

- Dhaka after Mujib's death at 1971,

The same tanks on the streets, soldiers still on guard and yet it is almost as if nothing had happened. There was no rioting, almost no reaction to Sheikh Mujib's murder because lately he had lost his hold on the country led it into a tailspin of economic chaos despite billions in economic aid, most of it from the United States, a couple of arm majors with a personal grudge started it all.

But the way things are in Dhaka, it could have been anybody any time. The new President Mushtaq Ahmed a lackluster administrator who took over almost by default has promised the people an honest government but given the handicaps, no government here can deliver anything more than promises.

Richard Threlkeld CBS news Dhaka.

- Statement of the killers of Bangabandhu and involvement of Zia:

2nd August, 1976

Two Bengali army officers, Colonel Farouk Rahman and Colonel Abdul Rashid tell why they overthrew and killed Mujib.

The man had been called the father of Bangladesh.

Reporter: Did you all make any effort to make it known to Mujib that this should be changed?

Colonel Abdul Rashid: Well, no I cannot make any effort because I am just a junior officer in the army. I have no hand to tell him that you should correct yourself.

Reporter: In these circumstances. You couldn't force him to resign, or was it necessary to kill him?

Colonel Abdul Rashid: You see this, as I said earlier, also, he's the man up to the main point. But he's not an administrator, in that only that he has got a very good quality to control the general mass. So if he had remained alive, it would have been very difficult for us to control the situation. He is being more experienced on the political side. So just to stay in power, he could have done any sort of mysterious act at the cost of even the country also.

Reporter: So you would think that had Mujib remained alive, he would have turned the tables on all.

Colonel Abdul Rashid: Yes, that would have been his first effort.

Reporter: So you had to eliminate him, you had to kill him.

Colonel Abdul Rashid: Yes, I had to.

Reporter: Once set on removing Mujib, the young colonel had to find someone to put in his place. Their obvious choice was a man of their own kind, an army man. So they approached Major General Zia.

Colonel Farouk Rahman: The first obvious choice was General Zia, because at least he was not tarnished. So after a lot of arrangements, I managed to see him on 20th of March 1975. In the evening, General Zia said I am a senior officer. I cannot be involved in such things. If your junior officer says you want to do it, go ahead. Then we walked in the lawn and, uh I told him, sir, that, uh, we are professional soldiers. We serve the country. We do not serve any individual. We have to change it. We, the general officers, I have already worked it out. We want your support and your leadership.

Reporter: Colonel Rashid, You and Colonel Farook meet with the Mushtaq president after Mujib's death. Did you bring him into the plot before that?

Colonel Abdul Rashid: Yes. I had the first contact with him in the first week of August and Subsequently I met him on the 13th as well as on the 14th.

Reporter: Did you discuss the killing of Mujib with him?

Colonel Abdul Rashid: No. Not the killing. But it has been shown in a way that they had to be removed by forces from the past and it may lead to a killing of Sheikh Mujibur.

- Disappearance-murder-rape-famine was a routine matter during Sheikh Mujib's regime. Awami can't distort this true history even if they want. You will get a light idea about the extreme misrule of Bakshal's father Mujib 72-75 in this video. Mujib married his son with great fanfare when the country was going through a severe famine due to misrule by Mujib and the sycophants around him, when people were going without food for months.

- Speaking from history:

Many people know, many people may not know that Sheikh Mujib's sons, despite being young, did not go to the liberation war and were not arrested, they roamed in the free air of Dhaka, freedom in northern Bangladesh when the people of Bangladesh waited for a handful of rice night after night and day after day.

Sheikh Hasina's son Sajib Wazed Joy was born in Dhaka military hospital, he went to the hospital in a military jeep, he was not a prisoner, he was free. After giving birth, she returned home and lived a normal life, just at that time the noble boys of Bengal were fighting for liberation, including the martyred President Ziaur Rahman, the money for the market expenses of Fazilatunnessa Mujib came from Yahya Khan. They are the ones who sold us the history of the liberation war, took away 15 years from our lives by establishing a fascist regime in the name of consciousness. Thousands of people have been killed, millions of rupees have been smuggled out of the country and they are conspiring against the country today.

Mohammad Nazmul Ahsan

London UK

- History was hidden by the 1974 famine. Such a big truth was kept secret and at that time he gave his son's marriage with fanfare, wearing a golden crown,,,, think! "During the 1974 famine, people stood in queues for rice all night. When rice was served in the morning, everyone was very hopeful that they would eat rice after a long time. When the person behind the last person who got the rice hears that the rice is finished and you leave, he immediately falls to the ground and dies." It was during the famine of 1974 that Mujib's son got married with great fanfare at the expense of crores of rupees.

- I have not seen the face of rice for fifteen days. My father is interrupted by my mother to commit suicide. Unable to bear the pain of hunger, mother used to sit in the shade in the cold air. Sometimes when I gather food, I would leave one or two bites from the plate for my mother. There is nothing left of the surrounding foliage, roots that will not die at least. I have seen with my own eyes how people die without food. They are lying dead in train stations, near bus stands, in asylum camps. Unable to find clothes for burial, they were buried in banana leaves. Then 15 August; Even if someone could not bring a handful of rice to my family but at least assured me that someone would bring a plate of rice for me. Kmn S. Iqbal

- THE GUARDIAN

Tuesday , November 5 1974

OVERSEAS NEWS

60,000 Bangladeshis die-and thousands more are doomed.

From WALTER SCHWARZ, Dacca, November 4

It is accepted here that nothing can save the tens of thousands of people who are expected to die of starvation before the end of the year. This is accepted by the Bangladesh Government, by officials, and by foreign diplomats and aid personnel. In the four affected districts, reasonable estimates put the death toll so far at 60,000, and the likelihood is that another 40,000 will have died by the end of December. Before the flood which damaged the crops made desh was already bankrupt. The relief cannot change from milk and soya beans.

- Reporter: We have seen in villages situations which show no food at all. People have come up to us and said, we are eating leaves, we are starving, we have no food. We're not getting it from anywhere quite close to Dhaka. Why should this be so?

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman: You see that in some of the places this happens. But we have our open free kitchen everywhere. The people are welcome to come there and they have come. You have our camps still we have not closed our camps, of course closed. We have not closed the camps. The people started working in the fields now, but of course this trouble is there serious flood and serious famine. We have not suppressed the news. We have already declared in the Parliament that about 27 thousand people have died from starvation, a disease. We have not hide anything from anybody with the fact of natural calamities.

Reporter: It seemed much worse than I expected. In August I've seen outside relief camps people being turned away because the camps are full. Granted that you have set up these grill kitchens. But it seems that many, many people, perhaps tens of thousands of people are simply not getting food in this country.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman: It's not correct. Then 27 thousand people would not die. The people expected that a few millions people would die. We fought it.

Everybody expected that few bills people who will die as starvation after the flood have after the inflation because we had no the food price not go down. That time we tried to collect from the world and that time some people should come forward to help us. But we are humble. We have tried about 27 thousands.

- 15 August 1975 on radio

Major Damil's Declaration:

According to Major Dalim, the military forces under the leadership of Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed have seized power since morning. Sheikh Mujib and his murderous corrupt government were abolished. From now on, martial law was imposed across the country. All of you cooperate with us. Rest assured, you will have no problem. Long live Bangladesh.

24-hour curfew has been imposed across Bangladesh from morning to evening. This curfew will remain in force till further orders. All of you will join the army and facilitate. Those who do not cooperate will be punished. Long live Bangladesh.

- 15 August 1975

News bulletins on radio

Special announcement about Bangladesh. Military forces led by Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed took power in the country early this morning. This step has been taken in the interest of the country. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed. Dictatorship has fallen. All

citizens are asked to support the new government. Security forces, BDR, police and military commandos have been called upon to cooperate. New soccer instructions have been issued. The instructions are:

1. Martial law has been imposed across the country for an indefinite period from this morning.

2. The public is advised not to leave their homes until further notice.

3. Henceforth, evening law was promulgated indefinitely across the country.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated, Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed became the new president. Autocratic governments are falling.

- 15 August 1975 on radio

Speech by Khandaker Moshtaq:

Assalamualaikum, countrymen, due to a historical necessity, today I have to accept the responsibility of the country as the president of the new government, depending on the Most Merciful Allah Taala and the countrymen for the sake of the country and the countrymen. The patriots of the country have come forward like heroes for the success of the military. I call upon the law enforcement agencies of the country's military, paramilitary, police, BDR and security forces to stand united for the new government. I appeal to the brothers and sisters of the country to take this step and cooperate with determination to make Bangladesh truly happy and prosperous. Calling all countries to recognize this government. Allah Hafez. Long live Bangladesh.

- " In the 1973 elections, Sheikh Mujib submitted nomination papers for four seats. One of these was in Bhola. Dr. Azharuddin was a strong candidate for Bhola. On the day of submission of nomination papers, some people of Awami League kidnapped Dr. Azharuddin. As a result, his nomination papers were not submitted. Sheikh Mujib was declared unopposed in that seat of Bhola. "

– Mohiuddin Ahmed, The Rise and Fall of Jasadar: Politics in Unsettled Times, p: 18

- Edwin Newman NBC, newman.

Sheikh Mujib went from public adulation amounting to hysteria to disaster and death. In just three and a half years, the ingredients of his downfall were evident. Even at the beginning. Sheikh Mujib behaved as heads of state do. He went abroad, visited other heads of state, proclaimed his faith in his country's future. He also equated himself with Bangladesh when I interviewed him less than a year ago, his replies almost invariably began with the word I. I can do this, I need that love and affection Mujib had. But the hero who takes office must become an effective administrator. Mujib did not perhaps could not. After a while, he was engulfed by a task too big for him and probably for anybody.

- Outwardly Sheikh mujib's popularity seemed unshakable but his authority was corroded by continued adversity as well as the inefficiency and corruption which he could not eradicate. The guns left over from the civil war were used by bandits and political thugs. Blood never stopped flowing. Mujib changed the constitution, suspended parliament and made himself president. He set up his own private army to impose order, but with only indifferent success. The regular army resented this private force and helped to overthrow him. Replacing Mujib is one of his old friends and political associates. Khondokar Mustta Ahmed, who is regarded as being right of center, pro-western and pro-american. But it's not

clear whether he is the prime mover of this upheaval or the frontman. Nor is it clear what the new regime can do about the universal, abysmal, overcrowded poverty that afflicts Bangladesh. - Richard Choelette. CBS News.

- "Zia was a man who could kill with one hand and eat with the other."

"According to official estimates, he hanged 1,143 (one hundred and forty-three) soldiers in just two months to October 9, 1977."

Part 1-

President Zia could easily have guessed that he could no longer rely on the military alone. That is why he needs support from the civilian side as well. He first picked out those who were causing discord and discord in the army and took extreme measures against them with a very severe hand. He dismissed the Director General of Forces Intelligence, Air Vice Marshal Islam, for failing to warn him in advance of the mutiny. He then quickly disbanded the 22 East Bengal Regiment in Bogra and the four army units in Dhaka.

General Zia was also considering abolishing the Bangladesh Air Force for leading the rebellion.

General Zia extinguished the fire of vengeance burning in his heart with one of the heinous revenges in history on the soldiers and airmen involved in the coup. According to official estimates, he hanged 1,143 (one hundred and forty-three) soldiers in just two months to October 9, 1977. Moreover, he sent many hundreds of soldiers to jail with rigorous imprisonment ranging from ten years to life. The execution of the punishment was carried out in a very hasty fashion showing thumbs up to the legal process and justice. In the history of Bangladesh, there is no precedent for such a cruel punishment. Three/four people were summoned for trial at once and sentenced to death. General Zia would sit and approve them and soon after they would be hanged. All the work of the mentioned procedure was completed in just 48 hours. One of his aides told me that General Zia, axing the dual powers of President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, would write in his own hand and approve the sentences of those unfortunate soldiers. Civilian prisoners recalled, 'For several weeks the nights in the jail were made terrible by the screams of the soldiers. As they were led to the gallows, they broke into loud screams of innocence.

For all these killings, no established rules of the Air Force or the Army were followed. Therefore declared a 'martial law order'. In that proclamation, he created courts called special courts, in which a lieutenant colonel along with a constable and people close to him could sit for trial. In order to complete the work of the case quickly, measures were taken in this way.

There is no precedent that such an incident has taken place anywhere in this subcontinent. With the stroke of a pen, General Zia created more than two dozen such courts overnight. No question of justice can arise there. Soldiers were killed only with the judge's license.

Bangladesh: A Legacy of Blood

-Anthony Mascarenhas (1986)