army for his 'provocative speeches.' Rabbee didn't just limit his ideals to words, he acted on them. During the liberation war, Rabbee provided medical care, monetary support and shelter to freedom fighters and survivors of the war. His confidence in his cause can be best exemplified by his refusal to accept the Best Professor Award from the Pakistani government in protest of their treatment to East Pakistan and its people.

Apart from being a doctor, Rabbee was well known and respected for his research works, namely *The Tropical Pulmonary Eosinophilia* and *A Case of Congenital Hyperbilirubinaemia*. His works were published in the British Medical Journal and The Lancet, one of the world's oldest general medical journals.



Dhirendranath Datta



Munier Chowdhury

Even musicians were not spared in the Pakistani regime's targeted hunting of the country's intellectuals. Altaf Mahmud always attempted to reveal the atrocities of a violent administration through his tunes. Apart from being an active freedom fighter, Mahmud was also a gifted music composer. He was even invited to participate at the Vienna Peace Conference in 1956 but was unable to attend as his passport was confiscated by the Pakistani government. It was not just Mahmud's outspoken nature but also his inarguable talent that frightened an entire regime. How could they dare to underestimate a man who had the ability to move an entire nation to action just with a single song? Even today Mahmud's eternal composition *Amar Bhaiyer Rokte Ragano* has the ability to take us back to a struggle that brought us our much loved freedom. Apart from the revolutionary *Jibon Theke Neya*, Mahmud, a protégée of the music legend Ustad Abdul Kader Khan, composed music for 19 films, including *Kaar Bou*, *Satyer Joy* and *Ami Manusher Bhai Spartacus*.

Professor Govinda Chandra Dev was the living embodiment of philosopher Paul Kurtz's statement that philosopher should just make obscure references to the works of other philosophers but "descend into the concrete world of human practice and belief, sweat and toil like the rest of humanity." He believed that philosophy should have a connection with reality instead of dwelling in abstractions. Despite an impoverished childhood spent in loving care of Christian missionaries, Dev proved his mettle when he earned the top position in his masters degree in philosophy from Calcutta University. He introduced the idea of synthetic philosophy, which stated that it was possible to believe in the ultimate perfection of humanity on the basis of advanced scientific conceptions, in the subcontinent, focusing on its practical application. Dev's popularity transcended borders; he taught at the Wilkes-Barre College in Pennsylvania in USA as a visiting professor and his popularity became such that some of his students founded the Govinda Dev Foundation for World Brotherhood for promoting his philosophy of humanism. Some of his notable books include, *Amar Jibandarshan*, *The Philosophy of Vivekananda and the Future of Man* and *Buddha: The Humanist*.' "Peace is indivisible," he had once said and these words could not have more value than in today's world of illogical wars and individual national interests.

We Can't Forget You

According to the Bangladeshi encyclopedia, Banglapedia, around 991 academics, 13 journalists, 49 physicians, 42 lawyers and 16 other people from various cultural and intellectual sections of the country were savagely killed in the 1971 carnage of the intellectuals. We can't ignore the contributions of other martyred intellectuals, be it Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta, Ghiasuddin Ahmed, Anwar Pasha and Dr Serajul Haque Khan, Humayun Kabir, Jogesh Chandra Ghose or numerous others who impacted the birth of a nation and could have contributed to the development of Bangladesh had they lived.Unfortunately, due to a lack of space we could not list out the significant contributions each of them made in their respective fields. These people were not mere intellectuals, they were the backbone of our country. They were the brilliant minds who conceived of an independent nation, fought for it but could not live to see their country freed from the clutches of an oppressive regime. Here's to the visionaries who dreamt and struggled for a free country. We owe you our respect, our reverence and our freedom. ■