

# **UNITED INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

# School of Science and Engineering

# Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)

# Trimester: Fall-2023 Course Code: BDS - 1201 Course

# Title: History of the Emergence of Bangladesh

# **Assignment-2023**

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| **Serial No.** | **Name of the Students** | | **Section** | **Roll No.** | | **Marks Obtained** |
| 1. |  | |  |  | |  |
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| 3. |  | |  |  | |  |
| 4. | Md. Mishkatul Bary | | AH | 0112330669 | |  |
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| (a) | Assignment Title |  | | | | |
| (b) | Objectives |  | | | | |
| (c) | Relevance to the needs of department |  | | | | |
| (d) | Relevance to the needs of countries |  | | | | |
| (e) | A brief view of the assignment done in this field with justification of the assignment proposed project |  | | | | |
| (f) | Comprehensive Work Plan of Assignment |  | | | | |
| Name and address of Supervisor | | (a) | Name | |  | |
| (b) | Designation | |  | |
| (c) | Department | |  | |
| (d) | University/Institute | |  | |
| (e) | Telephone | |  | |

Date: Signature of Group Leader

# Those turbulent first days of ‘71 March

In the midst of a tumultuous month that marked the genesis of a new nation, altering the course of the subcontinent's history, March 1971 witnessed the masses of Bangladesh actively engaging in the final struggle for freedom. The initial days of the month hinted at the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation, yet uncertainties lingered regarding the how and when of this historic transformation.

The narrative takes a significant turn on March 1 when General Yahya Khan abruptly deferred the national assembly session slated for March 3. This move came on the heels of a meeting between Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the president of the Awami League, held on January 27-28. During this meeting, Bangabandhu pressed for the formulation of a state ordinance based on the historic six-point demand by February 15. Bhutto, however, sought to prolong discussions and negotiations.

The turning point occurred on February 15 when Bhutto declared that the PPP would not participate in the assembly unless the Awami League compromised on its six-point demand. By February 19, Bhutto explicitly stated that if Mujib did not comply with their conditions, PPP would abstain from joining the assembly. Subsequently, President Yahya Khan indefinitely postponed the assembly, triggering widespread agitation in East Pakistan. The streets of Dhaka transformed into a sea of protests, processions, and demonstrations. Even a cricket match at Dhaka stadium was interrupted, with the agitated audience expressing dissent and halting the game.

On March 1, 1971, the agitated masses of East Pakistan took to the streets of Dhaka, burning a Pakistani flag in protest. Political leaders voiced their disappointment, asserting that the decision to postpone the assembly contradicted the people's mandate and aimed to sabotage the power transfer to the elected representatives.

A pivotal moment occurred when a mass procession reached Hotel Purbani at Motijheel, where members of the Awami League's parliamentary committee were in the process of drafting an ordinance based on the six-point demand. In a subsequent press conference, AL President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman vehemently criticized Yahya's decision, characterizing the postponement as an attempt to appease a specific party. He declared, "We cannot accept this. The democratic process has almost been foiled by this decision." The air in Dhaka resonated with the echoes of discontent, as the city became a symbol of resistance against the unfolding political tumult.

In the face of opposition to General Yahya Khan's decision, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took decisive measures. On March 2, he proclaimed a complete shutdown in Dhaka and a half-day shutdown across the entirety of East Pakistan until 2:00 pm on March 3. Simultaneously, he announced plans for a mass gathering at Racecourse Maidan on March 7, during which the next steps in their struggle would be revealed.

On March 1, Bangabandhu dispatched a delegation to confer with Maulana Bhashani. Political leaders convened at Bangabandhu's Dhanmondi residence that night. Meanwhile, Abdul Qayyum Khan, a leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (Qayyum), expressed support for Yahya's decision to postpone the assembly. In protest, Khan A Sabur, the party's general secretary, resigned.

During that night, Yahya appointed Lieutenant General Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the martial law administrator of zone B, as the governor of East Pakistan. Later that night, Yaqub imposed strict measures, prohibiting the publication or broadcast of any news, opinions, or photographs contrary to the "interest and sovereignty" of Pakistan, as per Martial Law Ordinance 110. Violators faced a maximum penalty of 10 years of imprisonment with hard labor.

Amid these events, students organized a demonstration at Dhaka University on March 2. During the demonstration, ASM Abdur Rob, the vice president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu), hoisted the first flag of Bangladesh. The student leaders, including Abdul Kuddus Makhon, Tofail Ahmed, and Nur-e-Alam Siddique, pledged to continue the struggle for independence. Demonstrations organized by National Awami Party (NAP) and Jatiya League resulted in police firing, causing casualties.



Despite Bangabandhu's call for a Dhaka strike on March 2, the strike was observed nationwide, with major streets under army control. The newly appointed governor declared a curfew, vehemently opposed by Bangabandhu, who called for a nationwide strike from March 3 to 6.

Defying the curfew, students and the public initiated processions and erected barricades. On March 3, a half-day strike occurred nationwide, culminating in a massive gathering at Paltan Maidan. Student leaders, chaired by Nur-e-Alam Siddique, read out the manifesto for independence in the presence of Bangabandhu. During this gathering, Bangabandhu was declared the supreme leader of free and independent Bangladesh. He called for a non-cooperation movement and emphasized the continuation of the struggle for autonomy, even in his absence. Prominent student leaders, including ASM Abdur Rob, Abdul Kuddus Makhon, and Shahjahan Siraj, pledged to commence the fight for independence. The fervor of the gathering echoed with slogans affirming the pursuit of a truly independent Bangladesh.