

Language Movement(1952)

The language movement is one of the most important events of our Bangladeshi culture. This was the first step towards the growth of Bangladeshi nationalism and for a unique and separate identity as a Bangladeshi. After the creation of Pakistan, from 1948 to 21 February 1952 the movement in east Pakistan to make Bengali one of the state languages of Pakistan was called Language Movement.

The language movement was divided into two phases.

1. By 1948, the movement was largely confined to the educated and intellectual classes.
2. By 1952, the language movement had spread throughout the Bengali nation.

Background of the Language Movement:

The state of Pakistan was formed on 14 August, 1947 on the basis of biracialism. The two part of Pakistan had no similarity in respect of history, tradition, culture, language. Despite the parts; West Pakistan and East Pakistan (East Bengal) having situated 1000 miles apart, they become one on the basis of only religion. The ruler class from the West Pakistan vested themselves to exploit the East Pakistan in suppressive manner from the very first day of Independence from British Monarchy in August 1947. They had tried to impose Urdu' as the state language; which was only spoken by a minor 3.27% people ignoring the vast majority of 56.40% of its total population speaking Bengali. The rulers from West Pakistan declared Urdu as the state language of Pakistan ignoring the opinion of the majority group. The scholars of Bengal erupted in oppose of the decision. They strongly protested this discriminating decision. In this way, the language movement started to get its momentum. The agitation reached its peak in 1952. The whole country (East Pakistan) followed the demonstration. The first time in the world history; Salam, Barkat, Rafique, Jabbar and many other embraced martyrdom for the love of their mother tongue. Language movement had sowed the seed of independence within the dream of Bengali Nation. This motivated the long thriving struggle and revolution to give birth of a new country - our beloved Bangladesh.

Reasons Behind the Language Movement :

Irrational decision to make Urdu the State language— of Pakistan:

They had tried to impose Urdu' as the state language; which was only spoken by a minor 3.27% people ignoring the vast majority of 56.40% of its total population speaking Bengali. The rulers from West Pakistan declared Urdu as the state language of Pakistan ignoring the opinion of the majority group. The used Urdu in the office, court as a official language.

Emergence of Intellectual Class :

Many intellectuals like Professor Abul Kashem, Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah, Maulana Akram Khan, Kazi Motahar Hossain has emerged. They came to light and play an important role to the language movement.

Economical Reason:

Although the language movement started as a cultural movement, but there were economic reasons behind this movement. Since the creation of Pakistan, there has been food shortage in East Bengal due to their discriminatory policies. Due to their discriminatory policies, famine occurred in Khulna, Faridpur, Sylhet, Mymensingh and North Bengal in 1948-1949 and 1951. As a result, the revolt of peasants, workers and lower-middle class people later turned into a political demand.

The failure of the rulers to run the state

Torture of Bengalis by the Petwa forces of Pakistan:

On 31st August 1947, anonymous Pakistani gangster attacked the students of Fazlul Haque Hall of Dhaka University. As a result, dissatisfaction was created among the students.

Events of Language Movement :

The state of Pakistan was formed on 14 August, 1947 on the basis of biracialism. The two part of Pakistan had no similarity in respect of history, tradition, culture, language. Despite the parts; West Pakistan and East Pakistan (East Bengal) having situated 1000 miles apart, they become one on the basis of only religion. The ruler class from the West Pakistan vested themselves to exploit the East Pakistan in suppressive manner from the very first day of Independence from British Monarchy in August 1947. They had tried to impose Urdu as the state language; which was only spoken by a minor 3.27% people ignoring the vast majority of 56.40% of its total population speaking Bengali. First, at the National Education Conference in Karachi in November 1947, the original proposal supported Urdu and English as the only state languages. There was immediate opposition and protest. Later, Dhirendranath Dutta, a member of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly, first demanded that Bengali be made the official language of Pakistan along with Urdu. However, on March 21, 1947, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the first Governor-General of Pakistan, declared that Urdu and Urdu would be the only official state languages of Pakistan. The Bengali people opposed this declaration. Students and intellectuals in East Pakistan protested and demanded that not only Urdu but also Bengali should be one of the state languages. In 1947, the language movement started in this province known as East Pakistan. A general strike was held on March 11, 1948, in which students of language universities and other colleges in the city protested against the exclusion of Bengali language from official use. Political leaders including Shamsul Haque, Shawkat Ali, M Sirajul Islam, Kazi Golam Mahbub, Oli Ahad and Abdul Wahed were arrested during the rally. A meeting was held on the afternoon of March 11 to protest the police brutality and arrests. Then a gathering of students proceeded towards the Secretariat building. Several students and leaders, including AK Fazlul Haque, who were in the procession at the time, were attacked and injured by police. Due to civil unrest, the Governor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah arrived in Dhaka on 19 March 1948. He again declared that "Urdu, and Urdu only" embodied the consciousness of the Muslim nation and would remain the state language. On March 24, he made the same statement at Curzon Hall of Dhaka University. Both meetings were interrupted by a large section of the audience. The students formed the 'State Language Action Committee' and worked tirelessly to make Bengali one of the state languages of Pakistan. Immediately after the tragedy of February 21, 1952, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Khwaja Nazimuddin announced in a public meeting that Urdu should be made the state language of Pakistan. The students were outraged by the announcement because in 1948, Nazimuddin, as the Chief Minister of East Bengal, had signed a pledge with the leaders of the State Language Action Committee by the Provincial Council to adopt Bengali as another state language of Pakistan. Subsequently, the students of Movement Dhaka University and Dhaka Medical College took a strong stand for the language movement and took an important decision and on February 21, 1952 denied the will of the politicians to violate Section 144. At 3:30 pm on the orders of the Police Magistrate (West Pakistani) opened fire on a peaceful procession of students. Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, Shafiur and Salam, among others, dedicated their precious young lives to the preservation and preservation of their mother tongue, Bengali. This movement finally ended in 1956 with the adoption of Bengali as one of the state languages of Pakistan.

February 21st is a symbol of mourning, strength and pride in the life of every Bengali. International Mother Language Day is celebrated as Martyr's Day in Bangladesh because we have added a symbolic value to this day. It nurtured ideas of democracy and secularism. It has been celebrated all over Bangladesh, and across the borders of Bangladesh as a great national event.

Importance/Significance :

Language Movement began in 1948 and reached its climax in the killing of 21 February 1952, and ended in the adoption of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan.

In the cultural field:

The language movement has not only enriched the Bengali culture but also the culture of the whole world. Every year 21st February is celebrated all over the world as the International Mother Language Day. We have struggled to acquire this language. '21 February' has been declared as 'International Mother Language Day' on 17 November, 1999 in the general assembly of UNESCO in Paris. Since 2000, this day has been observed in the international arena with proper honor and manifesto. Today, as a nation, we are proud that the highest sacrifices of Bangladesh, Bengali and our language movement are recognized, much admired, remembered with gratitude and honored worldwide.

The beginning of a new horizon in Bengali literature:

Numerous plays, novels, films, poems and songs have been written about the language movement. As a result, a new horizon in Bengali literature was started through language movement.

Development of Bengali nationalism :

In just a few years, Gana-Azadi League, Democratic Juba League, East Pakistan Muslim Chatra League, Awami Muslim League etc. were established. They raised their voice and demanded to make Bengali the state language along with Urdu.

Six-point Programme(1966)

Six-point Programme a charter of demands enunciated by the AWAMI LEAGUE for removing disparity between the two wings of Pakistan and to put an end to the internal colonial rule of West Pakistan in East Bengal.

The Six-point Programme along with a proposal of movement for the realisation of the demands was placed before the meeting of the working committee of Awami League on 21 February 1966, and the proposal was carried out unanimously. A booklet on the Six-point Programme with introduction from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Tajuddin Ahmad was published. Another booklet titled Amader Banchar Dabi: 6-dafa Karmasuchi (Our demands for existence: 6-points Programme) was published in the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and was distributed in the council meeting of Awami League held on 18 March 1966.

The six points are noted as being:

1. The Constitution should provide for a Federation of Pakistan in its true sense based on the Lahore Resolution, and the parliamentary form of government with supremacy of a Legislature directly elected on the basis of universal adult franchise.
2. The federal government should deal with only two subjects: Defence and Foreign Affairs, and all other residual subjects should be vested in the federating states.
3. East Pakistan and West Pakistan would have two separate freely convertible currencies and effective measures would be imposed to stop the flight of capital from the East. Moreover, East Pakistan would have a separate fiscal and monetary policy as well as separate banking reserve.
4. East Pakistan would be in charge of its own taxation and revenue collection and the federation would only be entitled to a share of the revenue.
5. East and West Pakistan would have two separate foreign exchange earnings accounts with each wing having the power to establish trade links with foreign countries.
6. East Pakistan should have a separate military or paramilitary force, and Navy headquarters should be in East Pakistan.

In Short

Historical 6 points

1st point: Constitutional structure and nature of the state.

2nd Clause: Powers of Central Government.

3rd Clause: Currency and Money Powers.

Clause 4: Powers in respect of revenue taxes and duties.

Clause 5: Powers on foreign trade.

6th Clause: Power to form regional army.

Agartala Conspiracy Case(1968)

Agartala Conspiracy Case a case framed by the Pakistan Government in 1968 during the Ayub regime against Awami League chief SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN, some in-service and ex-service army personnel and high government officials. They were accused of involvement in a conspiracy to secede the East wing from Pakistan with the help of the government of India. The petitis principii in the petition was that the conspiracy was concocted between the Indian party and the accused persons at Agartala city of Tripura in India. The case was thus called Agartala Conspiracy Case. However, the Pakistan government was compelled to withdraw the case in the face of a mass movement in East Pakistan.

Since the inception of Pakistan, the people of East Pakistan were deprived of their legitimate rights in all spheres. Consequently, a general resentment against the Pakistani rulers brewed among the people of East Pakistan. The demand for autonomy as placed through the SIX-POINT PROGRAMME of the Awami League chief Sheikh Mujibur Rahman thus received the spontaneous support of the people of East Pakistan.

The acute disparity in the armed forces led some Bangali army officers and soldiers to be united secretly. Knowing full well that the interest of the Bangalis could never be served under the rulers of West Pakistan, they decided to make East Pakistan independent through an armed revolt. With this end in view, they began to mobilise army personnel secretly. The conspiracy was, however, detected by the intelligence department of the government. Nearly one thousand five hundred Bangalis throughout Pakistan were arrested by the intelligence force.

The Home Department of Pakistan declared through a press-note issued on 6 January 1968 that the government had detected in December 1967 a conspiracy detrimental to the national interest of Pakistan. The press-note disclosed the news of the arrest of 8 persons including 2 CSP officers and alleged that the persons seized were involved in attempting to separate East Pakistan through armed revolt. Through a separate declaration issued on 18 January 1968 the Home Department implicated Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the conspiracy. He was then detained in jail along with many others since 9 May 1966. They were released, only to be arrested again under martial law regulations and were taken to Dhaka Cantonment under military custody.

Initially the government decided to court martial the accused, but subsequently in the interest of the proper holding of the general elections of 1970 the government resolved to frame charge only against 35 concerned political personalities and high government officials under civil law. The persons included in the charge-sheet were Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Commander Moazzem Hossain, Steward Mujibur Rahman, former LS Sultanuddin Ahmad, LSCDI Nur Mohammad, Ahmed Fazlur Rahman CSP, Flight Sergeant Mahfiz Ullah, Corporal Abdus Samad, former Havildar Dalil Uddin, Ruhul Quddus CSP, Flight Sergeant Md. Fazlul Haq, Bibhuti Bhushan Chowdhury alias Manik Chowdhury, Bidhan Krishna Sen, Subedar Abdur Razzaque, former clerk Mujibur Rahman, former Flight Sergeant Md. Abdur Razzaque, Sergeant Zahurul Haq, AB Khurshid, Khan Mohammad Shamsur Rahman CSP, AKM Shamsul Haque, Havildar Azizul Haq, Mahfuzul Bari, Sergeant Shamsul Haq, Shamsul Alam, Captain Md. Abdul Motaleb, Captain A Shawkat Ali Mian, Captain Khondkar Nazmul Huda, Captain M Nuruzzaman, Sergeant Abdul Jalil, Mahbub Uddin Chowdhury, Lt. M Rahman, former Subedar Tajul Islam, Ali Reza, Captain Khurshid Uddin Ahmed, and Lt. Abdur Rauf.

A special tribunal was formed after an amendment was made in the penal code to that end for the disposal of the case. The hearing of the case started on 19 June 1968 under Sections 121-A and 131. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was enrolled as accused No.1. The case was entitled 'State vs Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others'. The tribunal started proceedings of the case in a highly protected chamber inside Dhaka Cantonment. A charge-sheet consisting of 100 paragraphs against the 35 accused was placed before the tribunal. There were 227 witnesses including 11 approvers. However, 4 approvers were declared hostile by the government.

Thomas William, a British lawyer and a member of the British Parliament, filed a writ petition in Dhaka High Court on behalf of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman challenging the legality of the formation of the tribunal. He was assisted in conducting legal proceedings in the special tribunal by Abdus Salam Khan, Aatur Rahman Khan, and others. The government lawyers leading the case were the former foreign minister Manzur Quader and Advocate General TH Khan. Justice SA Rahman, the Chairman of the three-member tribunal, was a non-Bangali. The other members MR Khan and Maksumul Hakim were Bangalis. The government was bent on identifying Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a separatist and an Indian agent thereby arousing public support against him. But the approvers on the witness-box declared that the government had compelled them by threat and persecution to submit false evidence in its favour. Thus the governmental machination against the accused got exposed. By this

time the Sarbadaliya Chhatra Sangram Parishad supported by MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN BHASANI organised mass movement against the conspiracy of the government and demanded immediate withdrawal of the case and release of all prisoners including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

At a point when the streets of Dhaka became a hot bed of turmoil, Sergeant Zahurul Haq, 17th accused in the case, was mercilessly shot to death while in confinement in Dhaka Cantonment. The news of his death led a furious mob to set fire to the State Guest House as well as other buildings. S.A Rahman, Chairman of the tribunal, and Manzur Quader, chief lawyer on the government side, who were then residing in the guest house, evacuated secretly. Some of the files concerning the case were burnt to ashes. In the face of the mass movement, the Ayub government was ultimately compelled to withdraw the Agartala Conspiracy Case on 22 February 1969. All the accused, including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, were released unconditionally. On the following day (23 February), a grand public reception was accorded to the accused at Paltan Maidan in Dhaka where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was vested with the appellation of 'Bangabandhu'. [Shahida Begum]

Mass Upsurge of 1969

Mass Upsurge of 1969 basically started when the Agartala Conspiracy Case went wrong. People started believing that; there was conspiracy going on within Pakistan Government and the government will not release Bangabandhu rather they will finish Bangabandhu.

Mass upsurge was the only successful movement/most successful movement in the history of East Pakistan before independence.

January 1969,

a committee was created by students of Dhaka University and the committee named as "Student Action Committee". Their main work was to create movement against Ayubkhan.

20th January 1969

government started firing overall all kind of rally; therefore, situation went beyond the control. And they were telling that any rally/protest are not allowed. But still people are doing it.

On 20th January 1969

student leader "Amanullah Mohammad Asaduzzaman" known as "Asad" was died on police firing while he was moving with a procession.

On 15th February 1969

two Bengali sergeants were arrested and move them to cantonment under police custody. On this day "Sergeant Zahurul Haque" was killed inside the cantonment and the news spread like a fire among mass people.

On 18th February 1969

the proctor of Rajshahi University, Shamsuzoha bayoneted to death by police while he was trying to save one of his students. After that event mass people came forward and start protesting against the Pakistan Government. People know that there was a big plan of mass killing after this hilarious murder of sergeant Zahurul Haque. As a result; people start protesting. On that point of stage; Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani came forward and the starting of Mass Upsurge started by him.

In West Pakistan; there was an opposition rise up against Ayub khan from 1967 because not every person was benefited by Ayub khan's corruption policies.

2nd May, 1967 "Anti-Ayub Political Platform" was created by the political party of West Pakistan; which was named as "Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)" where many of small political parties of West-Pakistan got involved. As a result; Ayub Khan has no place to hide on.

At the very end of mass upsurge, on 26th March 1969; Ayub Khan was pulled down by Army Chief Yahya Khan and again martial law came to Pakistan. Monem Khan was forced to escape from East Pakistan along with his family.

The result of Mass upsurge is:

- a. The withdrawal of Agartala conspiracy case
- b. Free Bangabandhu from Agartala conspiracy case
- c. Diminish of Ayub Khan government.

General Election-1970

General elections were held in Pakistan on 7 December 1970 to elect members of the National Assembly. They were the first general elections since the independence of Pakistan and ultimately the only ones held prior to the independence of Bangladesh. Voting took place in 300 general constituencies, of which 162 were in East Pakistan and 138 in West Pakistan. A further thirteen seats were reserved for women (seven of which were in East Pakistan and six of which were in West Pakistan), who were to be elected by members of the National Assembly.

The elections were a fierce contest between two social democratic parties, the west-based Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the east-based Awami League. The Awami League was the sole major party in the east wing, while in the west wing, the PPP faced severe competition from the conservative factions of Muslim League, the largest of which was Muslim League (Qayyum), as well as Islamist parties like Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (JUP).

The result was a victory for the Awami League, which gained an absolute majority, winning 160 of the 162 general seats and all seven women's seats in East Pakistan. The PPP won only 81 general seats and five women's seats, all in West Pakistan. In the provincial elections held ten days later, the Awami League again dominated in East Pakistan, while the PPP were the winning party in Punjab and Sindh. The Marxist National Awami Party emerged victorious in Northwest Frontier Province and Balochistan.

The elected Assembly initially did not meet as President Yahya Khan and the Pakistan Peoples Party did not want the majority party from East Pakistan forming government. This caused great unrest in East Pakistan. The military junta responded by executing Operation Searchlight, which led to the Bangladesh War of Independence, with East Pakistan becoming the independent state of Bangladesh. The Assembly session was eventually held when Yahya resigned four days after Pakistan surrendered to Bangladesh and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took over. Bhutto became the Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1973, after the post was recreated by the new Constitution.

Liberation War—1971

The Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 was for independence from Pakistan. India and Pakistan got independence from the British rule in 1947. Pakistan was formed for the Muslims and India had a majority of Hindus. Pakistan had two parts, East and West, which were separated by about 1,000 miles. East Pakistan was mainly the eastern part of the province of Bengal. The capital of Pakistan was Karachi in West Pakistan and was moved to Islamabad in 1958. However, due to discrimination in economy and ruling powers against them, the East Pakistanis vigorously protested and declared independence on March 26, 1971 under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. But during the year prior to that, to suppress the unrest in East Pakistan, the Pakistani government sent troops to East Pakistan and unleashed a massacre. And thus, the war for liberation commenced.

The Reasons for war

Both East and West Pakistan remained united because of their religion, Islam. West Pakistan had 97% Muslims and East Pakistanis had 85% Muslims. However, there were several significant reasons that caused the East Pakistani people to fight for their independence..

West Pakistan had four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and the North-West Frontier. The fifth province was East Pakistan. Having control over the provinces, the West used up more resources than the East. Between 1948 and 1960, East Pakistan made 70% of all of Pakistan's exports, while it only received 25% of imported money. In 1948, East Pakistan had 11 fabric mills while the West had nine. In 1971, the number of fabric mills in the West grew to 150 while the number in the East went down to 26. About 2.6 billion dollars of resources were also shifted over time from East Pakistan to West Pakistan.

Although East Pakistan had the largest population among all the provinces, it had much less political power than West Pakistan. This eventually made the people of East Pakistan rebel. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the leader of the Awami League in East Pakistan, explicitly demanded more economic and political powers. The struggle finally culminated into the war of independence.

There was also the language issue that kept East Pakistan and West Pakistan in an uneasy status. In 1948, Mohammad Ali Jinnah stated in Dhaka that Urdu was the official language for Pakistan. There was a big argument about this because only the Muhajir in the West and the Biharis in the East spoke Urdu. Most of the West Pakistanis spoke Punjabi and Sindhi, while East Pakistanis spoke Bangla. East Pakistan therefore disagreed; seven students were killed in a fierce protest on February 21, 1952. This day has been remembered since then and is observed each year to emphasize the importance of the Bengali language. February 21st is now recognized as the International Mother Language Day by the United Nations.

A devastating cyclone hit East Pakistan in 1970. It was called the Bhola Cyclone. It killed about 500,000 people and made many more homeless. It brought great shock and deep depression among the East Pakistani people. But, the government did not provide enough relief to alleviate the extremely miserable conditions wrought by the cyclone. This caused enormous misery in East Pakistan.

The War

The Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won a landslide victory in the national elections in 1971 and demanded autonomy for East Pakistan. The party won a 160 seats and a majority in the national assembly. This victory also gave it the right to form a government, but Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party refused to let the Sheikh become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. This initiated the war. The Sheikh gave a speech on March 7, 1971 when he urged the people to turn all their homes into a fort of fight. He demanded transfer of power to the elected representative before the assembly meeting on March 25.

Tikka Khan, a West Pakistani general, flew to Dhaka to become the Governor of East Bengal. But, the East Pakistani judges denied him entry. Thereafter, on the night of March 25, the Pakistani army tried to violently crush the Bengali's opposition. Residence halls of the Dhaka University were viciously attacked. On March 26, the Pakistani forces arrested Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the same day, he signed an official declaration for the independence of Bangladesh. M. A. Hannan, an Awami league leader, is said to have been the first person to read and announce the Declaration of Independence over the radio.

Political events approached a climax. The war between the Pakistan Army and the Bengali freedom fighters, the Mukti Bahini, began. The head of the Mukti Bahini was General Muhammad Osmani. The Mukti Bahini were trained like guerillas. India gave shelter to the refugees and trained the Mukti Bahini. India also helped with

ammunition and its own soldiers. They attacked the Pakistani army. During the training period of the Mukti Bahini, the Pakistani Army encouraged Razakars, the Bengalis who did not want Bangladesh to become an independent country, to suppress the rebellion. The Pakistani Army faced problems as the monsoon came. This helped Mukti Bahini because they could counter the moves of the Pakistanis

India assumed an active role. Indira Gandhi ordered air and ground attacks. India, having superior equipment and forces, mounted a three-pronged movement on Dhaka from the Indian province West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura. The Indian soldiers, Air Force, and Navy defeated the Pakistani army, while the Bangladeshi Navy helped India. On the ground, three groups of Mukti Bahini and Indian forces fought the Pakistanis. The Pakistanis tried to fight back, but failed to resist them.

The Victory

On December 16th, 1971, Dhaka fell to the Mitro Bahini, the elite forces of the Mukti Bahini and the Indian army. An “Instrument of Surrender” was signed by the defeated Pakistani General Niazi and by the Indian commander General Aurora at 16:31 Indian Standard Time. This is how Bangladesh became liberated and independent. December 16th is recognized as the Victory Day in Bangladesh, while March 26 is recognized as the Independence Day. With sovereignty, Bangladesh is progressing in all aspects.

Constitution of Bangladesh (1972)

Introduction:

The constitution is the supreme document of a state. This document can be either written or unwritten. The constitution of Bangladesh is written document. People of Bangladesh achieved this document through a long struggle, sacrifice and Blood. It can be mentioned that India and Pakistan got independence in 1947. While India took two years and Pakistan took nine years to write their constitution. But Bangabandhu’s government gave the nation one of the best constitutions in the world of the briefest time of nine months only. It was possible only due to the sincerity and honest commitment to the people led by the government led by Bangabandhu.

The Constitution:

A constitution is a body of fundamental rules, written or unwritten, which determines the organization or structure of the government, distribute powers and determines the relationship among the organs of the government.

Aristotle

: Constitution is the way of life the state has chosen for itself.

Lord Bryce

: Constitution is the aggregate of laws and customs under which the life of the state goes on.

C F Strong

: Constitution is the collection of principles according to which the powers of the government, the rights of the governed and the relation between the two are adjusted. A modern state cannot be thought of without a Constitution. The entire legislative, executive and judicial functions of the State are guided and regulated by the Constitution.

The constitution of Bangladesh:

The Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh is the supreme document of Bangladesh. It was officially adopted on 4th November, 1972 by the constituent assembly and implemented on 16th December, 1972. It provides the framework of the Bangladeshi republic with a parliamentary government, fundamental human rights and freedoms, an independent judiciary, democratic local government and a

national bureaucracy. The constitution includes references to Socialism, Islam, Secular democracy and the Bengali language

.It commits Bangladesh to “contribute to international peace and co-operation in keeping with the progressive aspirations of mankind”

Major characteristics of 1972 constitution of Bangladesh are mentioned below:

(1) Supreme Law:

The supreme law of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh is the constitution of Bangladesh. So, no law inconsistent with the constitution should be passed. It is proclaimed in the constitution that all power of the state rest with people. That power can only be exercised being subject to the constitution and no behalf of the people.

(2) The Republic:

1st article of 1972 constitution stated that Bangladesh is a unitary, independent, and sovereign Republic to be known as the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

(3) The Fundamental principles of Governance:

In the Preamble of the 1972 constitution, four principles are accepted as the fundamental principles of state governance. In this regard, it is mentioned in the constitution „the high ideals of nationalism, democracy, socialism, and secularism which inspired our heroic people to dedicate themselves to, and our brave martyrs to sacrifice their lives in the war for national liberation shall be the fundamental principles of the constitution“.

Islam and the Constitution:

There are two references to Islam to in the introduction and Part I of the constitution. The document begins with the Islamic phrase In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful which is translated as “In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful”.

Article-2(A) of 1972 Constitution state that, “ The state religion of the Republic is Islam, but the State shall ensure equal status and equal right in the practice of the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and other religions”.

Conclusion:

The most important success of Bangabandhu government was to draft a constitution in the possible shortest time. This Constitution was very well written and was better than that of many countries. It had the reflection of the hope and aspirations of a newly born country. The fundamental principles played the role of a torch bearer for the advancement of the new state.

Mujibnagar Government,1972

Mujibnagar Government, was a provisional government that was established following the declaration of independence of East Pakistan as Bangladesh on 10 April 1971. Headed by prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad, it was the supreme leadership of the Bangladeshi liberation movement, comprising a cabinet, a diplomatic corps, an assembly, an armed force, and a radio service. As after the 1970 general election the military junta of Pakistan denied to hand over power to the elected legislators and Pakistan Army cracked down on the East Pakistani population, the elected political leadership of East Pakistan declared independence and founded the provisional government with the support of the Government of India. Its cabinet took oath on 17 April 1971 in the town of Mujibnagar. The government was headquartered in Kolkata, in exile, the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal. It attracted many defectors from the Pakistani civil and military services and many leading intellectuals and cultural figures from East Pakistan.

Cabinet:

President : Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Vice President : Syed Nazrul Islam

Prime Minister : Tajuddin Ahmad

Finance Minister: Mansur Ali

Home Minister: Abul Hasnat Muhammad Kamaruzzaman

Information and Broadcasting Minister : Abdul Manna

Foreign Minister : Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad Abdus Samad Azad

Defence Minister : Colonel M. A. G. Osmani

Head of the Planning Commission: Nurul Islam

The government divided the occupied Bangladesh into administrative zones, with headquarters in India, and appointed elected governors for them. It coordinated with the Government of India in conducting the armed resistance against the Pakistan army and also addressing the refugee crisis. It also undertook an international campaign to garner support for Bangladesh's independence, calling for stopping the genocide and preventing a refugee crisis. It appointed special envoys and operated representative missions in New Delhi, Washington, D.C., and London among many other cities.