

# Bangladesh Liberation War (1971) - A Detailed Overview

## Background of the Liberation War (Pre-1971)

### 1. Partition of India (1947)

- India was divided into India and Pakistan.
- Pakistan was created with two wings: West Pakistan (present-day Pakistan) and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).
- East Pakistan was geographically separated by 1,600 km from West Pakistan.

### 2. Language Movement (1948-1952)

- The Pakistan government attempted to impose Urdu as the only national language.
- The people of East Pakistan protested, demanding Bengali as a state language.
- Several students were killed on February 21, 1952, which is now observed as International Mother Language Day.

### 3. Political Discrimination & Economic Exploitation (1950s-60s)

- West Pakistan dominated politics, economy, and military power.
- East Pakistan contributed most of the country's exports (especially jute), but resources were not fairly distributed.

### 4. Awami League & Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led the Awami League, advocating for autonomy for East Pakistan.
- The 6-Point Movement in 1966 demanded greater independence for East Pakistan.

### 5. 1970 General Elections & Political Crisis

- Awami League won 160 out of 162 East Pakistani seats in the National Assembly.
- West Pakistani leaders, including President Yahya Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, refused to transfer power to the Awami League.

## The Liberation War (March - December 1971)

### 1. March 7, 1971 - Historic Speech

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave a speech at the Racecourse Ground (now Suhrawardy Udyan), indirectly calling for independence.

### 2. March 25, 1971 - Operation Searchlight

- The Pakistan Army launched a brutal crackdown in Dhaka, killing thousands.
- Dhaka University, Rajarbagh Police Line, and other key locations were attacked.

### 3. March 26, 1971 - Declaration of Independence

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested and taken to West Pakistan.
- The declaration of independence was announced, marking the official start of the war.

### 4. Formation of the Mukti Bahini (Freedom Fighters)

- Guerrilla fighters formed groups to resist the Pakistani army.
- Training camps were set up in India, and India provided support.

### 5. Key Battles

- Battle of Gazipur
- Battle of Kamalpur
- Battle of Sylhet
- Battle of Boyra
- Battle of Hilli
- Battle of Feni

### 6. Role of India (December 1971)

- On December 3, India officially entered the war after Pakistani forces attacked Indian territories.
- Indian forces, along with the Mukti Bahini, launched a final offensive.

## 7. December 16, 1971 - Victory Day

- The Pakistani Army, led by General Niazi, surrendered to the joint forces of Mukti Bahini and the Indian Army.
- Bangladesh became an independent nation.

## Post-War Period

### 1. Rebuilding Bangladesh (1972-1975)

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned and became the first President.
- The Constitution of Bangladesh was adopted in 1972.
- Economic and social reconstruction efforts began.

### 2. Assassination of Sheikh Mujib (1975)

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were assassinated in a coup.
- Political instability followed for many years.

### 3. Recognition & Global Support

- Many countries recognized Bangladesh, starting with India and Bhutan.
- The UN recognized Bangladesh in 1974.

## Key Figures in the Liberation War

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman - Leader of the Awami League, considered the "Father of the Nation."
- Tajuddin Ahmad - First Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
- General M.A.G. Osmani - Commander-in-Chief of the Mukti Bahini.
- Ziaur Rahman - Declared independence from Chittagong (controversy exists).
- Indira Gandhi - Prime Minister of India, who played a key role in supporting Bangladesh.

## Potential Features for the Bangladesh Liberation War App

1. Historical Timeline - Interactive timeline showing key events.
2. Map of Battles - Locations of key battles with descriptions.
3. Document Archive - Speeches, letters, and original documents from 1971.
4. Hero Profiles - Biographies of freedom fighters.
5. Photo & Video Gallery - Authentic images and videos from the war.
6. Virtual Tour - 3D models of historical sites.
7. Quiz & Games - Engaging content to educate users.
8. Oral History Section - Interviews of war veterans.

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