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MARTYRED INTELLECTUALS DAY

Freedom comes at a price

Daughter of martyred RU teacher shares with Star some untold stories of her father's killing in 1971

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

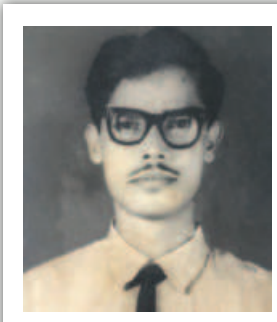
It was around 8:00pm.

A sudden knock at the door of house F-1237 in Ghoramara area of Rajshahi broke the eerie silence of the wintry night in 1971. The knocking sent chills down the spine of Mir Abdul Quayum and his wife.

Then they heard a voice. "Sir, would you please come out?" asked a man behind the door in clear Bangla. His voice sounded soft and polite.

The young psychology teacher of Rajshahi University had been suffering from a cold. His seven-month pregnant wife Mastura Khanam, also a teacher of the same department, told him not to respond.

But Quayum did not listen to her. He took his identity card and opened



the door and saw Abu Taiyab, a non-Bengali stenographer of the RU registrar office, who was known among locals a collaborator of the Pakistan army.

"Sir, an army captain wants to talk to you. He is waiting in his vehicle at the end of the alley," Taiyab told him.

"Well, show me the way," Quayum replied and followed Taiyab.

The 32-year-old teacher, known among students as a freethinker, left his home on the night of November 25, 1971 and never returned. He is one of the scores of intellectuals who were rounded up in a similar fashion, tortured and killed just days before Bangladesh won the Liberation War.

Sensing imminent defeat, the Pakistan

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SEE OUR SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



A boy dangles from the step of a train engine, putting his life at risk. Showing such blatant disregard for safety often leads to accidents. The photo was taken near Tejgaon Railway Station in the capital recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Hasina among world's 100 most powerful women: Forbes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been ranked 29th in this year's Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women.

The US-based business magazine published its 16th annual list on Thursday. The list is available on its website.

Last year, the Bangladesh prime minister was ranked 26th.

Hasina is the longest serving prime minister in the history of Bangladesh. She won a fourth term in office after her party, Bangladesh Awami League, won 288 out of 300 parliamentary seats in the December 30 national election last year. The

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Tories triumph in UK

Johnson vows to get Brexit done by January 31, urges unity; EU says talks on future ties will be complex and tough



AFP, London

Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday called on Britons to put years of bitter divisions over the country's EU membership behind them as he vowed to use his resounding election victory to finally deliver Brexit next month.

Johnson's Conservatives won their best result for three decades on Thursday night after promising to get Britain out of the European Union on January 31.

But in a victory speech in Downing Street, the former London mayor vowed to listen to those who opposed

Brexit and lead an inclusive, "One-Nation" government.

"I urge everyone to find closure and to let the healing begin," he said, a few hours after visiting Queen Elizabeth II to be reappointed prime minister.

Johnson called the election to break the deadlock in parliament over how to implement the 2016 referendum vote for Brexit, in which he had played a leading part.

It delivered a stunning victory for the Tories, who secured 356 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons -- the biggest majority since the 1980s heyday of Margaret Thatcher.

By contrast, the main opposition

Labour party suffered its worst result since 1935, forcing leader Jeremy Corbyn to announce he would be stepping down.

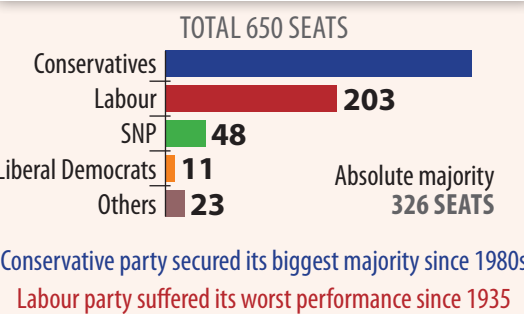
Meanwhile the pro-Brexit Liberal Democrats also had a dismal night, falling to just 11 seats and losing their leader, Jo Swinson.

London stocks and the British pound jumped on the result, amid hopes of an end to years of Brexit uncertainty that has had an impact on economic growth as well as sown social division.

Johnson said his party had an

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UK GENERAL ELECTION 2019



Citizenship law 'discriminatory'

Says UN, calls on India to review it; Japan PM's visit postponed as protests spread outside northeast; CMs of 5 states vow to prevent implementation of the act

STAR REPORT

The United Nations human rights office yesterday voiced concern that India's new citizenship law is "fundamentally discriminatory in nature" and called for it to be reviewed.

The call came as violent protests, which paralysed India's northeast states for days, spread outside the region, prompting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to postpone a visit to India.

Thousands of protesters in northeast staged fresh demonstrations yesterday following several days of running battles with riot police that have left the streets of the region littered with burnt-out vehicles, rocks and other debris.

On Thursday two people were killed and around 20 were being treated in hospital after police fired live and blank rounds, medical staff said.

However protests there were more peaceful yesterday, reported our New Delhi correspondent. Curfew was relaxed in Assam's Dibrugarh and Meghalaya capital Shillong. Despite the relative calm, more army and paramilitary forces were deployed



yesterday in Assam to restore normalcy in the epicenter of protests.

But protests seemed to gain momentum across the country.

While police used batons and tear gas shells to quell an unruly mob at Shillong, protesters set fire to a railway station complex in West Bengal's Murshidabad district. Even the national capital New Delhi witnessed violent protests, with students of the Jamia Millia Islamia University clashing with the police. At least fifty students were detained following the clashes.

Other smaller demonstrations took
RELATED STORIES ON PAGE 8 SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Dhaka win after Perera, Tamim heroics

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal finally returned to the groove with a fifty that, coupled with Thisara Perera's all-round performance, helped Dhaka Platoon register their first win of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League as they beat Cumilla Warriors by 20 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Chasing a challenging target of 181, Dawid Malan kept hopes alive until the left-hander fell for a fighting 40 in the 18th over as Cumilla eventually ended the chase on 160 for nine in 20 overs.

After scoring a quickfire unbeaten 17-ball 42, Perera was also instrumental

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The Hague trial creates hope for justice

Myanmar's admission of excesses during army operations seen as a primary victory for Rohingyas

PORIMOL PALMA

Myanmar's admission before the top UN court that its army could have committed crimes against humanity in Rakhine State comes as a primary victory for the Rohingyas, say analysts.

Bangladesh should now work closely with the international community to continue the legal and diplomatic battles for justice for the persecuted community, a number of refugee researchers and international relations experts told The Daily Star.

The Gambia's filing of the genocide case against Myanmar gave a momentum to the efforts to ensure justice for the Rohingyas, they said.

"Myanmar's admission that its military has done excesses during the clearance operations is a primary defeat for the country," said Prof Delwar Hossain of international relations at Dhaka University.

During the December 10-12 hearing at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Myanmar's lawyers admitted that the atrocities committed against the Rohingyas could be crimes against humanity but denied those had genocidal intent.

The Gambia, which filed the case on November 11 accusing Myanmar of genocide against the Rohingyas, argued that Myanmar had a state policy of eliminating the persecuted community.

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Tulip, Rupa, Rushanara re-elected

Another Bangladesh origin woman Apsana also elected BSS, Dhaka

Three Bangladesh-origin female politicians known as Tin Kanya (three daughters) achieved victory in Thursday's UK general elections.

The three -- Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, Rushanara Ali and Dr Rupa Huq -- retained their seats with a resounding victory on Labour Party ticket.

Rushanara Ali was elected for the four consecutive terms while Tulip and Rupa were elected for three times in a row.

Tulip, daughter of Sheikh Rehana, retained her Hampstead and Kilburn seat with a margin of 14,188 votes. She bagged 28,080 votes against her Conservative rival Johnny Luk's 13,892 votes.

"Thank you Hampstead and Kilburn for electing me once again. Thanks to all my volunteers and my

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

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