



**THE MARTYRED INTELLECTUALS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
DURING THE 1971 GENOCIDE IN BANGLADESH**

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Introduction

The University of Dhaka started its journey in 1921. 1971 was the 50th anniversary of this university, once known as the “Oxford of the East”! Unfortunately, in the same year, the university also witnessed one of the worst genocides in the history of the world, perpetrated by the Pakistani military and its collaborators against the people of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The university's sprawling campus witnessed the heinous crimes committed by the Pakistani Army on **25 March 1971**. The first wave of the army's “Operation Searchlight” hit the campus on the night of 25 March. The Pakistan military, armed with heavy weapons, such as tanks, automatic rifles, rocket launchers, heavy mortars and light machine guns, encircled the University of Dhaka from the east, south, and the north. The troops killed over 200 students, 20 teachers, and 33 employees of the university. One may wonder, why would a professional army attack the premise of a renowned university and kill hundreds of teachers and students in a single night? What is the motive behind conducting a genocide inside Dhaka University? Well, the answer is not difficult to find.

The University of Dhaka was closely associated with the formation of Bengali nationalism soon after Pakistan's creation. It started with the Language Movement in 1948 when the students of Dhaka University defied Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Father of Pakistan, and his imposition of Urdu, a language spoken by a minority in West Pakistan, as the state language of Pakistan. This movement sowed the seeds for the liberation of the country. Throughout the 1950s and '60s, Dhaka University was at the forefront of the democracy movement. The movement shifted towards economic and political autonomy from cultural autonomy, which ultimately led to Bangladesh's creation on 16 December 1971. The emergence of Bengali nationalism in the pre-independence era was marked by the university's students' and teachers' struggles against the oppressive Pakistani ruling elites. Perhaps, for this reason, the University of Dhaka became a target of the Pakistan military during the Liberation War and ended up as the epicentre of the 1971 genocide.

The Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of Dhaka, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, pays homage to the 20 martyred intellectuals of the University of Dhaka. One can find few universities in the world to have sacrificed so much for the country and its people.

Imtiaz Ahmed
Professor of International Relations &
Director, Centre for Genocide Studies,
University of Dhaka



Ghiyasuddin Ahmad¹



Born on 12 August 1933 in in Barrackpore, West Bengal (India), Ghiyasuddin Ahmad started his teaching career at the Jagannath College, Dhaka. He joined the Department of History at the University of Dhaka in September 1958, where he served till his death. He studied at the London School of Economics with a Commonwealth Scholarship (1964-1967) and obtained a BSc in Economics in International History. Ghiyasuddin Ahmad had specialised in European and contemporary World History and enjoyed enviable popularity as a teacher. A dedicated teacher, courageous and outspoken, Ahmad was well known for his depth of knowledge and erudite

scholarship. Ghiyasuddin Ahmad, though not a political activist, was always vocal about national issues and during the war of liberation, he helped the cause of the freedom fighters in various ways. Ahmad used to raise funds for the families of his deceased colleagues who lost their lives in March 1971 and secretly arranged funds and facilities to treat the injured freedom fighters. In September and November 1971, the Pakistani army had twice picked him up for interrogation. Ahmad was again picked up from his House Tutor's residence at the Mohsin Hall by the anti-liberation forces on 14 December 1971. Ahmad's dead body was recovered 20 days later from the Rayer Bazar slaughter site. His mortal remains lie buried beside the Dhaka University central mosque.

3 million: Estimated number of Bengalis killed during the liberation war.²

¹ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Ahmad,_Ghiyasuddin. Accessed on 19 April 2022. See also, Sania Sitara, et.al., "Ghiyasuddin Ahmad: 1971 Martyred Intellectual" (in Bangla), in Mesbah Kamal, ed., *Ekattarer Shaheed Buddhijibi Mutizuddher Chetona Binirmane Dhaka Bishwabidyalay*, Volume 1 (Dhaka: Agamee Prakashani, 2022), pp. 138-258.

² Rummel, R. J., *Statistics of Democide*, (Germany: LIT Verlag, 1998). See also, Rahman, Arif, *Three Million Deaths: Excess or Reality?* (Dhaka: Nandanik, 2015).

Mohammad Sadat Ali³



Mohammad Sadat Ali was born on 28 January 1942 in Rasulpur village in Sadar thana of Narsingdi district. His father was Mohammad Hazrat Ali. Sadat Ali passed the matriculation examination from Gazipur Gachha High School in 1958 and I. Com in 1960 from Narsingdi College. He obtained B. Com (Hons) degree from Dhaka University in 1963 and M. Com in 1964.

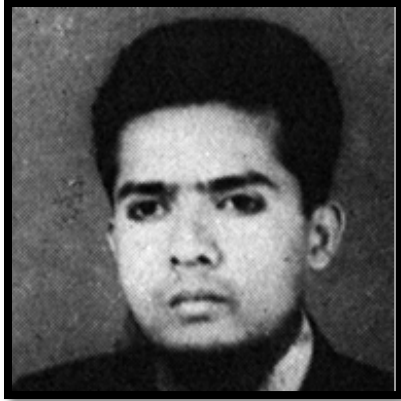
At the beginning of his career, Sadat Ali served as a Lecturer at Narsingdi College for some time. In 1968, he joined as a Lecturer at the Institute of Education and Research of the University of Dhaka. Under a government scholarship for higher research, Ali went to the USA and admitted himself to the State College of Northern Colorado University. From this University, he obtained a Doctorate of Education in 1969. After returning from the USA, Sadat Ali joined his post at the Institute of Education and Research. He was promoted to the position of Assistant Professor in 1969. Sadat Ali was the chairman of the Department of Business Administration in Education and Research Institute from 1969 to 1971. He was the House Tutor of the Jinnah Hall (now Masterda Surya Sen Hall) of Dhaka University. On 26 April 1971, while coming out of his university residence, Sadat Ali was arrested by the Pakistan army and was carried to an unknown place. After that, no one could trace him.

50,000: Estimated number of Bengalis killed in 'Operation Searchlight'.⁴

³ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Ali,_Mohammad_Sadat. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

⁴ Islam, Sirajul, ed., "Genocide, 1971," *Banglapedia: National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh*, Volume 4 (Dhaka: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 2003).

Sarafat Ali⁵



Sarafat Ali was born on 1 July 1943 in Dakshin Rampur village under Sadar thana of Comilla district. His father was Ali Azam, and his mother was Rajjabennesa. Sarafat Ali passed the matriculation examination in 1960 from Comilla Victoria Collegiate School, ISC from Comilla Victoria College in 1962 and got a BSc degree in 1964 from the same college. He obtained an MSc degree in Mathematics in 1967 from Dhaka University. He was awarded Chancellor's gold medal for his outstanding result. Sarafat Ali started his professional career as a Lecturer of Mathematics at Dhaka University in 1968. He became Assistant House Tutor of Dhaka Hall (now Shahidullah

Hall) in 1970. Sarafat Ali took an active part in the nationalist movement, including the mass upsurge of 1969. The Pakistan army killed Sarafat Ali on 25 March 1971 at the teacher's campus of Dhaka University.

30,000 – Approximate number of women who committed suicide from torture and humiliation at the hands of the Pakistani military and Razakars.⁶

⁵ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Ali,_Sarafat. Accessed on 18 April 2022.

⁶ Islam, K. S., "Breaking Down the Birangona: Examining the (divided) media discourse on the war heroines of Bangladesh's independence movement," *International Journal of Communications*, 30 August 2012.

Anudvaipayan Bhattacharya⁷



Anudvaipayan Bhattacharya was born on 31 January 1941 in Jantari village in Nabiganj thana of Habiganj district. His father, Digendra Chandra Bhattacharya, was a school teacher. He passed the matriculation examination from Nabiganj J.K High School in 1961 and the ISC examination from Sylhet MC College in 1963. He obtained his BSc (Hons) degree in Physics in 1966 and MSc in Applied Physics in 1967 from Dhaka University.

Anudvaipayan Bhattacharya joined as Lecturer in the Department of Applied Physics at the University of Dhaka in 1968. He had been working as an assistant house tutor in Jagannath Hall of the University since 1969. He obtained a scholarship for higher studies under the Colombo plan and was scheduled to leave the country for London on 26 March 1971. But he was shot dead by the Pakistan army on 25 March 1971 in front of the southern building of Jagannath Hall. He was buried in a mass grave at Jagannath Hall. To preserve his memory, the library of Jagannath Hall was named *Martyr Anudvaipayan Pathagar*.

10,000: Number of Bengalis, mainly of Hindu community, killed around the largest killing field in Chuknagar, Khulna district in a single day.⁸

⁷ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Bhattacharya,_Anudvaipayan. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

⁸ Mamoon, Muntassir, *1971 Chuknagar Genocide*, (Dhaka: International Centre for Bengal Studies, 2011).

Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya⁹



Born on 30 August 1915 in Jantrail village of Nawabganj Upazilla in Dhaka, Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya graduated from the University of Dhaka in 1937 with Honours in History and obtained an MA degree in 1938 from the same institution. He passed the matriculation examination with distinction in 1932 from Pagoz School in Dhaka. In 1934, Bhattacharyya passed the IA examination from Intermediate College, Dhaka. Bhattacharyya started his academic career as a Lecturer at the Jagannath College in 1939 and worked there until 1949 when he joined the History Department of the University of Dhaka as a Senior Lecturer. In

the fifties, Bhattacharyya was a government-nominated member of the Senate of Dhaka University. He also served as the curator of the Dhaka Museum. A scholar in Sanskrit literature and the ancient history of Bengal and India, Bhattacharyya served Dhaka University as a devoted teacher and a scholar until his tragic death on 14 December 1971 at the hands of the pro-Pakistani militia during the war of liberation.

20,000 - 25,000: Number of people killed and buried at Jalladkhana in Dhaka, one of the largest killing fields of the country.¹⁰

⁹ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Bhattacharyya,_Santosh_Chandra. Accessed on 19 April 2022. See also, Milton Kumar Deb, “Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya: The Majesty Manifested,” in Mesbah Kamal, ed., *op.cit.* Volume II (Dhaka: Agamee Prakashani, 2022), pp. 128-200.

¹⁰ Miju, Miraj, *10 Killing Fields of Mirpur*, (Dhaka: Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee, 2008).

Mofazzal Haider Chaudhuri¹¹



Mofazzal Haider Chaudhuri, son of Bazlur Rahim Chaudhuri and Mahfuza Khatun, was born in the village of Khalishpur in the Noakhali district on 23 July 1926. Early in life, he lost his father and was raised by his maternal uncle. Chaudhuri was a brilliant student and did well in public examinations, securing fourth place in the Entrance examination held in 1942 at Calcutta University and first place in the Higher Secondary examination from Dhaka College in 1944. In 1946 he passed BA (Hons) in Bangla Language and Literature from Calcutta University and MA in 1953 from Dhaka University, standing first class first in both examinations. Chaudhuri began his career in 1948 as a scriptwriter for Dhaka Radio. He joined Dhaka University in 1955.

Mofazzal Haider Chaudhuri was a reputed scholar with several academic books to his credit, among them *Rabi Parikrama* (1963), on the life and work of Rabindranath Tagore. He also wrote poems, stories and plays. In 1971 he was honoured with the Bangla Academy Prize. Mofazzal Haider Chaudhuri was picked up by anti-liberation forces on 14 December 1971 and killed.

200,000 - 400,000: Number of Bengali women raped by the Pakistani military and its collaborators during the war.¹²

¹¹ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Chaudhuri,_Mofazzal_Haider. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

¹² Hasan, M A., *War and Women*, (Dhaka: Tamralipi, 2010).

Munier Chowdhury¹³



Munier Chowdhury was born on 27 November 1925 in the town of Manikganj. His ancestral home was in the Noakhali district. His father, Khan Bahadur Abdul Halim Chowdhury, was a district magistrate. In 1941, Munier Chowdhury matriculated from Dhaka Collegiate School. After completing his ISC from Aligarh Muslim University, Chowdhury enrolled at Dhaka University and completed Honours (1946) and MA (1947) in English. In 1954 he completed a second MA degree in Bangla, and in 1958 obtained an MA in Linguistics from Harvard University. Munier Chowdhury taught for some time at BL College in Khulna (1947-1950) and Jagannath College

in Dhaka (1950). He then joined Dhaka University in 1950, teaching in both English and Bangla departments.

Munier Chowdhury was associated with leftist politics and progressive cultural movements. In 1952 he was arrested under the Preventive Detention Act for protesting against police repression and the killing of students on 21 February 1952. He remained in detention until 1954. While in jail, he sat for the MA examination in Bangla, topping the list of successful candidates. He wrote a one-act play, *Kabar* (1953), in custody, based on the language movement. Considered to be his best play, *Kabar* was staged inside the jail, with prisoners playing different parts. He was also imprisoned on two other occasions. Munier Chowdhury was a staunch nationalist and stood up against all forms of cultural repression. In 1967 he protested against the Pakistan government's directive to ban Tagore songs on Radio and TV. Chowdhury also protested against the move to reform the Bangla alphabet. He declared his solidarity with the non-cooperation movement called by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in March 1971 and renounced the title of *Sitara-i-Imtiaz*, which he had received in 1966. Munier Chowdhury also devised a Bangla keyboard for typewriters (1965), known as Munier Optima. Just two days before the end of the liberation war, he was kidnapped from his residence in Dhaka and killed by members of anti-liberation forces.

¹³ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Chowdhury,_Munier. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

Govinda Chandra Dev¹⁴



Govinda Chandra Dev was a philosopher and educationist. He was born on 1 February 1907 in the village of Lauta in Biyani Bazar, Sylhet. Dev's ancestors were high caste Brahmins. They had fled the political, economic, social and religious turmoil in their native Gujrat and settled down in Sylhet in the 5th century. Following the family tradition, they engaged themselves in the study of the Vedas, the Vedanta and the Upanishads.

Dev obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Sanskrit College, Kolkata, in 1929 and a Master's degree in philosophy from Calcutta University in 1931. He took up teaching and researched “Reason, Intuition and Reality,” which earned him a PhD in philosophy from Calcutta University in 1944. He taught for some time at Surendranath College in Dinajpur and, in 1953, joined the Department of Philosophy at the University of Dhaka.

Inspired by Socrates, Dev strongly criticised fanaticism and extreme materialism, believing that both were one-sided and unable to further the cause of human welfare and progress. In his view, only a synthesis of the two could lead to human freedom. He believed that a practical philosophy of life would transform materialism into spiritualism and spiritualism into materialism. Dev donated all his property and money to Dhaka University to further the cause of human welfare, establish truth, justice, and human liberty, realise the ordinary person's hopes and aspirations, and propagate his philosophy of secularism and humanism. He was imprisoned during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. Pakistan military brutally killed him on 26 March 1971. His mortal remains lie buried in the mass grave at Jagannath Hall. In 1986 the Bangladesh government awarded him the Ekushey Padak posthumously.

¹⁴ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Dev,_Govinda_Chandra. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

1,000: Approximate number of Bengali intellectuals and professionals killed by Pakistani military and collaborators to create an intellectual vacuum for the future. Out of that, more than 200 intellectuals were abducted, tortured and killed in the two weeks of December, based on a hit list of Pakistan military generals. Pakistani military and collaborators killed 4.2 percent of all Bengali University teachers. ¹⁵

¹⁵ Gerlach, Christian. “East Pakistan/Bangladesh 1971–1972: How Many Victims, Who, and Why?” in Andrew Barros and Martin Thomas, ed., *The Civilianization of War: The Changing Civil–Military Divide, 1914–2014*, (UK: Cambridge University Press, 2018)

Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta¹⁶



Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta was born in Mymensingh town on 10 July 1920. His father, Kumudchandra Guhathakurta, Banaripara, Barisal, and his mother, Srimati Sumati, were school teachers. Guhathakurta matriculated from Mymensingh Zila School In 1936.

Guhathakurta then studied Intermediate Science at the Presidency College in Kolkata for a year, but an attack of typhoid prevented him from taking the final examination. Later he was admitted to the Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh, and, in 1939, passed Intermediate Arts.

Guhathakurta graduated from the University of Dhaka with honours in English in 1942, standing first in the first class. His academic success earned him the Pope Memorial Gold Medal. The following year he completed the MA. In 1949, he joined the University of Dhaka as Lecturer in English. In 1963 he went to King's College, London University, on a British Council scholarship to pursue his doctoral studies. After completing his doctoral studies in 1967, Guhathakurta returned to Dhaka University and was promoted to Reader, which he held till his death. In addition to teaching, he served as house tutor of Jagannath Hall from 1958 to 1963 and then as provost from 20 April 1970.

A highly successful teacher, Guhathakurta instilled in his students a love for good literature and the humanist ideals that he cherished all his life. When the Pakistan Army raided the Dhaka University campus on 25 March 1971, Guhathakurta's flat was broken into, and he was shot in cold blood. He succumbed to his wounds at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital on 30 March 1971.

¹⁶ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Guhathakurta,_Jyotirmoy. Accessed on 19 April 2022.



SMA Rashidul Hasan¹⁷



SMA Rashidul Hasan was born on 1 November 1932 in Barashija village in Birbhum district of West Bengal. His father was Mohammad Abu Sayeed, and his mother was Khadija Begum. Rashidul Hasan had his early education at Bhabta Azizia Madrasa in the Murshidabad district. In 1947 he completed his secondary education at the same Madrasa. Then he moved to Dhaka for higher studies. In 1949 he passed the Intermediate examination from Dhaka Islamia Intermediate College. He obtained his BA (Hons) in English in 1952 and MA degree in 1954 from Dhaka University.

Rashidul Hasan began his career in 1954 as a Professor of English at Narsingdi College. After one year, he joined Pabna Edward College as a Professor of English. He left West Bengal and joined the English Department of Krishna Chandra College. He came back to Dhaka in 1967 and joined the English Department of Dhaka University as a Lecturer. Hasan was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1970.

In 1971, Rashidul Hasan lived with his family on the 3rd floor of the teachers' quarters near Iqbal Hall (now Zahurul Haq Hall). He was arrested by the Pakistan army on 12 September 1971 and was released after 12 days. He developed a liaison with the freedom fighters operating in Dhaka about this time. Rashidul Hasan and his family spent the night in Professor Anwar Pasha's residence at the Dhaka University campus as a security measure. They came back to his flat early in the morning. On 13 December night, they went to Anwar Pasha's home and spent the night there. On the morning of 14 December, several persons wearing khaki outfits and black masks entered the residence of Anwar Pasha and abducted both Anwar Pasha and Rashidul Hasan. After 22 days, the dead body of Rashidul Hasan was found at the scaffold of Mirpur. Rashidul Hasan was laid to rest beside the central mosque of Dhaka University.

¹⁷ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Hasan,_SMA_Rashidul. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

Ataur Rahman Khan Khadim¹⁸



Ataur Rahman Khan Khadim was born in 1933 in Kharampur village in Akhaura thana of Brahmanbaria district. His father, Daulat Ahmad Khan Khadim, was a lawyer in Dhaka High Court and his mother was Anjumannesa Khatun. Ataur Rahman passed the matriculation examination in 1948 from George H. E School in Brahmanbaria and ISC from Dhaka College in 1950. He obtained B.Sc. (Hons) in Physics from the University of Dhaka in 1953 and an M.Sc. in 1954.

Ataur Rahman Khan started his professional career in 1955 as an electrical engineer at Philips Electric Company. Later he studied as a researcher at the Theoretical Physics Institute at Göttingen in West Germany (1959-60). On his return from Germany, Khan joined as a research fellow in the Department of Physics at Dhaka University. He joined as a Lecturer in the Department of Physics at Dhaka University in 1965. Ataur Rahman was a specialist in Experimental Physics, especially in Electronics. On 25 March 1971, the Pakistan army killed him at the teachers' quarters of Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University.

202,527 - Number of Rape Victims Who Remained in the country.¹⁹

¹⁸ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Khadim,_Ataur_Rahman_Khan. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

¹⁹ Hasan, M. A., "Discovery of numerous Mass Graves, Various types of torture on Women" and "People's Attitude", War Crimes Fact Finding Committee (WCFFC), Cited In: https://www.kean.edu/~bgs/Conference09/Papers_and_Presentations/MA_Hasan_Paper_Discovery%20of%20numerous%20Mass%20Graves,%20Various%20types.pdf, Accessed on 01 February 2022.

M Abul Khair²⁰



Born on 1 April 1929 in village Gosantara-Brahmandanga under Kawkhali upazilla of Pirojpur district, Md Abul Khair obtained his MA degree in History in 1951 from Dhaka University. He started his teaching career at the Fazlul Huq College, Chakhar in Barisal and later he served the Jagannath College, Dhaka. In November 1955 he joined the Dhaka University as Junior Lecturer in the Department of History, where he later served as Associate Professor till his death. Khair obtained MS (1959) and PhD (1962) in International History from the University of California, Berkeley.

A part of his PhD thesis was published by the Asiatic Society of Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1968 under the title “United States Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pak Subcontinent, 1939-1947.” Khair always upheld the principles of social justice and cherished the idea of a welfare state and above all the dignity of man. He was a zealous supporter of the Bangladesh movement and was always vocal about national issues. Abul Khair was picked up from his residence by the anti-liberation forces in the morning of 14 December and his dead body was recovered from Mirpur slaughter site. His mortal remains lie buried beside the Dhaka University Mosque.

170,000 – Approximate number of abortions by the raped women.²¹

²⁰ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Khair,_M_Abul. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

²¹ Mohsin, Amena. "Gendered Nation, Gendered Peace: A Study Of Bangladesh", in Samir Kumar Das ed., *Peace Processes And Peace Accords*, (US: Sage, 2005). See also, Islam, K. S., “Breaking down the Birangona: Examining the (divided) media discourse on the war heroines of Bangladesh’s independence movement”, *International Journal of Communications*, 30 August 2012.

Fazlur Rahman Khan²²



Fazlur Rahman Khan was born on 2 March 1939 in Kajati village in Mohanganj thana of Netrokona district. His father, Abdul Hekim Khan, was a school teacher. He passed the matriculation examination in 1954 from Mohanganj High School, ISC in 1956 from Ananda Mohan College. He obtained a BSc (Hons) degree in Soil Science from the University of Dhaka in 1960 and an MSc in 1962. Fazlur Rahman started his career as Lecturer in Soil Science at the University of Dhaka in 1963. He left for England in 1964 for higher studies. Between 1964 and 1968, he was engaged in research work on Nutrient Metabolism in Soil at High Moisture Levels. In 1968, he obtained PhD degree from London

University. The same year he was promoted to Senior Lecturer at the University of Dhaka. In 1971, Fazlur Rahman used to live in a quarter of the Nilkhet residential area of the University of Dhaka. On 25 March night, the Pakistan army raided the University area. After midnight the Pakistan army entered the house of Fazlur Rahman and shot him dead. His nephew Kanchan was also killed by a bullet shot. Fazlur Rahman Khan and his nephew Kanchan were laid to rest at the Azimpur graveyard.

131,250 - Number of Rape Victims among Refugees.²³

²² https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Khan,_Fazlur_Rahman2. Accessed on 18 April 2022.

²³ Hasan, M. A., *op.cit*

Serajul Haque Khan²⁴



Serajul Haque Khan was born in 1924 in Satkuchia village in Parshuram upazilla of Feni district. His father was Chowdhury Chand Khan. He had his early education in the Satkuchia Primary School. He passed matriculation examination from Fulghazi High School in 1939, IA in 1941 and obtained graduation in 1943 from Feni College.

Serajul Haque Khan started his career as an Inspector in the Department of Customs and Excise of the government. But he left the job after three months and joined local Fulghazi High School as the Headmaster. He obtained the degree of Bachelor of Teaching in 1949 from Dhaka Teachers' Training College. In the same year he resigned from the Fulghazi High School to join Armanitola Government High School of Dhaka as a teacher. Subsequently he served in the Motijheel Central Government High School and in the Government Laboratory High School in Dhaka.

In 1965 Serajul Haque Khan obtained M.Ed. degree from the Institute of Education and Research of the University of Dhaka. In the same year he secured a scholarship of the US government for higher studies and joined the Doctor of Education Programme at the Colorado State College, USA. He obtained the Ed. D degree in 1967. In 1968 Serajul Haque joined the Department of Educational Administration at the Institute of Education and Research of the University of Dhaka as an Assistant Professor.

Serajul Haque Khan wrote a number of text books on Bengali, English and History which were approved by the School Text Book Board. Although Serajul Haque Khan was not actively involved in politics, he was politically conscious and a supporter of left politics. He was a victim of police harassment in 1951. On 14 December 1971 Serajul Haque Khan was abducted by the activists of al-Badr from his residence at Dhaka University Staff Quarters. His dead body was later recovered from the scaffold of Mirpur. He was laid to rest beside the Dhaka University Central Mosque.

²⁴ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Khan,_Serajul_Haque. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

ANM Faizul Mohee²⁵



Born on 10 August 1939 in Feni, ANM Faizul Mohee was known to his friends as a progressive personality. His father was Mohammad Nurul Islam Choudhury. Faizul Mohee passed the matriculation examination in 1955 from Feni Government High School, IA, in 1957 from Feni College and obtained his graduation in 1959 from the same college. In 1962 he got his B. Ed degree from Dhaka Teachers' Training College and his MED degree in Education and Research from Dhaka University. Faizul Mohee went to the USA for higher education with a government scholarship and obtained an MA degree in 1965 and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Administration in 1968

from the Northern Colorado University. Mohee joined the Institute of Education and Research in 1968. He was a dedicated teacher. Mohee was not vocal compared to many of his colleagues in the university but very much dedicated to the cause of the liberation war, helping the freedom fighters from within while keeping a low profile, a challenging job indeed. But he could not hide his real identity from the watchful eyes of the collaborators, some of whom happened to be his colleagues. The notorious al-Badr group picked him up on 14 December 1971 from his home and killed him. His dead body was recovered later from the scaffold at Rayerbazar.

80,000-100,000: Number of troops of the Pakistan Army involved in the genocide, equipped with heavy artillery, arms and ammunition.²⁶

²⁵ See, https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Mohee,_ANM_Faizul. Accessed on 11 May 2022. See also, <http://archive.thedailystar.net/suppliments/2006/december/december14th/intellectuals.htm>. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

²⁶ Rahman, Arif., *op.cit.*

Mohammad Mortaza²⁷



Mohammad Mortaza was born on 1 April 1931 in the district of 24 Parganas in West Bengal. His father was Maulana Abdul Mannan al-Azhari, and his mother was Saira Begum. After the 1947 partition, his father and family came to Arangghata in the Khulna district and settled there. Mohammad Mortaza passed matriculation in 1946 from Baliganj Government High School in Kolkata and ISC in 1948 from Presidency College. He studied medicine at Kolkata Medical College for some time and obtained an MBBS degree in 1954 from Dhaka Medical College.

Mohammad Mortaza started his career as a Medical Officer at the University of Dhaka in 1955. He was connected with leftist politics. He helped the publication of the paper *Gana-Shakti* edited by Badruddin Umar. Mortaza used to contribute as a columnist for the newspaper under the caption *Deshe Deshe Mukti Juddha*. Mortaza wrote several books and was awarded the National Bank Literary Award in 1964 for his book *Jana Sankhya O Sampad*. During the liberation war, Mortaza used to give medical treatment and financial help to the injured freedom fighters. On 14 December 1971, the armed cadres abducted him from his residence. His dead body was recovered from the mass grave at Mirpur on 3 January 1972.

30 - 40 million: Number of Bengalis internally displaced.²⁸

²⁷ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Mortaza,_Mohammad. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

²⁸ Alston, Margaret, *Women and Climate Change in Bangladesh*, (US: GARLAND Science, 2018)

Md Abdul Muktadir²⁹



Md Abdul Muktadir was born on 19 February 1940 in Silam village of Sylhet district. He received his early education at the local primary school and Silam Junior High School. He completed his matriculation in 1956 from Raja GC High School, Sylhet, and passed ISC in 1958 from Sylhet Government College. He obtained his BSc (1960) and MSc (1962) degrees in Geology from the University of Dhaka. In 1967 Abdul Muktadir received his postgraduate diploma in Hydrology from London University. While studying at London University, he also received higher training in Hydrology under the technical assistance programme of the British government. Returning from London, Abdul Muktadir started his career as a Lecturer in

Geology at the University of Dhaka in 1964. But Muktadir suffered martyrdom at the cruel hands of the Pakistani military on the night of 25 March 1971.

10 million: Estimated number of Bengali refugees who fled to India.³⁰ 6.9 million were Hindus, 540,000 were Muslims, and almost 100,000 were of other ethnicities.³¹

²⁹ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Muktadir,_Md_Abdul accessed on 19 April 2022.

³⁰ Costa, Bina. D., *Nationbuilding, Gender and War Crimes in South Asia*, (UK: Routledge, 2011)

³¹ Hasan, M A., *Genocide and War Crimes of 71*, (Dhaka: Tamralipi, 2010)

A N M Muniruzzaman³²



ANM Muniruzzaman was born in 1924 in Kacherkol village, Shailakupa thana of Jhenaidaha district. His father was Muhammad Musa. Muniruzzaman matriculated in 1940 from SD High School in Narail and passed the ISC examination from Presidency College in Kolkata in 1942. He obtained BSc (Hons) in Mathematics in 1944 from the same college. In 1946 he obtained MSc in Statistics from Calcutta University. Muniruzzaman started his professional career at the Indian Statistical Institute (1946-1948). He joined the Statistics Department of the University of Dhaka as a Lecturer in 1948. He was promoted to the post of Reader in 1961. He became the

chairperson of the Department of Statistics in 1967. On the night of 25 March 1971, the Pakistan army entered his residence and killed him. The Pakistan army also killed his eldest son, one brother and a nephew.

An estimated 991 teachers, 13 journalists, 49 physicians, 42 lawyers, and 16 writers, artists and engineers were systematically killed with the intention of intellectually crippling the nation.³³

³² https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Muniruzzaman,_ANM. Accessed on 18 April 2022.

³³ Khan, M. Hussain "Killing of Intellectuals". In Islam, Sirajul" in Jamal, Ahmed A. ed. *Banglapedia: National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh* (Second ed.). (Dhaka: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 2012).

Anwar Pasha³⁴



Anwar Pasha was born on 15 April 1928 in Dabkai village in Murshidabad. His father, Haji Makrom Ali, was a local celebrity. After passing the High Madrassah examination in 1946, Anwar Pasha got MA in Bangla from Calcutta University in 1953. He started his teaching career as superintendent of Manikchak High Madrasah and later taught at Bhabta Azizia High Madrasah (1954) and Sadikhan Diar Bohumukhi Higher Secondary School (1957). In 1958 he joined Pabna Edward College and then, in 1966, the Department of Bangla, University of Dhaka.

Anwar Pasha made his debut as a writer while still a BA student with *Hasna Hena*, a collection of literary essays. He published novels, essays, poems, and short stories during the next two decades. He also edited four ancient and medieval Bangla poems in collaboration with Professor Muhammad Abdul Hye. His notable writings include *Nadi Nihshesita Hale* (1963), *Nid Sandhani* (1968), *Nishuti Rater Gatha* (1968), *Nirupay Harini* (1970), *Rifle-Roti-Aorat* (1973), *Samudra Sabkhalata Ujjayini* (1974). The novel *Rifle-Roti-Aorat* was based on the nine-month liberation war.

Anwar Pasha was a staunch supporter of the liberation war, and he dreamt of an independent Bangladesh. Unfortunately, he could not see his dream realised because, shortly before 16 December, he was picked up from his university flat, taken to Mirpur and killed brutally along with other intellectuals. His dead body was recovered and buried in the compound of the Dhaka University Mosque. In 1972, Anwar Pasha was posthumously honoured with the Bangla Academy Award for his literary achievements.

³⁴ https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Pasha,_Anwar. Accessed on 19 April 2022.

Mohammad Sadeque³⁵



Mohammad Sadeque was born on 31 May 1939 in Majhibari of Dakshin Ilisha village in the then Bhola sub-division (now Bhola district). His father, Mumtaz Ali, was a prosperous farmer and his mother, Zarifa Khatun, was a housewife. He passed matriculation from Bhola Government School in 1954, Intermediate from Brajmohan College, Barisal in 1956 and BA from the same college in 1956. He started his career in 1958 as an assistant headmaster of Paranganj High School in the Bhola district. He was the headmaster of Banker Co-operative High School in the Bhola district from 1959 to 1960. In 1965, he joined as a teacher

of the newly established University Laboratory School, run by the Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University. He was the acting principal of the University Laboratory School from August 1, 1981, to December 31, 1986. He started living with his family in the residential building of teachers of Dhaka University in 1986. He lived on the ground floor of the number 11th building. On the night of March 25, the Pakistan Army shot and killed him.

942 killing fields were found all over Bangladesh, with skulls, skeletons and bones numbering in 1000-10000 people each.³⁶

³⁵ Tapan Mahmud, "Mohammad Sadeque: Life of a Martyred Intellectual" (in Bangla), in Mesbah Kamal, ed., *Ekattarer Shaheed Buddhijibi Mutizuddher Chetona Binirmane Dhaka Bishwabidyalay*, Volume 1 (Dhaka: Agamee Prakashani, 2022), pp. 259-269.

³⁶ Hasan, M. A., "Discovery of numerous Mass Graves, Various types of torture on Women" and "People's Attitude", War Crimes Fact Finding Committee (WCFFC), Cited In: https://www.kean.edu/~bgs/CConference09/Papers_and_Presentations/MA_Hasan_Paper_Discovery%20of%20numerous%20Mass%20Graves,%20Various%20types.pdf, Accessed on 1 February 2022. See also, Rahman, Arif., *op.cit.*

