

**TAJUDDIN AHMED**  
(July 23, 1925 – November 3, 1975)

Born at Kapasia in Gazipur, Tajuddin Ahmed is regarded one of the most instrumental leaders in the birth of Bangladesh who played a significant role during the Liberation War. A freedom fighter, Ahmed served as the Prime Minister of the then Mujibnagar government, and also after independence, he contributed significantly in rebuilding the nation.

“ To say that the methods employed by them (West Pakistan) to achieve their objectives is barbarous is inadequate. To call them bestial is a little unfair to some beasts. These methods and these objectives, however make absolutely clear the nature of our enemy and the cause we are fighting for. We want the world to understand that we are fighting for nothing less than our existence as a nation.”

*(From the speech of PM's appeal to Nations, dated June 13, 1971)*

...Bangladesh will carry in her bosom the scars caused by the occupation army for a long time, but there is comfort and exultation in the thought that the end of the invader is come, that Bangladesh is going to be completely liberated, and that her homeless stricken children will soon return home for from their sorrow and exile. As we win the war, we must prepare to win the peace. The edifice of 'Golden Bengal' must be laid on the ruins left by a cruel war and every one of her sons and daughters must take part in the exhilarating and humbling task of reconstruction and development. The revolution begun by the Bangabandhu will end only when his ideals of democracy, socialism and secularism are fully realised.

*(From his address to the nation broadcast on December 8, 1971)* ”

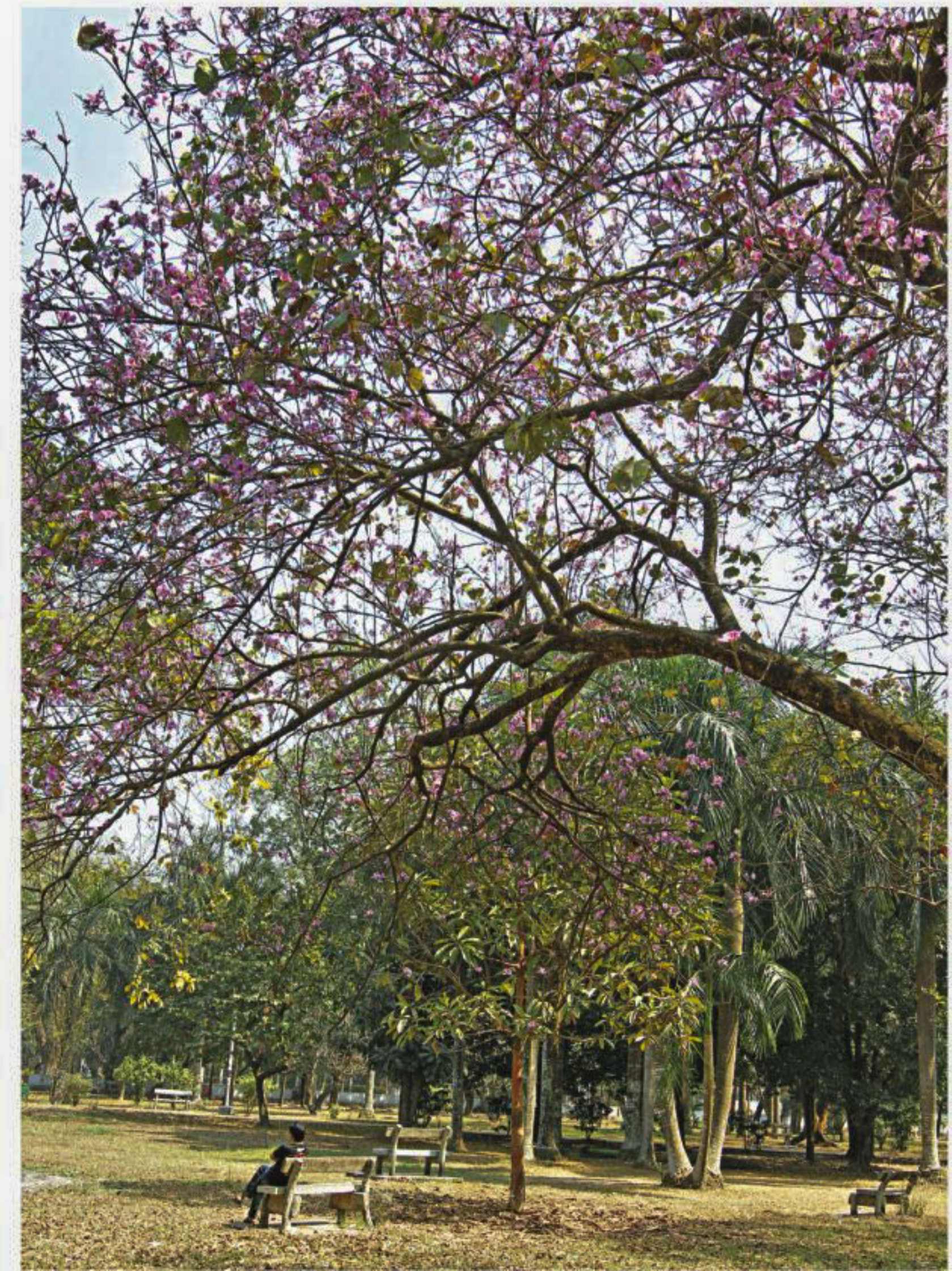
STARDIARY

TRICKY BEGGING !

The other day I was working in my office situated in Motijheel. Suddenly, an old man came to my desk and asked for some financial assistance. I paused work and looked at the man's face. He was about 50-year-old and told me that his father was critically ill. So, for his father's treatment, he needed, huge sum of money. Out of curiosity, one of my colleagues asked him how old his father was. "99-year-old," he replied. The man was looking quite energetic and vigorous for his age. He was talking in a normal tone. In the meantime, he moved to various desks and collected a significant amount from my others colleagues, earning sympathy. I was suspicious of his movement. One of my colleagues followed him. As soon as the man went out of the office, he started counting his donation, then talked to someone over phone and fled from the scene by a CNG in the blink of an eye.

These days begging syndicates target corporate officials and emotionally blackmail others by using elderly people asking for donation. Be careful while donating. Otherwise you may be deceived and your hard earned money will be misused. It is often heard that drug addicts in guise of beggars also beg alms to bear their drug expenses .So it is important to think twice before donating money.

Md Zonaed Emran  
A Banker



THE LOST NATURE

Just a couple of days ago, I was in a serious mood, as exams were knocking on the door. Suddenly I heard a loud scream. Immediately I walked to the dining room and saw my mother along with her best friend staring at the tube light rod. Their eyeballs were almost popping out of their sockets. As I followed their eyes, I was dumbfounded. A little bird was slipping from the tube light rod. It didn't even grow enough feathers. The tiny feet were trying to balance walking but they failed to do so. It was continuously staggering. The marble like eyes were looking for its mother. After 10 minutes of struggling finally we got hold of it. Aunty grabbed it lovingly and it seemed like that the bird gave a sigh of relief. She took it to the garage where its nest was located. After getting her baby, the mother showed gratitude whistling softly. The lack of trees has compelled the birds to take shelter in the buildings. Now isn't this our responsibility to take care of our environment? I have already got the evidence that soon our nature will get totally lost in this city.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Hridita Saha  
United International University, Dhaka

SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO: MARILYN SILVERSTONE

JAAGO BANGLADESHI JAAGO

AHMAD IBRAHIM

4 5 years ago, at the beginning of the month of March, Yahya Khan announced on televisions and radios that the General Assembly of Pakistan was to be postponed 'until a later date'. Having lost by a landslide to the Awami League in the general elections, his actions represented those of a desperate man aiming to salvage an even more desperate union between two pieces of land, divided by a thousand miles of India and connected, only tenuously, through the politics of religion. On the streets of Dhaka, for the first time ever, chants for independence were heard.

"Bir Bangali ostro dhoro Bangladesh shwadhin koro".  
The list of heroics goes on alongside the list of lives lost to genocide. On 2nd March, A.S.M Abdur Rab hoisted the new

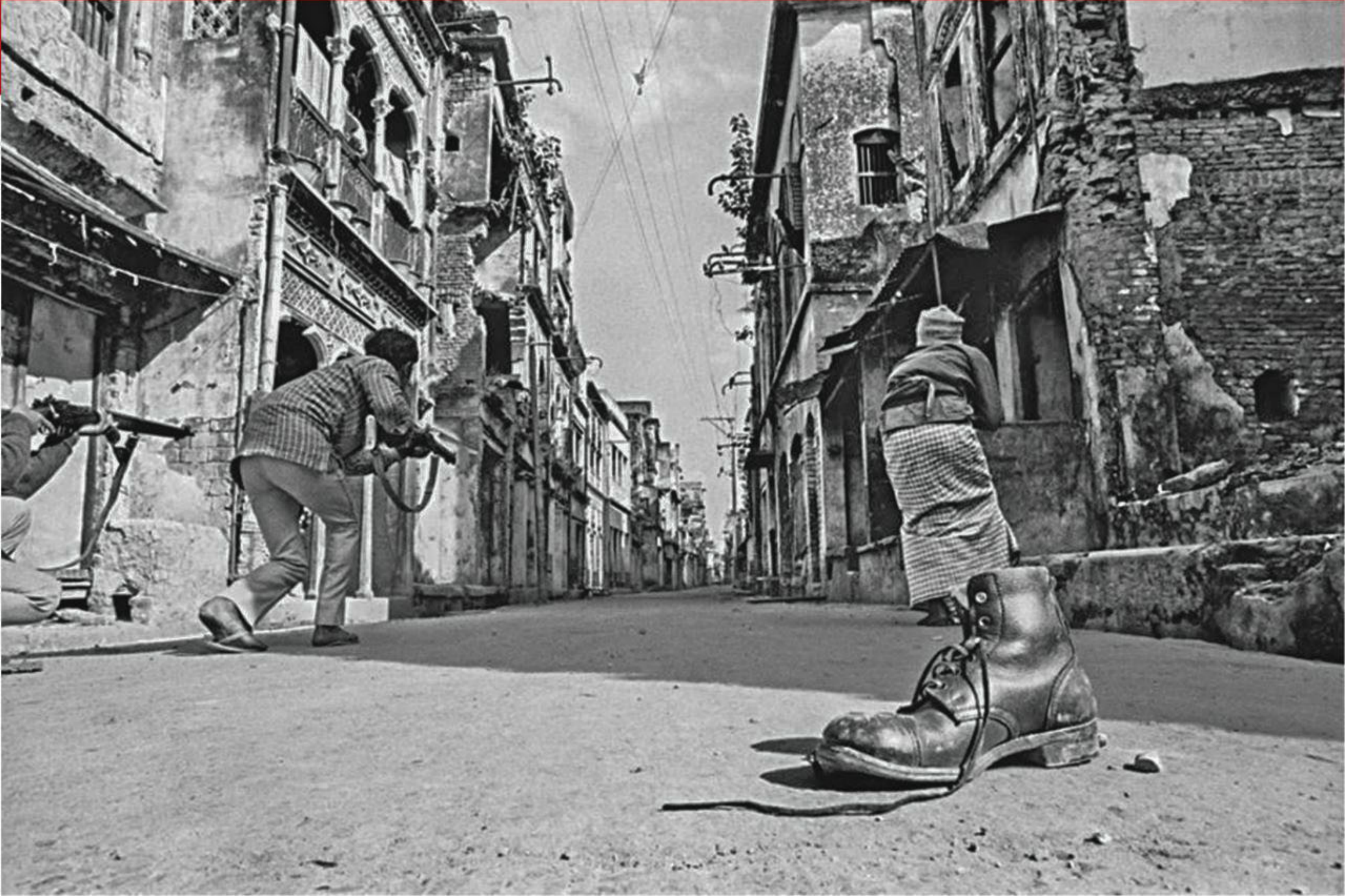


PHOTO: KISHOR PAREKH