

# ***SIX-POINT PROGRAMME/MOVEMENT***

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# INTRODUCTION

- Six-point Program 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. Six-Point Program is called as – “The charter of freedom to the Bengali Nation. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Awami League President unfolded a Six Point Program on 13 February, 1966.



# Background



Despite the many development efforts during the Ayub regime, the essential disparity between the two wings of Pakistan were not properly addressed. As a result, the feeling of discrimination continued to grow among the people of East Pakistan. The Six Points Movement, an anti-Ayub political movement gathered momentum and was a popular reflection of this discontent.

## Proposed By

- After the death of H. S. Suhrawardy in 1963, the leadership of the Awami League was taken over by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Under his leadership, the Awami League soon became one of the most popular and strongest political parties in East Pakistan.

## Time and Place



On 5 February 1966, at the Lahore conference, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announced his six-point political and economic program for East Pakistan provincial autonomy.

## **point 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.

# POINT

## 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.



## Six Point

3. There will be two separate freely convertible currencies in the two regions of the country: or one single currency for the whole country with the provision of two reserve banks in two provinces under a Federal Reserve banks.



- The power of taxation and revenue collection should be vested in the federating units and the federal centre would have no such power. The federation would be entitled to a share in the state taxes to meet its expenditures.

## Six Point

5. There should be separate accounts for the foreign exchange of the two regions. If necessary, the requirement of the Centre will be met by the two regions on the basis of equal rate or as specified in the constitution.

## Six Point

6. The federal states should have the authority to form regional armed forces or militia or para militia forces to protect the territories.

# POINT

## 6

- East Pakistan should have a separate military or paramilitary force, and Navy headquarters should be in East Pakistan.



with others at Awami League public rally in Khulna. 08 January 1970

# Political parties and 6 point movement:

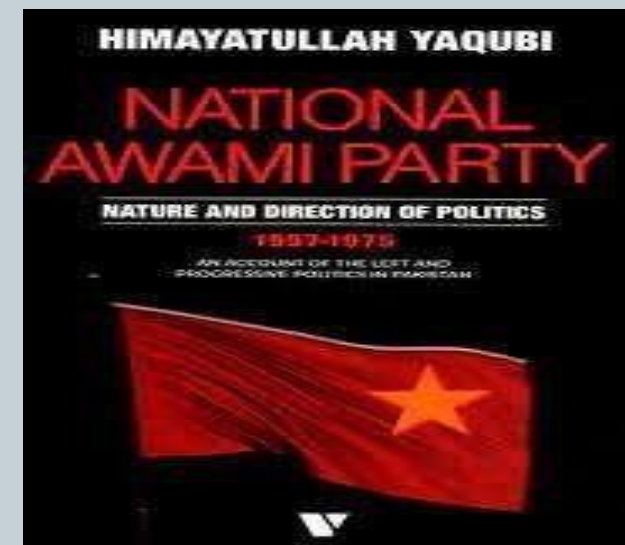


June 7 in 1966 the Awami League called a countrywide hartal.



The Council Muslim League called the programme „nothing but the programme for the separation of East Pakistan

The Nizam-i-Islam & Jammat-I-Islam rejected the programme and blamed Mujib for his unilateral and dictatorial move.



The National Awami Party (NAP) ignored the Six Point Programme on the ground



# Reaction of West Pakistan on 6-Point Movement



The press in West Pakistan described it as secessionist agenda.



President Ayub remarked that it is the conspiracy for establishing a Hindudominated United Bengal

It Was supported by People because-

It threatened the political and economic monopoly of West Pakistan.

East Pakistan's export earnings would no longer be manipulated for industrialisation of West

It Was supported by People because-

- ❑ East Pakistan would no longer be exploited for maintaining the vast war machine of West Pakistan.
- ❑ Economic priorities would no longer be determined for the advantage of West Pakistan.
- ❑ It would end the dominance of West Pakistani bureaucrats.



It Was supported by People because-

□“Six Points movement was the charter of Liberation of Bengali nation”—

# Historical significance of 6-point movement

The six-point demand is a milestone event in the history of Bangladesh.

As a result, the economists, intelligentsia, and the politicians of East Pakistan started to raise questions about this discrimination, giving rise to the historic six-point movement. The

# Significance

The six-point movement was the precursor of some momentous events which were the triggering factors of the emergence of Bangladesh.

# Demand for Autonomy

Six-point demand was first identified East Bengal as a separate region and demanded greater autonomy.

# Bengali Nationalism

The six points were a symbol of hope and aspiration of Bengalis. This was the key to the characterization and self-reliance of the Bengali nation consisting of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Buddhists in East Pakistan. As a result, the six-point movement was severely suppressed and the consciousness of the Bengali nation united them.

# Popularity of Awami League and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman presented the six-point demand on behalf of the Awami League in 1966. As a result, the popularity of Sheikh Mujib and Awami League increased through six points. According to Raunaq Jahan, “ Six point movement whose main thrust was demand of greater autonomy for east Pakistan is regarded as the turning point in Mujib’s rise to charismatic leadership ”.

# Voice against exploitation

The six-point demand was the first strong protest against the long-running exploitation of East Pakistan by the Pakistani government. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman himself referred to the six points as "the Charter of Liberation of Bengal's peasants, workers, laborers, middle class and the common people to step towards the establishment of Bengal's rights".

# Voice against exploitation

- ❑ Six points awaken democratic values.
- ❑ Six point played an important role in the Agartala Conspiracy Case in 1968.
- ❑ The removal of Ayub Khan's dictatorship.
- ❑ Six point played an important role in the mass uprising of 1969.



# Election of 1970

□ The key factor in Awami League's election manifesto in 1970 was this six points program. The Awami League sought public mandate in favor of the six points program in the general elections of 1970. A landslide victory was gained with the absolute mandate from the people of East Pakistan in favor of six-point program.

# Seeds of Freedom

□ The seeds of Bangladesh's independence were sown in the six points. Because the first demand for autonomy was in the six points which helped the mass uprising in 1969 and the victory of Awami League in the election of 1970 which played an important role in the rise of independent Bangladesh.

Thank You