

MONDAY APRIL 2 1979

Writing and Printing of the History of Bangladesh War of Independence Project

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THE writing and printing of the History of Bangladesh War of Independence project was set up in Jan'78 with the expressed objective of collecting data and documents related to the Bangladesh War of Independence. The objective also included the Printing of the documents and the history of the Independence War in several volumes. It was felt that a well documented unbiased and detailed history of the Independence War could provide a deeper understanding and help activate national consciousness and provide a sense of direction in nation building. Above all would be a perennial source of inspiration for the future generations.

The project has got four main functional areas:—

1) Collection of Materials related to the War of Independence

(2) Sorting processing & editing of the materials and documents.

(3) Printing of the volumes.

(4) Preservation.

The principal sources from where documents could be obtained were identified as below by the project:—

- (1) Government Sources
- (2) Institutional Sources
- (3) Individual Sources

(4) External Sources.

The project approached these sources through various methods.

The Government was approached through official channels both at the National and District Subdivisional level. Circulars were issued to various offices requesting them to deposit the relevant documents to this office.

It was in the know of the project that after 1971 considerable amount of document were deposited to various institutions Viz:— Bangla Academy National Museum National Archives etc. These documents were lying in a scattered state. Therefore the project approached these institutions and succeeded in obtaining the documents and bringing them together into a single collection.

The project observed that a huge amount of materials which belonged to private individuals and many experiences of Independence War were still not documented and could be lost forever. To obtain them the project advertised in the newspapers and carried out extensive man to man contact.

Furthermore the members of the project are carrying out extensive tour of the entire country to obtain documents and informations lying with individual and sometimes official hands.

The project met with great success in this field and a considerable amount of documents deposited in the office has come from people with whom direct contact was established many individuals

came to the office of their own to deposit their precious documents.

By April 1978 Ten thousand questionnaires will be sent out to obtain grass root level experiences of the ordinary citizen of the country. It is expected to meet with great success.

An important aspect of the War of Independence of Bangladesh is the activities carried out abroad both by Bangladesh as well as by foreign friends and sympathisers of Bangladesh. Within this year, the project members shall be visiting the main centres abroad of pro-Bangladesh activities

during the period of the War of Independence to obtain the vast collection of documents lying in these places to give a complete picture of our national independence.

The estimated amount of documents presently in possession of the project is 3,00,000 (three hundred thousand) Pages till to date. This is the most comprehensive and single largest collection of documents in the world related to the Bangladesh War of Independence. This is increasing continually. The documents are preserved both in original form as well as by Xeroxing them. General Classification of the documents are given below:—

Classification of documents

National

Published

Book/Press/Booklets/Brochure/ Resolution/ Circular/Statement
Release Party/ Individual Photographs.

unpublished

Official Records/Memoirs/ Interview/ Diary/Letters/ Press.
Release/Photographs/

International

Published

Papers/ Speech/ Statement/ Books/ Booklets/Photographs/

Unpublished

Letters/ Official Records/ Photographs

The project is to bring out twelve volumes of history and documents. Four volumes are almost ready for publication. It has a plan to bring out

Appendixes to each volume of documents. Two volumes of English version are also in the Plan.

The Plan of document are as follows:—

Plan of Documents

1. Movement
2. Monoevering
3. Battle
4. Organisation
5. Reports
6. History and Encyclopaedia

- (a) Before 1971.
- (b) In 1971.
- (a) International theatre
- (b) National Theatre.
- (c) India.
- (a) Confrontation.
- (b) Guerilla.
- (a) Mukti Fouze : E.P.R
- (b) Mujib Nagar.
- (c) Exodus Camp and Training Camp
- (d) Occupation Army.
- (e) Peace Committee.
- (f) Puppet Government
- (a) District Reports
- (b) Incidents.
- (c) Genocide.
- (d) Torture.
- (e) Atrocities.
- (a) History.
- (b) Encyclopaedia.

War of Independence are being collected

A Specialized library devoted to the Bangladesh War of Independence is being created. Books and booklets brought out in various parts of the world are being collected. They too will form an important source of our history.

An "Authentication Committee" has been formed to authenticate the documents which are

being obtained by the project. The documents selected for publication as well as for preservation are both going to be scrutinized by this committees.

The Committee is headed by Prof. Mofizullah Kabir, Provice Chancellor Dacca University. Other Members are:—
1. Prof. Salauddin Ahmed
Chairman, Deptt. of History, Jahangir Nagar University
—Member

2. Dr. Anisuzzaman Prof. Deptt. of Bengali Chittagong University.

—Member

3. Dr. Safar Ali Akanda, Director, Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Rajshahi University, Rajshahi.

—Member

4. Dr. Enamul Huq Director, Dacca Meuseum—

—Member

5. Mr. M.M. Mohsin, Associate Professor, Deptt. of History, Dacca University

—Member

6. Dr. Shamsul Huda Harun, Associate Professor, Deptt. of Political Science Dacca University

—Member

7. Dr. K.M Karim, Director National Library and Archive, Dacca.

—Member

8. Mr. Hasan Hafizur Rahman O.S.D. History of Bangladesh War of Liberation Project —Member-Secy.

The Project has created a great stir both among the public and the scholars. A great number of local scholars as well as foreign academicians have contacted us for using the materials for their research

work. The work of the project will have a tremendous impact on the nation and will be instrumental in determining the course of future historical research of the nation. Preservation of historical truth is the motto of this project.