

## 1.1 Introduction

The liberation of Bangladesh was achieved through a nine-month long war, in which all patriotic people of the country contributed from their respective positions. The war started as a spontaneous resistance against genocide by the Pakistan army, but soon assumed the character of an organized war of attrition for the liberation of Bangladesh. It was essentially a people's war, which was epitomized by the army of freedom fighters known as Mukti Bahini (MB) in Bangladesh. The war finally ended with the defeat of the Pakistanis by the joint forces of MB and the Indian Army, which got involved in the war at the last moment. The involvement of Indian forces in liberating Bangladesh and the crucial role that it played in forcing the Pakistanis to surrender, provides the ground for interpreting the role of MB from different perspectives. In Bangladesh, freedom fighters are lauded for being instrumental in liberating the country, although they are assessed differently by other concerned parties. Pakistanis and Indians. Although the war of resistance by Bengali troops and civilians started spontaneously after the Pakistan army crackdown on March 25, 1971, the war was fought by separate units and groups without any central coordination. The first attempt to coordinate war efforts was made on April 4, 1971 in Teliapara of Sylhet, where a number of senior Bengali military commanders held an important meeting. A few days later, on April 14, the Mujibnagar government officially declared a structure of the Bangladesh liberation force, naming it Mukti Fouj under the command of Colonel MAG Osmani.<sup>9</sup> However, it was not before the middle of July 1971 that the Mukti Bahini was formally organised, through a conference of senior Bengali officers arranged by the Mujibnagar government. This conference dealt with vital issues like creation of war sectors, demarcation of sector boundaries, organizing the guerrilla and regular forces, formulating war strategy and tactics. It was decided to divide Bangladesh into 11 sectors and 69 sub-sectors in order to consolidate war efforts.

The liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971 was a logical conclusion of the Bengali nationalist movement that started soon after the formation of Pakistan in 1947. The movement, based on the nationalistic aspirations of the Bengalis living in erstwhile East Pakistan, was fuelled by the continuous neglect of Bengalis and their interests by the Pakistani rulers. The nationalist movement reached its high point when Yahya Khan, the then President of Pakistan, refused to hand over power to Awami League, the party which received absolute majority in East Pakistan in the national elections of 1970. In protest, a non-cooperation movement was

launched by Awami League. Addressing a mammoth rally in Dhaka on March 7, 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the absolute leader of East Pakistan at the time, declared: “This struggle is the struggle for freedom, this struggle is the struggle for independence”. In the same speech, Mujib also asked the people to continue the struggle even if he could not give any more orders. However, instead of accommodating the majority party, military rulers of Pakistan chose the path of confrontation. The volatile situation exploded when the Pakistani rulers resorted to brute force and genocide to suppress the struggle of the Bengalis to achieve self-rule. In this sense, the indiscriminate use of military force by the Pakistan Army, which was initiated on the March 25, 1971 served as the immediate cause of the Bangladesh war of liberation. All freedom fighters were generally known as Mukti Bahini (MB). There were two broader sections among them: those who came from military, paramilitary and police forces were called Niyomito Bahini (regular forces), while the freedom fighters from a non-military background were referred to as Gonobahini (people’s forces). The names were given by the government of Bangladesh. To the Indians, however, the Niyomito Bahini was known as Mukti Fouj (MF), and the Gonobahini as Freedom Fighters (FF). The Bangladesh war of Liberation was a multi-dimensional event of great importance. First and foremost, it was a struggle waged by the people of Bangladesh to achieve independence. Secondly, as India supported the cause of Bangladesh, this struggle was translated into a regional rivalry between India and Pakistan. Finally, in the Cold War perspective, the struggle also triggered a triangular international power game between USA, USSR and China. In this larger international and regional canvass, the Mukti Bahini of Bangladesh is not always seen in the appropriate perspective. The Indo-Pakistan War of December 1971, which was the culminating point of Bangladesh Liberation War, tends to overshadow the slow and painstaking but effective struggle that Mukti Bahini had waged against the occupation army of Pakistan for preceding nine months.

Day-by-day the history of our liberation war is disappeared. But it is very important for a nation that it collect the history of the war. Freedom fighters who are our national heroes knowing the real information about our liberation war. So we collect the document of freedom fighters for that information’s and store that in a website named <http://www.fighters71.com>.

**1.2 Objectives**

Every work has some aims and objectives based on demand of work. The overall objective of this work to store the memory of freedom fighters'71 in Bangladesh in forms of papers, online archive, audio and video. The specific objectives are

1. To know about freedom fighter's dream about Bangladesh.
2. To make some documents which will be references for the next generation to know about the liberation war in absence of freedom fighters in 1971 of Bangladesh.
3. To store the memory and history of the freedom fighters and liberation war.
4. To introduce very easily the new generation with the freedom fighters in 1971 of Bangladesh and the liberation war.
5. To retain the inspiration of the freedom fighters of Bangladesh to the new generation and preserve the independence in 1971 of Bangladesh.
6. To spread out spontaneously the memory and the history of the freedom fighters in 1971 of Bangladesh in people to people, door to door, country to country and world to world.

**1.3 Organization of the Project Report**

This project report is organized into four chapters.

**Chapter one** is described in terms of various history and contribution of the freedom fighters of Bangladesh in the liberation war and the demand of the documentation of freedom fighters of Bangladesh.

**Chapter two** is described in terms of methodology of this project like requirement of the system, technology to be used, system modeling and testing.

**Chapter three** discuss about design and implementation of this project like database design, system design, and flow diagram.

**Chapter four** is for conclusion, advantage and future work.