

# **Baangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**

## **1.Introduction:**

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, often referred to as "Bangabandhu" (Friend of Bengal), was a prominent Bangladeshi politician and leader who played a pivotal role in the country's struggle for independence. He was born on 17 March 1920 in the village Tungipara under Gopalganj subdivision in the district of Faridpur. His father Sheikh Lutfur Rahman was a law clerk in the civil court of Gopalganj. He was the third among six brothers and sisters. Throughout his life, Bangabandhu passionately advocated for the rights and welfare of the Bengali-speaking people in the region. He was the founder of Bangladesh. He first served as the titular president of the Provisional Government of Bangladesh between April 1971 and January 1972. He then served as Prime Minister of Bangladesh from the Awami League between January 1972 and January 1975.

## **2. Education and the short biography of Baangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman:**

**Education:** Baangabandhu received his early education at local schools in his hometown. His early education suffered for about four years due to eye problems. After completing his primary education, he attended Gopalganj Missionary School and later Gopalganj Public School for his high school education. He attended Islamia College, where he actively engaged in student politics and became involved in the Muslim League. He later joined the University of Calcutta to pursue a degree in law. During his time at the university, he became deeply involved in political activism and leadership roles.

**Biography:** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was born on 17 March 1920 at Tungipara. He started going to school at the age of nine and entered into class three. However, he had leadership skills from an early age. In his school days, he organized a student protest to remove their principal. But his potential leadership expanded when he was admitted into the University of Dhaka. However, he could not continue the study as the University expelled him due to the charge of 'inciting the fourth-class employees.

## **3. How did he contribute to the Language movement?**

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had an outstanding contribution in organizing the language movement. He was active from the beginning of the language movement in 1947 till the end. Shortly after the creation of Pakistan in 1947, a number of political activists gathered at the Sirajuddaula Hotel in Calcutta to determine their next course of actions in East Pakistan. At that meeting, it was decided to form a non-communal political movement and organization in Pakistan. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, then a young leader, was involved in this process.

#### **4. Bangabandhu's 6-point demand at Bengali politics:**

The six point movement was a movement in East Pakistan, spearheaded by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which called for greater autonomy for East Pakistan. The movement's main agenda was to realize the six demands put forward by a coalition of Bengali nationalist political parties in 1966, to end the perceived exploitation of East Pakistan by the West Pakistani rulers. It is considered a milestone on the road to Bangladesh's independence. The six points are noted as being:

1. Full Autonomy
2. Regional Legislative and Executive Powers
3. Control Over Military and Defense
4. Fiscal Autonomy
5. Fair Share of Resources
6. Separate Foreign Trade and Commerce

#### **5. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib in 1970 election:**

On December 7, 1970, the Awami League under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won by a landslide in the first and last general election of the then-undivided East and West Pakistan. The victory gave Bangabandhu the mandate to lead the country, a mandate that he utilized in leading Bangladesh to independence. The East Pakistan-based Awami League's chief competitor in the election was the West Pakistan-based Peoples' Party of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Voting took place in 300 constituencies, including 162 in East Pakistan and 138 in West Pakistan. The Awami League won 160 out of the 300 seats, while the People's Party won 81 seats (all in West Pakistan). The remaining 59 seats were split among the other parties. Prior to the election, Bangabandhu at a discussion on the death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy on December 5, 1969, declared that East Pakistan would be called Bangladesh from then onwards. Bangabandhu chose the boat as the symbol of the Awami League to represent the hopes of the people in the "Land of Rivers." After the election, the movement for an independent Bangladesh gained momentum and heralded the start of a new chapter in history.

#### **6. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Historical Speech on 7<sup>th</sup> March:**

The 7 March Speech of Bangabandhu was a public speech given by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Founding Father of Bangladesh on 7 March 1971 at the Ramna Race Course (now Suhrawardy Udyan) in Dhaka to a gathering of over two million people. It was delivered during a period of escalating tensions between East Pakistan and the

powerful political and military establishment of West Pakistan. In the speech, Bangabandhu informally declared the independence of Bangladesh, proclaiming: "The struggle this time, is a struggle for our liberty. The struggle this time, is a struggle for our independence." He announced a civil disobedience movement in the province, calling for "every house to turn into a fortress". The speech is believed to have informally addressed the Bengali people to prepare for a war of independence amid widespread reports of armed mobilization by West Pakistan. The Bangladesh Liberation War began 18 days later when the Pakistan Army initiated Operation Searchlight against Bengali civilians, intelligentsia, students, politicians, and armed personnel. On 30 October 2017, UNESCO added the speech to the Memory of the World Register as a documentary heritage.

## **7. Who declared the independence of Bangladesh?**

The independence of Bangladesh was declared on 26 March 1971, at the onset of the Bangladesh Liberation War by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; the following day the declaration was broadcast by Major Ziaur Rahman in a radio broadcast.

## **8. How did the liberation war occur?**

The Bangladesh Liberation War also known as the Bangladesh War of Independence, or simply the Liberation War in Bangladesh; was a revolution and armed conflict sparked by the rise of the Bengali nationalist and self-determination movement in East Pakistan, which resulted in the independence of Bangladesh. The war began when the Pakistani military junta based in West Pakistan—under the orders of Yahya Khan launched Operation Searchlight against the people of East Pakistan on the night of 25 March 1971, initiating the Bangladesh genocide.

The seeds of political crisis that led to the Liberation War were planted on December 7, 1970. The Awami League won a substantial victory in Pakistan's elections. The League was a political party led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who had campaigned for autonomy for East Pakistan. However, they encountered immediate opposition from General Agha Muhammad Yahya Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of the Pakistan People's Party, which attempted to prevent the Awami League from forming the next government. After months of fruitless negotiations, the Pakistani army was deployed in East Pakistan on March 25, 1971. It pursued a policy of reprisal, targeting supporters of Bangladesh liberation and perceived enemies of the state like the significant Hindu minority.

## **9. When and How did Bangabandhu died?**

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh, tragically lost his life in a military coup on August 15, 1975. On that fateful day, a group of discontented army officers carried out the coup and launched a brutal attack on Bangabandhu's residence in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The residence, known as Dhanmondi 32, was his private home. During the coup attempt, Bangabandhu and most of his family members were killed. The attackers showed no mercy, and the carnage claimed the lives of not only Bangabandhu but also his wife, Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib, his three sons, two daughters-in-law, and several other relatives.

## **10. Conclusion:**

Bangabandhu was an inspirational leader and the driving force behind Bangladesh's struggle for independence. His unwavering commitment to the rights of the Bengali-speaking people and his vision for a sovereign nation laid the foundation for the birth of Bangladesh. Despite his tragic assassination in 1975, his legacy as the founding father of the nation lives on, and he remains an enduring symbol of courage, democracy, and hope for the people of Bangladesh.