

Bangabandhu's Governance and Constitution Formulation

On 12th January 1972 Bangabandhu took power as the prime minister of the country and formed a 12-member cabinet. In the first cabinet meeting of Bangabandhu, some important fundamental decisions were taken:

1. The national flag of “Bangladesh was modified and finalized.
2. Tagore’s song “Amar Sonar Bangla Aami Tomai valobashi” – was determined as the national anthem of the country.
3. Nazrul Islam’s “Chol Chol Chol, Urdho Gogone Baaje Madol” was selected as the national war song of the country.

The constitution of independent Bangladesh was a true reflection of Bangabandhu’s philosophy of development and politics which were formulated just within 10 months of Bangabandhu’s homecoming day. In section 2 of 1972’s constitution, it is said that “Nationalism, socialism, democracy, and secularism will be the fundamental principles of our constitution.” The reality of desired Bangladesh that Bangabandhu cited in his 7th March speech was truly reflected in 72’s constitution. Bangabandhu in his speech said “We want human rights in our country, we want freedom, independence, discrimination-free society, we want the eradication of sectarianism and justice for humanity. Some important sections of Bangabandhu’s 1972 constitution that reflected the dream of a golden Bangla have been mentioned here:

1. All power in the republic belongs to the people of and their exercise on behalf of the people shall be affected only under and by the authority of this constitution (7.1)
2. Food, clothing, shelter, education, and medical care include the provision of the necessities of life (15. a)
3. The right to work is the right to guaranteed employment at a reasonable wage having regard to the quantity and quality of work (15. b)
4. The right to social securities (15-d)
5. Equality opportunities should be available to all citizens and remove social and economic inequality between men and women (19-1, 2)
6. Establishing a uniform mass-oriented and universal education system and removing illiteracy within such time as may be determined by law (17-a, c)
7. To bring about a radical transformation in the rural areas through the promotion of an agricultural revolution (16)
8. All citizens are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection of the law.
9. Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the state and of public life (28-2)
10. The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth (28-1)
11. Every person in the service of the republic must strive at all times to serve the people (21- 2). The constitution of 1972 proves that Bangabandhu drew a progressive master plan of economic society and secular state to reform the war-torn Bangladesh.