

Liberation War and Emergence of Bangladesh

v. 1



Liberation Movement of Bangladesh

- ❑ The birth of the independent Bangladesh is the most important event in the history of the Bangalee nation. The Bangalees continued to protest and battle against the exploitation, suppression and discrimination of the Pakistani regimes since the movements against the British rule. Many incidents and events accelerated the anti-Pakistan spirit and motivated the people towards Bangalee nationalism.
- ❑ As a result, the mass people whole heartedly took part in the war of independence as it broke out in 1971. Bangladesh achieved independence through this blood-letting war.
- ❑ Our schedule topic today – **Liberation War**. Before entering into the main discussion at first we will know that long journey.
- ❑ In the following lesson, we will know the highlights of the long way; from the ancient-middle -the British Colonization -Pakistan period to our long- awaited Golden sun of Independence.

Political background of Bengal: Ancient Period

- ❖ Remnants of civilization in the greater Bengal region date back four thousand years, when the region was settled by Dravidian, Tibeto-Burman and Austro-Asiatic peoples. The exact origin of the word 'Bangla' or '**Bengal**' is unknown, though it is to be derived from Sanskrit word ' Vanga'. When the Dravidian-speaking tribe that settled in the area around the year 1000 BC the word Bangla was created and used.
- ❖ It is known that human inhabitation began in Bengal from ancient period. Usually, this region was always full of wealth. As a result, people from different places had started to arrive here much before the English. The main attraction for all was the abundance of wealth in Bengal. So, the arrival of the foreigners in the history of Bengal is not a new instance.
- ❖ Aryan speaking people arrive in Bengal before the Christian era. The Maurya emperor of India **Ashoka**, the great, occupied the northern part of Bengal in 300 B.C. At that time, the northern Bengal known as Pundranagar. After the Maurya rule, the Gupta dynasty takes over the rule of India. In 7th century, after the fall of Guptas, the first independent state was established in the then Bengal. King **Shashanko**, the independent Bangalee king, did not rule for long. Shashanko is considered the **first independent king** in the history of Bangladesh. After the death of Shashanko, for about one hundred years, no information regarding any permanent ruler in the ancient Bangladesh is found. In the absence of a permanent ruler, a chaotic condition prevailed. The small states got involved in dispute and battle among themselves. After the death of Shashanko, great anarchy had been prevailing for almost one hundred years. In Sanskrit, this age is known as the age of **Matsyanaya** (the age of anarchy). Next come **Pala Dynasty** and **Sena Dynasty** respectively in **ancient bengal**.

Political background of Bengal: Middle age

- The **Middle age** of Bengal coincided with Muslim rule .The Middle age of Bangladesh commenced after the Muslims had taken ruling power. In **1204** AD the Turkish general **Ikhtiar Uddin Mohammad Bakhtiar khalzi** established Muslim rule in Bangladesh defeating the Sena king Laxman Sena. Bakhtiyar Khalji's conquest of Nadia resulted in the inception of Muslim reign in Bengal and within some days Muslim reign spread all over Bangladesh. Turkish General **Ikhtiar Uddin Mohammad Bakhtiar khalzi** died in 1206. From 1206 – 1338 A.D. the Muslim rule was spread in Bengal. By this time, three provinces of the Muslim Sultans of Delhi were established in three sections of Bengal. These were Lakhnouti, Satgaon, Sonargaon.
- In 1338, the ruler of Sonargaon Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah rebelled against the Muslim Sultans of Delhi and declared independence. Thus, the established the system of having an Independence Sultan in Bengal which lasted for 200 years. Thus, the independent Sultani dynasty begins.
- In 1538 this independent sultanate came to end. Though the Sultans were non-Bangalee rulers, they exercised good governance and nobody returned to his own country. Before that **Mughals** cccupied the throne of Delhi in 1526 by the **First Battle of Panipat**, on 21 April 1526. But they could not occupy the Eastern part of Bengal, todays's Bangladesh very easily. The great feudal lords of Bangladesh were called Barobhuyans. The twelve Zaminders of East Bengal, popularly known as **Baro Bhuyans**, resisted attacks in a body. Man Singh, the commander of Mughal emperor **Akbar**, tried to defeat Isha Khan, leader of the Baro Bhuiyans, but he could not . As a result, In the subsequent time, Emperor Akbar also could not conquer this country – our Bangladesh. These Barobhuyans unitedly saved the independence of Bangladesh from the Mughals.
- Eventually in **1610** AD, during the reign of emperor **Jahangir**, Bangladesh came under Mughal rule. Losing freedom, Bangladesh became a province under the Mughals.
- In this country, indirect Muslim rule continued till **1757** AD. The **Muslim** rule in Bangladesh from **Sultani** to **Mughal Era** is known as Middle age or the **Medieval Bengal**.

Political background of Bengal: British Rule

- In 1757, with the fall of Nawab Siraj-ud-daula in the **Battle of Plassey**, the rule of the Mughal dynasty finally came to an end. In this period, the power of ruling Bengal was captured by the English force. Thus, the Colonial powers started to rule over this territory.
- The economic condition of some European countries flourished for the discovery of mineral resources, expansion of sea-trade and development in technical and commercial fields. As a result, a powerful trade revolution started from 14th century. Then, the internal economic condition and economic organizations of those countries started to be stronger. So it became important for them to look for raw materials and markets for selling their products.
- In 1498, Vasco-de-Gama, a Portuguese sailor reached Kalikot port of South India. This incident gave a chance for other countries to contest in the competition of expanding trade and commerce in India. Many different countries of Europe started to involve in this competition. For this purpose in 17th century Dutch East India Company (Holland), Danish East India Company, British East India Company and French East India Company were established one by one. India became the target of many of these nations. **Silk** and many other **fine clothes** and the different **spices** of Bengal were the chief attractions for them.
- Though the European Traders came to Bengal for the purpose of trade and commerce, they came into our state power later. Among them, the British East India Company went a step ahead in competition. At that time, they ascended the throne of Bengal by defeating the Nawab of Bengal-Bihar-Orissa, Siraj-ud-daulah in 1757. The rule of the English continues in Bengal till 1947.

Political background of Bengal: British Rule

- ❖ The Bangalees are fighters. They protested against injustice during the **Mughal and British period**.
- ❖ The Bangalees never accepted the British rulers without protest. Throughout the British rule, there were various resistance movements all over India including Bengal. At the forefront of this is the **Sepoy Revolt of 1857**.
- ❖ The Sepoy Revolt was the first anti-British freedom struggle. For a long time, the East India Company's economic, political exploitation social and cultural deprivation, persecution, hurt of religious sentiments and , above all, discriminatory treatment of Indian soldiers have served as the precursors of this revolt.
- ❖ Various movements started in the whole of Bengal centering on the **partition of Bengal in 1905**. These include the Swadeshi movement, the boycott movement, the Swaraj and the armed movement. Armed revolutionary movement was formed among the educated youth.
- ❖ Besides, various constitutional and nationalist movement were going on at the national level all over India including Bengal. Notable among these are Non-cooperation Movement, Khelaphate Movement, Quit India Movement etc.
- ❖ It should be kept in mind that despite various reasons, the British were forced to leave the country due to the pressure of these movements and struggles.

Political background of Bengal: Pakistan Period

- ❖ Indian Independence Act – 1947. It was a Law, which was formed and passed in the British Parliament.
- ❖ According to the law - the then Indian Sub-continent was divided into two parts and born in two new countries :
 1. **Pakistan - 14 August 1947**
 2. **India - 15 August 1947**
- ❑ The Lahore resolution, raised in **1940**, called for the formation of states with Muslim-majority areas in India. On the basis of which India was divided in **1947** and two independent states named **India** and **Pakistan** were established. At the same time, almost two hundred years of British rule came to an end.
- ❑ With the partition of India, Bengal was also divided into two parts – Muslim-inhabited East Bengal was annexed to Pakistan and the Hindu-dominated West Bengal was annexed to India.
- ❑ But this was not the true independence of the people of Eastern Bengal although they were freed from the British rule. The new Pakistani rulers enforced their torture and exploitation over the people of Eastern Bengal. In fact, the people of East Bengal had to start their movement again from 14 August, 1947 to achieve independence in the real sense.
- ❑ On the basis of '**Two-Nation Theory**' two states called India and Pakistan emerged in 1947. East Bengal was made a province of Pakistan based only on religion although there were dissimilarities in geographic position, language and culture. This new state could not bring any freedom in the life of the people of East Bengal. Only the rulers were changed and the people of the East Bengal got ruled by a new foreign ruler.

Liberation Movement of Bangladesh



- Since the birth of Pakistan, the West Pakistani rulers could never think of the Bangalees as their own people. Instead of freedom and independence, the Bangalees got all the discrimination; a new foreign ruler in place of the British. The relation between the two wings was that of an exploiter and the exploited class. We became the exploited. The huge disparity and discrimination between the inhabitants of the two wings of Pakistan was visible in every strata of life like politics, administration, military, economy, education, culture etc.
- This was deliberate attempt to keep the Bangalees dominated. But the Bangalees demonstrated their discontent about that through various ways. Finally, they created a new country Bangladesh through the War of Liberation.
- The birth of the independent Bangladesh is the most important event in the history of the Bangalee nation. The Bangalees continued to protest and battle against the exploitation, suppression and discrimination of the Pakistani regimes since the movements against the British rule. The Language Movement of 1952, East Pakistan Provincial Assembly election of 1954, the movement against martial law, different student movements, etc. are mentionable among them. Besides, the Six-Point movement, Historic of Agartala, movement for cultural rights, the Massuprising of 1969 and the General Election of 1970 contributed to the national renaissance of the Bengalees.
- These incidents and events accelerated the anti-Pakistan spirit and motivated the people towards Bangalee nationalism. As a result, the mass people whole heartedly took part in the war of independence as it broke out in 1971. Bangladesh achieved independence through this blood-letting war.

Liberation War of Bangladesh



Background

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Primary Stage

- ❖ 21 February 1952 - Language Movement
- ❖ In 1954 - United Front
- ❖ 05 February 1966 - Six-Point Demand
- ❖ In 1968 - Historical case of Agartala
- ❖ In 1969 - Mass Uprising
- ❖ 07 December 1970 - General Election
- ❖ 07 March 1971 - Historical Speech
- ❖ 25 March 1971 - Operation Searchlight and started Genocide.

Primary Stage of Liberation War Declaration of Independence Freedom Fighting



In the following session , we shall be
discussing about above mentioned topics.

Primary Stage of Liberation War



Topic - 1

Background of Liberation War



- According to general election of 1970, a new government was supposed to be formed by Bangabandhu and his Party as they won the election. But the Pakistani army ruler started conspiracy without handing over power to victorious Awami League. They postponed the session of the Nation Assembly several times. This made the president of Awami League, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, call for non co-operation movement from the beginning of March, 1971.
- On one side Awami League started to take preparation for accepting power and on the other side Zulfikar Ali Bhutto started a conspiracy to nullify that. He created a new crisis in the politics of Pakistan by declaring that he would boycott the National Assembly to be held at Dhaka.
- The people of East Pakistan reacted angrily at this declaration. They took spontaneous part in all activities demanding the handover of power. Students played a pioneering role in this movement. Besides, teachers, professionals and women organizations also came forward to join the movement. Meeting and procession were held everyday from the beginning of March, 1971 and people attended in huge numbers.

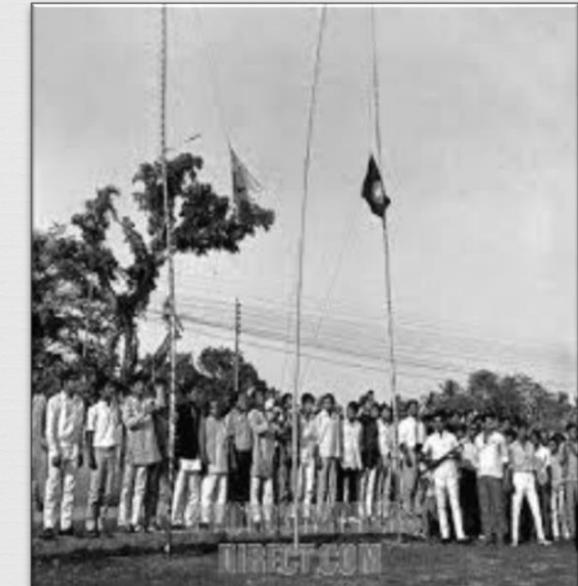
The flag was hoisted for the first time on 2 March which inspired us during our liberation war



- Being motivated by conspiracy of Bhutto President Yahya Khan suspended the holding of national assembly on 1st March to delay handing over power to Awami League.
- Scheme of all-out movement was declared on 1st March 1971 in the parliamentary meeting of Awami League. People extended their spontaneous support. Thus, another chapter of Liberation War of Bangladesh started which is called 'Non co-operation movement'.
- The Awami League declared 'Hartal' in Dhaka city on 2nd March and in the whole country on 3rd March.
- On 2nd March, at 11am. Leaders of Dhaka University Chattra League and leaders of DUCSU (Dhaka University Central Students Union) jointly hoisted the flag which was inscribed with the map of the country. It was the first flag of independent Bangladesh which was hoisted formally in a big gathering.
- This flag inspired us during our liberation war.



Flag used during the *Liberation War* (1971)



Flag of Bangladesh



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- ❑ Information about National flag:



- ❖ The national flag of Bangladesh pronounced was adopted officially on **17 January 1972**. It consists of a red dot on top of a dark green banner.
- Designed by: **Quamrul Hassan**.



Flag used during the [Liberation War](#) (1971)



Hoisting of the flag of independent Bangladesh in the student rally at Dhaka University on 2 March 1971

Historic Speech of 7th March



- The 7th March Speech of **Bangabandhu** was a speech given by **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, the **founding father of Bangladesh** on 7th March 1971 at the Ramna Race Course Field in Dhaka to a gathering of over 10 lac people. It was the great inspiration for all Bangladeshi people for preparing liberation war.
- Actually it was the indirect declaration of independence of **Bangladesh**.
- The speech has been included in the memory of the World International Register, a list of world's important **documentary heritage** maintained by **UNESCO**.

7 March Speech of Bangabandhu



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivering his speech on 7 March 1971

Native name	বঙ্গবন্ধুর ৭ই মার্চের ভাষণ
Date	7 March 1971
Time	2:45 pm – 3:03 pm
Duration	Approximately 19 Minutes
Venue	<i>Race Course (Race Course Moydan in native language), Bangladesh (then East Pakistan)</i>
Location	Ramna, Dhaka

Historic Speech of 7th March



- ❖ According to general election of 1970, a new government was supposed to be formed by Bangabandhu and his Party as they won the election. But the Pakistani army ruler started conspiracy without handing over power to victorious Awami League. They postponed the session of the Nation Assembly several times. This made the president of Awami League, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, call for non co-operation movement from the beginning of March, 1971.
- ❖ Full non co-operation movement started from 3rd March and continued up to 25th March. Students actions committee was formed on 3rd March. At this, the movement became stronger. Students action committee pledged total confidence under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and gave declaration of independence sovereign Bangladesh.
- ❖ Being afraid of this step, President Yahya Khan in a radio speech on 6th March convened the session of National Assembly on 25th March. The undisputed leader of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman however, could not become satisfied with this declaration. A public meeting was convened on 7th March at Racecourse ground (now, Suhrawardee Uddyan) with a view to declaring a programme for a greater movement.

Historic Speech of 7th March



- ❖ In his speech of 7th March 1971, Bangabandhu gave the declaration of running the country's administration as the elected party. He did this according to a consensus of Awami League leaders. He instructed the people to maintain non cooperation with Pakistan Government and declared the closure of courts, offices, educational institutions for an indefinite period.
- ❖ We know that a sovereign country is ruled with money collected in the form of tax and revenue. In his speech, he declared, "There shall be no payment of tax and revenue till my country is liberated". Bangabandhu could understand that Yahya and his associate Bhutto would not hand over power willingly. So he asked the people to take a preparations to launch a liberation war. To make the people ready for achieving independence by war, he told them - from an action committee in each village, each area under the leadership of Awami League. Remain ready with what you have.
- ❖ On the 7th March 1971, Bangabandhu said to the people, "Make a fort in each house. You will have to face the enemy with what you have". This was a clear indication of liberating Bangladesh by guerrilla warfare. In his speech, Bangabandhu used Bangladesh in the presence of 10 lac people and thus he finalized the name of the future new country.

Historic Speech of 7th March



- ❖ The significant side of Bangabandhu's speech was that he wanted to make people ready for war, for freedom and for independence. He openly gave a call to fight for independence when in the later part of his speech he said, "This struggle is the struggle for our freedom, and this struggle is the struggle for our liberation".
- ❖ Actually this was the clear declaration of independence by Bangabandhu.
- ❖ In the speech, Bangabandhu did not turn his back against the path of dialogue to settle the problem. About participation in the session of National Assembly on 25th March, he gave four pre-condition:
 - 1. Withdrawing martial law.
 - 2. Handing over power to people's representatives.
 - 3. Inquiries into mass killing by the army.
 - 4. Taking the soldiers back to the barrack.
- ❑ Bangabandhu instructed all to continue non-cooperation movement till these demands were met. Pakistani martial law administrators, under the leadership of Yahiya Khan, did not accept Bangabandhu's democratic demands and as a result, the movement of liberation became momentous.

Reaction of 7th March Speech



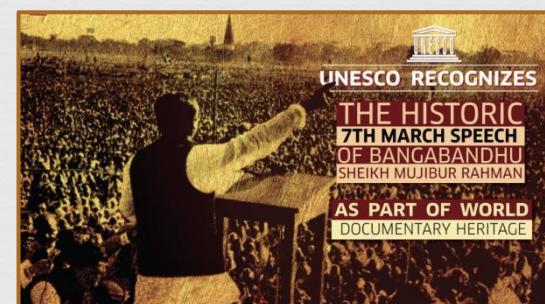
- ❖ After the 7th March speech, the united people took active part in the non-cooperation movement and spontaneously took part in the fight for freedom. School, college, offices, mills, and factories of the whole country were closed at the order of Bangabandhu. Agitated people started to resist Pakistan's forces in different places. There was no collection of tax and revenue.
- ❖ The control of Bangabandhu was established everywhere except in the cantonments. Bangladesh was then ruled by the house of Bangabandhu at Dhanmandi, Road 32. This house became the office of the Government. Tajuddin Ahmed, General Secretary of the party, continued to implement the instructions of Bangabandhu from the head quarter of Awami League.
- ❖ Realizing the gravity of the situation, Yahya Khan arrived in Dhaka on 15th March and proposed negotiations with Bangabandhu. Negotiation started on 16th March. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto also came on 22nd March and took part in the negotiation. Finding negotiation futile Yahya Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto left Dhaka on the night of 25th March.
- ❖ The wrath of the Pakistan Army fell upon the Bangalees at midnight of 25th March, 1971. Pakistani soldiers mercilessly killed many innocent Bangalees on that black night.

Memory of the World Register as a Documentary Heritage

- ❖ The speech of 7th March of Bangabandhu was the document of liberation to the Bangladeshis. This speech inspired all the people of the country to fight for liberation. It united the people and encouraged them to make maximum sacrifice for the country. It magically transformed the Bangalee masses into a nation of heroes. So, this speech is an unprecedented example in the political history of the world.
- ❖ In 2017, the UNESCO has recognised 'The Historic March 7, 1971 speech' of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a world documentary heritage. The speech has been included in the memory of the World International Register, a list of world's important documentary heritage maintained by the UNESCO.
- ❖ This is for the first time the UNESCO recognize any such document as a world heritage which was a speech without any script and thus unwritten.

Historic Speech of 7th March

That touched people





Historical speech of 7th March

This was the indirect declaration of independence of Bangladesh by Bangabandhu.

Primary Stage of Liberation War



- ❖ The War of Liberation began on 26 March 1971 and ended with the liberation of Bangladesh on 16 December 1971. The armed struggle was the culmination of a series of events, situations and issues contributing to the progressively deteriorating relations between East and West Pakistan. The questions of land reforms, state language, inter-wing economic and administrative disparities, provincial autonomy, the defense of East Pakistan and many other consequential questions had been straining the relations between the two wings of Pakistan ever since independence of the country from Britain in 1947.
- ❖ The general elections of 1970 had made Bangabandhu **SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN**, chief of AWAMI LEAGUE which bagged 167 seats out of 169, the **sole spokesman** of the people of East Pakistan and majority leader in the Pakistan National Assembly. But the Pakistan civil and military ruling clique had refused to transfer power to the majority leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his party. Sheikh Mujib also refused to yield to the pressure put on him for undue accommodation. Sheikh Mujib's historic address on 7 March 1971 made this point quite clear to the Pakistani military junta. Then began the civil disobedience movement. Meanwhile talks started between Sheikh Mujib and President Yahya Khan to resolve the outstanding issues.
- ❖ While holding talks, the Pakistani military junta was bringing more troops to Bangladesh, and at the same time wantonly killing innocent civilians all over the country. This clearly showed that they were totally insincere about handing over power to the elected representatives of East Pakistan. No sooner the talks failed, the **GENOCIDE** began with the Pakistan army's crackdown on the people of East Pakistan on the midnight of 25 March 1971. The Bangali soldiers serving in the then Pakistan Armed Forces and para militia forces declared instantly their solidarity with the people's liberation war.

Important Interactive Events of 1971



1. 01 March : General Yahya Khan **calls off the session of National Assembly**.
2. 02 March : The flag was hoisted for the first time.
3. 07 March : **Historic Speech of Bangabandhu**.
4. 09 March : Workers of port refuse to unload weapons from the ship 'Swat'.
5. 16 March : Yahya Khan starts dialogue with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
6. 24 March : Pakistani Army opens fire on Bengali demonstrators.
7. 25 March 1971 : Launched **Operation Searchlight** and started **Genocide**.
8. 26 March : **Declared the independence of Bangladesh**. Started liberation war.
9. 10 April : Mujibnagar Government was formed.
10. 17 April : Oath taking of Mujibnagar Government.
11. In April a formal military leadership of the resistance was created.
12. 15 May : Indian Army starts aiding Mukti Bahini.
13. 01 August : The concert for Bangladesh, in New York.
14. 21 November : Bangladesh Armed Forces was formed.
15. 14 December : Killing of Intellectuals.
16. 16 December 1971 : **Bangladesh emerged as an independent country**.



Interactive Timeline of Liberation War-1

❖ Before the war

- ❖ 1 March: General Yahya Khan **calls off the session of National Council** to be held on 3 March in a radio address.
- ❖ 2 March : The flag was hoisted for the first time on 2 March, 1971.
- ❖ 7 March: **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** – leader of Awami League party that had won a landslide victory in East Pakistan in the Federal Elections in 1970, but never been granted authority – announces to a jubilant crowd at the Dhaka Race Course ground, "**The struggle this time is the struggle for our emancipation! The struggle this time is the struggle for independence!**".
- ❖ 9 March: Workers of Chittagong port refuse to unload weapons from the ship 'Swat'.
- ❖ 10 March: Expatriate Bengali students demonstrate in front of the United Nations Headquarters and calls for UN intervention to put an end to violence on Bengali people.
- ❖ 16 March: **Yahya Khan starts negotiation with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- ❖ 19 March: Nearly 200 people are injured at Jaydevpur during clashes between demonstrators and the Pakistan Army. Nearly 50 die.
- ❖ 24 March: **Pakistan Army opens fire on Bengali demonstrators in Syedpur, Rangpur and Chittagong**. More than a thousand people are killed.

Interactive Timeline of Liberation War - 2

- Events during the war :
 - March :
 - **25 March to 25 May**: Pakistan Army starts genocide in the form of **Operation Searchlight** in **Dhaka** and rest of the country, attacking general civilians, political activists, students, and Bengali members of armed forces and police. 25 May 1971.
 - **26 March**: At **1.15 am**, **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** is arrested by the Pakistani 3 commando unit. **Independence of Bangladesh is declared by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman few minutes before he was arrested by Pakistani army**. At **2.30 pm** Independence of Bangladesh was declared by Awami league leader of Chittagong **M. A. Hannan** on behalf of **Bongobondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** from **Kalurghat**. **This is Bangladesh's official Independence Day**.
 - **27 March**: Independence of Bangladesh is **again declared by Maj. Ziaur Rahman** on behalf of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
 - **31 March**: Kushtia resistance begins.
 - April :
 - **2 April**: **Jinjira massacre**.
 - **6 April**: **The Blood Telegram**
 - **11 April**: Radio address by **Tajuddin Ahmad**, the Prime Minister.
 - **10 April**: **A provisional Bangladesh government-in-exile is formed**.
 - **12 April**: **M. A. G. Osmani** takes up the command of Bangladesh Armed Forces.
 - **17 April**: **A provisional government-in-exile took oath in Baidyanathatala** (now called **Mujibnagar**) in Meherpur District.
 - **18 April**: **Battle of Daruin**, Comilla and **Battle of Rangamati-Mahalchari waterway**, Chittagong Hill Tracts.
 - **24 April**: Formation of Bangladesh Action Committee at Coventry, UK by non-resident Bangladeshis.
 - **25 April to 15 August**: **Operation Jackpot by Mukti Bahini**
 - **28 April**: Tajuddin pleads for arms aid to neighbors.

Interactive Timeline of Liberation War - 3

➤ May :

- 5 May : **Gopalpur massacre.**
- **15 May: Indian army starts aiding Mukti Bahini.**
- 20 May: The Chuknagar massacre takes place at **Khulna** where the Pakistan army kills nearly 10 thousand people
- 24 May: **Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra** finds home in Kolkata.

➤ July :

- 11–17 July: Sector Commanders Conference 1971.

➤ August :

- 1 August: **The Concert for Bangladesh** in Madison Square Garden, **New York** by **Ravi Shankar, George Harrison** and friends.
- 16 August: **Operation Jackpot**, Bangladesh naval commando operation.
- 20 August: **Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman's** attempt to defect by **hijacking a fighter**.
- 30 August: **Pakistan Army crackdown on Dhaka guerrillas.**

➤ September :

- 5 September: **Battle of Goahati, Jessore.**
- 28 September: **Bangladesh Air Force** starts functioning

Interactive Timeline of Liberation War - 4

➤ October :

- 13 October: Dhaka guerrillas kill [Abdul Monem Khan](#), governor of East Pakistan.
- 28 October to 3 November: [Battle of Dhalai](#) in which 3 companies (215 soldiers) of the Jat Regiment (2 JAT) of Indian Army defeated a battalion (800 soldiers) of 30th Frontier Force Rifles (30 FFR) of Pakistan Army. [Hamidur Rahman](#) of [Mukti Bahini](#) was posthumously awarded the [Bir Sreshtho](#), the highest recognition of bravery in Bangladesh.
- 31 October to 3 November: [Battle of Dhalai](#): Allied attack from [Tripura](#) into East Pakistan to stop Pakistani cross-border shelling.

➤ November :

- 9 November: Six small ships constitute the first fleet of [Bangladesh Navy](#).
- 16 November: [Battle of Ajmiriganj](#), an 18-hour encounter between [Mukti Bahini](#) and Pakistan army. A famous freedom fighter, [Jagatyoti Das](#), is martyred.
- 14 November to 4 December: [Battle of Kamalpur](#) resulted in surrender by Pakistani Army to the Indian Army on 4 December much before the end of war which ended later on the 16 December.
- 20 to 21 November: [Battle of Garibpur](#): India attacked Pakistani forced and captured [Boyra salient](#) in East Pakistan
- **21 November: Bangladesh Armed Forces is formed.**
- 22 November to 13 December, and sporadic fighting to 16 December: [Battle of Hilli](#): Indian attack on [Bogra](#) in East Pakistan.

Interactive Timeline of Liberation War - 5

➤ December :

- 3 December: [Bangladesh Air Force](#) destroys Pakistani oil depots. Pakistani air attacks on India result in India declaring war on Pakistan.
- 4 December : [Battle of Longewala](#); Indians stop a Pakistani invasion directed at Jaisalmer.
- 4 to 5 December : [Battle of Gazipur](#) in which Indian Army and Mukti Bahini captured Gazipur
- 5 December : [Battle of Basantar](#); Indians attack and take over Pakistani territory opposite Jammu.
- **6 December:** *Bhutan becomes the first country to recognise Bangladesh after India.* [Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra](#) becomes [Bangladesh Betar](#).
- 7 to 16 December: [Battle of Sylhet](#), liberation of Jessore, Sylhet and Moulvi Bazar.
- 8 December: [Operation Python](#): Indian [naval](#) attack on [Karachi](#), West Pakistan.
- 9 December: [Battle of Kushtia](#): Indian attack from [West Bengal](#) into East Pakistan. Chandpur and Daudkandi liberated from Pakistan.
- 9 December: [Meghna Heli Bridge](#) liberated from Pakistan
- 10 December: Liberation of Laksham. Two Bangladeshi ships [sunk mistakenly](#) by Indian air attack.
- 11 December: [Tangail Airdrop](#), which liberated [Poongli Bridge](#) on Jamuna river
- 11 December: Liberation of Hilli, Mymensingh, Kushtia and Noakhali. [USS Enterprise](#) is deployed by the US in the [Bay of Bengal](#) to intimidate the Indian Navy.
- 13 December: [Soviet Navy](#) deploys a group of warships to counter [USS Enterprise](#). The U.S. moves in the direction of Southeast Asia, averting a confrontation.
- 14 December: Selective genocide of [Bengali nationalist intellectuals](#). Liberation of Bogra.
- **16 December:** End of the [Bangladesh Liberation War](#). [Mitro Bahini](#) takes Dhaka. [Pakistan Army](#) [surrenders](#) to Mitro Bahini represented by [Jagjit Singh Aurora](#) of the Indian Army faction of the military coalition.
- 22 December: The provisional government of Bangladesh arrives in Dhaka from exile.

Declaration of Independence



Topic - 2

Background of Declaration



- After the 7th March speech, the united people took active part in the non-cooperation movement and spontaneously took part in the fight for freedom. School, college, offices, mills, and factories of the whole country were closed at the order of Bangabandhu. Agitated people started to resist Pakistan's forces in different places. There was no collection of tax and revenue. The control of Bangabandhu was established everywhere except in the cantonments.
- Realizing the gravity of the situation, Yahya Khan arrived in Dhaka on 15th March and proposed negotiations with Bangabandhu. Negotiation started on 16th March. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto also came on 22nd March and took part in the negotiation.
- On 25 March 1971, negotiations between **Pakistani President Yahya** and Awami league leader **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** broke down. Following the failure of last-ditch talks, Yahya Khan declared martial law and ordered Pakistani Army to crack down on Bengali political activities.
- Pakistani Military launched **OPERATION SEARCHLIGHT** on mid- night in Dhaka, the capital of East Pakistan. Pakistani Janta suddenly attacked on the unarmed Bangalees and started **GENOCIDE** .
- According to the plan of 'Operation Search Light' , the Pakistani soldiers arrested **Bangabandhu** from his 32 no. Dhanmondi house at 1:30 am. on 25th March (at the start of 26 March). **Before being arrested** , Bangabandhu, **declared the independence of Bangladesh** and gave a clarion call to his countrymen to launch war.
- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested ,taken to Tejgaon International Airport and flown to West Pakistan.

❖ Bangabandhu's Speech of the Declaration



❖ Bangabandhu's declaration of Independence 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 Pakistani occupation army is expelled from the soil of Bangladesh and final victory is achieved."

- ❑ Message embodying Declaration of Independence sent by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Chattogram shortly after midnight of 25th March, early hours of 26th March, 1971 for transmission throughout Bangladesh over the ex-EPR transmitter.
- ❑ [Source: *Bangladesh Swadhinata Juddho: Dalil Potro, volume- 3 and The Constitution of Bangladesh.*]

Declaration of Independence by Bangabandhu

- The declaration of independence by Bangabandhu in the first hour of 26th March was very significant event in the history of Liberation War.
- Bangabandhu said, **“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 Pakistani occupation army is expelled from the soil of Bangladesh and final victory is achieved.”**
- **The message of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s declaration of independence** was reportedly sent to Chittagong shortly after mid night by wireless. The Awami League leaders of Chittagong came forward to broadcast this. There were some enthusiastic and patriotic employees at Chittagong radio centre. They converted Kalurghat Relay Station into the ‘Independent Bangalee Revolutionary Radio Centre’.
- Abdul Hannan, general secretary of Chattogram Awami League, broadcast this message of declaration on behalf of Bangabandhu at noon on **26 March**.
- Major Ziaur Rahman read out the declaration on **27 March** from the same radio centre on behalf of Bangabandhu.
- This declaration of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu was broadcasted by wireless centre created inspiration and expectations at all levels. With this declaration of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu on 26th March, the Liberation war got a real shape.
- Though the preparation of Liberation War of Bangladesh was sporadic at the initial stage, gradually it turned into a civil war. The members of Army, EPR, Police and Ansars joined all types of people such as farmers, workers, students and youths in this war.

Bangabandhu's Declaration and The Original copy of Proclamation

- ❑ 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. You fight must go on until the last soldier of the Pakistani occupation army is expelled from the soil of Bangladesh and final victory is achieved.”

18



THE
PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE
MUIJIBNAGAR, BANGLADESH

THE 10th day of April, 1971

Whereas the people of the
Bengal region, known as the
Bengali people, have
been denied their basic
rights and freedoms by
the Government of Pakistan
and the people of
Bengal are now
struggling for
independence and
freedom;

Whereas the people of
Bengal have been
subjected to
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Official Announcement of Declaration

- 10 April 1971: Ratified the Proclamation.
- 17 April 1971: Official announcement declaring independence of Bangladesh by the Bangladesh Government-in-exile.
- The Proclamation so announced in effect provided the fundamental instrument of law as well as an interim Constitution of the Mujibnagar Government during the war of liberation, including that of the government in liberated Bangladesh until the adoption of the Constitution, made effective from 16 December 1972. The Proclamation of Independence was made to tackle a serious situation.
- The declaration of independence by Bangabandhu in the first hour of 26th March was very significant event in the history of Liberation War.

Important Information of Proclamation

Author(s) :

- 1st declaration by Sheik Mujibur Rahman
- 2nd declaration by Provisional Government of Bangladesh.

Signatories: Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh (The then National Assembly and Provincial Assembly members).

Purpose : To announce and explain separation from Pakistan

Location: The main copy of the Proclamation of independence is conserved in Liberation War Museum at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

What is Constituent Assembly ?

- On 10 April 1971, the Provisional Government of Bangladesh was formed in Mujibnagar. It converted the elected Bengali members of the national and provincial assemblies of Pakistan into the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh. The Constituent Assembly issued a second proclamation of independence, which is also served as the fundamental law of Bangladesh until the adoption of the constitution in 1972.

Freedom Fighting



Topic - 3

Topic - 3

Freedom Fighting

Now we shall discuss some important topics which are given bellow :



- The Hellish Genocide of 25 March
- Beginning of Liberation War
- Preparation of Liberation War
- Formation of Mujibnagar Government
- Activities of Mujibnagar Government
- Formation of Mukti Bahinee for Freedom Fighting
- 11 Sectors and 3 Force
- Activities and Role of people against the Liberation War
- Final war under the command of Joint Force
- The last stage of Liberation War, December
- Surrender of Pakistani forces
- Emergence of Bangladesh

The Hellish Genocide of 25 March



- Genocide conducted by Pakistani soldiers on the night of 25th March, 1971 in the then East Pakistan was named '**Operation Search Light**'. Though this operation started on the night of 25th March, its preparation had started from the beginning of March. A ship named M.V. Swayat loaded with arms and weapons reached Chattogram port from West Pakistan on 3rd March. President Yahya stayed at Dhaka from 15th-24th March in the name of discussion with Bangabandhu, but actually he stayed at Dhaka to supervise the preparation of '**Operation Search Light**'.
- The Pakistan Army was ordered to launch operation on Bangali people at midnight of 25 March. According to the plan for operation Search Light two headquarters were established. Major General Rao Farman Ali with 57 Brigade under Brigadier Arbab was responsible for operation in Dhaka city and its suburbs while Major General Khadim Raja was given the responsibility of the rest of the province. Lieutenant General Tikka Khan assumed the overall charge of the operation.
- The students and the nationalist political activists put up resistance outside the cantonment. Road blocks were raised to obstruct the march of the Pakistani column to the city areas. The wireless set fitted jeeps and trucks loaded with troops groaned on the streets of Dhaka City at midnight of 25 March.
- The first column of the Pakistan army faced obstruction at Farmgate, about one kilometre from the cantonment at 11:30 pm. On 25 March, due to a huge road block created by placing big tree trunks across the road. The hulks of old cars and unserviceable steam roller were also used in creating the blockade. Several hundred people chanted the slogan *Joi Bangla* which lasted for about 15 minutes. But soon guns silenced them. The army moved into the city before scheduled time and started the genocide.

Beginning of Liberation War



- According to **Operation Search Light**, Pakistani soldiers wanted to take control of EPR headquarters at Peelkhana and Rajarbag Police Lines. The primary responsibilities of the soldiers were to attack Dhaka University, Dhaka Engineering University, to arrest Bangabandhu, to control telephone exchange, radio, television, state bank, communication system of Dhaka city and to arrest Awami League leaders and to seize the arms of all Bangalee soldiers of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Jashore, Khulna, Rangpur, Syedpur and Cumilla cantonments and all members of EPR, Ansar and Police department.
- Pakistani soldiers came out at the streets from Dhaka Cantonment at 11.30 pm. On 25th March. A procession in support of liberation became the first target of Pakistani soldiers at Farmgate. At the same time, attack was carried on at Peelkhana and Rajarbag Police Lines, later Dhaka University area and old Dhaka. 7-8 thousand innocent people were killed on the night of 25th March.
- According to the plan of 'Operation Search Light', the Pakistani soldiers arrested **Bangabandhu** from his 32 no. Dhanmondi house at 1:30 am. on 25th March (at the start of 26 March). **Before being arrested**, Bangabandhu, **declared the independence of Bangladesh** and gave a clarion call to his countrymen to launch war.
- This declaration of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu was broadcasted by wireless centre created inspiration and expectations at all levels. With this declaration of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu on 26th March, the Liberation war got a real shape.
- Though the preparation of Liberation War of Bangladesh was sporadic at the initial stage, gradually it turned into a civil war. The members of Army, EPR, Police and Ansars joined all types of people such as farmers, workers, students and youths in this war.

Preparation of Liberation War and Formation of Temporary Government

- The Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh that formed during liberation war was known by different names. This is sometimes called "Temporary Bangladesh Government" and again it is sometimes called "Exile Bangladesh Government". But this is widely known as "**Mujibnagar Government**". The liberation war was conducted and independence was gained under the leadership of Mujibnagar Government.
- Mujibnagar Government was *formed on 10th April 1971*. The cabinet was formed and the declaration charter of independence was officially approved on the same day. Bangabandhu's declaration of independence broadcast on 26th March was also officially approved that day. Members of Mujibnagar Government *took oath on 17th April 1971*. The oath taking ceremony was conducted by Professor Yusuf Ali.
- Awami League chairman Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the president of Mujibnagar Government (official commander-in-chief of the armed forces). Syed Nazrul Islam became vice-president (acting president and commander-in-chief of libaration war during the absence of Bangabandhu) and Tajuddin Ahmed became Prime Minister. Other three ministers were : Finance Minister M. Monsur Ali, Home, Relief and Rehabilitation Minister A.H.M. Kamaruzzaman, Foreign Affairs and Law Minister Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed.

Activities of Mujibnagar Government



- Activities of Mujibnagar Government can broadly be divided into two types:
 - [A] Civil administration
 - [B] Military activities
- For the conduct of administration in each country there are different ministers and different directorates under these ministries. Mujibnagar Government had also ministries and directorates.
- Bangladesh was divided into 11 administrative zones. Members of the parliament or the leaders of Awami League were given the charge of their respective areas.
- A eight member advisory board [total 9] under the leadership of Tajuddin Ahmed was formed with the objective of establishing national unity during liberation war period. Apart from Awami League leaders, senior leader Mowlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, Communist Party chief Moni Singh, NAP leader Muzaffar Ahmed and Congress leader Monoranjan Dhar were the members of this advisory board.
- Besides, planning commission of Mujibnagar government was also formed with Dhaka University Prof. Dr. Muzzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury as its chairman.

Formation of Mukti Bahinee for Freedom Fighting

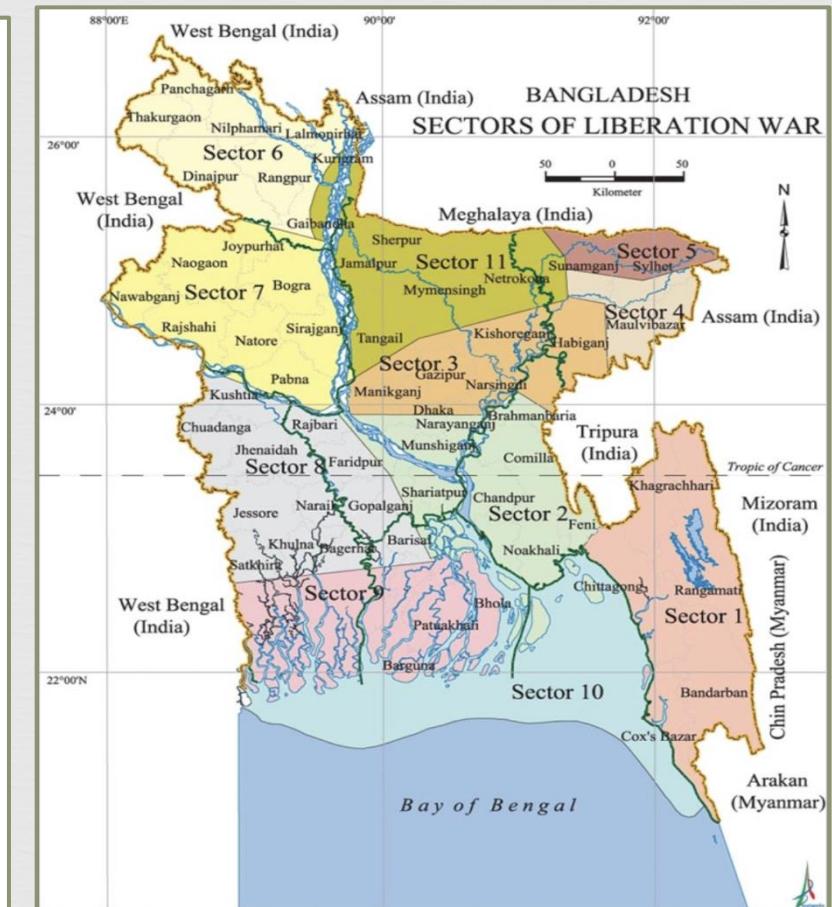
- ❑ Mujibnagar Government started to take massive programme for the smooth conduct of liberation war. In April after the formation of Mujibnagar Government, a formal military leadership of the resistance was created. **M.A.G. Osmany** was the **chief general** of freedom fighters. Besides, Col. (retd) Abdur Rob was the chief of staff. Group captain A.K. Khondaker was the deputy chief of staff.
- ❑ **11 Sectors of Liberation War** : For the convenience of smooth conduct of the liberation war, Bangladesh forces were divided in the geographical area of Bangladesh into eleven divisions designated as sectors. Each sectors had a sector commander. It means Bangladesh was divided into 11 sectors and 11 sector commanders were appointed. Each sector was again divided into some sub-sectors.
- ❑ **Brigade Forces** : The entire war field was divided into three brigade forces besides 11 sectors and other sub-sectors. Forces were named with the first letter of the commanders of the brigades. Major Ziaur Rahman was the commander of 'Z Force', Major A.K.M. Safiullah was the commander of 'S Force' and Major Khaled Mosharraf was the commander of 'K Force'.

11 Sectors and 3 Force



- **11 Sectors :** During the liberation war, Bangladesh forces were divided in the geographical area of Bangladesh into eleven divisions designated as sectors. Each sectors had a sector commander.

- **Prominent Divisions of Mukti Bahini :**
 - Z Force lead by - Major Ziaur Rahman
 - K Force lead by- Major Khaled Musharraf
 - S Force lead by- Major K. M. Shafiullah



Eleven sectors in Bangladesh Shadhinota Juddho (1971)

6. Rangpur (M Khademul Bashar)

Dinajpur

Rangpur

7. Rajshahi-Pabna

(Nazmul Huq, Quazi nooruzzaman & A. Rab)

Rajshahi

Pabna

11. Mymensingh - Tangail

(Ziaur Rahman, Abu Taher & M. Hamidullah Khan)

5. Durgapur - Danki

(Mir Shawkat Ali)

4. Habiganj zilla

(Chitta Rajan Datta)

3. Brahmanbaria - parts of Sylhet

(K M Shafullah & ANM Nuruzzaman)

8. Kushtia-Jessore

(Abu Osman Chowdhury & MA Manzur)

Jessore

Khulna

Barisal

Noakhali

Chittagong

9. Barisal-Patuakhali

(MA Jalil, MA Manzur & Joynal Abedin)

Sundarban

10. Bay of Bengal

(Navy forces)

Cox's Bazaar

Note:

Z-Force = 1, 3, 8

K-Force = 4, 9, 10

S-Force = 2, 11

Formation of Mukti Bahinee for Freedom Fighting

- Freedom fighters were divided into two groups:
 - 1. Regular Force
 - 2. Occasional Force (temporary)

- 1. *Regular Force* : This force consisted of Bangalee soldiers of different units of East Bengal Regiment. They were officially named of M.F. (Muktifauz). Bangladesh Government formed Army, Air force and Navy as the regular force during liberation war.
- 2. *Occasional Force* (temporary) : This force consisted of students, youths, workers, farmers and freedom fighters of all other levels. This force was formed as occasional / temporary force under different sectors. The official name of this force was 'Gano Bahinee' or F.F. (Freedom Fighters). Members of this force were sent to conduct guerrilla war in their own areas. Besides, 'Mujib Bahinee' was formed with the selected workers of 'Chattra League' . Communist Party (Muzaffar), NAP (Bhasani) and students union had their own guerrilla forces.

Formation of Mukti Bahinee for Freedom Fighting

- **Regional Force** : Some forces were formed in different regions outside sector areas. Prominent among them are :
 - **Kaderia Bahinee** - Guerrilla force, worked in Tangail, Mymensingh and Jamalpur rigion. Led by Kader Siddiqui, BirUttam.
 - **Mujib Bahini** - Students leaders formed the Paramilitia force led by Tufail Ahmed.
 - **Afsar Battalion** - worked in Bhaluka, Mymensingh.
 - **Baten Bahini** - worked in Tangail.
 - **Hemayet Bahinee** - Guerrilla force, worked in Foridpur rigion.
 - **Halim Bahinee** - worked in Manikganj.
 - **Akbar Bahinee** - worked in Magura.
 - **Latif Mirza Bahinee** - worked in Sirajganj, Pabna.
 - **Zia Bahinee** - worked in Sundarban.
- Besides, a guerrilla group was formed at Dhaka known as '**Crack Platoon**'. The function of the members of this guerrilla force was to blast bomb in big settlements of Dhaka city, electricity centers, Hotel Intercontinental, Banks and Television centre. Thus they raised fear in the hearts of Pakistani soldiers and Government.
- Naval commanders of freedom fighters made a name in the entire world when they destroyed 10 ships of Chattogram port and 50 ships at Mongla port in just only one day. This naval operation was known as '**Operation Jackpot**'.

Activities and Role of people against the Liberation War



- According to the then statistics, almost seven and half crore people lived in Bangladesh[the then East Pakistan] and almost all of them were in favour of liberation war. But limited number of our people were against it. They collaborated with Pakistani forces betraying the interest of the countrymen.
- This opposition force wanted to use religion in their attempt to help the Pakistani forces to maintain the unity of Pakistan.
- These anti-liberation forces fueled a reign of terror in the whole country by killing, looting, setting houses on fire and torturing the women. They prepared a list of the people who supported and helped the Liberation War and freedom fighters respectively. Then they handed over this list to the Pakistani forces. They tortured our people more than the Pakistani forces did.
- Some organizations were formed during liberation war. Those were : Peace Committee, Rajakar, Al-Badr, Al-Shams and Dr. Malik Cabinet. The function of these organizations was to help and assist the Pakistani forces.
- Dr. Malik Cabinet : The Pakistan Government removed military governor general Tikka khan and replaced him with civil governor Dr. Abdul Mutalib Malik. The Pakistan Govt. did this with a view to misguiding the outside world. A civil government opposed to liberation war was formed under him on 17th September. They supported the military Janta and worked against liberation war. They conducted their anti-liberation activities through speeches, reports and instructions. This Government was compelled to resign on 14th December, 1971.

Final war under the command of Joint Force

- The Liberation War was conducted sector-wise by Mujibnagar Government. As a result of this, our freedom fighters could face the attacks of Pakistani forces with courage from the month of May, 1971.
- Trained Guerrilla fighters entered the country from June and they started heavy attacks upon the Pakistani forces. At this, Pakistani soldiers became defensive.
- India helped our freedom fighters with training and weapons since the beginning of our liberation war. Indian forces began to help freedom fighters in the war field from the middle of November. On 13th November, two battalions of Indian soldiers built bases with tanks at Jashore.
- **Bangladesh and India Government formed a joint command on 21st November 1971** with a view to launching stronger attack upon Pakistani forces. Indian forces that helped freedom fighters during liberation war were called '**Mitra Bahinee**'(Allied Force). The liberation war got a momentum with the formation of Joint Command.
- The joint command of the Mukti Bahini and the Indian army was underway from November 1971. **Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora**, Commander, Eastern Command of Indian Army, became the **commander of the joint forces**. The joint command of the Mukti Bahini and the Indian Army, however, started operation from the evening of **3 December**, when the Pakistan Air Force bombed Amritsar, Sreenagar and the Kashmir valley. Immediately, the Indian armed forces were ordered to hit back the Pakistan army and thus the **Indo-Pak war broke out**. The Mukti Bahini and the Indian army continued advancing inside Bangladesh and the defeat and surrender of the Pakistan army became a matter of time. **International efforts for a cease-fire failed due to Soviet veto in the United Nations Security Council**.

The last stage of Liberation War, December



- Pakistan-India war broke out in December when Pakistan Air force attacked some of Indian air bases on 3rd December. Then an attack started in Bangladesh border under the command of joint force. Air raid was also conducted side by side at different important places.
- **India recognized Bangladesh as a sovereign country on 6th December.** Joint force entered Jashore the next day when Jashore air port was occupied. During the next two days, on 8th and 9th December, Cumilla, Brahmanbaria and Noakhali came under the control of allied force (Mitra Bahine).
- Jessore District became independent for the first time on 06 December 1971.
- The King of **Bhutan** was the first world leader to announce an official recognition of Bangladesh's independence on **6 December 1971**.
- On 10th December Hotel Intercontinental was declared as neutral zone and all foreigners and diplomats living at Dhaka were given shelter there. The British and the citizens of other countries were evacuated by a special flight from Dhaka that day.
- Mymensingh, Hilee, Kushtia, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Sirajganj were liberated between 11th and 12th December, 1971.
- Joint forces conducted air raids over different military settlements at Dhaka on 12th December. Joint forces started to proceed towards Dhaka from all directions. Meanwhile, Pakistani forces started to surrender in different war fields on the border. Governor of East Pakistan Dr. Malik resigned out of fear and took shelter at neutral zone Hotel Intercontinental along with his ministers.
- By 14th December, Pakistan force surrendered in almost all big towns and cantonments except Dhaka. The war of Pakistani force ended that very day. Dhaka city was then surrounded by joint forces.
- The surrender of Pakistani force was imminent. To facilitate the surrender, both sides agreed to a **cease fire up to 3pm. on 16th December** at the call of General Sam Manekshaw, the commander in chief of Allied Force.

Surrender of Pakistani forces



- The liberation war of Bangladesh came to an end on 16th December 1971. Pakistani forces accepted their tragic defeat and surrendered to the Joint Forces that day. Through this, we got our dear motherland Bangladesh.
- The function of surrender was headed by Lt. General Zagjit Singh Aurora, the commander of the joint forces, Group captain A.K. Khandokar, the deputy chief of Mukti Bahine, was present there as a representatives of Mujibnagar Government.
- The Reccourse ground was overcrowded by the people to observe the scene of surrender. The atmosphere of Dhaka echoed with the sound of '**Joy Bangla**'.
- Lt. General Aurora and Lt. General Niyazee signed the documents of surrender at Racecourse Ground sitting at a table under the open sky on behalf of their respective sides. Ninety three thousand Pakistani soldiers were imprisoned.
- Thus, owing to the heroic fight of our freedom fighters, the strong desire of our people for freedom, the strong unity of all countrymen, active help of allied force(Mitra Bahine) and the support of people all over the world together resulted in the successful completion of our liberation war only in 9 months.
- We got independent sovereign Bangladesh at the cost of 30 lac martyrs.

16th December 1971 Pakistani Military Surrender to India-Bangladesh Combined-Force



Surrender of Pakistani Military forces



Pakistani Instrument of Surrender



Lt Gen A A K Niazi signing the Instrument of Surrender under the gaze of Lt Gen J S Aurora (left), General Commander of the Indian and Bangladeshi Forces

Created 16 December 1971

Signatories Lt.Gen. A A K Niazi
Lt.Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora

Purpose Surrender of the Pakistan Armed Forces Eastern Command in the Bangladesh Liberation War and Indo-Pakistani War of 1971

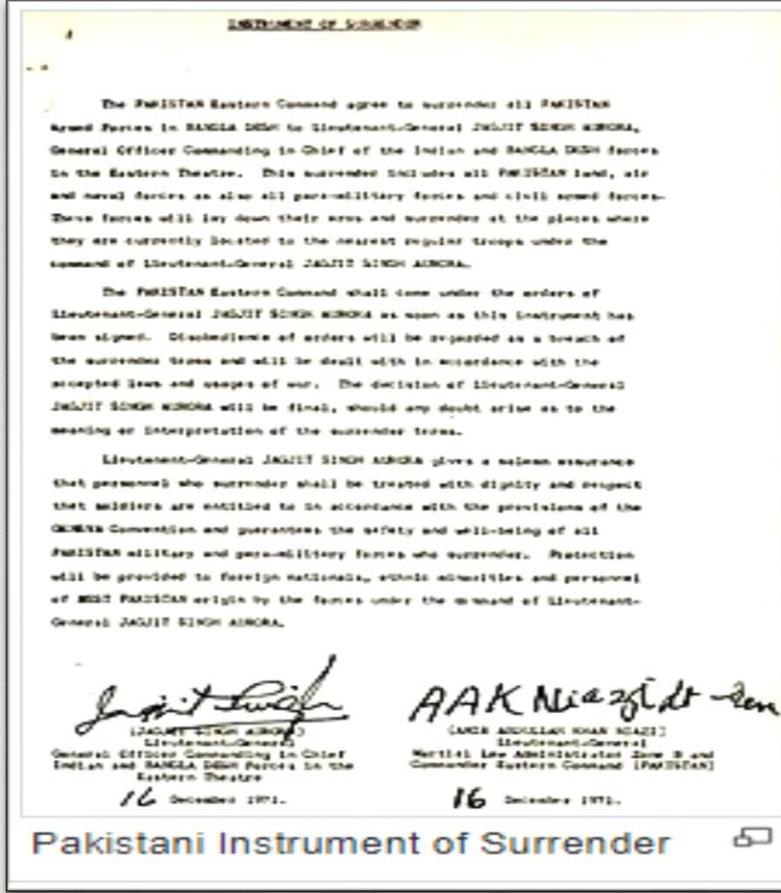


Surrender of Pakistani Military forces



Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora
and Lieutenant General Niazi sign the
surrender document

Activate
Go to Setting



Pakistani Instrument of Surrender



Signing of Pakistani Instrument of Surrender by Pakistan's Lt.Gen. A. A. K. Niazi and Jagjit Singh Aurora on behalf of Indian and Bangladesh Forces in Dhaka on 16 Dec' 1971

Bangladesh...1971



Genocide, 1971



Refugees, 1971



Mukti Bahini training in handling weapons
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Kukkawrat Naryoddha, 1971

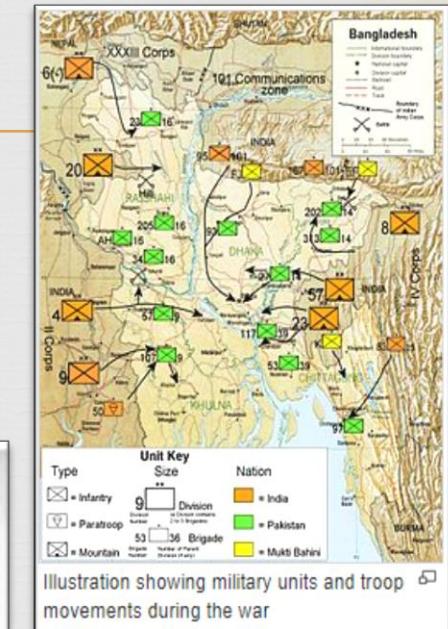


Illustration showing military units and troop movements during the war



Advancing guerrilla freedom fighters



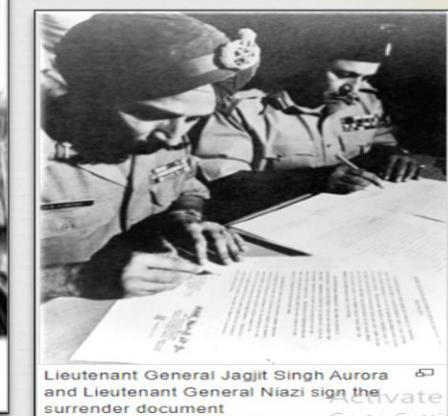
Rayerbazar killing field
photographed immediately after the war, showing dead bodies of intellectuals (image courtesy: Rashid Talukder, 1971)
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Windows



Allied Indian T-55 tanks on
their way to Dacca



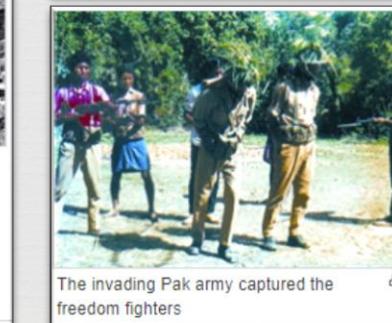
Victory - Joyful freedom fighters



Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora and Lieutenant General Niazi sign the surrender document
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Goto Setti



Adolescent freedom fighter

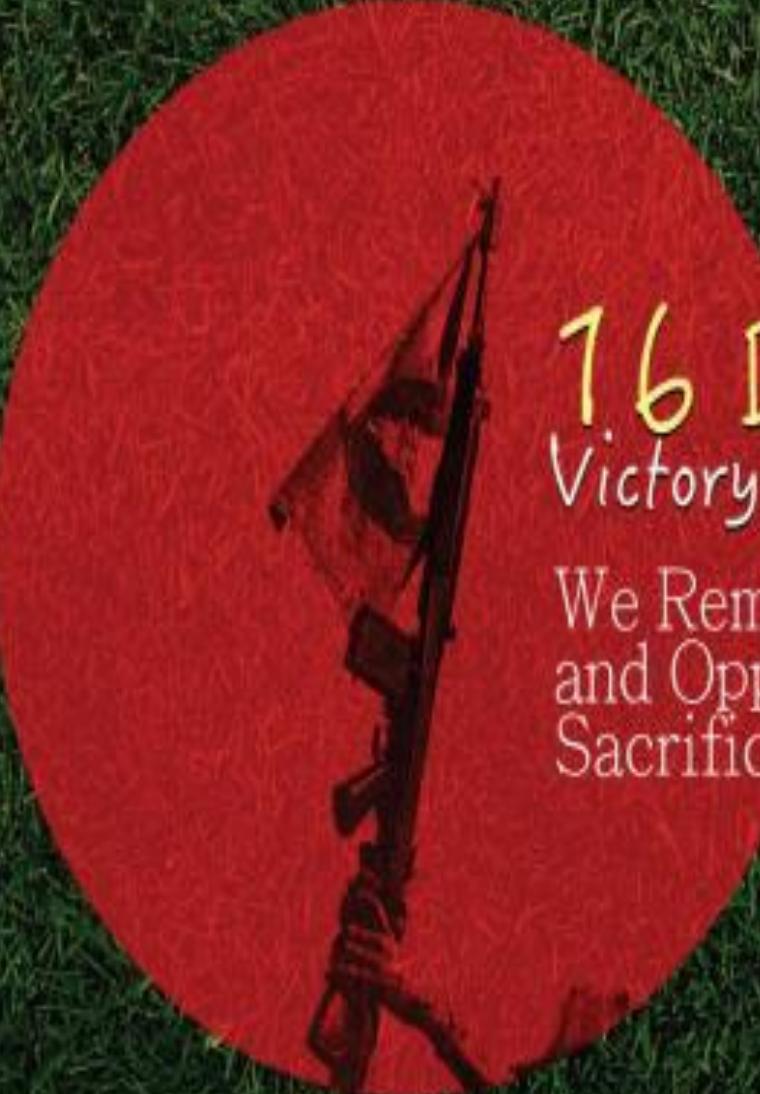


The invading Pak army captured the
freedom fighters



16 December 1971, Pakistani occupation army surrendered to Mitra Bahini in Ramna Race course ground (Sohrawardi Uddan) at Dhaka.

Signatories: Chief, Lt. Gen. A.K.Khan Niaji from Pakistan, Mitra Bahini chief Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Arora from Mitra Bahini side, and A.K. Khondker, Dept.Chief of Mukti Bahini was present at this occasion from Bangladesh side of Mujibnagar Government.



16 December
Victory Day of Bangladesh

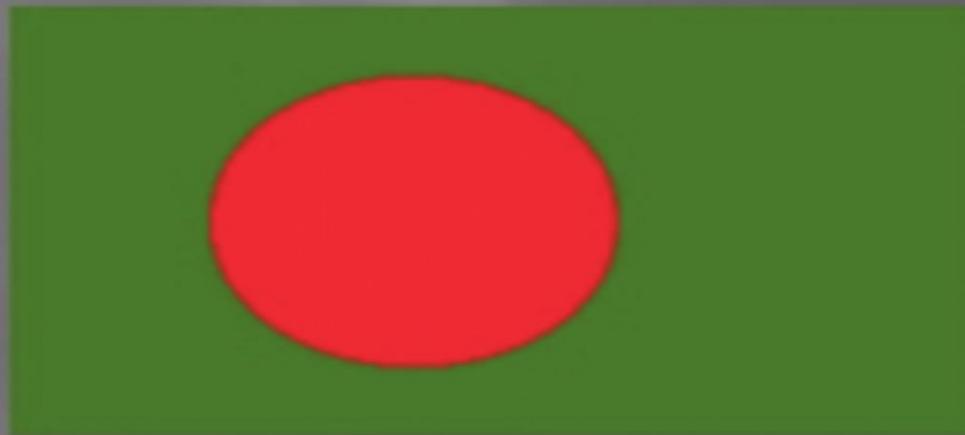
We Remember the Martyrs
and Oppressed Women Who
Sacrificed Their Lives

The national flag was designed by Kamrul Hasan.

Prescribed sizes of the flag for buildings are 305cm X 183cm, 152cm X 91cm and 76cm X 46cm and for vehicles are 38cm X 23cm and 25cm X 15cm.



The Flag of Bangladesh



Liberation War



- ❖ Who was the head of the Military Council of Bangladesh during the Liberation War ?
- ❖ How many freedom fighter(s) received the Title 'Bir Protik' ?
- ❖ On which day did Bangladesh became independent?
- ❖ What was the code name of the operation that took place in Dhaka at midnight, 25 March in 1971 ?
- ❖ Who is the father of nation of Bangladesh ?
- ❖ What are the name of four category Gallantry Awards ?
- ❖ How many freedom fighters received Gallantry Awards for their bravery action in our Liberation War ?
- ❖ When did the liberation war of Bangladesh started and ended?
- ❖ When did the liberation war started in Bangladesh ?
- ❖ How many categories of gallantry awards are there in Bangladesh for the Freedom Fighters ?
- ❖ What is the highest military awards of Bangladesh ?
- ❖ 14th December is known as '----- Day' in Bangladesh.
- ❖ Which date is observe as our Intellectual Martyrs' Day ?
- ❖ How many sector were there in Bangladesh during the liberation war ?
- ❖ For how many years, was Bangladesh exploited by Pakistani rulers?
- ❖ How long did the Liberation War go on in Bangladesh in 1971 ?
- ❖ Who was the chief general of freedom fighters ?
- ❖ Who was the commander of Joint Force during Liberation War ?
- ❖ Who signed the Document of Surrender on behalf of the joint force ?

Liberation War



- ❖ When did the Non Co-operation Movement start ?
- ❖ What is the previous name of Suhrawardy Udyan ?
- ❖ What is Operation Jackpot ?
- ❖ What is Gano Bahine ?
- ❖ What is Joint Force ?
- ❖ On which date did Bangladesh and India form joint command ?
- ❖ Where did the Pakistani force surrender?
- ❖ When did the invading Pakistani force surrender ?
- ❖ How many Pakistani soldiers surrendered to the joint force ?
- ❖ Who signed the document of surrender ?
- ❖ How long did the liberation war of Bangladesh last ?
- ❖ What was the population of Bangladesh during the liberation war ?

Operation Search Light



- ❖ What is 'Operation Search Light' ?
- ❖ On which date did Operation Search Light take place ?
- ❖ Who was the head of 'Operation Search Light' [conducted by] ?
- ❖ How many people were killed on the night of 25th March 1971 approximately ?
- ❖ When did Pakistani military launch Operation Searchlight ?
- ❖ What is Genocide ?

Declaration of Independence



- ❖ When did Bangabandhu declare independence ?
- ❖ From where was the independence of Bangladesh declared ?
- ❖ “From today, Bangladesh is independent”? - who said this ?

Mujibnagar government



- ❖ Who was the prime minister of Mujibnagar government ?
- ❖ When was Mujibnagar government formed ?
- ❖ On which date of 1971 was Bangladesh Government at Mujibnagar formed ?
- ❖ When did the Mujibnagar Government take oath ?
- ❖ Who was the vice-president of Mujibnagar Government ?
- ❖ Into how many administrative zones was Bangladesh divided in 1971 ?
- ❖ Who was the chairman of the planning commission of Mujibnagar Government ?
- ❖ Who conducted the oath -taking ceremony of Mujibnagar Government ?



Dear Students,

Thank you.