

বাংলাদেশের মুক্তিযুদ্ধ ১৯৭১

মৌখিক সাক্ষ্য

Bangladesh Liberation War 1971

Oral Evidence

খুলনা KHULNA

দ্বিতীয় খন্ড VOL . 2

মুক্তিযুদ্ধ গবেষণা কেন্দ্র

**Centre for Research on
Liberation War of Bangladesh**

Dhaka Bangladesh

September 30, 2004

বাংলাদেশের মুক্তিযুদ্ধ ১৯৭১
মৌখিক সাক্ষ্য
Bangladesh Liberation War 1971
Oral Evidence

খুলনা KHULNA
দ্বিতীয় খণ্ড VOL . 2

সম্পাদনা
সুকুমার বিশ্বাস
প্রধান সম্পাদক
Edited By
Sukumar Biswas
Chief Editor

মুক্তিযুদ্ধ গবেষণা কেন্দ্র
Centre for Research on
Liberation War of Bangladesh
Dhaka Bangladesh
September 30, 2004

Introduction

In 1996 and 1997, Muktijuddha Gabeshana Kendra, the research wing of privately endowed Muktijuddha Gabeshana Trust, undertook a oral history project to collect evidences from common people in thirteen districts of Bangladesh. The people who were selected for interviews had local reputation of being reliable eye-witness of, and actual participants in the liberation war. As sixteen field investigators, engaged by us, interviewed them in remote areas of the country, a good percentage of them provided new data, information about little known events, newer dimensions to well known cycle of repression, conflict and death, and clue to understand the psyche of a society in ferment.

More than 2,500 people were interviewed. Their oral evidences ran up to 1,100 hours on audio tapes. If all the oral records are transcribed, and then verified, cross-checked, and substantive parts selected, which is normally done in the process of editing, this can produce about 22,000 A4 pages. But no sooner the recording of evidences was complete, and equally arduous work of transcribing and editing began, the initial project fund, generously given by the Ford Foundation, was exhausted.

With limited resources of our own, we carried on the job but at a reduced scale. In last five years, we transcribed, edited and compiled nine volumes of the oral evidences, each containing about 250 pages. The compiled volumes covered two areas, Kasba and Barisal, which are only 10 percent of the entire oral evidences. The compiled volumes have been kept at our library for researchers and interested readers. Two books were published with selected pieces from Kasba and Barisal volumes.

Our modest efforts took a promising turn late last year, when a Japanese scholar, Professor Hiroshi Sato, while visiting Dhaka, took a view of what we had been doing. He took initiative, which eventually has resulted in linking up our project with the Centre for Documentation and Area-Transcultural Studies (C-DATS) at the Tokyo University for Foreign Studies (TUFS). TUFS enjoyed the reputation of having the biggest collection of historical materials in Asian and African languages within Japan, and through founding of C-DATS, in 2002, a new interactive historical materials center is being structured to take the area and cultural studies to effectively meet the needs of the new century. We came to know that C-DATS "will particularly tackle domains traditionally left out of the range of research targets in historical materials and official histories, namely the oral history of ordinary people and peripheral groups as well as the material and symbolic representations of Afro-Asian Cultures". C-DATS has kindly agreed to extend financial assistance to ensure compilation of twelve volumes of oral evidences over next three years. And we feel, perhaps, through exchange of views we would be able to improve the methodology to be followed in writing grassroots history of liberation war.

But why grassroots history? The history of the struggle of common people, as a special field of study, began with the history of mass movements in the 18th century, particularly after the French Revolution. After the great revolution, French tradition of historiography took a decisive turn towards history not of the French ruling class, but of the French people, which established most of the themes and even the methods of grassroots history.

It really began to flourish in other countries after the second world war. With the development of recording technology - from mid-fifties - the oral method took a central place to study the history of common man, especially growth of movement of less privileged classes.

The historiography in Bangladesh could take a lesson from late 18th century France, as the liberation war wiped off the nascent ruling class of its previous political identity. Happily one can discern some tendency towards grassroots history in the making from various write-ups. But the dominant tendency is glorification of leadership cults, with occasional reference to people. As most of the official documents of the Bangladesh exile government were not preserved in any archive due to strange lack of interest, the consequent vacuum allowed glorification of leadership cults, which still have practical political use. History, to the new ruling class in Bangladesh, is primarily a tool for management of political myths. With progressive declassification of archive materials by various governments, who tilted one way or the other over Bangladesh issue in 1971, myth management, it seems, would soon be an untenable game. The prime mover which shaped the destiny of this nation was people at the grassroots. The historians would have to take serious note of what they did.

Muyeedul Hasan

September 30, 2004

Member Director
Muktijuddha Gabeshana Trust

সূচি

পৃষ্ঠা

মো: ইউনুস আলী ইনু	১
শেখ কামরুজ্জামান টুকু	১৬
শেখ আবদুল জলিল	২৮
শেখ আবদুল হান্নান	৩৯
হুমিকেশ দাস	৪৭
শেখ ফজর আহমদ	৫৭
আবু জাফর	৬৫
নরেন্দ্রনাথ দাস	৭১
সুবীরকুমার মিত্র	৭৩
শওকত আলী হাওলাদার	৭৬
আবুল কাশেম বাচ্চু	৭৯
মো: হাবিবুর রহমান	৮৬
আবদুল আজিজ	৯১
শাহেদ আলী মোল্লা	৯৮
মোহাম্মদ কায়কোবাদ	১০৭
মোল্লা শহীদুল ইসলাম	১১৬
ফকির আবু হোসেন	১১৯
এ. কে. এম. বায়েজিদুল ইসলাম	১২৫
হাফিজুর রহমান	১৩৪
জোয়ারদুর রসুল বাবু	১৩৭
আবুল খায়ের ভূঁইয়া	১৩৯
মধুসূদন জোয়ারদার	১৪৫
মোহাম্মদ জাকারিয়া	১৪৯
গীতা রানী জোয়ারদার	১৫৩
অঞ্জলি জোয়ারদার	১৫৭
নিশিকান্ত জোয়ারদার	১৬০
মোহাম্মদ শাহজাহান	১৬৬
হরেন্দ্রনাথ গাঙ্গুলী	১৭০
প্রফুল্ল কুমার ঢালী	১৭৬
পাগলি দাসী মন্ডল	১৮৬
শৈলেন্দ্রনাথ বিশ্বাস	১৯০
নারায়ণচন্দ্র ঢালী	১৯৭
মনোদা বিশ্বাস	২০৪
বিমলকৃষ্ণ মন্ডল	২১১
ওয়াজেদ মিয়া	২১৮
বিলাসী রানী মন্ডল	২২৫
সরদার মো: নূর আলী	২৩১
বীণাপানি বিশ্বাস	২৩৯