

A Death-defying Day

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

"The irony of life is that it's lived forward but understood backward."
- Søren Kierkegaard

Never for once, in the 55 years that he lived, did he doubt that his people, for whom he suffered so much, which included 4682 days or nearly 13 years in prison, could have betrayed him. He earned the honorific Bangabandhu, a friend of Bangladesh, by being with them at some crucial turns in their history. Even though he was born in the remote village of Tungipara under Gopalganj, he was catapulted into the centre stage of politics that was transitioning from the British Raj to 'Swaraj' (self-rule). From a peripheral student leader, he emerged as the father of a nation. When he was killed by a group of wayward soldiers on August 15, 1975, his body was returned to Tungipara for his final rest.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamed of a Golden Bangladesh. Even before that, he dreamed of having a separate country for the Muslim populace, whose rights, he felt, were not secured in a post-British unified India. He even felt that at the time of Partition, Dhaka should never have withdrawn its claim over Kolkata as its capital, which was furnished by the resources of East Bengal, or over Maldah, Greater Jessore, and Karimganj, which had a larger Muslim density.

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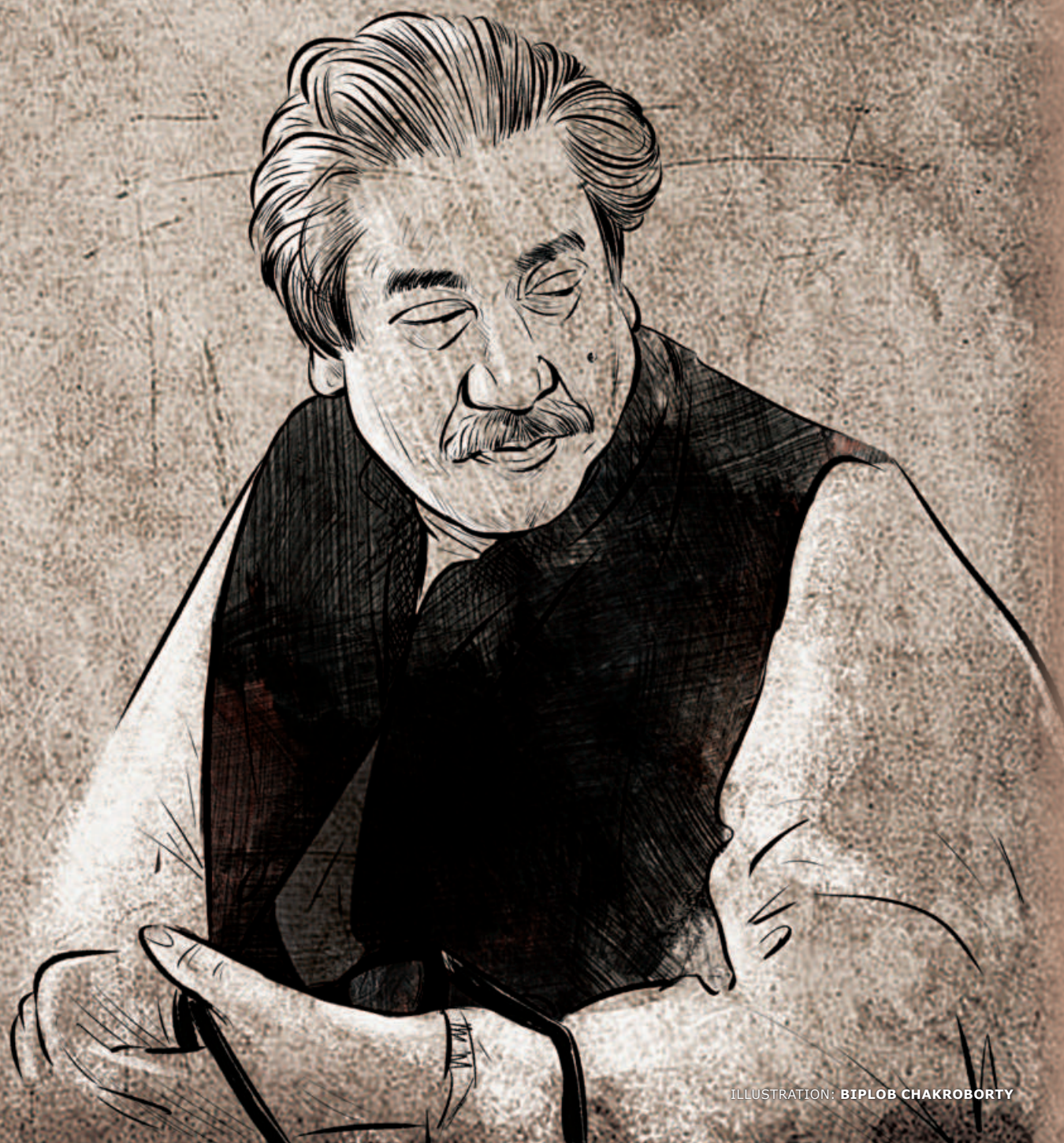


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