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Moved by sacrifices of a 'great' Malaysian

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KUALA LUMPUR: It was a speech about a principled man who went beyond the call of duty for his country.

And as he read the speech with his usual dignity and style, Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah was clearly touched by the sacrifices and contributions of the late Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman.

In fact, he was so overcome with emotion, he had to pause several times while delivering the speech.

Raja Nazrin's reaction was not surprising as Dr Ismail was not an ordinary man. As the raja muda said, the country's second deputy prime minister had "envisaged a Malaysia for all without colour lines, without ethnic borders and without any one group feeling a sense of inferiority".

The words would have been especially meaningful for Raja Nazrin who has been advocating a more united, tolerant society.

His personal ties with Dr Ismail and his family made the tribute to one of the country's great leaders even more poignant.

Dr Ismail was a family friend and Raja Nazrin attended Oxford University with Dr Ismail's eldest son, Tawfik.

Tawfik's wife, Rubina Mustafa Kemal, is Raja Nazrin's cousin.

"I think he was overcome with emotion because my father's hopes for the country struck a chord with him," Tawfik told reporters after Raja Nazrin launched the Malay version of a book on Dr Ismail entitled *Bukan Kerana Pangkat: Tun Dr Ismail dan Masanya*.

The English version, *The Reluctant Politician — Tun Dr Ismail and His Time*, was published last year in Singapore by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and had since sold 10,000 copies in the island republic and Malaysia.

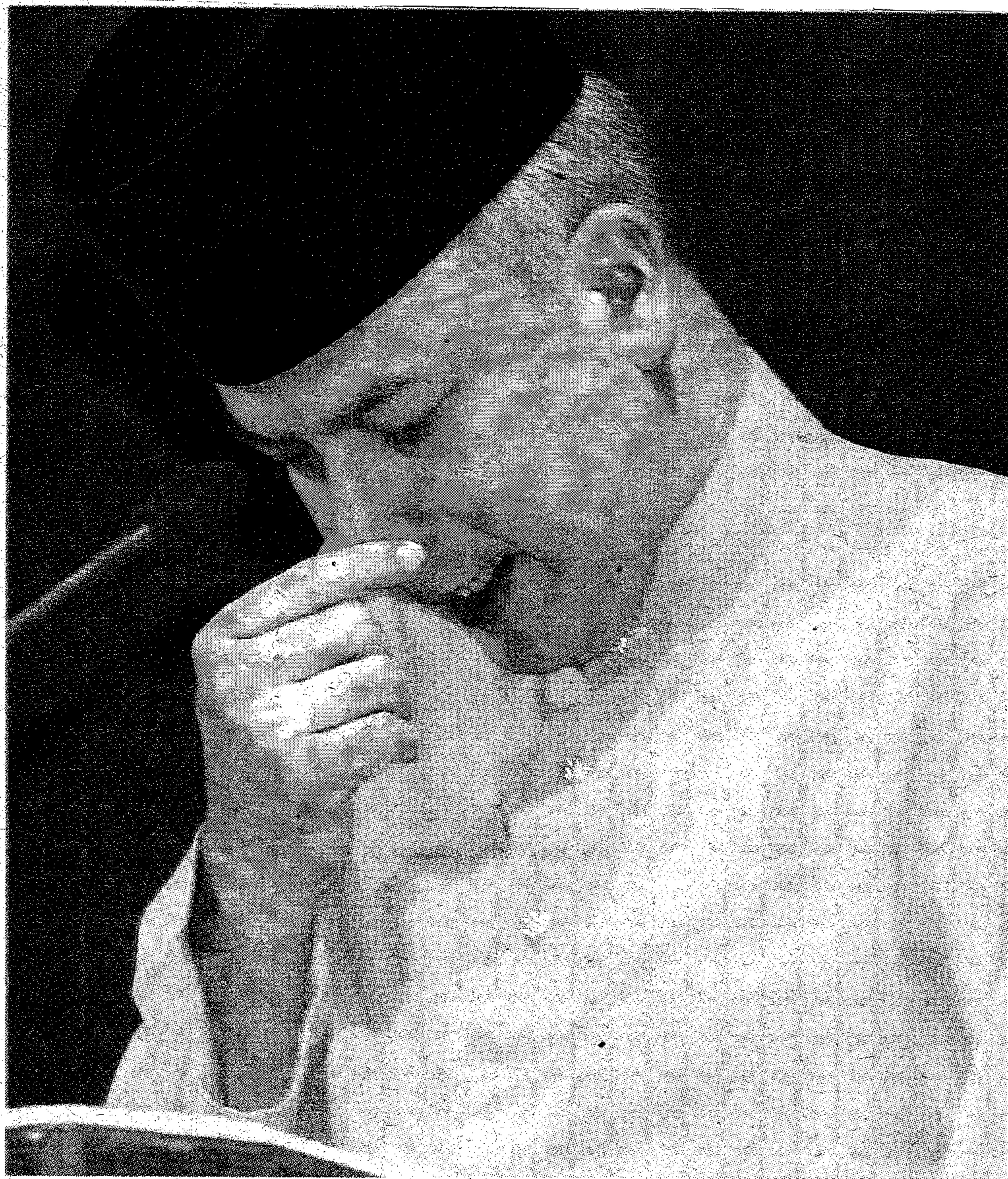
Tawfik said Raja Nazrin was always looking to uphold true Malaysian values and there were many topics in the book which coincided with these ideals.

"People are looking for models of leadership and it is only fitting that those of my generation and Raja Nazrin are able to bring this book to the Merdeka generation.

"If we had kept on course with the ideals of our forefathers, then maybe today we would be speaking of furthering our unity rather than issues of racism.

"Sometimes people have to take a look at the past to make sense of the future."

Tawfik is determined to in-



Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah pausing to collect himself during his speech at the launch of the Malay version of a book on the late Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman entitled 'Bukan Kerana Pangkat: Tun Dr Ismail dan Masanya' yesterday.

stil his father's values in his five children.

"I am strict with them, as was my father with me. And their mother is even stricter with them, as was my mother with me and my siblings," he added.

Author Ooi Kee Beng, who took 15 months to complete the manuscript for the book, said he could not have had a better lesson on the country's early politics.

Ooi said everyone agreed that Dr Ismail was a man of principle.

"He was virtually impossible to corrupt."



Kamariah Mustafa, 24, granddaughter of the late Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman, with the Malay version of the book on Dr Ismail.