

BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN
FATHER OF THE NATION OF BANGLADESH

(On the occasion of Bangabandhu's 103rd Birth Anniversary)



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A publication for children and teenagers

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“Sheikh Mujib was a leader of the masses and made the ultimate sacrifice in their service.”

- Pranab Mukherjee

He passed his Matriculation from Gopalganj Missionary School in 1942, Intermediate of Arts from Islamia College (now Maulana Azad College) in 1944 and Bachelor of Arts (BA) from the same college in 1947. He was admitted into the University of Dhaka to study law. But he could not complete the course because he was expelled from the University in early 1949 on the charge of ‘inciting the fourth-class employees’ in their agitation against the University authority’s indifference towards their legitimate demands. After 61 years, in 2010, the Dhaka University cancelled the expulsion order.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman married Sheikh Fazilatunnesa (Renu). Together they had two daughters, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, and three sons, Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel.

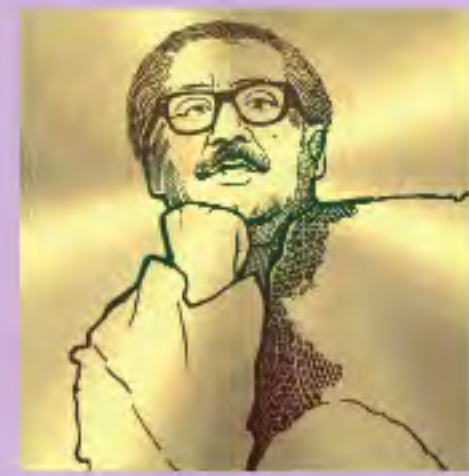
Political Career of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a Leader of Pakistan

Bengali language movement:

In 1948, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman founded the East Pakistan Muslim Students’ League, the first opposition student organization in Pakistan. On January 4, when Chief Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin declared that the people of East Pakistan must accept Urdu as their state language, he rose in spontaneous protest.

On June 23, 1949 the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League (present Awami League) was founded and Sheikh Mujib was elected as joint secretary while he was in prison.





"This time the struggle is for our freedom, this time the struggle is for our independence! Joy bangla!"

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Foundation of the Awami League

In 1953, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was elected as the "General Secretary of Awami Muslim League" at its council meeting. Sheikh Mujib became the minister for Co-operative and Agricultural Development in East Pakistan provincial government.

In 1955, under the leadership of General Secretary Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Awami Muslim League was renamed as Awami League, dropping the word 'Muslim' to open the doors of the party to all, regardless of religion.

Six Point Movement

On February 5 in 1966, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman presented his historic Six-Point Demand known as the 'Charter of freedom of the Bengali nation'. It drew the roadmap for the independence of Bangladesh under the garb of greater autonomy. The program hit hard at the roots of Pakistani colonial rule over the Bengalis. The Six-Point Demand envisaged:

1. The constitution should provide for a Federation of Pakistan in its true sense on the Lahore Resolution and the parliamentary form of government with supremacy of a legislature directly elected on the basis of the universal adult franchise.
2. The federal government should deal with only two subjects: defense and foreign affairs, and all other residuary subjects shall be vested in the federating states.



BANGABANDHU
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“My greatest strength is the love for my people, my greatest weakness is that I love them too much”

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

“Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman” is the name of the greatest leader, politician and statesman in the history of Bangladesh who had dreamt, struggled and led the independence of Bangladesh. He is loved, adored and revered by the Bengali nation as “Father of the Nation” and “Bangabandhu”.

Sheikh Mujib united the Bengalis in the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) to fight against the then oppressive rulers of West Pakistan. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman served as the first President of Bangladesh and later as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 17 April 1971 until his assassination on 15 August 1975. He is considered to be the driving force behind the independence of Bangladesh. Sheikh Mujib is called as “Bangabandhu” which means “Friend of Bengal” in English terms for his popularity and contribution to the country.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is credited as the most important figure in the history of Independent Bangladesh. His eldest daughter Sheikh Hasina is the current President of ruling party Awami League and also the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the fourth term. The birth of Bangladesh was impossible without Bangabandhu. In a 2004 BBC poll, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was voted as the “Greatest Bengali of all time”.

Early Life of “Sheikh Mujibur Rahman”

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was born in Tungipara village in Gopalganj District on March 17, 1920. He was the third child of Sheikh Lutfar Rahman and Sheikh Sayera Khatun. He had three sisters and one brother. In the family, he was adoringly called as “Khoka”.



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Sheikh Mujib is a man of peace, a man of independence and a man of the world. He is not just the Bangabandhu, He is also the Viswabandhu."

- Ramesh Chandra

3. Two separate, but freely convertible currencies for two wings should be introduced; or if this is not feasible, there should be one currency for the whole country, but effective constitutional provisions should be introduced to stop the flight of capital from East to West Pakistan. Furthermore, a separate banking reserve should be established and separate fiscal and monetary policy be adopted for East Pakistan.

4. The power of taxation and revenue collection shall be vested in the federating units and the federal center will have no such power. The Federation will be entitled to a share in the state taxes to meet its expenditures.

5. There should be two separate accounts for the foreign exchange earnings of the two wings; the foreign exchange requirements of the federal government should be met by the two wings equally or in a ratio to be fixed; indigenous products should move free of duty between the two wings, and the constitution should empower the units to establish trade links with foreign countries.

6. East Pakistan should have a separate militia or paramilitary forces.

Anti-Ayub Movement:

In 1968, Pakistan government led by military dictator Field Marshal Ayub Khan filed the Agartala Conspiracy Case against Sheikh Mujib and arrested him.

A mass movement was spread across the country demanding the release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.





“I have given you independence. Now go and preserve it.”

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

In 1969, The Agartala Conspiracy Case resulted in a nationwide student movement and mass uprising demanding the withdrawal of the case and the release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Under pressure from the public, Ayub Khan was forced to withdraw the Agartala Conspiracy Case and released Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on February 22.

On February 23, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was given the title 'Bangabandhu' at a mammoth public meeting organized by the Central Student Action Committee at the Race Course Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan).

1970 elections and civil disobedience:

In 1970, The Awami League President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman urged his countrymen to elect Awami League candidates on the basis of their 6-point demand in the country's first general elections held on December 7.

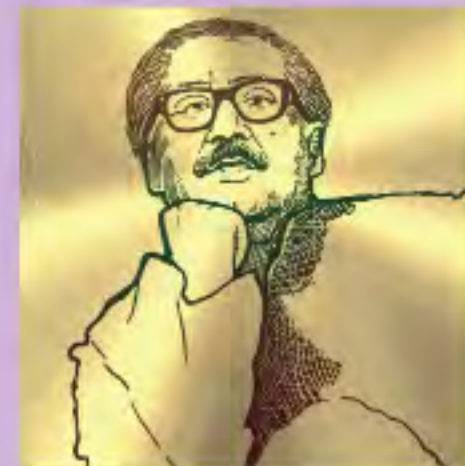
Awami League achieved an absolute majority in the general elections on December 7, 1970 winning 167 (including 7 women reserved seats) out of the 169 seats of the National Assembly in East Pakistan and 298 seats (including 10 women reserved seats) of the 310 seats of the Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan. Though Sheikh Mujib was elected as the majority leader of Pakistan's parliament, he was denied the Prime Minister post by the then Pakistan's military dictator Yahya Khan.

Role of Bangabandhu in the Establishment of Bangladesh

On March 7, 1971 in his historic speech before millions of people at the Race Course Maidan, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman urged his fellow countrymen to take all out preparation for the War of Liberation.



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*“As long as
Padma, Meghna,
Gouri, Jamuna
flows on, Sheikh
Mujibur Rahman,
your
accomplishment will
also live on”*

*- Annada
Shankar Ray.*

At midnight on March 25, the Pakistan army launched its heinous campaign of genocide against unarmed Bengalis. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed the Independence of Bangladesh in the early hours of March 26. Right after the proclamation, he was arrested and was taken to prison in West Pakistan.

On April 10, 1971 the first government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was formed and Bangabandhu was elected President by the constituent assembly.

After nine months of Liberation War and brutal genocide by the West Pakistan forces, which took away 30 million lives and the honor of 2 million women, Bangladesh was liberated with the surrender of the Pakistan occupation army on December 16, 1971. The rulers of Pakistan was compelled to free Bangabandhu from prison and he returned to free Bangladesh on January 10, 1972.

Role of Bangabandhu in the Governing Bangladesh

In 1972 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took charge as Prime Minister of the Bangladesh government and began the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country.

Within three-and-a-half years, Bangabandhu laid the foundations of the new Republic by, putting into effect several measures, including rehabilitation of 10 million Bengali refugees, withdrawal of all allied forces from independent Bangladesh within 3 months, formation of the constituent assembly & a constitution for the new state within 10 months, recognition of Bangladesh by more than a hundred states.



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**Bangabandhu with the US President Gerald Ford
at White House**



**Bangabandhu with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi
while she was leaving Bangladesh after her visit**



“In the thousand year history of Bengal, Sheikh Mujib is her only leader who has, in terms of blood, race, language, culture and birth, been a full blooded Bengali.”

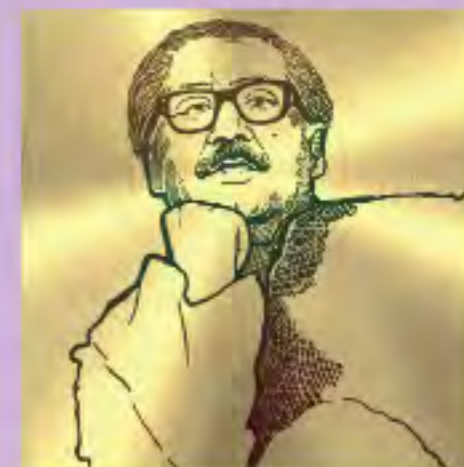
- Cyril Dunn

Life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman At a Glance

Name:	Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
Nick Name:	Khoka
Title:	Bangabandhu Father of the Nation
Date of Birth:	March 17, 1920
Place of Birth:	Tungipara under the then Gopalganj Subdivision (now District) of the then Faridpur District
Nationality:	Bengali
Religion:	Islam
Education:	Gopalganj Public School Madaripur Islamia High School Gopalganj Missionary School Islamia College (now Maulana Azad College) University of Dhaka
Father:	Sheikh Lutfar Rahman
Mother:	Sheikh Sayera Khatun
Spouse:	Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib
Children:	Five
Zodiac Sign:	Pisces
Died:	15 August 1975
Dying Age:	55 years



**BANGABANDHU
SHISHU KISHORE MELA**



*“As we have
already learned
how to sacrifice our
own lives, now no
one can stop us”*

*- Sheikh Mujibur
Rahman*

He also ensured Bangladesh's membership to important international bodies including the Commonwealth of Nations, United Nations, NAM, and OIC, as well as the enactment of International Crimes Tribunal Laws.

Bangladesh received world recognition by becoming the 136th member of the United Nations on September 17, 1974. On September 25, 1974 at the 29th General Assembly of the United Nations, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered the first ever Bangla speech at the UN.

Assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

On 15 August 1975, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of Bangladesh, was assassinated by a handful of army renegades as part of a larger national and international political conspiracy hatched by anti-liberation forces.

Every member of his family was murdered. Only his daughters Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana escaped the murder as they were abroad at that time.

Bangabandhu's eldest daughter, Sheikh Hasina, is the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh observes August 15 as the National Mourning Day.

Personal Life, Family and Relatives of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was born on March 17, 1920 in Tungipara, village in Gopalganj District. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman married Sheikh Fazilatunnesa (Renu).



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*“I am happy with
my Bangladesh”*

*- Sheikh Mujibur
Rahman*

- On 30 October 2017, UNESCO recognized Mujib's 7 March Speech as part of the world's documentary heritage.
- There are many avenues and memorials in his remembrance all around the world.

Books of Bangabandhu

- Bangabandhu wrote two volumes of his autobiography 'Unfinished Memoirs', where he expressed his views on politics and described his personal life. Both books were published after his death by his daughter and current Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- The Prison Diaries (a diary on Bangabandhu's prison days).
- Amar Dekha Noya Chin (Bangabandhu's visit to China).
- There are around 15,000 books written on the life and work of Bangabandhu and many of them were translated in different languages all around the world.



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“I have not seen the Himalayas. But I have seen Sheikh Mujib. In personality and in courage, this man is the Himalayas. I have thus had the experience of witnessing the Himalayas.”

- Fidel Castro

Together they had two daughters, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana and three sons, Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal, and Sheikh Rasel.

Sheikh Kamal was an organizer of the Freedom Fighters in 1971 and received a wartime commission in the Bangladesh Army during the Liberation War. Sheikh Jamal was trained at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in Great Britain and later joined the Bangladesh Army as a Commissioned Officer.

The Sheikh family was under house arrest during the Bangladesh Liberation War until 17 December, 1971. Sheikh Kamal and Sheikh Jamal found the means to escape and cross over to a liberated zone, where they joined the liberation war to free the country.

Legacy

- Bangabandhu has been depicted on Bangladeshi currency, Taka and is the namesake of many Bangladesh public institutions.
- 15 August has since been commemorated as “National Mourning Day”.
- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is one of the most popular figures in Bangladesh. In a 2004 BBC Bengali opinion poll, Bangabandhu was voted as the “Greatest Bengali of All Time.”
- The style of waistcoat that Bangabandhu used to wear during his political campaigns is called a ‘Mujib Coat’ in Bangladesh.
- Cuban leader Fidel Castro compared Bangabandhu’s personality with the Himalayas.
- In 2003, author David Ludden describe him as a “Forgotten Hero” in an article on Frontline.



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**National Monument
of
Bangladesh**



**Bangabandhu with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip
at Buckingham Palace**



**Bangabandhu with the Secretary General of the United Nations
Kurt Waldheim**



Shaheed Minar

In memory of 1952 Language Movement martyrs

















