

❖ Return of the Father of the Nation :

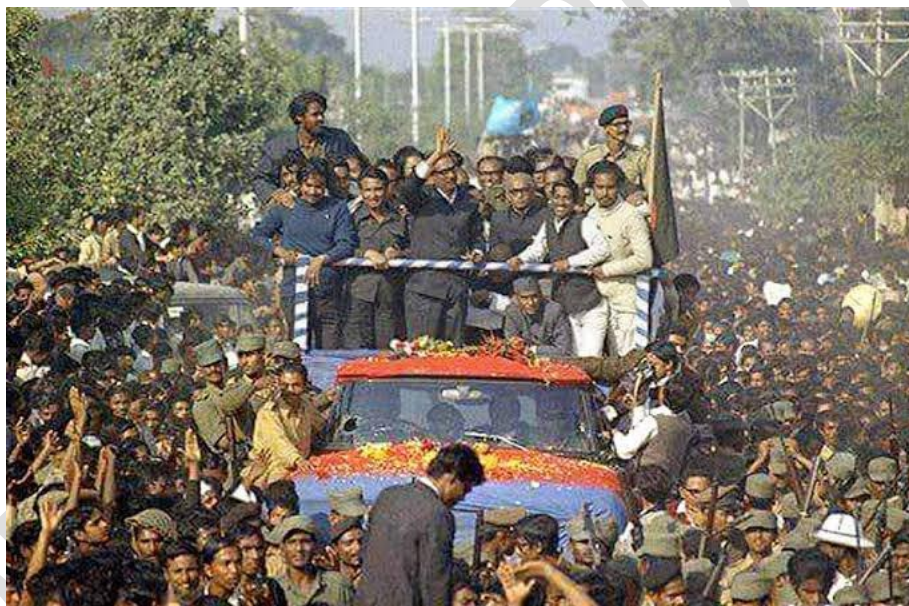
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the architect of independent Bangladesh. He was the first President (26 March 1971 to 11 January 1972). of Bangladesh and one of the most influential political figures of the Indian subcontinent.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the Independence of Bangladesh on 26 March in 1971. After the declaration of independence, Pakistan army arrested Bangabandhu on the first hour of March 26 (after midnight 12, on March 25) in 1971 and took him to West Pakistan. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was imprisoned in Mianwali Jail, Pakistan. He was a prisoner for nine months during the Liberation War. Pakistan government started his trial on the charge of treason at a military court. In a travesty of judgement, he was sentenced to be hanged. After the final victory on December 16, 1971 Bangabandhu was still a prisoner in a Pakistani jail. His countrymen even did not know whether he was alive. People all over the country were deeply anxious about Bangabandhu. There was eager waiting when would the great leader come back to his people. At last, he was

released from prison in Pakistan on January 8 and returned to his country on January 10, 1972. Therefore, January 10 is celebrated all over the country as Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day.

Bangabandhu was flown direct to London by a special plane of Pakistani army before his return to homeland on January 10, 1972. After that, he came to Dhaka via Delhi by a British Royal Comet aircraft. At Dhaka, he was offered an unprecedented congratulation ceremony. Millions of people gathered on the way from the old airport to the Race Course Maydan (at present Suhrawardy Uddayan) at Ramna just to have a glimpse of the popular leader.



At the Race Course Maydan, He spoke in a clear voice on the reconstruction of the war-torn country, the recognition of Bangladesh as a new country by other countries of the world and on the characteristics of the state Bangladesh.

He said, **'Bangladesh will be an ideal state and its foundation will not be on any particular religion. The foundation of the country will be democracy, socialism, Bangalee nationalism and secularism.'**

❖ Constitution of Bangladesh :

The Constitution of Bangladesh, officially the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is the supreme law of Bangladesh. It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 4 November 1972 and came into force on 16 December of the same year, marking the Victory Day.

The government proclaimed 'Constituent Assembly Order' on 23 March, 1972 with a view to drafting the constitution of Bangladesh. The constituent assembly consisted of the elected members for the national and provincial assemblies from the part of the then East Pakistan in 1970 election.



Shilpacharjo Zainul Abedin handing over the original copy of the Constitution to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1972

The first session of the constituent assembly sat on 10 April, 1972. Shah Abdul Hamid was elected the undisputed first Speaker of the assembly and Mohammad Ullah was elected Deputy Speaker. A committee was formed to draft a constitution in the shortest possible time. Dr. Kamal Hossain was the convener of this committee. The member of the committee was 34 in number. The committee completed the final draft of the constitution by 11 October, 1972. The assembly started general discussion on the Constitution Bill from 18 October. After a long discussion, the

Constitution Bill was passed on 4 November, 1972 in the Constituent Assembly. The Constitution was in effect from 16 December, 1972, the first anniversary of the Victory Day. . In his speech at the assembly on the constitution, Bangabandhu said, 'This constitution is written in the blood of the martyrs. This constitution will prevail as the symbol of the hope and aspiration of the entire nation.'

While India took three years(1947-1949) and Pakistan took nine years(1947-1956) to give themselves a constitution, Bangabandhu's government gave the nation a constitution only in ten months.

- **November 4 is the Constitution Day of Bangladesh.**
- **The constitution of 1972 was a written document. It was drafted both in Bangla and English. But Bangla was accepted as the original language.**
- **This constitution had one preamble, 11 Parts, 153 Articles.**
- **The four fundamental principles of the Constitution are :**

**Nationalism, Socialism,
Democracy, Secularism.**

❖ Important Articles of the Constitution of Bangladesh :

1. The Republic

(Bangladesh is a unitary, independent, sovereign Republic to be known as the People's Republic of Bangladesh).

2. The territory of the Republic-

- All lands of East Pakistan
- such other territories as may become included in Bangladesh.

2 (a). The State Religion (The state religion of the Republic is Islam and other religion status equal right).

3. The State Language (The Language of the Republic is Bangla)

4. National Anthem, Flag and emblem

4 (a). Portrait of the Father of the nation

5. Capital (The Capital of the Republic is Dhaka)

6. Citizenship (The people of Bangladesh shall be known as Bangalees as a nation and the citizens of Bangladesh shall be known as Bangladeshies).

7. Supremacy of the Constitution (All powers in the Republic belong to the people).

8. Fundamental Principles (Nationalism, Socialism, Democracy and Secularism).

9. Nationalism

17. Free and Compulsory Education

- 19. Equality of Opportunity**
- 21. Duties of citizens and public servants**
- 22. Separation of Judiciary from the Executive**
- 27. Equality before Law**
- 29. Equality of opportunity in Public Employment**
- 36. Freedom of movement**
- 37. Freedom of Assembly**
- 38. Freedom of Association**
- 39. Freedom of thought and conscience and of speech**
- 40. Freedom of profession or occupation**
- 41. Freedom of Religion**
- 63. War**
- 64. The Attorney General**
- 65. Establishment of Parliament**
- 77. Ombudsman**
- 94. Establishment of Supreme Court**
- 117. Administrative Tribunals**
- 118. Establishment of Election Commission**
- 137. Establishment of Commissions**
- 142. Power to amend any provision of the Constitution**