

**English translation:**

The navy official Lieutenant Commander Muazzem Hossain was taken out of his house by the Pakistani soldiers and shot and killed in front of his relatives. Throughout the period of war, many brutal murders like this occurred. Some of the people who were martyred at this time were familiar faces to many of us at that time. The 84 year-old man Jagesh Chandra Ghosh spent most of his life as a professor of chemistry. He was a professor in Dhaka's Jagannath College at one time. He had founded an *ayurvedic* institution which was very famous. 78 year-old Ranada Prasad Saha was born in a poor family. He established himself on his own. He was given the title of "*Danobir*" because he did a lot of social work. Habibur Rahman was a professor of mathematics at Rajshahi University. They were all victims of brutal murders. Altaf Mahmud was also one of these victims. He was a songwriter and composer. He composed a famous song as a tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement of 1952, "*Amaar bhai-er roktey rangano Ekushey February, ami ki bhulite pari?*"

Many Bangladeshi people were martyred during the war with the Pakistani army, but the Bengalis never gave up the battle. Instead the brave freedom fighters challenged the army to fight with them. Almost nine months passed by and during the end, the Indian Armed Forces joined the *Mukti Bahini* (a term used to denote the Bangladeshi resistance army. It literally means "Army of Freedom"). The Pakistani military began to feel desperate and discouraged. They started understanding that their defeat was certain and was not too far away. Thus they started conspiring to do something extremely harmful to Bangladesh. They made a complex plan to secretly kill the Bengalis. From December 10th to 14th, in 1971, the Pakistani army went from house to house picking up the country's most famous and talented people. Among these people were journalists Sirajuddin Hossain, Nizamuddin Ahmed, A.N.M. Gholam Mustafa; well-known doctors Fazle Rabbi, Abdul Alim Chowdhury and Ahmed Murtaza...sorry, Muhammad Murtaza; and famous novelist and journalist Shahidullah Kaiser. They also took some of the eminent professors of Dhaka University. Among them were history professors Shantosh Chandra Bhattacharya, Abul Khayr and Giasuddin Ahmed; professors of English Rashidul Hasan and Jyotirmoy Guho Thakurata; professors of Bengali Munir Chowdhury, Mufazzal Haider Chowdhury, Anwar Pasha and many more. Professor Munir Chowdhury was a renowned playwright and a favorite of his students. Professor Mufazzal Haider Chowdhury was Rabindranath Tagore's student in Shantiniketan. Professor Anwar Pasha wrote many novels and poems. They never came back again. Just as with them there were uncountable cases of murder that happened during these days. After the country was liberated, many of their mutilated bodies were found in the Mirpur House of Public Execution. Some bodies were never found. December 14th is commemorated as the Martyr Intellectual Day in the memory of these slain intellectuals. The soil of Bangladesh is still moist from the blood of these martyrs as are the eyes of their near and dear ones. They gave their lives for the country and they are regarded as our most important

citizens. They are very dear to us, and we have achieved our freedom in exchange for their lives. So, we will never forget them.

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