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Background of Liberation War

⑦ Discuss the events that took place after 1970's general election that led to the declaration of independence of Bangladesh in ~~1971~~ 26th March 1971.

⇒ In the general election held on 7 and 17 December 1970, the Awami League acquired an absolute majority.

On 3rd January 1971, Sheikh Mujib along with other Awami League members took an oath in Race course ground on the basis of six point demand.

Although Bhutto, the leader of the People's party, announced that he was ready to form

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a government with the winning party, Awami League, at its center, he was ~~delib~~ delaying to have a talk with Mujib.

President Yahya Khan summoned the National Assembly to sit in Dhaka on 3rd March. But on 1st March 1971 he postponed the session of National Assembly for an indefinite period. Sheikh Mujib then called hartal in Dhaka on March 2nd and in whole of East Pakistan on March 3rd.

On March 3rd, a complete strike was observed all over East Pakistan.

Dhaka had turned into a city of processions that connected in a rally at Paltan Maidan. At different places

of the country spontaneous ~~protest~~ rallies were fired upon which killed many in Dhaka and Chittagong.

On 7th March, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made a historic ~~address~~^{speech} at a huge gathering at the Race Course which marked a ~~the~~ turning point in the history of Bengali nation.

In the speech he ~~addressed~~ ~~and~~ called out the Martial law authorities for ~~deny~~ delaying to transfer power to the elected representatives. He also advised the people to prepare themselves for resistance movement against the enemy.

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and asked the people to continue the non-cooperation movement against the government of Yahya Khan. The entire nation carried out his instructions.

Meanwhile, president Yahya Khan and other leaders from west Pakistan came to Dhaka on 15th March to start talk to Sheikh Mujib and his party. During this time, the non-cooperation and hartal continued.

While holding ~~talks~~ talks, the Pakistani military was bringing more troops to Bangladesh. As soon as the west Pakistani ~~fail~~ and east Pakistan failed to come to a mutual agreement, the genocid began at mid-night of 25th March, 1971. The Pakistan

army launched its brutal crackdown in Dhaka with operation search light.

Moments after the crackdown began, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared independence at 12:30 am, 26 March. This declaration was transmitted through wireless to every place in the country.

⊛ Describe the non-cooperation movement of March 1971.

⇒ [Almost the same answer as the previous one. The non-cooperation movement took place because west Pakistan was delaying to hand over the power to east Pakistan.] Every organization including govt. office, mills, factories obeyed Mujib's order of Non cooperation movement ~~from~~ 25 March.

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⊗ What was the 7th March speech of Sheikh Mujib about?

⇒ On 7th March, 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made a historic ~~address~~^{speech} at a huge gathering at the Race course ground, which marked a turning point in the history of Bengali Nation. In this ~~pe~~ speech Mujib called out the Martial Law authorities for not transferring power to the elected representative. He mentioned a four-point condition to consider at the national Assembly meeting on 25 March—

- i) Lifting martial law immediately.
- ii) Immediate withdrawal of all military personnel.

iii) An inquiry into the loss of life.

iv) Immediate transfer of power to the elected representative

He also advised the people to prepare themselves for resistance movement against the enemy and

asked people to continue the non-cooperation movement

against the govt of Yahya Khan. He ended his ~~sp~~ speech with

his most famous line of all time - "The struggle this time is the struggle for our ~~eman~~

emancipation, The ~~strug~~ struggle this time is the struggle for independence"

⑧ What is operation Searchlight? Discuss.

⇒ In 25th March 1971, the Pakistani military launched "Operation Searchlight" in East Pakistan to suppress the demands for self government.

This brutal crackdown resulted in widespread civilian casualties, particularly targeting students, professionals and local residents. Residential halls of Dhaka University were particularly targeted. The only Hindu residential hall, Jagannath hall, was destroyed by the and Pakistani are around 600-700 of this residents were murdered. The military forces killed everybody in sight, on footpaths and destroyed

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everything on their way. They killed many teachers of Dhaka University. Lieutenant General Tikka Khan was assumed to be in charge of the overall operation and Major General Rao Farman Ali was responsible for the operation in Dhaka.

The following 9 months Bangladesh witnessed mass murder and ~~vio~~ violence. There were around 300,000 to 3,000,000 casualties and 200,000 to 400,000 Bengali women were raped. It left a long lasting impact on Bangladesh's history.