Martyred Intellectuals

The saga lives on...



From top left: Munier Choudhury, Serajuddin Hossain, Dr. Alim Chowdhury, Mofazzal Haidar Chaudhury, Shahidullah Kaiser, Dr. Fazle Rabbi. Second row: Nizamuddin Ahmed, Anwar Pasha, Syed Nazmul Haque, Syed Abdul Mannan, Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Ghyasuddin Ahmed. Bottom row: Rashidul Hasan, Dr. MAM Faizul Mahi, Dr. MA Khair, Zahirul Haq, Selina Parvin, Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya, ANM Mustafa.

Shahidullah Kaiser

Journalist and novelist, born on 16 February 1927 in Mazupur village of Feni.

After completing honours in economics from Presidency College in 1946, Shahidullah Kaiser enrolled for the Master of Arts in economics at Calcutta University, but could not sit for the final examination. He was a member of the provincial Communist Party of East Pakistan and also played an important role in the Language Movement in 1952. He suffered imprisonment several times.

Shahidullah Kaiser started his career in journalism in 1949 with the weekly Ittefaq in Dhaka. In 1958, he was appointed associate editor of the Sangbad, and continued to work there until his death.

Shahidullah Kaiser was also a novelist of note. He came into the limelight with Sareng Bau (The Captain's Wife).

Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya

Born on 30 August, 1915 in Nawabganj upazila of Dhaka district, Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya graduated from Dhaka University in 1937 with Honours in History and obtained MA degree in 1938 from the same institution occupying first position in the first class in both the examinations.

He started his academic career as a lecturer in Jagannath College in 1939 and worked there until 1949, when he joined the History Department of Dhaka University as a Senior Lecturer. A scholar in Sanskrit literature and ancient history of Bengal and India,

Bhattacharyya served Dhaka obtained BA(Hons.) and MA in University as a devoted English from DU in 1957 and teacher and a scholar until his 1958 respectively. He taught at death (14 December, 1971) in various colleges including the hands of the cohorts of the Pakistan army.

Prof. Munier Choudhury

Born in 1925 at Manikganj, Dhaka. Hailed from Noakhali. Joined the department of Bangla as a lecturer in 1955, before that he was a part time teacher in the English department. He was an M.A. in English, but while he was interned at Dhaka Central Jail (1953-54) during the Language Movement he did his M. A. (first in first class) in Bangla also..

He became Reader in 1962 and Professor in 1970 and the Dean of the faculty of arts in

The members of the Al-Badr killed him at the dawn of our liberation. His dead body could not be identified.

Mofazzal Haidar

Chaudhury

Mofazzal Haidar Chaudhury, born in Noakhali in 1926, joined the department of Bangla of Dhaka University in 1955. He studied at London University for a couple of years in linguistics. He was awarded 'Sahitya Bharati' by the Viswa Bharati University, Santiniketan. He 1970. His famous writings include Bangla Banan o Lipi Sanskar, Rabi Parikrama, Colloquial Bengali, Bhasa o Sanskriti, Sahityer Nava Rupayan etc.

He was picked up and killed by the Al-Badr on December 14,

Rashidul Hasan

Pakistani rule in 1949. He adedicated teacher.

Narsingdi, Pabna Edward College and Krishna Chandra College of Bhirbhum in West Bengal. Finally, he joined the English Department, DU, as a lecturer in 1967.

He was a liberal democrat and a life long fighter against fundamentalism and communalism.

A close friend of Anwar Pasha, Rashidul Hasan was picked up together with his friend Anwar from the same flat within the DU campus.

Anwar Pasha

Born on 15 April 1928 at Dabkai village in Murshidabad, India. He did his MA in Bangla from Calcutta University in 1953. In 1958 he joined Pabna Edward College and then, in 1966, the Department of Bangla, Dhaka University.

Anwar Pasha was picked up from his university flat and brutally killed with other intellectuals. He was posthumously honoured with the Bangla Academy Award for his literary achievements.

Dr. MAM Faizul Mahi

Dr. Faizul Mahi was born in 1939 at Feni. He was very much dedicated to the cause of the became Reader in Bengalin in War of liberation that was going W on from March to December, watchful eyes of the collabora-

Mahi joined the Institute of Rashidul Hasan, born in 1932 in Education and Research in 1968 Bhirbhum district of West after obtaining Ed. D (doctorate Bengal, migrated to this part of in education) and then soon the subcontinent then under became Senior Lecturer. He was

The beastly Al-Badr group picked him up on 14 December from his residence.

Ghyasuddin Ahmed

Ghyasuddin Ahmed was born in Narsingdi in 1935. He passed MA in History from Dhaka University in 1957. He joined Jagannath College in the History department as lecturer Nizamuddin Ahmed University in 1958. He went to the UK with Commonwealth Scholarship in 1964 and obtained Honours degree in World History from London School of Economics.

Accused of helping the freedom fighters he was taken to Dhaka Cantonment for questioning. He was released after a few days. Then again on 14 December 1971 he was picked up from Mohsin Hall by the Al Badr killing squad. On 4 January 1972 his clothes and mutilated body were identified in Mirpur area.

Mohammad Fazle Rabbi

Dr. Mohammad Fazle Rabbi was born in Pabna in 1932. He was an activist during the Language Movement in 1952. He passed MBBS from Dhaka Medical College in 1955 and received gold medal for securing top position in MBBS examination. In 1963 he joined Dhaka Medical College and Hospital as associate professor of medicine.

On 15 December midnight Dr. Rabbi along with some other intellectuals were taken in a truck from the Lalmatia Physical Training Institute to the Rayerbazar brickfield and tors some of whom happened murdered in a brutal manner. to be his colleagues within the His dead body was identified on 18 December.

Selina Parvin

Selina Parvin was born in Noakhali in 1931. She was a poet Paltan house by the members of and a journalist. She had her Al-Badr. His dead body was primary education in Feni. She never found.

became an avid reader of Bengali literature. She took a job at weekly 'Lalana.' Then she started her own literary magazine 'Shilalipi.' She also began to write poems, short stories and essays. On 14 December 1971 she was murdered by Al-

helping the freedom fighters from within keeping a low profile. But he could not keep secret his real identity from the

and later joined Dhaka Nizamuddin Ahmed was born in Munshiganj in 1929. He was a journalist. He passed MA in economics from Dhaka University in 1959. Later he joined Pakistan Press International. He became the editor of PPI in 1969 and was promoted to the rank of general manager.

On 12 December 1971, Nizamuddin was taking his lunch when members of Al-Badr picked him up from his residence. His body was never found.

Syed Nazmul Haque

Syed Nazmul Haque was born in Khulna in 1941.He passed B.A. (Hons) and M.A. in Political Science from Dhaka University in 1963 and 1964 respectively. He took an active part in the anti-martial law movement in 1962. He was arrested for disrupting the convocation programme on the DU campus in 1964 where the then governor of East Pakistan Abdul Monem Khan was present.

He became the chief reporter of Pakistan Press International and Dhaka correspondent of Columbia Broadcasting Service. He prepared a full report on the proceedings of Agartala Conspiracy Case. He sent news items on the atrocities carried out by the Pakistani forces during the liberation war.

On 11 December 1971, he was picked up from his Purana

From the pages of my father's diary

A daughter seeks justice

ROQUAIYA HASINA NEELY

ne Pakistanis has been

Hasan. He was a teacher in the English department of Dhaka University. I lost him when I was only 13. Long the person he was. How he was and who he was, what were his held on to for so many years with great care. Over the years I have read the diaries manymany times each time and what amazes me is how a person could have led such an organized life and noted down all the works of a day with such diligence? Every event from the important ones to the ones carried out every day found its way into the pages of the diary.

We were a family of five-my mother-Begum Roquaiya Rashid, father, elder brother-Mahmud Hasan, younger sister-Suraiya Amina Smreeti and that time. So my mother and march, 1969:

father had their pick, my brother being my mother's Y father is mar- favorite and me being my tyred intellectual father's. It was due to his wishes that I am a Tagore singer today. Being my father's favorite came with the benefit of being able to go everywhere with him.

He paid attention to these before I could discover him as little events of daily life and noted them down with care. I realize his love for all of us from thoughts and ideologies -- this. Every morning he would answers to all these questions wake up and read the Holy would have remained unknown Quran sitting my little sister on if it weren't for his meticulous his lap. He cared about all our diaries which my mother had feelings and thoughts and paid attention to them.

He talked as beautifully as he wrote. He was very outspoken, honest and conscious as well. He loved his country and wanted the best for it and wasn't afraid to say so either. The depth of his thoughts concerning our country and general countrymen awes me. I can imagine with what vigor and enthusiasm 21st February was celebrated in 1969 from his diary entry on that day. He noted down the speech of Mr. Abul Hashim.

How much he loved his counme. My sister is 10 years youn- try becomes evident from his ger to me and was very small at writings. He wrote on 12th

try this much doesn't forget everyone. Not only have we the glorious nation it dreamt of mother could see that the sacriabout his fellow human been deprived of our father's being. Thus they made a plan of fice of her husband was not following entry:

and more that the grant the frais and as a mobilities constant south to any count I mesoured sections मार्थनाम क्या मार माराव मार्थिम व्याना 18 minaria ammen ano derila elel alon 1 to meet NX MONTH TO 20 march doubt nousely exercised made to Se assure desir se miller se sources was sorra and Salari essons acons es republic 23.903 maser and i excess mister colours ourself i energy of the wa The relief to both 25 West and much author and some अपर राजापिक भीते करि Din wasker sure auster: ENERGY ARISE AREAS Desta vos " war 326 - Realistic might every accommus Gara control seurs 11 enter 1

What stands out in my to understand that if these peofather's diaries is how he had a ple lived no one could get in the

A man who loves his coun- big heart filled with love for way of Bangladesh becoming criminals to justice so that my beings. It hurt him to see the love but so has been the whole crippling the nation by killing its gone in vain and that we could tyranny of the powerful people nation. If we had more selfless, intellectuals. And our own coun- at least remember the next year over the weaker ones. How a dutiful, honest citizens like him trymen had helped them carry as the year when justice will riot at Ahmedabad in India today, our country would not out the plan successfully. The have been served. moved him is evident from the have been in such a state. The Pakistani army did not know Pakistanis were smart enough our fathers. The Rajakars, A1identify them. How could we even dream of forgiving these people? They must be brought to justice. That was the end of year

> 1969. Bengali's had to a lot to be proud of, lot of inspiration to go on with. Now we are at the end of 2009, 37 years since our independence. What have we done to make this year memorable? Another year has passed by: still the war criminals have not been brought to justice. What resolution should we make for the coming year? At least one should include the efforts of trying to bring the war criminals to justice. I congratulate the initiatives of the Sector Commanders' forum that has come forward with the demand and hope that the initiative doesn't only remain within meeting and symposiums. I request the whole nation to come forward to help bring the

The writer is a TV artist and Badar and A1-Shams helped daughter of martyred intellectual SMA Rashidul Hasan.

