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The truth is out there, but can you ever find it?

Seri Menanti

Dear Sir,

WE drive through it everyday to Bangsar for a night out, but I'll bet nobody ever asks who this "Maarof" guy was. I am talking about Jalan Maarof which was named after an early Malay lawyer who went to London to see the Queen and came back a radical lawyer. This was way back in the early 50's.

The late Maarof and the late Pak Sako were both lawyers whom the British thought could be lackeys of the British Empire. Both came back and found their destinies were not as pleasant, at least to the naked eye.

I am more interested in talking about a Minangkabau lawyer by the name of Maarof, who was also a very close friend of my late father. I recalled my father's narration of what had happened to him.

One-day lawyer Maarof was approached by two men and taken away. My father said one of the men - whom he knew very well - was thought to be a policeman from the Special Branch.

Well, said my late father, lawyer Maarof was found hanged the next day somewhere in Gombak. They found him dangling from under a tree with his pair of shoes neatly arranged on the ground. The verdict was suicide.

Prior to that, said my late father, many attempts were made on lawyer Maarof's life. Once a car came careening in front of his house as he was about to leave, and an unidentified man pulled out a gun and shot him, but missed.

No one knew then why anybody would want him to suffer a fate of an extreme prejudice. Or to put it simply why would anyone want him dead. My late father had a theory. Upon arriving home from London, lawyer Maarof understood the meaning of the phrase "abject poverty", which was prevalent among the Malays then.

Lawyer Maarof had suggested to the British-influenced government of this period, for the setting up of banks to be owned by the Malays. On this score the British-influenced government, and their lackeys, disallowed thoughts of any Malay harbouring ideas of trying to dabble in economic and financial matters.

"I never for once believed Maarof committed suicide. He was murdered just to shut him out completely," said my father, may he rest much more in peace.

My late father was like that "cancer man" in the X-Files, and I was like "spooky Mulder", constantly being bombarded with a bit of this, and a bit of that, by my father, then asking me to say what I believe, and what I might find out if I persevere.

"Cancer man" also told me that Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman sacked the late Agriculture Minister Aziz Ishak, because he had wanted the government to take away the monopoly on fertiliser held by a big British multi-national corporation.

Aziz Ishak asked why the country should allow foreigners to control a commodity produced in the country that is essential to the farmers, who were mainly Malays.

He was sacked and discredited. Aziz Ishak died last year. The younger generation was not told of his noble intentions until the day he died. There was not even a footnote anywhere to register his contribution towards the well being of the "down trodden" Malays. Yes! The truth is out there but can you ever find it?

X-Files does exist in any country, including ours.

Take, for example, the recent brouhaha over the alleged rift between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Daim Zainuddin. Wouldn't Malaysians love to know the real story behind it? I suspect the case will forever be classified as an X-File.

Was there another shooter at the grassy knoll in Texas when John F. Kennedy was assassinated? Was Lee Harvey Oswald a victim of the CIA's dirty tricks? Did Marilyn Monroe really commit suicide?

Here is a humdinger of an X-File! This happened in Nepal recently, when almost the entire Nepalese royal family was killed. Initially it was said that the late king's son shot them with an automatic gun before shooting himself.

Later the story was changed to the royal family being "accidentally" killed from a burst of an automatic gun. Well, I have so many theories on this but why waste my time when these theories can never be substantiated?

This also reminds me of the magic bullet theory. The magic bullet that killed Kennedy had ricocheted to penetrate the body of the Texas governor and then finally killed Kennedy -or something like that.

Not many of us remember this episode when one of the Saudi kings who was killed by his nephew, or at least the official version of this story that was carried throughout the world. His nephew was condemned as a mad man and later beheaded. Of course this is in the X-File of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

So who is going to be this country's next Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister? Well, the truth will only be known when it happens. Until then Malaysians, especially the Malays, must not be too pre-occupied with the matter. For all intents and purposes I firmly believe Malaysia is economically, politically and socially intact. We must see to it that it remains that way.