

#SANJAY UVACH



Maj Chandrakant Singh Vrc (Retd)
Military Historian

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 Palkhana in Dhaka.

Many innocent and unarmed have been killed in Dhaka city and other places in Bangladesh. Violent clashes between EPR and police on one hand and the armed forces of Pindi on the other, were going on. The Bengalis were fighting the enemy with great courage for an independent Bangladesh. May God aid us in our fight for freedom. That same night Sheikh was arrested by the Pakistan Army. The event is best described in Sheikh's own words in the interview he gave to Sydney Schanberg, on 16 March 1972. The first part of the interview is as below.

He kissed his weeping wife and children goodbye, telling them what they knew too well - that he might never return. Then West Pakistani soldiers prodded him down the stairs, hitting him from behind with their rifle butts. He reached their jeep and then in a reflex of habit and defiance, said "I must have my pipe and tobacco - I must have my pipe and tobacco." The soldiers were taken aback, puzzled, but they escorted him back into the house, where his wife handed him the pipe and tobacco pouch. He was then driven off to nine and half months of imprisonment by the Pakistani Government for his leadership of the Bengal autonomy movement here in East Pakistan.

That was a piece of his narrative today as Sheikh Mujibur Rehman related for the first time, the full story of his arrest, imprisonment and narrow escape from death - and his release a week ago, that time. Relaxed but with little bitterness, and sometimes laughing at his good fortune, the prime minister of the newly proclaimed nation of Bangladesh talked in fluent English with a handful of American newspaper correspondents. He leaned back on a couch in the sitting room of the official residence of his captor, former President Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan of Pakistan, who was later himself in house arrest in West Pakistan, and started from very beginning - the night of March 25, 1971.

His pipe and tobacco pouch lay on a coffee table in front of him. He said he had learned it as a plot by the Pakistani military regime to kill him and lay it on the Bengalis. "Whenever I came out of the house," he related "they were ready to throw a grenade at my car and then say Bengali extremists did it. That is why the army had to move in and take action against my people. I decided I must stay in my own

Mianwali sits in the home district of Lt Gen AAK Niazi, who had replaced General Tikka Khan as the commander in East Pakistan. On 15 December, the prisoners who were from that district were told that General Niazi had been killed by the Bengalis.

President Yahya Khan issued a new martial law order saying that Sheikh Mujib had to have a lawyer whether he wanted one or not. "You see how they were protecting my rights," Sheikh Mujib related. "They just wanted a certificate to hang me." The trial ended on Four December - the second day of the Indian Pakistani war that grew out of the East Pakistan crisis and ended in an Indian victory and proclamation of East Pakistan's independence under the new name Bangladesh.

Release of Bangabandhu (...1)

Arrest, Imprisonment & Freedom of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman - An Ant's Eyeview



Sheikh Mujibur Rehman

house and let them kill me in my own house, so that everybody would know they had killed me, and my blood would purify my people."

That day on March 25, with reports mounting that an army crackdown was imminent against the popularly elected movement seeking to end the long West Pakistani domination and exploitation of the more populous eastern region. Sheikh Mujib had sent his eldest son Kamal, and his two daughters into hiding. His wife, keeping their youngest son Russel, close by her, refused to leave their modest two story house in Dhanmandi section of Dhaka. Unknown to them their middle son Jamal, was still in the house, sleeping in his room. By 10 pm Sheikh Mujib had received a word that West Pakistani troops had taken up positions to attack the civilian population. A few minutes later troops surrounded his house and a mortar shell exploded nearby.

He had made some secret preparations for such an attack. At 10.30 pm, he called a clandestine headquarters in Chittagong, and dictated a last message to his people, which was recorded and later broadcast by a secret transmitter. The gist of the broadcast was that they should resist an army attack and fight on regardless of what might happen to their leader. He also spoke of independence for the seventy five million people of East Pakistan. Sheikh Mujib related that after sending his message he ordered away the men of the East Pakistan Rifles - a para-military unit, and the Awami League, his political party, who were guarding him.

The West Pakistani attack throughout the city began at 11 pm and quickly mounted in intensity. The troops began firing into Sheikh Mujib's house between midnight and 0100 am. He pushed his wife and the two children into the dressing room upstairs and they all got down on the floor as bullets whizzed over-

head. The troops soon broke into the house, killing a watchman who had refused to leave, and stormed upstairs. Sheikh Mujib said he opened the door of the dressing room and faced them saying, "Stop shooting. Stop shooting. If you want to shoot me, then shoot me. Here I am, but why are you shooting my people and my children."

After another flurry a major halted the men and told them there would be no more shooting. He told Mujib he was being arrested and at his request, allowed him a few minutes to say his farewells. He kissed each member of his family and he recalled, saying to them, "They may kill me. I may never see you again. But my people will be free some day and my soul will see it and be happy."

He was driven to the National Assembly building, where he was given a chair. "Then they offered me tea," he recalled in a voice that came mocking. "I said, that is wonderful. Wonderful situation. This is the best time in my life to have tea." After a while he was taken to a dark and dirty room at the military school in the military cantonment. For six days he spent his days in that room and his nights, from midnight to 0600 am, in the residence of the martial law administrator Lt Gen Tikka Khan, the man the Bengalis consider most responsible for the military repressions, in which hundreds of thousands of Bengalis were tortured and killed.

On 1 April 1971, Sheikh Mujib said that he was flown to Rawalpindi, in West Pakistan - separated from East Pakistan by over a thousand miles of Indian territory - and then moved to Mianwali Prison and put in a condemned cell. He passed the next nine months alternating between that prison and two others at Sahiwal, all in the Northern part of Punjab Province. The military government began proceedings against him on twelve charges, six of which carried the death penalty. One was for waging

war against Pakistan. Sheikh Mujib, who was a lawyer, knew he had no chance of being acquitted, so he tried delaying tactics. "I was playing a game with them to get some time."

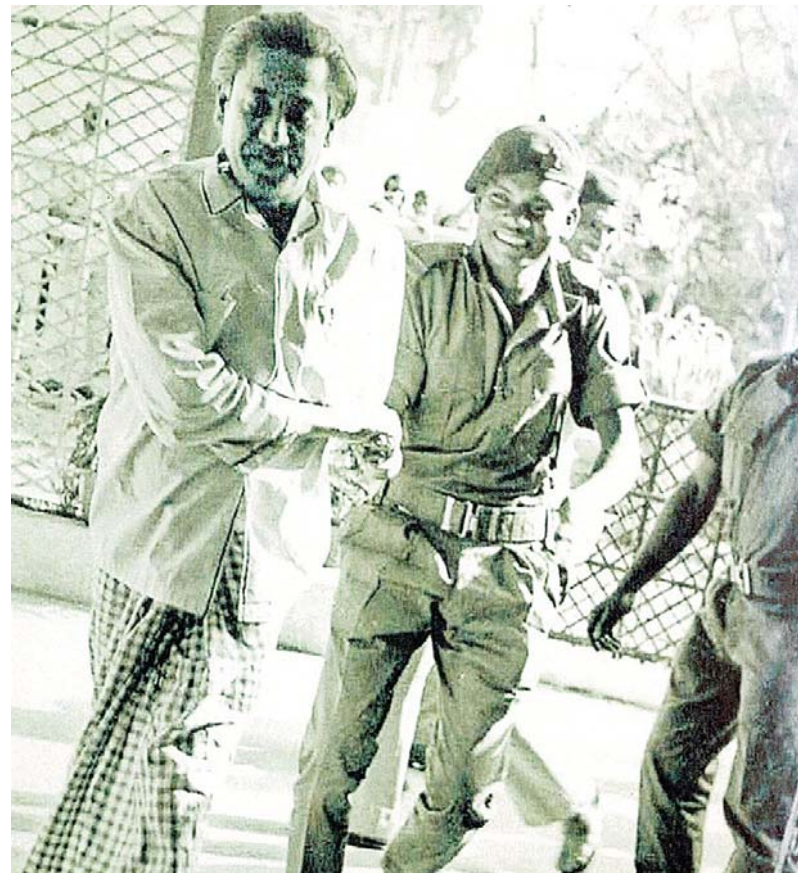
At first he demanded to be defended by AK Brohi, West Pakistan's most eminent lawyer, who is respected by all factions. Brohi was finally assigned to him and began preparing the defense. After several months the trial opened at Lyallpur, at which time Sheikh Mujib did a sudden about-face, announcing that he wanted to enter no defense, so Brohi could be sent home.



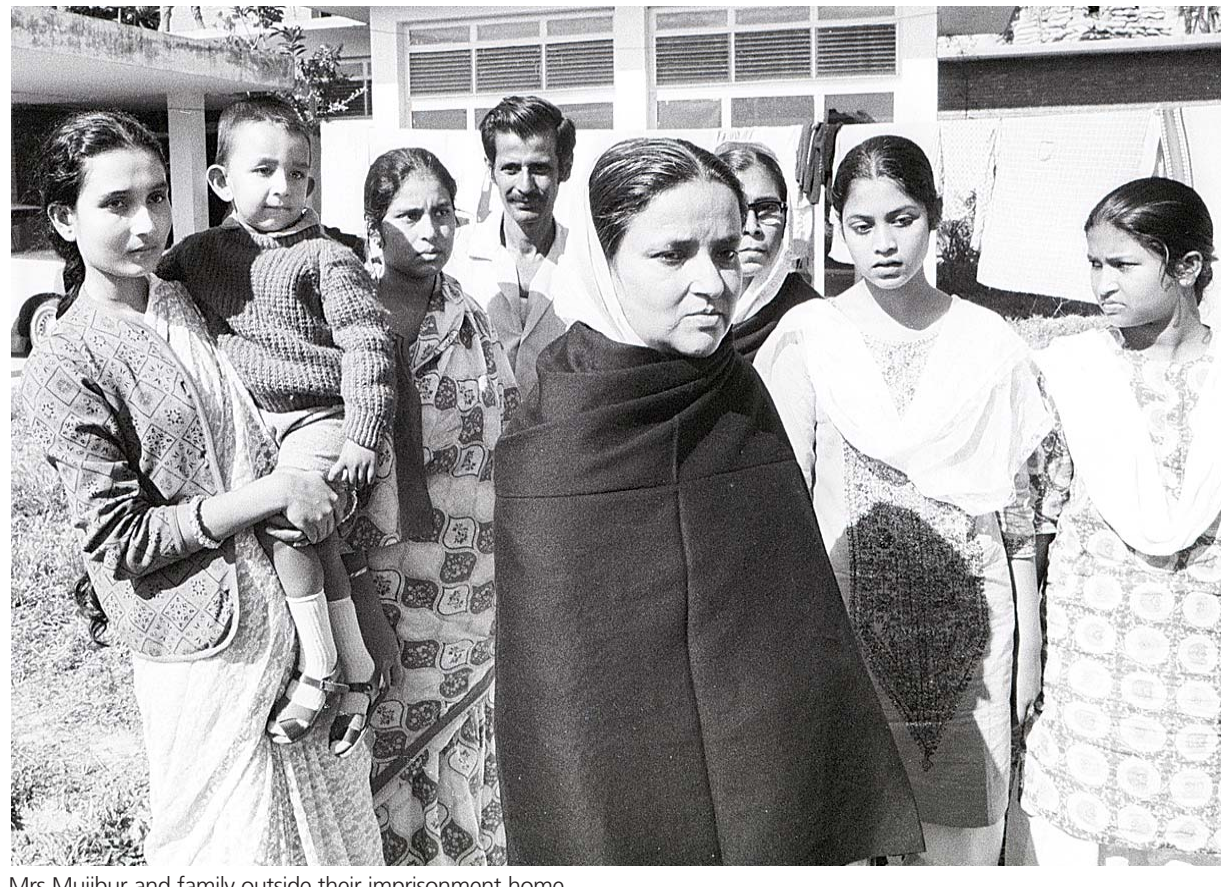
NIAZI, Jacob and Gavin Young at Surrender Lunch on 16 December 1971



Dacca Airport cratered by IAF bombing.



Mujibur bringing home Indian soldiers for lunch.



Mrs Mujibur and family outside their imprisonment home.



Penguin Awareness Day

Penguins are fun and interesting animals that are unique in many different ways. There are currently over 18 different known species of penguin, some been around the planet for well over 65 million years. However, every year, the penguin population shrinks at an alarming rate and most of the world doesn't realize this because they don't get to see "real" penguins in their natural habitat. That's why Penguin Awareness Day is a good opportunity to learn and understand about them.

MA

General Yahya called all the members of the military court to Rawalpindi to draft their findings in a hurry. But then he got all busy with the war. The verdict which might have looked somewhat ridiculous in the middle of a full scale conflict was never announced, but on 7 December, Sheikh Mujib was moved back to Mianwali.

For his protection in the event of an Indian air raids. The superintendent who was greatly excited, assured the Sheikh that he was not taking him for hanging. Sheikh was still dubious. "I told him, if you are going to execute me, then please give me a few minutes to say my last prayers. "No, no, there is no time," said the superintendent, pulling at Sheikh Mujib. "You must come with me quickly!" As they slipped out of the prison, the superintendent explained the plot. He took Mujib to his own house about a mile away, and kept him for two days. The war was ending and there was considerable confusion in official circles, and on 18 December, the Superintendent told Mujib that word had leaked out about him and he had to move.

The official who was also the superintendent of police of the district, then took Mujib to an unoccupied house several miles away. He was there for nine days when soldiers asked the superintendent where he was. The superintendent said he did not know. The officer in charge then told the superintendent that there was no reason to hide Sheikh Mujib or to be frightened because Zulfikar Ali Bhutto the West Pakistani politician who had taken power from the discredited generals on 19 December wanted to see Sheikh Mujib and talk with him.

Prelude to Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's Release

Sheikh Mujib emerged and was immediately flown to Rawalpindi, where he was put under house arrest in the President's guest house. After a few days, Mr Bhutto, the leader of the majority party in the west, who had collaborated with the army in the moves that led to the crackdown and repression in East Pakistan, went to see Sheikh Mujib, who greeted him, "Bhutto what are you doing here?" Sheikh Mujib says he had learned of Mr Bhutto's accession to power but was doing a bit of leg pulling. "I am the President and also the chief martial law administrator," was the reply, according to Sheikh Mujib. "A wonderful situation."

To be continued...

write@arbit@rashtradoot.com

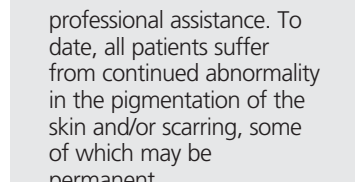
#MAQUILLAGE

Self-administered Cosmetic Procedures

The COVID-19 pandemic was responsible for a nationwide healthcare and economic slowdown. Surprisingly, even during months of quarantine and isolation as masks and face coverings became the norm, people continued to spend money on products to enhance their attractiveness and to seek out cosmetic procedures.

"During the lockdown, doctor-patient interactions slowly resumed largely in the form of telemedicine clinics, however many cosmetic clinics remained closed. Unable to seek professional care, many felt compelled to search for easily obtained yet riskier cosmetic options," said Neelam Vashi, MD, associate professor of dermatology at Boston University School of Medicine.

In a new article, Vashi and her colleagues discuss three patients who developed complications following home-administered cosmetic procedures due to their desire to gain benefits from cosmetically enhancing procedures without



professional assistance. To date, all patients suffer from a facial abnormality in the pigmentation of the skin and/or scarring, some of which may be permanent.

According to the researchers there is a vast pool of misinformation readily available on the internet in the forms of how-to videos and instructional web pages that teach one how to self-administer these cosmetic procedures that is factually incorrect information and often is spread by self-proclaimed and unverified 'experts'.

While people's desire to look beautiful and their attractiveness-seeking behaviours are unlikely to change, the researchers believe the availability of illegally traded products and cosmetic procedures can be diminished with regulatory efforts carried out both by law enforcement and the communities themselves. "Dermatologists should educate patients on the importance of performing cosmetic procedures in a safe environment with trained professionals, especially during the pandemic."

#TETE-A-TETE

In an exclusive conversation with Arbit, Rajasthan's first female dog trainer and the only canine behaviourist in the state throws light on her ways of working with dogs; challenges she faced in this field as well as the importance of a good trainer for you as well as your pooch.



Turning Love for Dogs Into a Profession



Tusharika Singh
Freelancer writer and city blogger

Meet Rajasthan's first female dog trainer and the only canine behaviourist in the state - Priyanshi Singh Shekhawat. Eight years ago, Priyanshi had just returned to Jaipur from Mumbai after getting a degree in Economics and was unsure about what to do with her life. "I was quite depressed as I didn't particularly like the working environment in Jaipur, and I couldn't understand what career path to pursue. I was talking to my then boyfriend (now husband), Shabdul, and a random conversation about my love for dogs led me to pursue a career in this field. I did two courses with Shirin Merchant, who is a pioneer in the field of canine behaviour and training in India. And that's how my journey as a dog trainer and behaviourist began."

Trainer vs Behaviourist

"Now you may wonder what differentiates a dog behaviourist from a dog trainer. While a dog behaviourist works to understand why a dog may behave in a certain manner and modify that behaviour, a dog trainer, on the other hand, aims to teach the behaviour as generally asked by the dog owner. To put it simply, behaviourists are well-equipped to understand the dog's behaviour as well as train them accordingly. A trainer, however, may not be able to handle underlying behavioural issues in dogs. "If a dog is misbehaving, then that means there is miscommunication between the dog and the owner. As a dog behaviourist, my job is to help dog owners understand the behaviour of their dog and mediate between them," elaborates Priyanshi.

Breaking Stereotypes

As a dog behaviourist, Priyanshi had to face some certain challenges both at home and the outside world. "Even though my father is a dog lover, but he was quite apprehensive about taking up dog training as a career", says Priyanshi. Being a largely male dominated industry, it was also



Choosing the Right Breed

It is also imperative to choose the right breed according to where one lives, how much time one can devote to the dog and how experienced one is in handling dogs, believes Priyanshi.

Breeds to Avoid as First Time Dog Owners: Beagle, Chow Chow, Dalmatian, Rottweiler, Husky, Malinois

Breeds to Get as First Time Dog Owners: Labrador, Golden Retriever, Shih Tzu, Pug, Cocker Spaniel, Mastiffs, Rescue/Foster Dogs

Just like how you invest in your child's education, dog training is like an investment in your dog who is going to be with you for the next 14-16 years. The training should begin the minute a puppy enters your house. It is extremely important to choose a dog trainer wisely. I have heard horrific incidents like trainers beating up or pinching dogs while trying to train them and it is heartbreaking."

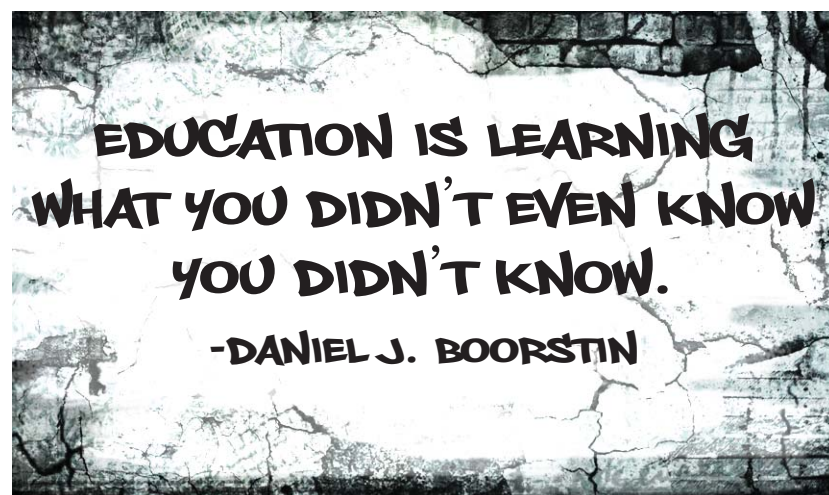
initially difficult for Priyanshi to garner the trust of people. "When I went for dog training sessions, people often asked me if I would be able to work with large breed dogs like Great Dane. They thought I could only work with small breeds like Shih Tzu." However, gradually she started getting recognition for work and today she is one of the most revered experts in this field, in Jaipur.

Intimate Way of Working

On a usual day, Priyanshi gets several calls from dog owners complaining about issues like hyper or anxious behaviour, sibling rivalry, destructive behaviour, biting, resource guarding, among others. Ask her how she deals with these issues and she says: "I prefer meeting the dog and the dog owner myself in their homes and most often than not what the owners tell me and what the dog's behaviour tells me are two completely different things. It takes several one-on-one sessions with



THE WALL

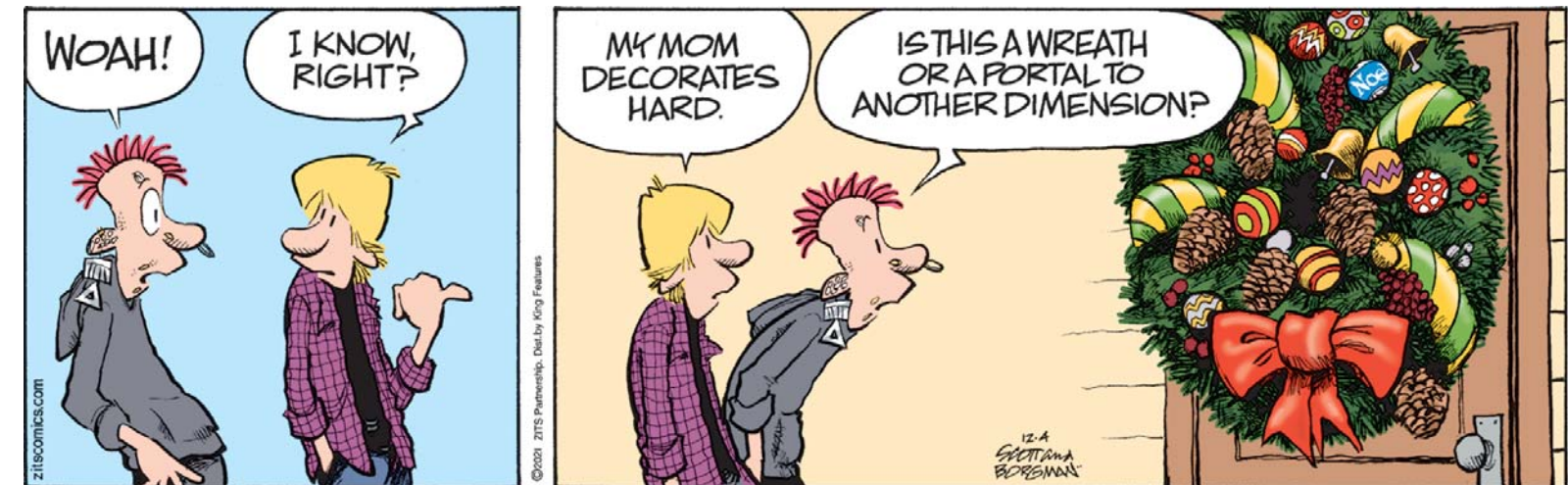


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman