**Independence of Bangladesh**

After the Awami League won 167 out of 169 seats in East Pakistan of the Pakistan's National Assembly in the December 7, 1970, West Pakistan opened talks with the East on constitutional questions about the division of power between the central government and the provinces, as well as the formation of a national government headed by the Awami League. The military rulers of Pakistan refused to allow the Awami League to form a government. A heinous conspiracy was plotted by the Pakistani military dictator [Yahya Khan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahya_Khan" \t "_blank) along with [Zulfikar Ali bhutto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulfikar_Ali_Bhutto" \t "_blank). Even though a conspiracy was being planned, General Yahya Khan was careful not to let this be known. On the 13th of February he announced that on the 3rd of March there would be a session of National Assembly in Dhaka.

The talks proved unsuccessful, however, and on March 1, 1971, Pakistani President [Yahya Khan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahya_Khan) indefinitely postponed the pending National Assembly session, precipitating massive civil disobedience in East Pakistan. On March 2, 1971, a group of students, led by A S M Abdur Rob, student leader & VP of DUCSU raised the new (proposed) flag of Bangladesh under the direction of Swadhin Bangla Nucleus. They demanded [Sheikh MujiburRahman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Mujibur_Rahman) to declare the independence of Bangladesh immediately but Mujib refused to the strong demand. Rather he decided that he will declare his next steps on March 7 public meeting.

On March 3, 1971, student leader Sahjahan Siraj read the Sadhinotar Ishtehar (Declaration of independence) at [Paltan Maidan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paltan_Maidan) in front of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib along with student and public gathering under the direction of Swadhin Bangla Nucleus. On March 7, there was a historical public gathering in [SuhrawardyUdyan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suhrawardy_Udyan) to hear updates on the ongoing movement from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, the frontier leader of movement that time. Although he avoided the direct speech of independence as the talks were still underway, he influenced the mob to prepare for any imminent war. The speech is considered a key moment in the war of liberation, and is remembered for the phrase, "Ebarer Shongram Muktir Shongram, Ebarer Shongram Shadhinotar Shongram...." ("This time, the revolution is for freedom; this time, the revolution is for liberation....").

After the military crackdown by the Pakistan army began during the early hours of March 26, 1971 Bangabandhu [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Mujibur_Rahman) was arrested and the political leaders dispersed, mostly fleeing to neighbouring India where they organized a provisional government afterwards. Before being held up by the Pakistani Army Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave a hand note of the [Bangladeshi Declaration of Independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladeshi_Declaration_of_Independence) and it was circulated amongst people and transmitted by the then [East Pakistan Rifles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Pakistan_Rifles)' wireless transmitter. [The world press reports](http://archive.thedailystar.net/forum/2008/march/declaration.htm) from late March 1971 also make clear that Bangladesh’s declaration of independence by Bangabandhu was widely reported throughout the world. Bengali Army officer Major [Ziaur Rahman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ziaur_Rahman) captured Kalurghat Radio Stationin Chittagong and read the declaration of independence of Bangladesh on the evening hours of March 26, 1971.

The [Provisional Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provisional_Government_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_Bangladesh) was formed on April 10 in Meherpur, (later renamed as [Mujibnagar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mujibnagar) a place adjacent to the Indian border). Sheikh MujiburRahman was announced to be the head of the state. [Tajuddin Ahmed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajuddin_Ahmed) became the prime minister of the government; [Syed Nazrul Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Nazrul_Islam) became the acting president and [Khondaker Mostaq Ahmed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khondaker_Mostaq_Ahmed) the Foreign Minister. There the war plan was sketched with armed forces established named "Muktifoujo". Later it was named "Muktibahini" (freedom fighters). [M. A. G. Osmani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M._A._G._Osmani) was assigned as the Chief of the force. The land sketched into 11 sectors under 11 sector commanders. Along with this sectors on the later part of the war three Special Forces were formed namely Z Force, S Force and K Force. These three forces name were derived from the initial letter of the commandar's name. The training and most of the arms and ammunitions were arranged by the Meherpur government which was supported by India.

The crisis in East Pakistan produced new strains in Pakistan's troubled relations with India. The two nations had fought a war in 1965, mainly in the west, but the pressure of millions of refugees escaping into India in autumn of 1971 as well as [Pakistani aggression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Chengiz_Khan) reignited hostilities with Pakistan. Indian sympathies lay with East Pakistan, and on December 3, 1971, India intervened on the side of the Bangladeshis.

On 16 December 1971, Lt. Gen [A. A. K. Niazi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A._A._K._Niazi), [CO](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commanding_Officer) of Pakistan Army forces located in East Pakistan signed the [Instrument of Surrender](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instrument_of_Surrender_%281971%29) and the nation of *Bangladesh* ("Country of Bengal") was finally established the following day. At the time of surrender only a few countries had provided [diplomatic recognition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diplomatic_recognition) to the new nation. Over 90,000 Pakistani troops surrendered to the Indian forces making it the largest surrender since [World War II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II). The Pakistani army systematically massacred 35,000 Bengali intellectuals and unleashed a brutal war against the Bangalees of East Pakistan to prevent them aspire of independence. But the brave people of this beloved land did not let the dream encircled flag of red and green fall down to dust. The new country changed its name to Bangladesh on January 11, 1972 and became a parliamentary.