the Hindu leaders towards the

such illegal practice Experts said the Act allows maximum 1.5 acres of land for constructing brick field, but many kiln owner use four to five acres of land for setting up of a kiln. The kiln owners also use lower chimneys giving rise to environmental pollution. A circular from the Land Ministry in 1990 said the Deputy Commissioner (DC) can only allow infertile and fallow lands for setting up of brick-fields. But in Gopalganj many lands have been set up on arable fields. Some brick kiln owners however said crisis of coal has forced them to use fire wood in kilns. Crisis of local potters for a long time, they added. Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to stop such illegal practice.

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**Acute scarcity of drin**  
NARSINGDI, Feb 18—Acute traffic-jam at Narsingdi Bus Stand to Station Road is hampering normal life of the pedestrians in the town. It has become a common feature in this area as well as Brahmoonrdi, Turning point, Court Road, Bhetanagar, Bus Stand areas are also facing traffic jam in Narsingdi Pourashava. Due to illegal shops of the road, traffic jam is continuing there. Every day at least 5000 vehicles including bus, truck and rickshaws move for hours together. Serious patients in critical condition are suffering from acute scarcity of drinking water. The water supply is almost non-existent in this area.

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Feb 19—The