

Bangabandhu and Evolution of Bangladesh

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Abstract – This paper aims to discuss the charismatic, strong, dedicated and visionary leadership quality of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Descriptive qualitative research techniques carried out in this study. The paper shows that Bangabandhu was the real architect of Bangladesh, as he played a significant role in the entire liberation journey, which started in 1952 with the language revolution and proceeded through the democratic movement of 1962, the Six-Point Program of 1966, the Popular Movement of 1969, the enviable success of the election of 1970, and, most significantly, the Liberation War of 1971. The paper also presents how Bangabandhu had become the unique leader of people and an inseparable part of our history.

Keywords – Bangabandhu, charismatic, evolution, liberation war, language movement, six point.

I. INTRODUCTION

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (1920-1975) was the founder and Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, and he was called the greatest Bengali of all time. Within a day, Bangladesh was not established. In the unfulfilled dream of the ancient heroes of Bengal who brought it to their graves, it has persisted for centuries as an idea and an ideal (MacDermot, 1973). Bangabandhu, who inherited this inheritance, developed the idea into a deep and abiding love and gave it structure in the form of Bangladesh's map, which he etched on his heart. He had a knack for converting tragedies into successes, which helped him borrow life from death on several occasions to stake it for the people's cause (Thorp, 1987a). This talent or spiritual influence stems from his profound affection for the people and his continued trust in them. He was, thus, a tested Democrat, a strong socialist, a liberal secularist, an uncompromising nationalist, a humanist, a peace lover. Mujib is Bangabandhu, Bangladesh's mate (Islam et al., 2018; MacDermot, 1973; Shamsuddoha, 2020).

He was a strong political leader who created new concepts, strategies, creatives, gestures, yields, and services to strengthen Bengali roles. The language revolution was the beginning of the resistance against the evil power (Huq, 2010). The tongue played a key role and eventually turned into Bangladesh's liberation, headed by the most significant political chief, Sheikh Mujib. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a visionary leader who promised to end the violence and rebellion that had ravaged the Bengalis of East Pakistan in their battle against unjust incidents, corruption, and profiteering by the Pakistani government. Bangabandhu struggled against the extraordinary, eradicating injustice, and was resistant to totalitarianism and the colonial regime (Thorp, 1987a, 1987b). From 17 April 1971 until his assassination on 15 August 1975 during a military coup, he served as President of Bangladesh and later as Prime Minister of Bangladesh. His daughter, Sheikh Hasina, is the new chief of the Awami League and is also Bangladesh's Prime Minister (Shamsuddoha, 2020).

II. EARLY LIFE, EDUCATION AND FAMILY OF BANGABANDHU

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was born on March 17, 1920, in the village of Rungipara, in the then Gopalganj subdivision (now district) of the then Faridpur district. His father, Sheikh Lutfar Rahman, had four daughters and two sons with his wife, Sheikh Sayra Khatun. Their third child was Mujib. His parents used to name him "Khoka" adoringly. Sheikh Mujib began school at Gimadanga primary school when he was seven years old, in 1927. He was admitted to class three at Gopalganj public school at nine o'clock in 1929. He was subsequently admitted to the Missionary Gopalganj Academy (Ludden, 2011). Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had an enthusiasm for athletics and a particular passion for football before he became involved in student politics. In 1942, the Intermediate of Arts from Islamic College (now Maulana Azad College) transferred his metrics from Gopalganj Missionary School in 1944. In 1947, he earned his BA from the same institution. He was admitted to the University of Dhaka to study law after India's partition but was unable to complete it because of his expulsion from the University in early 1949 on the charge of provoking fourth-class employees in their protest against the hostility of the university authority to their valid demands. After 61 years, the expulsion was reversed in 2010, finding the expulsion unfair and undemocratic (Rahman, 2010).

FAMILY

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman married his paternal cousin Sheikh Fazilatunnesa in 1932/1933. (Renu). Together, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana had two daughters, three boys, Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal, and Sheikh Russell. In 1971, Kamal was an organiser of the Mukti Bahini guerrilla movement and, during the Independence War, obtained a wartime commission in the Bangladesh Army. He was considered to be Mujibur's heir. Jamal received his training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom and later became a Commissioned Officer in the Bangladesh Army (T. u.-I. Hashmi, 1994; Hossain, 1981). During the Bangladesh Liberation War, the Sheikh family was kept under house arrest until 17 December, when Sheikh Kamal and Jamal found a way to flee and cross into an autonomous region, where they joined the battle to liberate the land.

Table (1): Early life, family and education of Bangabandhu

Year	Biographic Summary
March 17, 1920	Born
1927	Begins schooling
1929	Class three
1932/1933	Marriage
1942	Passed Matric exam
1944	Passed intermediate
1947	Passed BA
1948	Admitted Dhaka university
1949	Expelled from the University (on the charge of inciting the forth-class employees in their agitation)

POLITICAL ACTIVENESS OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN AND EVOLUTION OF BANGLADESH

Early political activity: When he entered the All India Muslim Students Federation in 1940, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman became politically involved. In 1943, he was elected to the All India Muslim League as a councillor from Bengal. On August 16, 1946, during the communal disturbances of Calcutta (Kolkata), regarded as "The Great Calcutta killing," he was named General Secretary of Islamia College Students Union uncontested, helping to preserve peace and mutual cohesion, saving the lives of many members of both the Hindu and Muslim sects. Mujib was one of the Muslim leaders serving under Suhrawardy in 1947, during the racial violence that exploded in Calcutta shortly before India's partition (Datta, 2005; Fatema, Nasreen, & ..., 2020).

Bengali language movement and Bangabandhu: When Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the first governor-general of West Pakistan (now Pakistan), proclaimed that the citizens of East Bengal would have to accept Urdu as the official language, riots erupted. Since East Pakistan's overall population was 6,90 million crore and 4,40 million people were Bengali and only 2,50 million people used Urdu as their mother tongue. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman promptly agreed to launch a protest against the Muslim League's previously scheduled decision. A meeting held on March 2 at Fazlul Haque Muslim Hall accepted Sheikh Mujib's

resolution to establish an All-Party State Language Action Committee(Ludden, 2011). On March 11, he and some political workers were detained while picking in front of the secretariat building in celebration of State Language Bangla Day. Following his detention, the country's college population grew restive. On March 15, the Muslim League government was pressured to free Sheikh Mujib and other student leaders in the wake of over-powering student demonstrations. On March 19, he initiated a protest to defend the interests of Dhaka University's fourth-class workers. Mujib was detained again on September 11, 1948, and released from jail on January 21, 1949. Mujib quit the Muslim League to establish the Awami Muslim League, the forerunner of the Awami League, with Maulana Bhshani and Yar Mohammad Khan. Until 1949, he acted as East Bengal's joint secretary(T. U. I. Hashmi, 1994; Hossain, 1981).

On the occasion of Pakistan's Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan's visit to East Pakistan in early January 1950, the Awami Muslim League conducted an anti-famine procession in Dhaka. This time, owing to his leadership, Mujib was imprisoned. For two years, he was incarcerated. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Khwaja Nazimuddin, declared on 26 January 1952 that Urdu would be Pakistan's only national language. While being kept in detention after the declaration, Mujib played a central role in organising demonstrations. By giving prison orders, he played the role of leading the Bengali language movement of the state. On February 16, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman began an 11-day hunger strike. In violation of a curfew levied by the authorities, angry students went on strike on February 21 to press their demand that Bangla be declared one of Pakistan's state languages. When police shoot on a protest, Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, Shafiur and several others are martyred. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman shares profound grief for those who have lost their lives and demonstrations against police's unfair firing during a hunger strike in a statement published from prison. The next year, he flies to China for the World Peace Summit, where he gives a powerful speech in Bangla, introducing the Mother Language Movement's cause to a global audience. It was also agreed to observe 21 February as the day of state language recognition(Choudhury, 1972; Datta, 2005).

The creation of the Awami League and the formation of a joint front: Four political parties from East Bengal, namely the Awami Muslim League, the Krishak Sramik Party, Nezam-e-Islam and Ganatantri Dal, were part of the Unified Front. The Front was established on December 4, 1953, by AK Fazlul Huq of the Krishak Sramik Party, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani of the Awami Muslim League, and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy of the Awami Muslim League(Ahmed, 2004).

On March 10, 1954, the first elections in East Bengal were held. The Muslim Awami League alone has 143 seats. Sheikh Mujib wins the Gopalganj constituency election and is sworn in as the new provincial government's Minister for Co-operative and Agricultural Development on May 15. On May 30, the central government unilaterally disbanded the United Front cabinet, and he was subsequently arrested when Bangabandhu landed in Dhaka from Karachi on the same day(Ahmed, 2004). On December 23, he will be released. The goals of the Twenty One Point Program were included in the United Front election manifesto, a coalition of rival political groups to fight the 1954 East Bengal Legislative Assembly elections against the then governing group, the Muslim League (Choudhury, 1972; Datta, 2005).

In the election platform embraced by the Unified Front, the 21-point programme operates as follows:

1. Acknowledge Bangla as one of Pakistan's official languages;
2. To abolish zamindari and all rentals earning interest in property without paying and to divide the surplus land among the growers; to reduce the rent to a reasonable amount and to abolish the certificate scheme for the realisation of the rent; Programme Twenty One Stage
3. To nationalise the jute trade and position it under the East Bengal government's direct supervision, to ensure that farmers earn a decent price for their jute and to prosecute and punish those found liable for jute bungling during the Muslim League rule.
4. Establish cottage industry with complete government subsidies and incorporate co-operative farming in agriculture.
5. To create a salt industry (both small and large scale) to render East Bengal self-sufficient in salt supply and prosecute and punish those liable for salt bungling during the Muslim League regime.
6. To quickly rehabilitate all impoverished refugees from the artisan and technician classes
7. To shield the nation from flooding and starvation by building canals and developing the infrastructure of irrigation;

8. To render the country self-sufficient by modernising agriculture and industrialization methods and ensuring labourer privileges in compliance with the ILO Convention;
9. To make primary education free and compulsory in the region, as well as to ensure that teachers are compensated equally and obtain sufficient benefits;
10. Adopt mother tongue as the medium of instruction, abolish disparity between government and private schools and transform all schools into government-supported entities to restructure the entire education system;
11. To abolish all reactionary rules, including those regulating the universities of Dhaka and Rajshahi, and to create them as autonomous institutions; to make education more affordable and open to the people;
12. To minimise administrative expenses and to rationalise the salary scale of civil servants with high and low pay. Ministers shall not earn a monthly wage of more than 1000 taka;
13. To take action to eliminate graft, nepotism and bribery and to take stock of the holdings of all government officials and businessmen from 1940 onwards for this reason and to surrender all assets for which the purchase is not satisfactorily accountable;
14. The repeal of all Safety and Preventive Detention Acts and the discharge without charge of all inmates imprisoned and the trial in open courts of individuals engaging in anti-state activities; the preservation of the freedom of the press and to attend meetings;
15. Division of authority between the government and the judiciary;
16. To locate the residence of the Chief Minister of the United Front in a less expensive building, and to turn Burdwan House into a student hostel now, and later, into an institute for study on Bangla language and literature;
17. To erect a memorial in remembrance of the martyrs of the Language Movement at the position where they were shot dead, and to pay compensation to the families of the martyrs
18. Proclaim February 21st as "Shaheed Day" and a national holiday;
19. The Lahore Resolution suggested complete autonomy for East Bengal, with the central government in charge of security, international relations, and currency. In terms of security, preparations must be made to create army and naval headquarters in West Pakistan and East Bengal, as well as ordnance factories and the transformation of the Ansar force into a full-fledged militia with arms;
20. The United Front Ministry must not prolong the duration of the Legislature and must resign six months before the end of the term.

The Awami Muslim League is renamed Awami League under the leadership of General Secretary Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, removing the term "Muslim" to open the party's doors to everyone, regardless of faith. The announcement is taken at the party's council session on October 21-23, 1955. At the legislature, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was re-elected as the party's General Secretary. In September 1956, as Minister of Industries, Markets, Labor, Anti-Corruption and Village Assistance, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman entered the provincial Awami League government led by Khan Ataur Rahman. In 1957, he resigned to dedicate his full attention to the party's activities. General Ayub Khan proclaimed martial law in 1958, repealing the constitution. Mujib was detained and jailed for leading opposition until 1961 ([Ahmad, 2019](#); [Ahmed, 2004](#); [Blair, 1978](#)). Following his freedom, Mujib founded the Swadhin Bangal Biplobi Parishad (Free Bangla Revolutionary Council), a covert political organisation. The establishment of the Mujib Awami League announcing the Six Points in Lahore, the student leaders of 1966, to resist the Ayub Khan regime. They were working for greater political influence for Bengalis and for East Pakistan's liberation. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Mohiuddin Ahmed and Tajuddin Ahmed during a mourning rally in memory of the Language Martyrs (February 21, 1964).

BANGABANDHU AND SIX POINT MOVEMENT:

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman introduces his historic six-point programme, recognised as the 'Charter of independence of the Bengali community,' on February 5, 1966. It drew a blueprint for Bangladesh's liberation in the garb of greater autonomy. At the origins of Pakistani imperial dominance over the Bengalis, the programme struck hard. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was named

president of the Awami League at a council meeting held from 18-20 March. In trying to win attention for his 6-Point initiative, he ventures far and large and is detained 8 times during the campaign. Since the regime's final detention on May 8, 1966, he was incarcerated for almost three years. The following points were raised:

1. The constitution shall allow for a Federation of Pakistan in the true sense based on the Lahore Resolution and a legislative system of government with the sovereignty of a legislature explicitly elected on the basis of the universal adult franchise, according to his proposal.
2. Only two topics can be concerned with by the central government: security and international relations, with all other remaining subjects in the federated states.
3. Two different yet openly convertible currencies for the two wings should be adopted; or, if this is not practicable, one currency for the whole country should be introduced with effective constitutional arrangements to avoid capital flight from East to West Pakistan. A separate banking reserve should also be created, as well as a separate fiscal and monetary policy for East Pakistan.
4. Taxes and revenue collecting authority would be assigned to the federating entities, with the federal core having no such control. To fund its costs, the Federation would be entitled to a portion in state income.
5. The foreign exchange earnings of the two wings should be divided into two different accounts; the federal government's foreign exchange needs should be met fairly or in a set combination by the two wings; domestic goods should be free of duty by the two wings; and the constitution should allow the divisions to develop trading ties with foreign countries.
6. A separate militia or paramilitary force should be formed in East Pakistan.

The Six-point motion of Mujib catalysed mass support across East Pakistan, initiating what some scholars have dubbed the 6-point revolution, known in Pakistan as the decisive gambit for Bengalis' autonomy and privileges. Mujib earned widespread support from Bengalis in East Pakistan, including Hindus and other religious groups. In West Pakistan, however, his demands were seen as extreme and perceived as thinly veiled separatism. West Pakistani citizens and leaders, as well as non-Bengalis and Muslim fundamentalists in East Pakistan, became marginalised by the plans.

CONSPIRACY CASE OF AGARTALA (ACC) AGAINST BANGABANDHU AND OTHERS:

The Ayub government lodged the Agartala Plot Case against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the then chief of the Awami League and East Pakistan, and 34 other individuals on January 3, 1968. (Politicians, members of the Army, Navy and Air Force, Civil Servants etc.). On January 18, though still in court, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is seen to have been detained and identified as the primary accused. Along with him, with the help of India, 34 others are suspected of involuntary secession of East Bengal. The case is officially referred to as State vs. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others, but is generally referred to as Agartala Sho'ojontro Mamla (conspiracy case of Agartala) as the major conspiracy was reported to have taken place in the Indian city of Agartala in the state of Tripura, where the associates of Sheikh Mujib encountered Indian military officials. A mass movement is spreading through the nation demanding that all the suspects, including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, be freed. The accused's trial starts on June 19 at Dhaka Kurmitola Cantonment, amid tight protection and scrutiny. A national student movement and popular rebellion seeking the removal of the case and the freedom of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman culminated in the Agartala Plot Case. The Ayub Khan government is coerced to withdraw the Agartala Plot Case (ACC) under public pressure and release Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others on February 22 (Fatema et al., 2020; T. u.-I. Hashmi, 1994).

The Anti-Ayub Campaign and the 1969 East Pakistan Popular Uprising: The Students' Action Committee was established on January 4, 1969, by leaders of the East Pakistan Students' Union (Menon Group), East Pakistan Students' League, East Pakistan Students' Union (Matia Group), and a portion of the National Students' Federation (NSF) who announced their 11-point programme." The Democratic Action Committee, an anti-Ayub front, was founded shortly afterwards by virtually all major political parties. SAC's 11 points, which included Mujib's 6 points, were sponsored (Fatema et al., 2020; T. U. I. Hashmi, 1994; Hossain, 1981).

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani of the National Awami Party, an octogenarian and revered leader, led the group. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, the pioneer of the People's 1969 Revolution, A string of killings at the hands of government troops, including students Asaduzzaman, Matiur Rahman, and Professor Shamsuzzoha, brought the movement to its breaking point. On February 15, 1969, when the ACC accused Sergeant Zahurul Haq of being shot dead by the troops, Bhashani escalated his agitation programme and announced that if the authorities did not liberate him instantly, they would physically free Mujib. President AyubKhan succumbed on February 22, 1969. He demanded that the ACC be revoked and that both of the suspects be freed unconditionally. At a gigantic public meeting organised by the Central Student Action Committee at the Resource Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan) on February 23, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman became a hero and was granted the title "Bangabandhu" (Friend of Bengal/Bengalis). Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announces that East Pakistan will now be recognised as Bangladesh at a meeting held on December 5 to commemorate Shaheed Suhrawardy's death anniversary(Ahmed, 2004).

IMPORTANT NEWS IN 1969

- 5 January: Shorbodolio Chatro Shongram Porishad (The All Party Student Action Committee) puts forth its 11-point agenda.
- 7–8 January: Formation of a political coalition named Democratic Action Committee to restore democracy.
- 20 January: Student activist Asaduzzaman dies as the police opens fire on demonstrators.
- 24 January: Matiur, a teenager activist, is gunned down by the police.
- 15 February: Sergeant Zahurul Haq, one of the convicts of Agartala Conspiracy Case, is assassinated in the prison of Kurmitola Cantonment.
- 18 February: Dr. Shamsuzzoha of Rajshahi University is killed as the police open fire on a silent procession in Rajshahi.
- 22 February: Withdrawal of Agartala Conspiracy Case.
- 23 February: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is accorded a grand reception, where he is given the title Bangabandhu (friend of Bengal).
- 10–13 March: Ayub Khan calls for a round-table meeting with the opposition.
- 25 March: Ayub Khan hands over power to General Yahya Khan, the army Chief of Staff.

GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1970

On December 7, 1970, in Pakistan, general elections were held to elect representatives of the National Assembly. These were the first general elections since Pakistan's independence and were eventually the last ones conducted until Bangladesh's independence. There were 300 constituencies in all, with 162 in East Pakistan and 138 in West Pakistan. The polls were a fierce battle between two social democratic groups, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's west-based Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's east-based Awami League. Mujib selected the symbol "Boat" to reflect the Awami League and the nation's hope. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman suspends the election campaign and runs to the impacted areas after a catastrophic cyclone destroys a million people in the coastal areas on November 12. The Awami League secured an overwhelming plurality in the general elections on December 7, securing 167 of the 169 seats in the National Assembly of East Pakistan (including seven women's seats) and 298 of the 310 seats in the Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan (including ten women's seats). Just 81 seats were won by the PPP, all in West Pakistan. As part of their election campaign Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy travelling in Rajshahi by boat (1954)(Ahmed, 2004; Choudhury, 1972; T. u.-I. Hashmi, 1994).

Table(2):Historical poster of the election of 1970

Subject of discrimination	East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)	West Pakistan
Expenditure of fiscal	1500 Crore tk	5000 Crore tk
Expenditure of developing sectors	1000 Crore tk	6000 Crore tk

Foreign Aid	20 percentage	80 percentage
Import of foreign goods	25 percentage	75 percentage
Service of Central government	15 percentage	85 percentage
Service of Armed forces	10 percentage	90percentage
Gold per vori	170 taka	135 taka

Table(3):Discrimination of economic sector

Subject	East Pakistan(Bangladesh)	West Pakistan (Pakistan)
Foreign Aid	34 percentage	66 percentage
Foreign Money	21 percentage	79 percentage
Import	31 percentage	69 percentage

The Independence War and Bangladesh's Evolution: The Awami League party, headed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (also known as Mujib) and based in East Pakistan, won national elections in December 1970, but parties in West Pakistan, namely the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), declined to hand over authority. Encouraged by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, President Yahya Khan outlawed the Awami League and proclaimed martial law. Ramna Kali Mandir (temple) was destroyed by the Pakistani Army, which killed 85 Hindus. General Yahya Khan is said to have said on February 22, 1971, "Destroy three million of them, and the others will feed out of our mouths." Following General Yahya Khan's postponement of the session of the National Assembly on March 1, just two days before the session was scheduled to take place, major protests were conducted by Bengalis from all walks of life. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the de-facto chief of East Pakistan, has been in control of the country since March 1(Ahmed, 2004; T. u.-I. Hashmi, 1994).

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in a landmark speech before millions of people at the Racecourse Maidan on March 7, calls on his fellow countrymen to brace completely for the Independence War. President General Yahya Khan of Pakistan will visit Dhaka and hold a series of meetings with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from 16-24 March, but no consensus can be found.

The Pakistani Army conducted Operation Searchlight on the night of March 25, 1971. For his involvement in Operation Searchlight, Time magazine called General Tikka Khan the "Butcher of Bengal". The operation attacked Jagannath Hall, a Dhaka University dormitory for non-Muslim students, Rajarbagh Police Lines, and Pilkhana, the headquarters of the East Pakistan Rifles. In the Dhaka University dorms, approximately 34 students were killed(MacDermot, 1973; Thorp, 1987a). Ancient Dhaka neighbourhoods that had a predominantly Hindu community were also targeted. An American journalist, Robert Payne, reported that 7,000 people were killed and 3,000 were captured that night. The Pakistani Army killed teachers from Dhaka University during the operation. In the early hours of March 26, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh's independence. He is detained and sent to a Pakistani jail soon after the declaration(MacDermot, 1973; Thorp, 1987a).

On 26 March 1971, the initial proposal envisaged gaining charge of the major cities, and then, within one month, suppressing any resistance, civil or military. Pakistani planners were not equipped for the protracted Bengali opposition. With the loss of the last big town in Bengali hands in mid-May, the main step of Operation Searchlight came to an end. Almost evenly disagreed, the countryside also existed. The Pakistan army unleashed its heinous war of genocide against unarmed Bengalis at midnight on March 25. In the early hours of March 26, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh's independence. He is detained and sent to a Pakistani jail soon after the declaration.

The first government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was formed on April 10, and Bangabandhu was elected President by the constituent assembly. Syed Nazrul Islam, in the absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is named Vice President and Acting President, while Tajuddin Ahmed is elected Prime Minister. On April 17, in the famed mango garden (Amrakanan) of Baidyanathatala in Meherpur, now known as Mujibnagar, leaders take their oaths of office(Islam et al., 2018; Shamsuddoha, 2020).

After nine months of brutal fighting, Bangladesh was freed on 16 December 1971 with the surrender of the Pakistani occupation army. The Pakistan Junta arranged a classified Bangabandhu tribunal in August and September and sentenced him to death. The world is outraged, and the President of Bangladesh's protection has been requested. The Bangladesh government is demanding the immediate and unconditional release of Bangabandhu on December 27. Over the nine months of the war, an

approximate 991 students, 13 authors, 49 doctors, 42 attorneys, and 16 poets, artists and engineers were systematically murdered by the Pakistani Army with the help of local collaborators. Well after the formal end of the war on 16 December, allegations of killings by armed Pakistani soldiers or their allies have been published. In one such event, noted filmmaker Jahir Raihan was reportedly killed by armed Beharis in Mirpur on 30 January 1972. In Bangladesh, the 14th of December is recognised as Shaheed Buddhijibi Dibosh, in remembrance of those who were murdered ("Day of the Martyred Intellectuals"). The common opinion is that between 200,000 and 400,000 women were abused during the nine-month war, and between 300,000 and 3,000,000 people were murdered. Nearly 1,400,000 farm families have been left without equipment or livestock to work their farms, with an estimated 6,000,000 homes lost. The networks of transport and communications are utterly broken. Roads have been weakened, bridges have been burned, and inland rivers have been diverted(Rahman, 2012; Rashiduzzaman, 1977; M. Rashiduzzaman, 1997).

INDEPENDENT BANGLADESH AND BANGABANDHU (1972-1975)

The Government of Pakistan is being pressured to release Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 8 January under intense foreign pressure. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman flies to London on his way to Dhaka on the very day. There, he talked to the international press at a packed press conference in his hotel. On January 9, he talks with Edward Heath, the British Prime Minister at the time. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman paused in Delhi before heading to Dhaka, where he was greeted by Indian President VV Giri and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi(Choudhury, 1972; T. U. I. Hashmi, 1994). Millions of jubilant people greeted him with open arms when the Father of the Country entered Dhaka on January 10. He went straight from the airport to the Maidan race course, now called Suhrawardy Udyan, where, for the first time, he addressed the citizens of independent Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will take over as Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh on January 12 and begin rebuilding the war-ravaged region. Bangabandhu laid the roots of the new Republic within three and a half years by introducing many steps, including the rehabilitation of 10 million Bengali refugees, the evacuation of all Allied powers within 3 months of victory, the establishment of the constituent assembly and the constitution of the new state within 10 months, the recognition of Bangladesh by more than 100 nations(Blair, 1978; Choudhury, 1972; Fatema et al., 2020). He also ensured Bangladesh's participation in main international organisations such as the United States, Commonwealth, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), World Bank, International Telecommunication Union among others. Bangladesh developed diplomatic relations with 116 significant countries during his brief presidency.

The Awami League, headed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won 293 seats out of 300 in Parliament in the first general election in independent Bangladesh on 7 March 1973. On May 23, the World Peace Council presents Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with the Julio Curie Peace Prize for his commitment to world peace. Bangabandhu will fly to Algeria on September 6 to join the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit. He will have bilateral talks with several world leaders on the sidelines of the summit. On September 17, 1974, Bangladesh became the 136th member of the United Nations, winning universal recognition. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gives the first ever Bangla speech at the United Nations on September 25 at the UN's 29th General Assembly(Blair, 1978; Choudhury, 1972; Datta, 2005; Fatema et al., 2020).

Bangabandhu issued detailed plans in 1975(January-March) to harness the intellectual, cultural and economic capabilities of the country to achieve the goals of Sonar Bangla's dream. This included (i) raising poverty, (ii) defending the values of independence, liberalism, socialism and secularism, removing corruption, hoarding and black marketing, (iv) opposing the anti-liberation and radical movements and their plot against the government, (v) revamping the institutional system of the country to change its emphasis from administration to service delivery, (vi) significantly Bangabandhu also emphasised the need for national unification, for government to be decentralised, for tax and national income to improve and for national development plans to be simplified and enabled(Ahmed, 2004; Bala, Hossain, & Mondal, 2018).

A party of junior army officers stormed the presidential residence on 15 August 1975 with tanks, murdering Mujib, his relatives and personal employees. Just Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, who were in West Germany at the time, managed to run. They have been barred from going back to Bangladesh. Disgruntled Awami League colleagues and military officers organised the takeover, which included Mujib's longtime confidante and comrade Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad, who became his immediate successor.

Following are the important laws that Bangabandhu framed during his three and a half years tenure:

1. The Bangladesh Law Officers Order, 1972 (President's Order);
2. The Bangladesh Constituent Assembly Members (Cessation of Membership) Order, 1972 (President's Order);
3. The Bangladesh Banks (Nationalisation) Order, 1972 (President's Order);
4. The Bangladesh Industrial Enterprises (Nationalisation) Order, 1972 (President's Order)
5. The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation Order, 1972 (President's Order);
6. The Bangladesh (Vesting of Property and Assets) Order, 1972 (President's Order);
7. The Bangladesh (Adaptation of East Pakistan Intermediate and Secondary Education Ordinance) Order, 1972 (President's Order);
8. The East Pakistan Madrasah Education Ordinance (Repeal) Order, 1972 (President's Order);
9. The Bangladesh Legal Practitioner's and Bar Council Order, 1972 (President's Order);
10. The Finance (1971-1972) Order, 1972 (President's Order);
11. The Bangladesh Nationalised Enterprises and Statutory Corporation (Prohibition of Strikes and Unfair Labour Practices) Order, 1972 (President's Order);
12. The Bangladesh Power Development Boards Order, 1972 (President's Order);
13. The Bangladesh Taxation Laws (Adaptation) Order, 1972 (President's Order);
14. The Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons Order, 1972 (President's Order)
15. The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh Order, 1972 (President's Order);
16. The Bangladesh Census Order, 1972 (President's Order);
17. The Government Educational and Training Institutions (Adaptation) Order, 1972 (President's Order);
18. The Bangladesh (Budgetary Provisions) Order, 1972 (Presidents' Order);
19. The National Board of Revenue Order, 1972 (President's Order);
20. The Finance Order, 1972 (President's Order);
21. The Bangladesh Currency Order, 1972 (President's Order);
22. The Bangladesh (Freedom Fighters) Welfare Trust Order, 1972 (President's Order);
23. The Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972 (President's Order)
24. The Bangladesh Rifles Order, 1972 (President's Order);
25. The Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers (Remuneration and Privileges) Act, 1973;
26. The International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973;
27. The Asian Development Bank Order, 1973 (President's Order);
28. The University Grants commission of Bangladesh Order, 1973 (President's Order)
29. The Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Order, 1973 (President's Order);
30. The Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Allowances) Order, 1973 (President's Order);

31. The Special Police Establishment (Repeal) Act, 1974;
32. The Public Servants (Retirement) Act, 1974;
33. The Members of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) Act, 1974;
34. The Primary Education Laws (Repeal) Act, 1974;
35. The President's (Remuneration and Privileges) Act, 1975;
36. The Prime Minister's (Remuneration and Privileges) Act, 1975;

III. CONCLUSION

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth was a landmark moment in Bangladesh's past, as the country's independence would not have been feasible without him, at least not in 1971. It is for this reason that he has been an inseparable part of our culture. Bangabandhu is a remarkable character in our country's culture. He is the founder and builder of a modern nation and a country as well. He is not equivalent to others in our culture, nor will anyone substitute him. Bangabandhu is the best son of this nation who has ever existed. That is the explanation why he is our nation's dad. We all know that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth was in the background of culture. The entire nation was driven to fight for our country's freedom by Bangabandhu's powerful, committed and imaginative leadership. There is no question that Bangabandhu guided the nation on an inclusive growth course focused on responsible agricultural and industrial policies. Yet he was carried away by dark powers and left us off course. We are back on the cautious development route under the leadership of his daughter, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, after a long period and a great deal of sacrifice. We must do everything possible to ensure that this path ends. If we achieve, we will have a nation with a promising future, the real 'Sonar Bangla.' In a forward-moving Bangladesh, we will certainly be willing to commemorate Bangabandhu's birth anniversary on its platinum jubilee. We would definitely be able to complete our goal of transforming Bangladesh into an upper-middle economy by 2031 and a developed economy by 2041 on the basis of this solid base, as envisaged by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. For this, we must also, at all expense, stay centred on socio-political and financial peace.

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