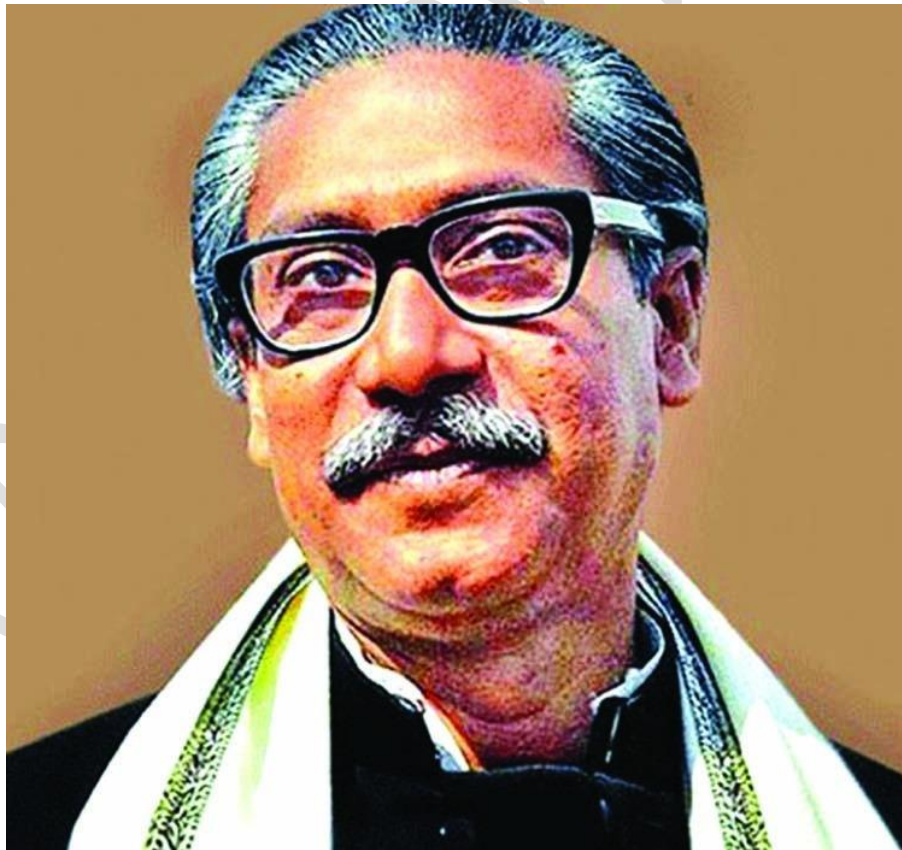


❖ Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman(1920-1975) :

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the architect of independent Bangladesh. He was the first President (26 March 1971 to 11 January 1972). of Bangladesh and one of the most influential political figures of the Indian subcontinent. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was born on 17 March 1920 in the village Tungipara under Gopalganj subdivision in the district of Faridpur. His father Sheikh Lutfar Rahman was a serestadar in the civil court of Gopalganj. Mujib, the third among six brothers and sisters, had his primary education in the local Gimadanga School. He passed his Matriculation from Gopalganj Missionary School in 1942, Intermediate of Arts from Calcutta Islamia College in 1944 and BA from the same college in 1947.



Mujib showed the potential of leadership since his school life. While a student of Gopalganj Missionary School, AK Fazlul Huq, the then Chief Minister of Bengal, came to visit the school (1938). While a student in Islamia College he was elected general secretary of the College Students Union in 1946. He was an activist of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League and a member of the All India Muslim League Council from 1943 onwards. In politics he had been a fervent follower of Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy. After partition (1947), he got himself admitted into the University of Dhaka to study law but was unable to complete it, because he was expelled from the University in early 1949 on the charge of 'inciting the fourth-class employees' in their agitation against the University authority's indifference towards their legitimate demands.

❖ Political Life :

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's political life started from the time he was studying in Gopalganj Missionary School. In 1943 he became involved in active politics and was elected a councilor of the Muslim League. He founded the East Pakistan Muslim Chhatra League on 4 January, 1948.

Contribution of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the rise/emergence of Independent Bangladesh:

❖ Language Movement :

The language movement started in 1952 with the demand of Bengali as the state language. Sheikh Mujib's political activities began with his participation in the language movement. He played a crucial role in the language movements of 1948 and 1952. He was among the first group of people who were imprisoned following the language movement. His voice was always loud in the parliament or in the street, in defense of Bangla language and culture. Claiming the right to speak in his mother tongue, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said:

“We want to speak in Bengali here, whether we know any other language or not it matters little for us. If we feel that we can express ourselves in Bengali we will speak always in Bengali even though we can speak in English also. If that is not allowed, we will leave the House, but Bengali should be allowed in this house; that is our stand.”

❖ The Election of 1954 :

The United Front is a coalition formed by several opposition parties to contest the 1954 elections against the Muslim

League. On 4 December 1953, the Krishak-Praja Party led by Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, the Awami Muslim League led by Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, the Nezame Islami led by Maulana Atahar Ali and the Left Democratic Party led by Haji Danesh formed the United Front. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu joined the United Front and played invincible roles in the election of united front in 1954. The United Front (Awami Muslim League 143, Krishak-Praja Party 48, Nezame Islami 19, Left Democratic Party 13) won 223 out of 237 Muslim seats in the provincial assembly elections and the Muslim League won only 10 seats. Besides, out of 72 non-Muslim seats, United Front got 13 seats. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman defeated Muslim League candidate Wahiduzzaman by a margin of 13,000 votes in Gopalganj constituency and was appointed Minister of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Rural Development.

❖ Formation of Independent Bengali Revolutionary Council :

He set up a secret organization called Swadhin Bangla Biplobi Parishad in 1958 with prominent student leaders to work for the independence of Bangladesh.

❖ Military rule of 1958 :

Ayub Khan came to power in 1958 as a military ruler. He severely suppressed all the movements in East Pakistan from

1958-1969 through military rule. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman played a vital role in the anti-Ayub movement. He was imprisoned for claiming anti-Ayub movement.

❖ Six Point Movement (1966) :

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announced the six points program in 1966. The purpose of Bangabandhu was to free East Pakistan from the discrimination through realising six points demand. Basically after the end the war between India and Pakistan, Bangabandhu raised his voice against the extreme negligence of the West Pakistan Government to the security of East Pakistan and limitless disparity toward East Pakistan in political, economic, administrative, military, educational affairs as well. Bangabandhu presented the 'six-points' demand (titled 'amader bachar dabi: chhoy dafa karmashuchi') on 5-6 February in 1966 when Opposition leaders convened a conference in Lahore. Six-point demand was first identified East Bengal as a separate region and demanded greater autonomy.

According to Raunaq Jahan, “ Sixpoint movement whose main thrust was demand of greater autonomy for east Pakistan is regarded as the turning point in Mujib’s rise to charismatic leadership ”.

❖ Agartala Conspiracy Case (1968) :

The Agartala Conspiracy Case was a sedition case in Pakistan during the rule of Ayub Khan against Awami League, brought by the government of Pakistan in 1968 against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the leader of the Awami League and East Pakistan, and 34 other people. Following the presentation of the challenging Six-point programme by Mujib, the Ayub regime put him behind the bars. A sedition case, known as [agartala conspiracy case](#) officially named as State vs. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Others, was brought against him along with 34 others. Majority of them were Bangali officers and servicemen in Pakistan Air and Naval forces. He was charged with conspiring against the state of Pakistan together with the other co-accused. According to the allegations, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the other accused were secretly planning to separate East Pakistan by force with the help of India.

❖ Mass Uprising in 1969 :

The 1969 uprising in East Pakistan was a democratic political movement in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The mass uprising in 1969 is that the entire people of East Pakistan staged against the dictator Ayub Khan on the basis of six points and 11 points in 1969 with the aim of implementing democracy and establishing autonomy and ending all anti-people forces and military rule is known as the 1969 uprising. Sheikh Mujib

was arrested for agitating for a six-point demand. The uprising led to the withdrawal of Agartala Conspiracy Case and on 22 February, 1969 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his colleagues released from the case.

❖ The Election of 1970 :

The first ever general elections of Pakistan in December 1970 made Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the sole spokesman of East Pakistan. Under his leadership, the Awami League won 167 (including 7 women reserved seats) out of 169 seats allotted to East Pakistan in the Pakistan National Assembly. But the power was not handed over to the elected representatives, as a result the movement started under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman all over the Bangladesh.

❖ Non Cooperation Movement and 7th march speech :

After the election of 1970 the power was not handed over to the elected representatives, as a result the movement started under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman all over the Bangladesh. From March 2 to March 25, 1971, he called for a non-cooperation movement across the country. On 7 March 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered a historic speech at the Racecourse Ground in Dhaka. In his speech on March 7, he indirectly declared independence and gave the people the direction of war.

At the end of his speech, he declared:

'Build forts in each homestead. You must resist the Pakistani enemy with whatever you have in hand⁸⁵. Remember, we have given a lot of blood, a lot more blood we shall give if need be, but we shall liberate the people of this country, Insha Allah'. The struggle this time is the struggle for our emancipation; the struggle this time is the struggle for independence.'


❖ Declaration of Independence :

The language movement in 1952, the election of 1954, the military rule of Ayub Khan, the six point movement in 1966, the Agartala Conspiracy of 1968, the mass uprising of 1969 and the election of 1970 create Bengali nationalism.

To destroy the nationalist consciousness of the Bengalis, the Pakistani rullers carried out torture and genocide in East Pakistan through Operation Searchlight on March 25, 1971 and arrested Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. But before his arrest, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh through radio. Bangabandhu's declaration was as follows:

"This may be my last message: From today Bangladesh is independent. I call upon the people of Bangladesh wherever you may be and with whatever you have, to resist the army of

occupation to the last. Your fight must go on until the last soldier of the Pakistan occupation army is expelled from the soil of Bangladesh and final victory is achieved”.



স্বাধীনতার ঘোষণা

জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫শে মার্চ রাত ১২টা ২০ মিনিটে বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করেন।

“This may be my last message; from today Bangladesh is independent. I call upon the people of Bangladesh wherever you might be and with whatever you have, to resist the army of occupation to the last. Your fight must go on until the last soldier of the Pakistan occupation army is expelled from the soil of Bangladesh and final victory is achieved.”

[অনুবাদ : “এটাই হয়তো আমার শেষ বার্তা, আজ থেকে বাংলাদেশ স্বাধীন। বাংলাদেশের জনগণ, তোমরা যে যেখানেই আছ এবং যার যা কিছু আছে তাই নিয়ে শেষ পর্যন্ত দখলদার সৈন্য বাহিনীকে প্রতিরোধ করার জন্য আমি তোমাদের আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি। পাকিস্তান দখলদার বাহিনীর শেষ সৈনিকটিকে বাংলাদেশের মাটি থেকে বিতাড়িত করে চূড়ান্ত বিজয় অর্জিত না হওয়া পর্যন্ত তোমাদের যুদ্ধ চালিয়ে যেতে হবে।”]

এই ঘোষণা বাংলাদেশের সর্বত্র ওয়্যারলেস, টেলিফোন ও টেলিগ্রামের মাধ্যমে প্রেরিত হয়।

The war of liberation started with the declaration of independence by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh became independent through a long and bloody war of nine months.