

The Role of Mymensingh in the Autonomy and Liberation Movement of Bangladesh 1947-1971

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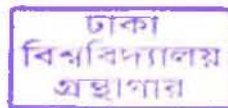
Dedication

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This work is dedicated to my beloved mother

Shah Roushan Ara Begum

Who raised her hands (as a student of class IX, Jamalpur Girls' High School) against the Pakistani oppressors after the brutal killing of the students in the 'Language Movement' in the then East Pakistan in 1952.



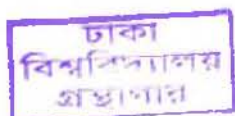
Preface

The emergence of Bangladesh as an independent country was a wonder of world history. Because the Bangalees had no arms and ammunitions, no professional armed battalions to fight against the well-equipped Pakistani oppressors. The freedom loving people, who had only the mighty willing power, won over the sophisticated army by guerrilla attacks. Even though, the geographical structure of Bangladesh was not suitable for the guerrilla war because Bangladesh is almost a plain land. Yet, the people of Bangladesh had succeeded to make a surrender of some 93 thousand soldiers of Pakistan Army. Through nine-month liberation war of 1971, the freedom loving people of Bangladesh proved that the weapon of freedom need not be very big as the will of the people prevails.

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This achievement has added a new dimension in the field of historical research and has led the historians to focus their eyes more effectively on the history of grass-root level people which had begun aftermath of the French Revolution in 18th century.

In the following chapters, the author has tried to reveal the actual facts and documents as well as the characteristics of the participation of mass people of Mymensingh in the autonomy and Liberation Movement of Bangladesh from 1947 to 1971. In fact, Mymensingh is almost adjacent to the capital city, Dhaka. Thus the heat of the politics of Dhaka used to touch the sons of this soil and as a result the people used to wave in line with the political situation of Dhaka.



The elements and evidences of this research work have been collected from a) the interviews of the participants of the Liberation Movement; b) the newspapers; c) published books and from other research works.

The research work goes on ascending method. At first, as much as detailed information of mass participation with the movement of remote areas has been piled up from different sources. Then it has been analyzed through an integrated process. Finally, it has been checked according to the methodology. Sufficient amendments have been accepted through discussions with scholars of the relevant fields. To cope with the process, the researcher has recalled the remarks of Lord Acton. He said, "The conscience of free judgment of a historian is more significant than his vast knowledge." He has also recalled the caution of Sir Jadunath Sarkar in this connection. The latter said, "National History is not aimed at hiding the bad aspects and focusing on the illustrious parts of the national glory. We need to search for the truth and signify the great parts of that truth that have been affected the nation through evolution."

To reasoning the research work, the researcher regrets to say that attention has been given less on the field of Liberation Movement of Bangladesh even after the three decades of our independence.

The first attempt was initiated by Bangla Academy. "Jatiya Sadhinata Etihus Rochana Parisad" was formed in July 1972 by a Govt. order. But after the brutal killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the initiative became slow. The following Governments were quite indifferent in this sphere although The Ministry of Information of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh launched a project named "Bangladesh Sadhinata Juddha Etihus Prakalpa." Under this project, 16 volumes of 'Bangladesher Sadhinata Juddha: Dalilpatra' were published (edited by

Hasan Hafijur Rahman and some other Professors of the University of Dhaka). However, this 'prakalpa' was not beyond disputes. Some believe that many more significant documents were not included due to political interest of the then government. Another initiative of Bangla Academy which was started from June 26, 1999(during Awami League Govt.) was rejected before its maturity by the BNP led-Government formed in 2001. It was focused on the history of Liberation War of Bangladesh. It should be mentioned here that all the authors of this project were not specialist in history. *Banglapedia* of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and *Muktijuddha Kosh*, edited by Professor Dr. Muntassir Uddin Khan Mamoon are two major works though these reflect on some non-integrated information. Professor Dr. Abu Mohammad Delwar Hossain has done some toilsome works in the field of local history of Liberation Movement of Bangladesh. Professor Dr. Muntassir Mamoon is also a relentless worker in this field.

During accumulation of the information, the author surprisingly observed that the people are indifferent to preserve the relics or other documents of our Liberation Movement.

- a). One possible reason behind it may be, the sense of history among the people of Bangladesh lies in very primary level due to long lasting tyranny; or,
- b). They do not or cannot preserve these documents with their own custody to avert further demolition of anti-liberation power ascended on the throne.

Here, the author wants to pay his tribute to Professor Dr. Mahbubar Rahman because of his valuable guides. He is always a students-friendly guide.

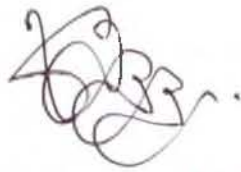
The author also wants to give thanks to the following persons for their kindly help: Professor M. Nurullah, Dept. of Psychology, University of Rajshahi (the present Pro-vice Chancellor, University of Rajshahi), Late Mr. Imamur Rashid, author of 'Muktijuddhe Jamalpur' under a project of Bangla Academy, Azizur Rahman (former Librarian of Govt. Asheq Mahmood College, Jamalpur), Late Mohammed Habibullah (Former Manager of Bangla Academy), Salma Khan, Deputy Director of Bangladesh National Archive, Professor Dr. Syed Anwar Hossain (Dept. of History, University of Dhaka), Professor Dr. K.M. Mohsin (Dept. of History, University of Dhaka), Dr. Ekram Ullah, Dept. of Political Science, University of Rajshahi. The author also wants to recall the helping hands of his beloved wife, Mrs. Faiza Anika.

The researcher also wants to give thanks to the following institutions for giving him the opportunity to use their libraries and preserved documents: a) Dhaka University Library; b) Bangladesh National Archive, Agargaon, Dhaka; c) IBS, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi; d) Varendra Research Museum, Rajshahi; e) Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Nimtoli, Dhaka; f) Central Library, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi; e) Central Library, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi; f) Public Library, Shahbag, Dhaka.

Here the researcher wants to express his profound thanks to honorable supervisor Dr. Muntassir Uddin Khan Mamoon, Professor, Department of History, University of Dhaka. Though he is one of the busiest persons, he showed the researcher much toleration and guided the researcher smoothly.

From the bottom of heart, the researcher salutes his elder sister, Late Ms. Ashrafun Nahar Chowdhury, who composed the major portion of this research work. Peace be upon her.

Last of all, the researcher bows his head to those national heroes who fought valiantly against Pakistani oppressors and sacrificed their soul for the nation so that we might stand upright amongst the nations of the world.



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January 14, 2010

Declaration

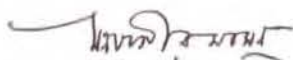
I do hereby declare that the research work incorporated in this thesis on *“The Role of Mymensingh in the Autonomy and Liberation Movement of Bangladesh 1947-1971”* is the work performed by me and that no part of this thesis has been submitted previously in any university or institution for any other degree.



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This is to certify that the thesis entitled “*The Role of Mymensingh in the Autonomy and Liberation Movement of Bangladesh 1947-1971*” submitted by Sayed Mohammed Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of ‘Master of Philosophy’ in History has been completed under my supervision.

It is further certified that Sayed Mohammed Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury has fulfilled all the conditions laid down in the Academic Ordinance with regard to the ‘M. Phil. Course Work’ and that to the best of my knowledge, the thesis contains his original research.



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Abstract

The Role of Mymensingh in the Autonomy and Liberation Movement of Bangladesh 1947-1971

The study of National History is the key to national development because the history and heritage of the glorious past reveal diverse opportunities before the young generation of a particular region. Thus they get inspired to make a patriotic zeal in their inner mind. We know, the term 'Nationalism' which is a prime weapon to make a united stand of a whole nation against anything, derives from the clear conception of national identity, history and heritage. Hence, we need to collect and accumulate the information of national activities of the past. This desire can be fulfilled through collecting the regional information as much as possible. When a sufficient sum of information of all the region of a particular country or a nation is collected, a skeleton of national history can be made and an actual history can be written through further research on the basis of that skeleton. The present research work aims at serving such purpose.

The emergence of Bangladesh in 1971 is a wonder in the history of war. It was also a clear warning to the industrially developed capitalist countries from a nation belongs to the third world that oppression must be defeated as the will of people prevails. No other nation has such an example to fight against a sophisticated and well armed, literally positioned army without any weapon and win over by guerrilla attack through a plain land. When we get in touch with the fact how our predecessors made it a truth, we feel it a mystery, we become spell

bound, how valiant, how heroic they were! Did they get the spirit all on a sudden? The work is also aimed at finding out the answer.

The Historiography was always being blamed for keeping her eyes only upon the history of elite class. From 18th century onwards, after the French Revolution(in 1789), this trend had been amended and the history of struggle of common people became a special field of study. The Historiography of Bangladesh could take a lesson from this unique trend and stress on the participation of grass-root people in the struggle of our Liberation Movement from 1947 to 1971.

However, it is a matter of great sorrow that stress has been given less to work out the activities of mass people during the Liberation Movement of Bangladesh, though it caught hold of the unique attention of the world. One of the major reasons behind it may be the sense of history among the Bangalee people has not been developed due to the tyranny of ages under oppressive foreign rulers. In addition, habitual indolence, indifference has also made us reluctant to proceed on preserving national history.

It is also observed that after the brutal killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibor Rahman & four national leaders i.e. honorable Syed Nazrul Islam, Taj Uddin Ahmed, Captain Monsur Ali, A.H.M. Kamruzzaman in prison, the whole political situation of Bangladesh became U-turned and the collaborators as well as anti-Awami League force got strengthened in the country. Gradually, the aim of smashing Awami League and its allies turned with a view to smashing the spirit of the Liberation Movement of Bangladesh. This anti-liberation force shrewdly succeeded to make divisions among the freedom fighters. Hence, they hid or destroyed as

much documents as they could, made propaganda about the national heroes and their activities and showed indifference in preserving the valuable relics of our national movements. The opportunists took the privilege of long lasting poverty of the general people, their illiteracy and their prejudices. The overseas anti-liberation force has also helped these native opportunists to pave the way of ever lasting poverty so that they can suck the general people of Bangladesh in the name of 'Globalization.' Can we let them do it? Hence we need to collect the information of the historic struggle of our predecessor and put them before our new generation so that a patriotic zeal arises among them which will lead them to withstand our liberty. The research work aims at clarifying the real activities of mass people during years of 1947 to 1971.

Research does not mean discovery or inventing something. It actually means to view something deeply to clarify partially known things or review something for broader implementation. According to Marry E. McDonald(Polanky, 1960:24), "Research may be defined as systematic investigation intended to add available knowledge in a form that is communicable and variable." The titled research work goes on keeping this definition in mind.

Once Mymensingh was included newly formed six Zillas: Tangail (separated from Mymensingh in 1969) Jamalpur, Sherpur, Kishorgonj, Netrokona (separated from Mymensingh in 1984) of Bangladesh. From the dawn of Bengal-Delta civilization, this region was reorganized or re-designed time to time geographically. However, through a keen observation, we see a common stand among the people of these areas against oppressive rulers since the evidence of the civilization. Though our research work covers the areas of present Mymensingh, in some

chapters, we have discussed the former parts of this district because of the integrated nature of history of this region. However, as this research covers the duration from 1947 to 1971, we will observe the activities of people within the time frame.

The Zillas of former Mymensingh have played a unique role in the Liberation Movement of Bangladesh. As this territory situates adjacently with the capital city Dhaka, it is directly waved by the political surge of the capital city. Consequently, reaction was seen instantly.

So far as the evidence in hand, we see the people of Jamalpur formed 'East Pakistan Liberation Army' as an underground armed group longed for the independence of Bangladesh through armed battle during the second part of the previous century. The initiative was led by 'Sada Khoka' & 'Kalo Khoka' of Jamalpur and some other extremists of Jamalpur at a meeting in a boat on the river Brahmaputra. The founder activists tried to communicate with the Indian leaders for arms and cash for preparation. This spirit of the people proves that they were further ahead of the topmost leaders of then East Pakistan, H.S. Sohrwarthy because the latter was still reluctant to take any initiative that can break Pakistan.

Again we see, the overwhelming mandate of the people of East Bengal to the United Front in the election of 1954 uprooted the tremendous political power of Muslim League and gave a strong warning to the ruling Pakistani leaders against their oppressive rule and discrimination. The idea of forming a 'United Front' against empowered Muslim League came into being in a meeting in Mymensingh in 1953. The defeat of big political leader Mr. Nurul Amin against a local hero, Khaleque Nauaj Khan, who was hardly known nationally, was a clear sign of uprising

surge of Bangalee Nationalism against 'Two-Nations' theory of Pakistan-movement.

When General Ayub Khan imposed military rule (in 1958) and deployed his armed battalion against the Bangalee people, a couple of students raised their fierce voice & protested the wild rule first under the leadership of Kazi Abdul Bari of Mymensingh. The ruling power tortured Kazi Abdul Bari severely but could not stop the spirit of general people.

Onwards, during the furious years of 1962, 1966 and 1969 the people of Mymensingh had shown their valiant struggle against oppressive rulers.

Hence, we see, in 1971 when the Pakistani Army of occupation imposed genocide upon unarmed civil mass-people of Bangladesh, the 'Afsar Bahini' of 'Bhaluka'; 'Kaderia Bahini' of Tangail and many other groups of freedom fighters were able to create heart-beating panic among the so called sophisticated army of Pakistan. These people were able to show their heroism because of the supreme sacrifice and utmost support of the grass-root people.

In this connection, I might recall the struggle of the people of Bangladesh during the British colonial rule. During the last episode of British rule, the people of East-Bengal (now Bangladesh) fought fiercely for the 'Pakistan.' Though the Pakistan Movement was based on 'Two Nations' theory, and the people of East-Bengal fought for Muslim-Nationalism after the contrived riot in 1946, there laid strong secular sentiment on the basement of the Bangalee people's mind for the centuries of communal harmony. Thus the 'Pakistan' demand of Jinnah as a single Muslim state, which was a clear betrayal of 'Lahore Proposal of 1940', came into success for the bravery of the people of East-Bengal. The Muslim League leaders of East Bengal persuaded the general people that after the

achievement of 'Pakistan' they will be able to kick through the tyranny of Kolkata based zamindars, they will get their own economy, job facilities, education and social status. The people of East Bengal longed for this from the very beginning of 1905. However, after the partition of 'British Bharat', West Pakistani rulers took the place of British rulers and failed to show justice to the people of East-Bengal rather they tried to impose tyranny upon the people of East Bengal. Consequently, the people of East-Bengal become disappointed and realized that the 'Muslim Nationalism' is a fake propaganda and a weapon of everlasting colonial rule. Hence we see, the protest began from the very beginning and raised 'Bangalee Nationalism' quickly among them. The people of Mymensingh were quite conscious about the politics as they experienced numerous movements from the British period. Thus they were able to contribute to the Liberation Movement of Bangladesh.

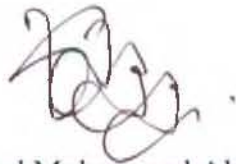
The geographical position of Mymensingh was also unique. The area touched the Indian boarder (with Asam & Goalpara), having Garo Hills adjacent to Indian Boarder. So, the 'Mukti Bahini' could cross the Indian boarder and take training from training camps of 'Mujibnagar Government' with the help of India and easily enter their territory and hit the Pakistan Army through guerrilla attack. The Modhupur Ghar and Bhaoal Ghar of Mymensingh have also helped strengthening the inner force of 'Mukti Bahini'

Thus we see, the activities of the people of Mymensingh have occupied a large portion of the history of the Liberation Movement of Bangladesh. In the time of Independence War of 1971, this area was included in sector-11 & some parts of it included in sector-03. It is also significant to

observe that the fall of Dhaka in December 1971 was accelerated after the fall of sector-11 by the allied force.

The following chapters reveal the curtain of the valiant struggles of the people of Mymensingh during the decades of 1947 to 1971.

I think, this research work is only a glimpse of a vast chapter of struggle of the people of this region. I am looking forward to hearing the footsteps of the next generation researcher whom, I believe, will be able to disclose the actual scene of the episode of Mymensingh, with more authentication and with more dedication.



Sayed Mohammed Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury

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Abbreviations

MNA	: Member of National Assembly
MPA	: Member of Provincial Assembly
EBDO	: Electoral Bodies Disqualification Ordinance
PODO	: Political Bodies Disqualification Ordinance
BOP	: Border Out Post
BD Member:	Basic Democrat Member
AD	: Anno Domini
BC	: Before Christ
GOC	: General Officer Comanding
EPR	: East Pakistan Rifles
PDP	: Pakistan Democratic Party
PPP	: Pakistan Peoples' Party
AL	: Awami League
KSP	: Krishok Srameek Party
NAP	: National Awami Party
FF	: Freedom Fighter
BLF	: Bengal Liberation Fighters (Mujib Bahini)

Chapter-1

Introduction of Mymensingh

Once *Mymensingh* was the biggest district in terms of both area and population in the whole of Indo-Bangladesh sub-continent.¹ She has contributed significantly to the independence movement and the liberation of the country and the soil gave us good political personalities in the past. Thus we need to know the nature of this territory because man is the son of the nature. History has revealed with a keen inspection through ages that natural environment dominates greatly over the nature of human being. We see, the patterns of human behaviour differ from man to man, society to society, country to country. Also we see, what is an appropriate mode of behavior in one culture might prove inappropriate in another culture. This characteristic of human behavior arises due to the impact of natural environment (i.e. geographical area, climate, flora & fauna etc.) over them. Thus we need to observe the geographical characteristics of Mymensingh to work out the reasons and ways of struggle of the people of this area.

Once Mymensingh was referred to the areas of Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Kishorgonj, Netrokona, Sherpur & Tangail.² Unitedly these areas were ruled over a couple of centuries by different powers that created general characteristics among the people of this territory indeed. Once the region held the prestige of being the biggest administrative unit (during British colonial period, Pakistan period and independent Bangladesh period before 1984). Though Tangail was separated from Mymensingh in

¹ Khan, Nurul Islam (ed.), 'Preface', *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca: Bangladesh Govt. Press, 1978, p.43

² a) In 1790 AD East India Company instructed to form a district within the area of 20 Cross each (approx. 40 miles); b) Beng. Reg. 1792, No. X-IX & Reg. XII, 1793

1969,³ we have also examined this area as part and parcel of Greater Mymensingh because the research work covers the duration from 1947 to 1971. Experts assume that the region is produced by the sediment of the upstream flow of Louhitya (The river Brahamaputra) from The Himalayas.⁴ May be the existence of the territory was absent before 4/5 thousand years(except Bhaoal & Madhupur Ghar). Megasthenes, the messenger of Alexander, indicated the region in a map indirectly in his writing '*Indika*'.⁵ However, there was no clear identification of this territory in the map. Later, it was ruled by the king of 'Kamrupa', Morya Emperor Samudra Gupta under Patliputra, Pundrabarwan of Gupta Empire, Pala and Sena Empire. During Sena Empire, some local feudal power arose in 'Jangalbari', Baliajury, Madanpur, Susanga, Tokaynagar, Garhgoripa etc. These people were mostly heir of Austra-Mongalia; Garo, Koch, Hajang.⁶

The attack of Ikhtieruddin Mohammed Bin Bakhtier Khaljee paved the way of Muslim rule in Mymensingh though it came into being much later. Afterwards, the British power gradually grasped the territory after the Battle of Boxer (1765).⁷ In 1947 the territory became the part of East Bengal under Pakistan. Finally, the region got its native ruling after the 9-month of war of independence in 1971.

³ Bengal Gazetteers: Mymensingh, Dacca, 1978, p. 491

⁴ A) *ibid*, p.5 ; b) For elaborate information, see James Furgussion: *On Recent Changes in the Delta of Gange* ; c) Majumdar, Sree Kedarnath (edt.), *Mymensingher Etihaas O Mymensingher Biboran*, Calcutta, 1904 (revised edition, Mymensingh, 1987), p. 31-32

⁵ Sacshse ,F.A., *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Calcutta, 1917, p.1

⁶ a) Majumder ,R.C. (ed), *History of Bengal*, Vol.I, Dacca, 1963, p.220 ; b) Rahim ,Abdur, *Serial and Cultural History of Bengal*, Vol.II , Dacca, 1972, p.184

⁷ Actually the battle of Boxer was a decisive battle which paved the way of about two centuries of British oppressive rule. The British rule first started mainly from Bengal and after the battle of Boxer in 1765 AD

The Mughol Emperor Shah Alam gave the authority of revenue collection from Mymensingh to the East India Company. Then Mymensingh was under the revenue area of 'Dhaka Niabat'. Also see, *Bengal Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978,p.63

History of Name:

The origin of naming of *Mymensingh* is quite mysterious. There is no proved evidence so that we can draw a conclusion in this regard. The main source of the origin of name lies basically on the myth. *Moymonsingher Etihaas O Moymonsingher Bibaron* written by Sree Kedarnath Majumdar; *Moymonsingha Zellar Shahitya O Samskrity* published by Mymensingh Zilla Board & edited by Gholam Samdani Qurayshee have given us some information concerning this naming which was quoted by the following writers. Mr. F.A Sachse, the author of Bengal District Gazetteer (1917) Mymensingh, also took the myth as a source of his information. The myth was as follows:

While emperor Akber of Mughal dynasty was ruling over Delhi, Bengal was being ruled by Nasiruddin Nasrat Shah quite independently. This territory was then a 'Pargana' (revenue area). A pious Muslim 'Momen Shah' was an 'Omrah' of Nasiruddin Nasrat Shah. Perhaps, this 'Momen Shah' named the 'Pargana' as 'Momenshahi' after his name. Thus the territory was recognized as 'Momenshahi Pargana.'⁸

Later, the term 'Momenshahi' was changed to 'Moymonsingh'. Some believe that 'Moymonsingh' came after years of miss-utterance or perverted utterance of 'Momenshahi'. Mr. Gholam Samdani Qurayshee also supposed, "as 'Alapsingh' was derived from 'Alapshahi', 'Moymonsingh' may be derived from 'Momenshahi'."⁹ He also remarked that the term 'Moymonsingh' came into being from the combination of two suffixes of two words. 'Momen' of *Momenshahi* and 'Sing' of *Singnasratgeal* had been combined into Moymonsingh (Momen + Sing = Moymonsing).

⁸ Ibid, p.1

⁹ Ibid, p.1

Also, some other people viewed that the term had been derived after the name of 'Mansingha', the lieutenant of the great Mughal, Akbar.¹⁰

There is also a view that the term 'Momenshahi' had turned into 'Mymensingha' during the transitional period of 18th century when the Muslim power in India began to decline and the English force strengthened gradually.¹¹

There is also no clear evidence how the name of a 'Pargana' became the name of the whole district whereas there were other 'Parganas' significant alike Mymensingh. The most popular saying is: The zamindars of 'Mymensingh Pargana' offered double of the revenue of the revenue given by 'Alapsingh' pargana if the authority would prefer 'Mymensingh' as the name of the whole district.¹² This offer was accepted.

Area & Geographical position:

Mymensingh is situated between 24°-02'-33'' and 25°-25'-56'' north latitude and 89°-39'-00'' and 91°-15'-35'' east longitudes. The area covers 18,943.12 square kilometer.¹³

There are as many as eleven districts of Bangladesh and Assam touching its borders. To the north are the Garo-hills and Goalpara district of Assam; to the west and north-west Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra and Sirajgonj; to the south Manikgonj, Dhaka, Gazipur, Narsingdi; to the south-east Brahmanbaria; to the east Hobigonj and Sunamgonj.¹⁴

¹⁰ a) Chakravarti, Kaliprasanna, 'Moymonsingher Dighdarshan', *Maimansingha Vasi* [Journal], Bhadra, 1344 B.S ; b) Chakravarty, Satish Chandra, 'Paschim Maimansingher Praachin Smriti', *Shaurov*, Magh, 1322, BS.

¹¹ *Bengal Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.63

¹² *Ibid*, p.1

¹³ Mymensingh Districts Census Report, 1951

¹⁴ *Zilla Atlas of Bangladesh, Vol. I*, Geodesec, Dhaka, January 1998, p.11,13,21,27,33,35

Soil formation and rivers

The district is in between the deltaic region of the two great rivers the Jamuna and the Meghna. The soil formation of the greater portion of the district is, however, traceable to the alluvial action of the existing river such as the Brahmaputra, which changes its course almost frequently.¹⁵ The rivers carry and deposit fine sand and silt, which now form the surface soil of the major part of the district. Almost the whole of the territory is a plain land with some exceptions in Madhupur Jungles and Garo hills.¹⁶ The area is also criss-crossed by a number of small rivers (i.e. Bhogai, Neetai, Shameswary, Kongsha, Dhanu, Bonai, Shiri) and some canals.

Climate

So far as we know, the climate of this region is on the whole good. Its weather is moderate. There is neither so hot nor so cold in this area as the area is closely adjacent to the tropic of cancer in the south. As a result, the area experiences sufficient rainfall in the 'monsoon.' The average rainfall in the district is 85''-100''. The yearly average humidity is 79.06% (lowest humidity is in January to February as 75% and highest humidity prevails in July-August as 86%.) The average annual temperature for the district is 78° F.¹⁷

Ethnic Origin of the people of Mymensingh:

The ethnic origin of the people of Mymensingh is not yet out of controversy. The anthropologists are of different views in this regard. On the basis of the available sources, some stated that the majority of the people belong to pre-Aryan stock, with a strong admixture of Tibeto-

¹⁵ See a) *Bengal Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.6-7; b) James Furgussion: *On Recent Changes in the Delta of Gange*

¹⁶ *Bengal Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.3

¹⁷ Master Plan, EPWAPDA, *Hydrology Data*, Vol.I of VII, Dacca 1964

Burman element.¹⁸ The next important element found in the population of this area is Indo-Aryan stock. There are also Turkish & Persian elements. Obviously, the fair complexion, prominent nose and forehead, straight and soft hair, the formation of the skull give us sure indication of the Aryan ancestry of huge population. But we cannot deny that the opposite characteristics are also eminently obvious. Hence, it is no doubt that there has been admixture of various elements. Pure specimen of any racial stock is extremely rare except among the aboriginal tribes.¹⁹

Apart from the majority of the population, there are a number of aboriginal tribal people in the district. They are of Mongoloid origin. The aboriginal tribes of the district are the Garos, Hadis, Hajangs and Koaches. They are ethnically very different from local people and had less impact on the history of the people of Mymensingh.

Population:

The data on population show high growth rate in the area. This is caused for both the biological reason as well as migration from other areas. However, in some year, this continuation had been fluctuated due to some reasons.

A close inspection from the first census in 1872 to the census of 1961 shows us that this area was always comparatively populated than any other area of Bangladesh.²⁰

¹⁸ *Bengal Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.52

¹⁹ *ibid*

²⁰ *Bengal Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.44-46

Year	Total Population	Growth Rate (per 1000)
1872	23,54,794	
1881	30,58,322	+29.9
1891	34,74,925	+13.6
1901	39,22,247	+12.75
1911	45,30,881	+15.5
1921	48,42,467	+6.8
1931	51,35,264	+2.0
1941	60,29,533	+17.4
1951	45,57,939	-
1961	55,32,318	-

From the above table, there is a clear indication of population growth except some fluctuation in the decades of 1931 to 1961.

The population rose higher drastically in the decade of 1931-1941. Again, it came down abnormally in the decade of 1941-1951. This fluctuation arises the question why this change happened.

The experts tried to explain this fluctuation. Firstly, in the decade of 1931-1941, the population of Mymensingh rose abnormally because it was the decade when the whole 'Bharat' was shaking with the movement against British colonial rule. There was also a current of inner conflict between the two major inhabitants of India as a result of 'Divide & Rule' doctrine of British. Thus, the communal harmony between the Hindus and the Muslims became disturbed in some form during these decades. Thus, as a leading territory, this tendency was also prevalent among the people of Greater Mymensingh. The fact was, the politically conscious Hindus in their attempt to raise their communities percentage for capturing power, swelled their population figure as much as they could

and the Muslims too when they understood to vie with them as a defensive measure.²¹

Again, the total population during the census of 1951 came down to 45,57,939 from 60,29,533 of the census of 1941. This decline was due to the following reasons:²²

- A. The impact of World War II (1939-1945)
- B. Hostilities reached in the borders of east Bengal and people had to evacuated from many urban and rural areas;
- C. A devastating famine occurred in 1943;
- D. Epidemic of cholera and small pox;
- E. Partition of Bharat and migration of the people.

In the early 1900's a large number of Muslims mostly landless cultivators migrated to Assam and colonized there. However, after the adoption of a British law prohibiting the settlement of East Bengal Muslim in some areas of Assam, many of the Muslims were displaced from their colonized area and they came back to Mymensingh.²³

Most of the agents of landlords came from the districts of Faridpur, Dhaka and Bakergonj and purchased land locally and settled down. The Shah and Barui merchants from Dhaka were also settled down in the area for many generations. The Muslim cultivators of the area also were descendents of immigrants from other districts. Among them some took the settlement of 'beel' lands and brought their families to settle down. In the west of the district, Hindu laborers came from Muzaffarpur, Durgapur and Chhapra (in India) to find employment at the time of jute harvesting.

²¹ Ibid, p.45

²² Ibid, p.44

²³ *Bengal Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.51

Some of them locally were known as ‘Nunnias’. They settled in the district and became bilingual.

Thus we see, on the eve of the partition in 1947, Mymensingh was populated with a large number of migrated people along with local people.

The partition of 1947 has had a tremendous impact on the socio-cultural environment of Mymensingh. This raised the outbreak of communal sentiment here like other areas of the country.

In the census report of 1951, we see as many as 63,695 persons were reported themselves as non-Bangalee ‘Muhajirs’. This section of people sought work in the urban areas.

Economy:

Economy has always played a strong impact on the peoples’ behavior in every parts of the world. The occupation and economic activities shape the way of people. Thus we need to focus our eyes on the economic condition of the people of Mymensingh.

A close observation on the census reports from 1872 to 1951, we see that the majority of the people of this region were mainly agriculturist due to the alluvial soil and hospitable climate. About 97% percent of the territory is rural and till the census report of 1961, the urbanization was low ebb, only 3.5% of the total population is urban.²⁴

²⁴ *Mymensingh District Census Report, 1961*

The income of the cultivators consists mainly of the production, which is vulnerable to vagaries of nature. Thus their income was uncertain, varied from year to year. Generally, the total assets of a farmer are some primitive agricultural tools and implements and a few household utensils. The farmers became jobless after the harvesting time and thus engaged themselves in other labors. A very small number of them were engaged in skilled or non-skilled labor force and ordinary jobs in offices and industries of the districts.

The above inspection shows us that the Mymensingh always holds the attention of the exotic people as the soil is alluvial and climate is mild. Moreover, the regular flow of the rivers has given the territory an extra advantage of easy communication. This natural characteristic has largely guided the common characteristics of the people. Thus we see the absence of native power in ruling through ages due to the submissive character of the people. This trend was changed slightly at the time of 'Sultani Period'. However, tremendous change in the mass character has been found later which was nourished during the decades of British period.

The following chapters will open the curtain of the mysterious change of general people. How this submissive people became a freedom loving people and did valiant struggle is really a wonder.

Chapter-2

Political and Administrative Development of Mymensingh (From dawn to 1947)

Mymensingh district was established by the British East India Company on 1 May 1787.²⁵ But, prior to that, she has a long history. Indeed, Mymensingh has occupied a significant place in the history of independence movement of Bangladesh but we have little evidence in the primary sources to focus on her early years.

In ancient times, the area was mostly part of Vanga, a non-Aryan territory covering the eastern part of the Gangetic delta. According to some writers it also covered territories east of the old course of the Brahmaputra.²⁶

Geographically, her origin lays on the formation of the Bengal-Delta by the flow of the great rivers the Ganges and the Brahamaputra. But her political fate was always admixed with the political wave of North-Bharat. So far as we know, the historians believe that she was once the part of the kingdom ‘Pragjyotisha’ of ancient India. According to Rai K.L. Barua Bahadur-

“ All these allusion have led Pragiter to conclude that the kingdom known as Pragjyotisha included, at the time of the Mahabharata war, the greater part of modern Assam, together with the Bengal districts of Jalpaiguri, Coach-Bihar, Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Dacca, Tippera, part of Pabna and also probably part of east Nepal.”²⁷

²⁵ Khan, Nurul Islam (ed), *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca :Bangladesh Govt. Press, 1978, p.492

²⁶ Majumdar, Dr. R.C., *History of Ancient Bengal*, First published in 1971, Reprint 2005, Kolkata: Tulshi Prakashani, p. 10

²⁷ Bahadur, Rai K.L. Barua, *Early History of Kamrupa*, Shilong, 1933, p.2

A great source of the assumption of the ancient history of 'Bharat' is *the Mahabharata* and *the Ramayana*. Both the books indicate that 'Kamrupa' stretched out to the Bay of Bengal to the south and its some parts were hilly areas.²⁸ Later we found some information from the writings of Buddhists era. Among them, the Greek writings during Buddhists era gave us some obvious indication.

During Morya Empire, Greek General Selukas, General of Great Alexander, sent his messenger, Megasthenes to the court of Chandra Gupta Morya. Megasthenes (who visited in 302 BC) wrote his experiences of India in his famous writing *Indika*. In the book, he tagged a map of Morya Empire that showed the territory of Mymensingh under the kingdom of Kamrupa. Dr. Delwar Husain demonstrated 'Kamrupa' as the whole of East Bengal, Mithila to the west-north side and Magadha to the southwest side.²⁹

However, to sketch a clear image of the political and administrative development of Mymensingh and to save the reader from the haziness of the early history of Mymensingh, we can discuss in several phases. Thus we divide the time (from ancient time to 1947) into several periods according to the political importance.

Mymensingh in ancient time

In the time of 'Janapod' era Mymensingh was mostly part of Vanga. However, less information was found about this era. Only some myths and religious writings give some information such as *the Ramayana*, *the*

²⁸ Ibid, p.1

²⁹ Husain ,Delwar, *Sherpur er Ethihaas*, Dhaka, p.21

Mahabharata, Greek & Chinese writings i.e. writings of Megasthenes, Wang Chuang, Huen Tsung, Ptolemy etc.

According to these writings and myths, the territory of Mymensingh was under the kingdom of Kamrupa.³⁰ There was no independent political status of this area at that time. Perhaps, the people were under feudal system as like as the adjacent territories. In the 4th century, during the reign of Samudragupta, the region (whole of Kamrupa) was part of the Gupta Empire³¹

After Gupta reign when ‘Mohasamata’ Sasanka was able to include north and west Bengal with his kingdom, the territory of Mymensingh (south & east of Bengal) perhaps remained under Kamrupa as he (Sasanka) did not willingly or was not able to grasp the south and East Bengal under his kingdom, as he himself is a Bangalee.³² One of the main reasons behind not willing to invade the territory by Sasanka was, may be, he was interested to spread his superiority towards the North of Bharat because to be a ruler of North India was the most prestigious matter. According to Dr. Abdul Hannan, Sasanka may be reluctant to impose warfare upon the Bangalees as he himself was a Bangalee king.³³

Before Sasanka, among the rulers of the North Bharat, none but Emperor Samudra Gupta (340-380 AD) was the first who was able to spread his domination over some parts of Mymensingh.³⁴ The Alahabad stone plate of Emperor Samudra Gupta conveys this indication.

³⁰ Majumdar, R.C., *History of Bengal*, Vol.1, Dacca, 1953, p.60

³¹ Mazumdar, Kedarnath, *Moymonshingher Itihas O Moymonshingher Biboron*, Dhaka :Anandadhara Prokasony, 2005, p. 15-24

³² a) *Ibid*, p.60 ; b) Hannan, Dr. Mohammed, *Bangaleer Etihaas*, Dhaka: Anupom Prokasony, 1999, p.58-62

³³ *Bangaleer Etihaas*, p.58-62

³⁴ Bahadur, Rai K.L. Barua, *Early History of Kamrupa*, Shilong, 1933, p.42

After Sasanka (ironically, after the death of emperor Harsabardhwan of the North India), in absence of a strong ruler both in the north and west India, the Bengal was faced with anarchy known as ‘Matsonaya’ for a century. In this century, the domination over the Mymensingh was changed frequently. Some times, it came under the Kamrupa or raised powerful local landlords. After the death of Sasanka, the short-lived emperor Harsabardhwan (606-647 AD) dominated over Mymensingh. Some believe that, actually the territory went under the king Bhaskarbarma of Kamrupa and the latter was dominated by emperor Harsabardhwana.³⁵ The territory remained under Kamrupa till the emergence of Pala Empire.³⁶

Based on the copper plate of Sree Chandra, found in ‘Poschimbhag’ of Moulavibazar, Dr. A. M. Chowdhury remarked that the territory went under Chandra rule during 10th century:

“ . . . This copper plate proves the story of the Chandra ruler as far east as the Sylhet region. In that case, the district of Mymensingh should also have formed a part of Chandra Empire.”³⁷

During the first quarter of the eleventh century, the Chandra Empire was attacked and destroyed by ‘Razendra Chol’ of Chol kingdom and ‘Karna’ of Kolchury kingdom. After the collapse of Chandra kingdom, Mymensingh went under the Pala Empire.

³⁵ Ibid, p.90

³⁶ Chowdhury, A. M. *Dinastic History of Bengal*, Dhaka, p.37

³⁷ Ibid, p.177

Mymensingh under Pala Empire (Approximately 750-770 AD)

Though the Pala Empire was established in 8th century, they were busy with the North & West Bengal. Thus they were late to dominate over this area. According to records, some parts of the Mymensingh area, which were part of Pundravardhana in 7th century AD, were restored to Kamrupa between the 8th and 10th centuries. Subsequently, some small kingdoms, subservient to the Pala Empire were there in area. While Sishu Pala, Harishchandra Pala and Jasho Pala, ruled in the southern portions, Bhag Dutta (who ruled in Kamrupa) established himself in the Madhupur tract.³⁸

So far as we know, as many as three kings of Pala Empire ruled over Mymensingh. They were Bigraha Pala (1058-1075), Mohipala-II (1075-1087) and Rampala (1082-1124).

Taking the opportunity of the weakness of Pala Empire, during the reign of Rampala, Mymensingh came under the Barman kingdom. The Barmans ruled the territory from eleven century to the middle of twelve century.³⁹

Mymensingh during Sena Dynasty (Approximately 1125-1206)

After the collapse of Barman dynasty, the territory went under the rule of Bijoy Sena. But he could not dominate over some parts of Mymensingh and that was captured by Kamrupa.⁴⁰ During the reign of Ballal Sena, the northeast part of Mymensingh was still under the domination of Kamrupa. It was Lakhman Sena (1178-1206), who first made the total

³⁸ Mazumdar, Kedarnath, *Moymonshingher Itihash O Moymonsingher Biboron*, Dhaka: Anandadhara Prokasony, 2005, p. 15-24

³⁹ Majumdar, R.C., *History of Bengal*, Vol.1, Dacca, 1953, p.198

⁴⁰ Ibid, p.217 ; *Early History of Kamrupa*, p.200

territory of Mymensingh come under Sena rule.⁴¹ After the fall of Sena capital by the invasion of Ikhtyaruddin Muhammad Bin Bakhtyar Khiljee, the northeast part of Mymensingh again went under Kamrupa. Preethu (1200-1228), the king of Kamrupa captured the territory. Though the Khiljee rule uprooted the Sena rule, they confined themselves within the area of 'Lakhnauti' for a century. As a result, some local ruler took the opportunity and remained powerful.

Mymensingh under Muslim rule(1206-1765)

Though Bakhtyar Khiljee could not grasp the total territory of Bengal, he paved the way of ending the Hindu rule over Bengal. In the first portion of the fourteenth century, Sultan of Ghour, Shamsuddin Feroz Shah (1301-1322) succeeded to grasp the Mymensingh totally. Thus Muslim rule started here and continued till the battle of Boxer (1765).

“. . . perhaps the greatest event of the reign of Sultan Shamsuddin Firoz (Dehlavi) was the expansion of the Muslim Powers into the modern Mymensingh district.”⁴²

However, up to the sixteenth century, the Muslim rulers were unable to capture the total territory of the district all the time. The control over some parts of the district (perhaps north-east part) was frequently changed. Some times it came under the feudal rule of Koach, Metch, Garo, Hajang community who were chained by the Kamrupa rulers, sometimes the total territory of Mymensingh went under the Muslim rule.⁴³

⁴¹ Majumdar ,R.C., *History of Bengal*, Vil.1, p.220

⁴² Sarkar,J.N. *History of Bengal*, Vol.II, Dacca, 1972, p.79

⁴³ Bahadur ,K.L. Barua,*Early History of Kamrupa*, p.241

After Shamsuddin Firuz Shah, his son Giasuddin Bahadur Shah ascended on the throne of Sonargaon in 1322 and all the feudal rulers of Mymensingh bowed to him. Thus, total Mymensingh came under his control. Then as a representative of Tughlak dynasty of Delhi, Bahram Khan took the authority of Sonargaon but he could not establish his rule over total territory of Mymensingh and the north portion of this district was ruled by the 'Boro Bhuiyan' by the blessing of the king of Kamrupa.

Bahram Khan was killed by his weapon bearer Fakhruddin. Fakhruddin took the name of 'Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah', ascended on the throne of Sonargaon and initiated an independent rule of Bengal in 1338 ignoring the 'Delhi Sultanat'. The independent rule lasted till 1538.

After Fakhruddin, Shamsuddin Illias Shah inaugurated 'Illias Shahi dynasty' in 1353. He was a powerful ruler. But his successors were politically unsound. As a result, for sometime, the Muslim rule in Bengal became stuck off. Raja Ganesh, a powerful Hindu nobility of Illias Shahi dynasty and the zamindar of 'Vaturia' took the opportunity of the weakness of Shahabuddin Byazid Shah and grasped the power of Ghaor in 1415. Thus started a short-term Hindu rule over the territory within the five centuries of Muslim rule in Indian sub-continent. However, his reign did not last long. Raja Ganes and his son 'Jadu' (who was turned into Muslim and took the name, Jalal Uddin Muhammad Jadu) ruled over the area from 1415-1435).⁴⁴ In 1437, the second phase of Illias Shahi rule started when Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud ascended the throne of Gour. However, some parts of Mymensingh remained under Kamrupa this

⁴⁴ Rahim, Dr. A. & Others, *Bangladesher Etihaas*, Dhaka: Nouroj Kitabistan, 1992, p.205; also see Gholam Hossain Salim: *Riaj Us Salatin*

time. His successors ruled over this district till 1486-1487. Then Bengal as well as the Mymensingh went under slave rule for sometime.

As many as four slave Sultans ruled in this period (1486/87-1493). One of the major importances of this period is that, the north part of Mymensingh i.e. Sherpur came under the Muslim rule this time.⁴⁵

Later Alauddin Husen Shah (1493-1519) grasped the throne of Gour after the killing of anarchist slave sultan Shamsuddin Mujaffar Shah and established 'Husen Shahi Dynasty'. This era is considered as the 'golden age' of sultani period. Husen Shah sent his armed forces against Kamrupa. As a result, the north part of Mymensingh came under his control.⁴⁶ He also turned his attention to the welfare of the general people. Hence, some people considered him as great as emperor Akbar of Delhi.⁴⁷ The administrative development and sound revenue system were the most remarkable achievement of his reign.⁴⁸ However, the last sultan of 'Husen Shahi era', sultan Gias uddin Mahmood Shah was not strong enough to prevent the koach king Bishaw Sing. The latter regained his power in the north part of Mymensingh.⁴⁹ Gias Uddin was unable to prevent not only the Koaches but also was defeated by the Pathan Sultan of Delhi, Emperor Sher Shah(1538 AD).⁵⁰ Thus ended the two centuries of independent sultanat of Bengal. Mymensingh went under the direct domination of Sher Shah reign of Delhi after the death of sultan Giasuddin Mahmood Shah. Though Sher Shah reigned only for five

⁴⁵ Sarkar ,J.N. (ed.), *History of Bengal*, Vol. II, Dhaka, 1972, p.139

⁴⁶ Khan ,Nurul Islam (ed.), *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca: Bangladesh Govt. Press, 1978, p.56

⁴⁷ Mukhopadhyay ,Sukhomoy, *Banglar Etihasser Dusho Bochhor: Sadhin Sultander Amal*, p.180-182

⁴⁸ Sachse ,F.A., *Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operation in the District of Mymensingh, 1908-1919*, Kolkata, 1917, p.32

⁴⁹ Khan,Nurul Islam (ed.), *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh* , Dacca: Bangladesh Govt. Press, 1978, p.56-57

⁵⁰ Rahim ,Dr. A. & Others, *Bangladesher Etihass*, Dhaka : Nouroj Kitabistan, 1992, p.205

years, he managed to establish a strong administration in the district. He divided Mymensingh into some 'Sarkars' and 'Parganas.'⁵¹

During the reign of Islam Shah (1535-1553), son of Emperor Sher Shah, a zamindar named Sulaiman Khan occupied the northern portion of Mymensingh and started independent zamindari rule over the territory. He was actually a 'Rajput' named Kalidas Gojdani. Later he embraced Islam and took the name, Sulaiman Khan. Once he got appointed in the revenue department of Husainshahi dynasty and gradually raised his power. He managed to marry the daughter of Sultan Giasuddin Mahmood Shah. After the fall of Husainshahi dynasty, he came to Mymensingh and established an independent rule.⁵² Pathan emperor Islam Shah sent a military force under Taj Khan & Daria Khan against him. They defeated him and Sulaiman Khan bowed down his head to Pathan emperor. But Sulaiman Khan was ambitious, shrewdly trying to recapture his power. Keeping silence for some days, he again revolted against the Pathans. This time, Taj Khan & Daria Khan gave no chance, advanced against him and arrested him shrewdly and killed him. His two sons, Isha & Ismail were sold to a Turkish trader. This Isha later became the leader of Boro Bhuiyans in Bengal.⁵³

After the death of emperor Islam Shah of Delhi, Mymensingh was occupied by Sur Dynasty of Gour. Again the northern part of the district went under Kamrupa.⁵⁴

Later Kor Rani Dynasty of Bengal demolished the Koach domination over Mymensingh. Sulaiman Kor Rani sent a powerful Muslim force

⁵¹ *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.57

⁵² Sarkar, J.N. (ed.), *History of Bengal*, Vol. II, Dhaka, 1972, p.177

⁵³ *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.57

⁵⁴ Bahadur, Rai K.L. Barua, *Early History of Kamrupa*, Shilong, 1933, p.301

under great warrior General 'Kalapahar' against so-called Koach general 'Sukladhos' or 'Chila Roy', brother of koach king Rajnarayan. General Kalapahar demolished all prides of the Koaches and advanced upto Tejpur of Kamrupa.⁵⁵

As we stated before, Isa the son of the daughter-in-law of sultan Giasuddin Mahmood Shah was sold to a Turkish trader. By the charity of Taj Khan Kor Rani, Isa escaped from the slavery and started a zamindary under the Kor rani dynasty in Bengal. With sincerity and hard labor as well as intelligence and bravery, Isa became a powerful zamindar of Sonargaon. Later he grasped the 'Janglebary fortresses of Kishorgonj from a feudal Koach zamindar. Within 1584, he captured the whole of west Sylhet, entire Tripura, east Dhaka & Mymensingh.⁵⁶ Thus he became a powerful landlord. He and his successors held the supremacy over Mymensingh till the 1605 when emperor Jahangir of Delhi ascended the throne. Though the Mughal supremacy was established over Bangla in July, 1576, Isa Khan & his successors were undefeated. They ruled their territory like small independent kingdoms.

During the domination of Musa Khan, son of Isa Khan, the most powerful zamindar in Bengal, some parts of north of Mymensingh (i.e. in Susung) went under Raghu Dev of Kamrupa. On the other hand, east of the river Brahmaputra was ruled by Khawaja Osman and made his center at 'Bokainagar'.

Khawaja Osman was later defeated by Subadar Islam Khan in 1611. Thus, Mymensingh went under Mughal rule completely.⁵⁷ During the rule of Mughal 'Subadars' & independent Nababs, Mymensingh was under Mughal administration.

⁵⁵ *ibid*, p.302

⁵⁶ Rahim, Abdur, *Serial and Cultural History of Bengal*, Vol.1, p.199

⁵⁷ *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.61

Mymensingh under British rule(1765-1947)

After the tragic defeat of Subadar Meer Kashem in Boxer (1765), Bengal as well as Mymensingh went under British East India Company. East India Company initially imposed diarchy system. Company took the authority of revenue administration but almost entire civil administration remained under the Nabab of Dhaka. So Nabab got powerless responsibility whereas company took the opportunity of practicing power without responsibility.

Company did not take any reform rather they left the authority of revenue collection on the local zamindars or Nababs. It seemed the East India Company aimed at collecting as much revenue as possible.

Initially, the revenue administration of Jamalpur was under Rani Bhawani of Natore. The rest of the revenue area of Mymensingh was under the Nabab of Dhaka.

In 1786 the East India Company made the whole Mymensingh including Tangail a separate revenue unit under Mr. H. Barooz. 1st May of the following year, the whole Mymensingh was declared as a District. The first district collector of Mymensingh was Mr. W. Rattan.⁵⁸

One of the significant differences between the British reign and other rulers is that the British never got mixed with the native people. They just used their political power as a weapon of suction and their trend was to grasp wealth as much as possible within the shortest possible time. As a result, they were indifferent about the welfare of the mass-people whereas we saw, other rulers were aware of the welfare of their subject. No doubt,

⁵⁸ *ibid*, p.63

they also imposed tax over their tenants but at the same time, they encouraged developing the agriculture, trade and commerce as well. Hence, during the British period, the condition of the general people became so worse that some of them were compelled to give up cultivation and became landless wanderers.

In the past, we saw the rebellion occurred against the ruling power by the powerful zamindars or by the nobility. The general people had no interest on political intervention. General people used to take the change of a ruling power as a natural event. They were always obedient to the existing rulers and the rulers were also careful for the welfare of their subjects as no subject was regarded as a threat to them. Conflicts were prevalent only among the nobilities.

But in British period, we see, a different trend. The British were so indifferent about the condition of their subjects that a sense of nationalism against the British arose among the general people gradually.

After the defeat of the combined alliance of the Mughals against the British East India Company (Boxer, in 1965), as many as two million military people became jobless.⁵⁹ The company Government ought to take necessary steps for the livelihood of these soldiers. But they did not follow any procedure rather they imposed high revenue target on the collectors. This kind of cruel action, demolished thousands of solvent families and they became beggars. Statistics show that as a result of the diarchy system as many as ten million people among 30 million died in 1770 in Bengal for starvation.

⁵⁹ Malley ,L.S.S.O, *History of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa under British Rule*, p.907

To escape from the British colonial cruel rule, some movements arose from the very beginning. One of the most remarkable initial rebellions was 'Fakirs & Sannyassi' rebellion. William Hunter addressed this rebellion as 'The Revolt of Cultivators.'⁶⁰

The 'Fakirs & Sannyassi' rebellion occurred in Bengal from 1763-1787. But in Mymensingh, it started during the rule of Warren Hastings. In 1776 a valiant battle occurred between 'Fakirs & Sannyassi' and the British force. The English captain Edward was defeated and killed though the 'Fakirs & Sannyassi' paid heavy toll of lives. In 1781, again the 'Fakirs & Sannyassis' started their activities from the Madhupur Jungle. As a result, anarchism arose in Mymensingh.⁶¹ The zamindars of Mymensingh sought help of British force. The Company Government sent an army under General Henry Lodge. General Henry Lodge set up a strong camp at Begunbari in 1782. He attacked 'Fakirs & Sannyassi' all on a sudden at 'Cherkayath'. Defeated by the company soldiers the raiders took shelter in the Jungle of Madhupur.

In 1783 Fakir Majnu Shah again entered Mymensingh with his one thousand followers but could not succeed against the company soldiers and was compelled to leave Mymensingh.⁶² In 1784 several battles took place between the two forces in different places of Mymensingh. But none got the final victory. The rebellion finally was demolished by Lord Cornwallis.

At the same period, Garos & Hajangs of the northern part of Mymensingh also revolted against the Hindu zamindars. They revolted under the

⁶⁰ Hunter, W.W., *Annals of Rural Bengal*

⁶¹ *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.65

⁶² Roy, Suprakas, *Bharoter Krishok Bidroho O Gonotantrik Sangram*, Calcutta, 1972, p.3

leadership of 'Sampratee' & 'Tipu Paagla'. This rebellion also did not come out victorious.⁶³

One of the main reasons behind the 'Fakirs & Sannyassi' rebellion and the rebellion of Tribal people was the 'Permanent Settlement' and the suppression of zamindars.

In the nineteenth century, the wave of 'Faraijee Movement' and 'Tariqot-e- Muhammadia' movement also hit the district. Primarily it was actually a religious movement but later it became a strong rebellion against the suppressive zamindars and 'Neelkars.' The people of this district supported the two movements and gave financial help. Some also took part with 'Faraijee' Zeehad.

The 'Sepoy Mutiny' of 1857 was another remarkable incident in the history of British India. There is no evidence about the participation of the people of this district in the mutiny but actions against Muslims aftermath of the mutiny by the British Government made the people of Mymensingh shocked. There arose strong political awareness among the people of Mymensingh, which led them to a systematic movement.

The partition of Bengal in 1905 had led the people of this district to the revolutionary activities. In the promulgation of the partition, Mymensingh was included with 'East Bengal & Assam' province. The Muslims of this district welcomed the partition but the Hindu zamindars got shocked and made a furious movement. As a result, the Government had to change the decision (in 1910). This declaration of British Government destroyed the communal harmony between Hindu and Muslim community in

⁶³ *Bengal District Gazetteers: Mymensingh*, Dacca, 1978, p.67

Mymensingh as well as other territories of Bangladesh. They became politically conscious and took part in all the movements of the twentieth century. As we have seen, majority of the inhabitants of this district are Muslims, they united under Muslim League and fought for 'Pakistan'. In fact, from 1937 to 1947, the Muslims of this territory fought valiantly for 'Pakistan'.

In August 14, 1947, Pakistan got independent from The British colonial rule and Mymensingh including Tangail was totally added to Pakistan as per 'Red Cliff Commission'.

As a geographical area, major portion of Mymensingh was always ruled by the rulers of the north-east India or Bengal. However, its north part was frequently dominated by Kamrupa or by powerful local zamindars. This trend changed after the appearance of the British. Before the British, the rulers frequently were changed but general people were almost in the same track of living i.e. mostly engaged in cultivation. But the British revenue system and Permanent settlement system demolished the age old carefree simple life of the general people. In the British period, also the communal harmony of Hindu-Muslim community was disturbed. The nationalism among the people arose as the British rulers never tried to mix with the native people like other rulers i.e. the Pathans, the Afgans, the Mughals etc.

The political and administrative development of Mymensingh as stated in this chapter will help the reader to realize the trend of the people discussed in the following chapters.

Chapter-03

Emergence of Bangalee Nationalism: Language Movement

What is Nationalism:

Nationalism is a modern concept. It is actually a mental unity. This mental unity can be produced for several reasons. When the people of different classes are ruled under the same authority through ages there may raise nationalism among the people. Similarly, if the ruling is not sound, if it is based on suction, there may raise a strong wall of dissatisfaction between the ruled and the rulers. This often makes the spirit of nationalism among the suppressed. The emergence of nationalism among the people of Mymensingh derived from the ‘unity of suppressed.’

According to J.H.Hayes, “Nationalism consists of modern emotional fusion and exaggeration of two very old phenomena- nationality and patriotism.”⁶⁴ Hans Kohn said, “Nationalism is first and foremost a state of mind, an act of consciousness.”⁶⁵ According to Professor Snyder, “Nationalism is a product of political, economic, social and intellectual factors at certain stage in history, is a condition of mind, feeling or sentiment of a group of people living in a well defined geographical area.”⁶⁶ Professor Padelford & Professor Lincoln gave another important definition. According to them, “Nationalism is an amalgam of two elements: an ideology embroidered about the idea of nationality and the political institutionalization of that ideology into national stage.”⁶⁷

⁶⁴ Hayes ,J.H., *Essays on Nationalism*, p.6

⁶⁵ Kohn ,Hans, *The Idea of Nationalism*, p. 10

⁶⁶ Snyder ,L.L., *The Meaning of Nationalism*, p.197

⁶⁷ Padelford ,N.J. and Lincoln,*The Dynamics of International Politics*, p.145

How Nationalism arose among the people of Mymensingh

As we see, in the previous chapter, the people of Mymensingh were ruled around the same territory through ages. Before the British colonial rule, they were indifferent about the change of rulers as they could lead their simple life. They had to pay tribute to the rulers and the rulers used to do something for the welfare of their subject. Ethnically, the people were submissive, therefore, satisfied with the simple life. The age-old social class system and religious belief had made the people having conservative outlook. But in the British period, this social structure had been broken down. European education, circulation of newspaper gradually made them conscious about their rights. The suppression of white people over the native people had made a sense of mental unity among the people of Mymensingh. The pride of the rulers made the subservient to be united. The partition of Bengal in 1905 ushered them to get immense opportunity to change their fate. But in 1911 when the British authority changed their decision, the people of this region got disheartened. They realized, without being united they could not be able to change their lot. As a result, they gathered under Indian National Congress and Muslim League. Later the power of Muslim League as a political organization strengthened here, as the majority of the people were Muslim. Jinnah's 'Two Nations' theory got popularity as the leaders of Muslim League sketched a solvent economy, certainty of job facilities, education, and equal participation in the administration before the general people. Also, the Muslim tenants dreamt of escaping from the suppression of Kolkata-based zamindars. As a result, they fought for achieving 'Pakistan' and achieved it.

Indeed, the two parts of Pakistan state were unmatched almost in all respects. The distance between the two parts was almost 1200 miles. The

creed & culture, history & heritage, food and clothing, language – all were different. Only religion was the common characteristic. In this situation, to make a successful state, the rulers of the Pakistan should have paid attention to make a reasonable environment, to ensure proper distribution of power, wealth and facilities to all the citizens of both parts of the state so that no dissatisfaction or suspicion can arise. But they were indifferent about the rights of the Bangalees; rather they ignored the contribution of the Bangalees in achieving 'Pakistan'. The founder of Pakistan Mohammed Ali Jinnah, once remarked, "I have won Pakistan with the help of my secretary and my typewriter."⁶⁸ This kind of sentiment paved the way of indiscipline rather making united stand. From the very beginning of the emergence of Pakistan, the east part was faced with discrimination imposed by the west part though the East held the majority.

After achieving 'Pakistan', the capital was set up in Karachi. The army, naval & air force head quarters were also set up in West Pakistan. Not only that, the state bank of Pakistan as well as all other important government offices were set up in west Pakistan.⁶⁹

After the partition of Bharat, a central government was formed in Pakistan according to the constitution of 1935. In the first cabinet of central Government of Pakistan, only two out of ten members were Bangalees. On the other hand, when East Pakistan provincial Government was formed in August 14, 1947, all the members of Sohrawardy cabinet, who were working till August 13, 1947, were ignored. Even, A.K. Fazlul Huq was ignored in the cabinet.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ Saiyid ,M.S.,*The Sound of Fury, A political Study of M.A. Jinnah*, New Delhi: Document Press, twenty first edition, 1986, p. 347

⁶⁹ Hannan ,Dr. Mohammad, *Bangaleer Eitihaas*, Dhaka : Anupom Prakasony, 1999, p.139

⁷⁰ Ahmed ,Siraj Uddin, *Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy*, Dhaka :Bhaskar Prakasony, 1996, p.179

All these activities proved the evil desire of West Pakistan and the people of East Pakistan became shocked. Being the initial stage, people of East Pakistan kept patient.

Initially, the status of East Pakistan within the Pakistan state was yet to determine. That is why the general people of East Pakistan took time to realize the blueprint of the West Pakistan rulers. Only the intellectuals and the students realized the conspiracy of West Pakistani rulers from the beginning. No sooner had West Pakistan rulers hit on the language than the Bangalee intellectuals got a signal of blueprint and protested.

In fact, the hit on the language was the first initiative of the West Pakistan rulers that broke the spirit of 'Muslim Nationalism.' Thus the Bangalee people realized the 'Two Nations' theory was a bluff. It became clear to them that they were going to be a second class citizen within the Pakistan state in the name of 'Muslim Nationalism'. The activities of West Pakistan rulers proved that they treated the Bangalee people subservient to them. As a result a sense of 'unity of suppressed' arose among them which led them to form a strong 'Bangalee Nationalism.' The formation of the sense derived from the Language Movement. In fact, the Language Movement was the mother of all movements of the Bangalee people in Pakistan period.

It is interesting to note that the protest of ignoring 'Bangla' as a state language of Pakistan spread furiously among the mass people of Mymensingh as promptly as Dhaka. Though some political leaders of Mymensingh tried to keep the language movement in Mymensingh non-violent in nature, people were aggressive. Mr. Abul Monsur Ahmend wrote, "... I felt I should control the language movement in Mymensingh non-violent. Thus I formed a 3-members 'Committee of Action'

including Mr. Hashimuddin (Secretary, Awami Muslim League, Mymensingh District), Syed Badruddin Hossain (Vice-Principal, Anand Mohon College, Mymensingh) and myself. A party order issued that no one would take any step without the permission of this committee. The authority arrested two members of this committee along with other 27 students including my son. The people gathered at the court yard and tried to seize it. The authority sought my help to keep peace. I urged the people, assured them that the arrested people will be released. I delivered speeches with megaphone to them and at one point they were to be calm. But when the news of student killing in Dhaka and arresting in Mymensingh spread around the remote localities, people rushed to the main town with thousands. . .”⁷¹

The Language Movement has two phases: a) 1947-19 48 phase;

b) 1952-1956 phase.

In the first phase, the movement was limited to the intellectual level. Participation of mass people was less obvious in this period. As an initial period of Pakistan, people were still a blind supporter of Muslim League. So they were quite reluctant to go against the decision of Muslim League. In this phase, any protest against Muslim League was considered as the betrayal to the nation and the activists against Muslim League was treated as the agent of India. It is a matter of sorrow that the Bangalee representatives of Muslim League were from elite class and they were Urdu speaking people. Despite being Bangalee, they were indifferent about the interest of the welfare of their motherland rather they were busy with their power and position.

⁷¹ Ahmed, Abul Monsur, *Amar Dekha Rajnitir Ponchus Bochor*, Dhaka : Nouroj Kitabistan, Banglabazar, July 1968, p.253

On the other hand, the progressive Bangalee leaders were concerned about the 'Lingua Franca' from the very beginning. In September 1947 'Tamaddun Majlis' was established under the leadership of Principal Abul Kashem. Dr. Muhammed Shahidullah, A. K. Nurul Huq and some other intellectuals were writing relentlessly about the importance of 'Bangla' as a 'Lingua Franca.' In October 1947 'Rastra Bhasa Songram Parisod' was established. Nurul Haq Bhuiyan was selected as the convener of the parisod.

On November 27, 1947 an education conference was held in Karachi, the capital of Pakistan. In the conference two Bangalee representatives Health Minister Mr. Habibullah Bahar and Central Education Minister Mr. Fazlur Rahman joined from Dhaka. In the conference a unanimous decision was passed that 'Urdu shall be the state language of Pakistan.' 'Morning News' in Dhaka published the news on 6 December. In protest of the decision taken in the Education Conference in Karachi, a meeting presided by Principal Abul Kashem (Chief of Tamuddun Majlis) was held in Dhaka. It was the first meeting in demand of 'Bangla' as a state language. A large number of students of Dhaka University, Dhaka Intermediate College, Jagannath Intermediate College and other educational institutions joined the meeting. Professor Munir Chowdhury, Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, Kallayan Das Gupta, A.K.M. Ahsan and others deliver speeches in the meeting.

After the meeting a procession went to the secretariat. The student leaders met agriculture Minister Mr. Afzal, Nurul Amin & Hamidul Huq Chowdhury. Later they went to Khwaja Nazim Uddin, the Prime Minister. At first Prime Minister pretended to be sick. But when the students became furious, he agreed to meet the representatives of the

students. The students compelled him to give a written commitment that he would try utmost to establish 'Bangla' as a state language of Pakistan. In mid-January 1948 'Rastra Bhasa Songram Parisod' organized a joint convention in Dhaka University premise. In the convention, a proposal was approved that from the Primary level to intermediate level, the medium of education would be Bangla. The convention demanded this proposal should be made effective after the 1950-1951 sessions.

In February 23, 1948 at the Pakistan National Assembly, the amendment drawn by Dhirendranath Datt to insert 'Bangla' along with English and Urdu as a state language was rejected. Dhirendranath Datt urged in his amendment bill that Bangalees were the majority of the total population of Pakistan. So, Bangla should also be the state language along with English & Urdu. But the Prime Minister of then Pakistan Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan said, "..... Pakistan has been created because of the demand of the a hundred million Muslims in this sub-continent and the language of a hundred million Muslim is Urdu.....Pakistan is a Muslim state and it must have its lingua franca the language of the Muslim nation." In fact it was not true. Urdu was spoken only by the 7% people of Pakistan. Whereas Bangla was the mother tongue of 56% people of Pakistan.

In reaction, all the educational institutions in Dhaka observed strike. On 29th February, a strike was observed around the country. The Government took the hard line and police charged the strikers of 29th February. An unknown number of strikers were arrested. March 2, 'Rastra Bhasa Songram Parisod' was reorganized for the second time at Fazlul Huq Hall of Dhaka University. Shamsul Hoque was made convener of this parisod. At least two members of different organization were included the parisod. The parisad call upon Hartal on 11 March around the country. 5 & 6

March, the parisod met together to fix & distribute responsibilities for the success of the Hartal on 11 March. The movement gradually became furious. At last Khwaja Nazim Uddin was compelled to sit on a discussion with the agitating student leaders. He agreed with the 8-points of the agitating leaders. But in reality he was just pretending with them to ensure cool environment before the visit of Jinnah at Dhaka. 21 March at Race Course Maydan, Jinnah declared, "Urdu shall be the state language of Pakistan." People attended the meeting protested the declaration on the instance. In March 24, a reception meeting was held in Curzon Hall of Dhaka University. In the meeting, Jinnah repeated 'Urdu and only Urdu shall be the state language of Pakistan.' The students presently protested the declaration by saying 'No, No'. After this incident, the Language Movement holds the attention of total nation.

After the death of Jinnah, the movement became slow due to the vacuum in the national politics in Pakistan.

The Language Movement became turmoil again when Khwaja Nazim Uddin declared Urdu as the state language of Pakistan at a meeting presided by Nurul Amin at Paltan Maydan on January 26, 1952. The students rejected the evil statement. 'Rastra Bhasa Songram Parisod' immediately called for a student-strike and a meeting on January 30. After the strike, a meeting presided by Khaleque Nauaj Khan decided to hold strike at Dhaka and a Hartal around the country. In January 31, a meeting presided by Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was held at Moktar Bar Library of in Dhaka. In the meeting 40 members of 'Sarbadalio Rastra Bhasa Songram Parisod' was made. Mr. Kazi Gholam Mahbub was elected convener. The parisod took preparation for the Hartal of 21 February. 20th February was budget session. All on a sudden,

the Government imposed section 144 on 20 February in Dhaka for a month. The student leaders decided to break section 144 and gather at Dhaka university premise. It was Thursday, 21 February 1952. At dawn police cordoned the whole campus of Dhaka University. The student leaders stayed at Dhaka University area from the night before 21 February. They entered the campus in a group of two. Gradually the gathering became vast concourse of people. A meeting started at 11 in the morning under the Banyan tree of Dhaka University. The student leaders took the decision to overthrow section 144. They decided to break the section 144 with groups containing 2 members each. The first group was led by Habibur Rahman Shelly (former Chief Advisor of the caretaker Government), student of the Department of History, University of Dhaka. At first police arrested some of the students. But at a moment police fired on the procession of the students. Abul Barkat, Rafiq Uddin, Abdul Zabbar became spot dead. Abdus Salam injured by the bullet and later died in the hospital. As a result of the brutal killing of the students at Dhaka, a flame of protest spread through the erstwhile East Pakistan.

Language Movement in Mymensingh District:⁷²

The people of Mymensingh district were always politically conscious. During the early years, they experienced numerous movements against British colonial rule. From the partition of Bengal (1905) to the partition of Bharat (1947), she played an important role. Same thing was seen during the Language Movement of East Pakistan. As an adjacent district

⁷² The information of this chapter was collected mainly from Abu Mohammed Delwar Hossain (ed): *Bhasa Andoloner Ancholique Etihaas*, Bangla Academy, Dhaka, 2000. The information was revised by the interviews of some concerned persons. *Bangla Pedia* contains some district-wise information in this regard. *Bhasa Andoloner Etihaas* written by Basir Al Helal is the most elaborate work in this field. A bibliography has also given at the end of this chapter from where valuable information was collected. See also, Brnik, M.A., *Rastrabhasa Andoloner Etihas: ghotonaprabah O Prekhit Bishleshon*, Dhaka : A H Development Publishing House, 2005, p. 174; see interview 1-10 (appendix-1)

of Dhaka, Mymensingh always got in touch with the political wave of national movement.

Once Mymensingh was a strong depot of Muslim League. It was the hometown of some powerful national leaders. It was the hometown of Nurul Amin, Monaem Khan, Abul Mansur Ahmed etc. However, after the achievement of Pakistan, Muslim League gradually lost her prestige yielding to Awami Muslim League due to the suppressive rule.

So far as known, the progressive minded people of this district were aware of the importance of Bangla as a 'Lingua Franca' from the very beginning. In December 1947, after the protest of Urdu in Dhaka, a meeting was held on 24th December at Bipin Park presided over by Mr. Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan. The meeting was arranged by 'Sammilito Chhatra Parisod.' In the meeting, the speakers demanded 'Bangla as a state language of East Pakistan.' Altaf Uddin Talukdar, Paanu Majumdar, Kanu Roy, Kanu Majumdar and Moulavi Kaykobad also delivered speeches in the meeting.

In March 1948, several meetings were held in the town to make people aware of the movement. In these days, apart from the students and political leaders, the general people also opined on the point of 'Bangla' as the state language of Pakistan.

On March 02, 1948: Renaissance Society organized a meeting at the Bipin Park. The Secretary of the sadar sub-division Muslim League Mr. A.H. Fakruddin presided over the meeting. In the meeting, Moazzem Hossain Khan, Amar Roy, Abdur Rahman, Debesh Bhattacharya, M.A. Sultan and Altaf Talukdar gave speeches. All of them demanded the Bangladesh as the state language.

On March 11, 1948: A hartal was observed in the town. A procession rounded the town and ended in Bipin Park. All the shops were closed and the vehicles did not move.

On March 14, 1948: A meeting presided over by Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan was held in the same place. Sher e Bangla Fazlul Haq delivered speeches in the meeting.⁷³

On March 25, 1948: A meeting was held at Bipin Park. Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan presided over this meeting. He and Mr. Shamsul Huq expressed their experience to the people about the Paltan meeting of Jinnah. A procession took out after the meeting. But the police and some other Muslim League activists attacked the meeting. Police charged tear shell. As a result, Shamsul Haq, Monoranjan Dhar, Mozammel Huq and some other injured. In protest of the attack, a general strike was called for the next March 26. It was successful.

The Language Movement arose in the district as soon as the brutal killing of the students in Dhaka in February 21, 1952. Through the phones of the telephone office and from the passengers of mail train, people collected the news of Dhaka.⁷⁴

On February 22, 1952: A meeting was held in the town Hall in protest of the firing of the police on the students. In the meeting with 256 members 'Sarbodolio Sangram Parisod' was formed.

On February 23rd, 1952: A general strike was observed in the town. All the educational institutions, shops were closed. Another proposal was

⁷³ Bhoumik ,Rita (ed.), *Purba Banglar Bhasa Andolonar Dalilpatra (1948-52)*, Dhaka: Mira Prakasoni, Ekushe Granthamela, 2005, p.33

⁷⁴ *ibid*, p.102

passed in a meeting that a procession would round the town three times every day. This program aimed at making the general people aware of the Language Movement. The Sangram Parisod urged the general people for raising funds for the assistance of movement. People of all walks of life responded spontaneously.

On February 24, 1952: A hartal was observed in the town. All the heads of the educational institutions decided in a meeting to remain close the institutions for further three days.⁷⁵

On February 26, 1952: A complete successful hartal was observed in the town. At noon, a meeting was held in the Bipin Park which was presided over by Abul Mansur Ahmed. As many as 30 thousand people joined the meeting. People of remote areas joined the meeting on foot or by train. This meeting proved that the general people of Mymensingh were very much conscious about their political stand. In the meeting, resignation of assembly members was demanded due to the inability of raising voice for Bangla as the state Language of East Pakistan. People also gave slogans against Nurul Amin in the meeting.⁷⁶

After the brutal killing of the students in Dhaka, flame of protests spread also in the other thanas of the districts.

On 22 February the students of Darirampur High School, Treasal observed a hartal. A meeting also was held on the day at the Eidgah Maidan which was presided over by Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed.

⁷⁵ *ibid*, p.121

⁷⁶ *ibid*, p.113

On February 24, the students of 'Chandipasha High School took out a large procession. At 5 0' clock of the same day a public meeting was held at 'Dac-banglo.' Approximately five thousand people gathered in the meeting.

On February 26, 1952 a public meeting was held at 'Lauhati High School' which was presided over by Mr. Abdur Rahman Khan. In Ishwargonj and Fulbari, two large meeting were held on the same day.

On February 27, a hartal was observed at Haluaghat.

After the brutal killing of students in Dhaka, Prime Minister Nurul Amin passed 'Bangla' as the state language of East Pakistan in the legislative assembly on February 23, 1952. Next day he threatened by saying, "The Government does not have any desire to suppress the movement of 'Bangla' as a state language. But the Government was compelled to take proper actions against those who were making anarchy in the name of Language Movement. After this declaration, in Mymensingh, police issued warrant against twenty three prominent leaders of the district. Everybody hid. As many as twenty-two of them were captured by the police. On February 28 Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan of 'Rastra Bhasa Sangram Parisod' was arrested. As a result, spontaneous mass-movement became slow. Though the movement became slow as a result of the government conspiracy and in absence of the prominent leaders of the district, the spirit arose in the mind of the general people became prevalent. Language Movement was, in fact, the mother of the following movements occurred in Bangladesh. It has jerked the whole Mymensingh. The brutal killing of the students aroused national spirit against the Pakistani rulers.

A brief feature of discrimination:

The term 'Nationalism' arose and deepened among the Bengalee people due to the discrimination imposed up on them during the entire period of Pakistan era. It is important to note that Bangalee people joined the 'Pakistan Movement' in the hope of having a suction-free life with the opportunity of reshaping their fate. However, it is a matter of grief, after the emergence of Pakistan; they saw that the partition brought no change to their life rather they were becoming confined to everlasting tyranny in the name of religious bond. The Pakistani rulers imposed discrimination up on the Bengalee people in all spheres of life. Such as:

Discrimination in Political arena

Although East Pakistan accounted for a majority of the country's population,⁷⁷ political power remained firmly in the hands of West Pakistanis, specifically the Punjabis. Since a straightforward system of representation based on population had concentrated political power in East Pakistan, the West Pakistani establishment came up with the "One Unit" scheme, where all of West Pakistan was considered one province. This was solely to counterbalance the East wing's votes. Ironically, after the East broke away to form Bangladesh, the Punjab province insisted that politics in West Pakistan now be decided on the basis of a straightforward vote, since Punjabis were more numerous than the other groups, such as Sindhis, Pashtuns, or Balochs.

After the assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan's first prime minister, in 1951, political power began to be concentrated in the President of Pakistan, and eventually, the military. The nominal elected

⁷⁷ Sayeed ,Khalid Bin, *The Political System of Pakistan*, Houghton Mifflin, 1967, pp. 61.

chief executive, the Prime Minister, was frequently sacked by the establishment, acting through the President.

East Pakistanis noticed that whenever one of them, such as Khawaja Nazimuddin, Muhammad Ali of Bogra, or Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy were elected Prime Minister of Pakistan, they were swiftly deposed by the largely West Pakistani establishment. The military dictatorships of Ayub Khan (27 October 1958 – 25 March 1969) and Yahya Khan (25 March 1969 – 20 December 1971), both West Pakistanis, only heightened such feelings.

Discrimination in Economic field

West Pakistan (consisting of four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and North-West Frontier Province) dominated the country politically and received more money from the common budget than the more populous East.⁷⁸

Year	Spending on West Pakistan (in crore Rupees)	Spending on East Pakistan (in crore Rupees)	Amount spent on East as percentage of West
1950–55	1,129	524	46.4
1955–60	1,655	524	31.7
1960–65	3,355	1,404	41.8
1965–70	5,195	2,141	41.2
Total	11,334	4,593	40.5

Discrimination in Military field

Bangalees were under-represented in the Pakistan military. Officers of Bengalee origin in the different wings of the armed forces made up just 5% of overall force by 1965; of these, only a few were in command

⁷⁸ Source: Reports of the Advisory Panels for the Fourth Five Year Plan 1970-75, Vol. 1, published by the planning commission of Pakistan (Quick reference: crore = 10⁷, or 10 million)

positions, with the majority in technical or administrative posts.⁷⁹ West Pakistanis believed that Bangalees were not "martially inclined" unlike Pashtuns and Punjabis; the "martial races" notion was dismissed as ridiculous and humiliating by Bangalees. Moreover, despite huge defense spending, East Pakistan received none of the benefits, such as contracts, purchasing and military support jobs. The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 over Kashmir also highlighted the sense of military insecurity among the Bangalees as only an under-strength infantry division and 15 combat aircraft without tank support were in East Pakistan to thwart any Indian retaliations during the conflict.

Social injustice

During the entire period of Pakistan regime, the social behavior of non-Bengalees towards the Bengalees was not sound. It was assumed, they were the king blood and the Bengalees were the subservient to them. The non-Bengalee people always misbehaved with the Bengalees. In the transports, it was obvious that they enjoyed extra facilities. Whenever they traveled in a train, they grasped all the rooms in a seat though they had no tickets. On the other hand, sometimes, the Bangalee passengers were to travel standing in spite of having tickets. This kind of behavior was always shown by the 'Panjabis' or 'Behary' peoples. All these inhuman behavior were like the behavior of 'white people' towards the 'Blackie' in America.

In fact, the 'Two Nations Theory' proved false from the very beginning of the emergence of Pakistan. Initially, the charismatic personality of Jinnah held the Bangalee people spell bound. But, as soon as the hit was imposed on the language, it became clear to the people of East Pakistan

that the west Pakistani rulers were going to establish their blue print. Thus 'Muslim Nationalism' became blurred to them and was yielded to 'Bangalee Nationalism'. The sentiment arisen in the time of 'Language Movement' lasted long and became the inspiration of all the following movements that led the nation to the final victory in 1971.

Chapter-04 Towards Autonomy Movements, 1954-1969

Election of 1954 in Mymensingh

The election of East Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1954 (the first general election in East Bengal) was a milestone in the history of peoples' mandate. How the peoples' mandate can uproot a tremendous popular party was evident through this election. It was actually a revolution of ballot. The language movement of 1952 awakened a Bangalee Nationalism among the people of East Bengal and paved the way of resisting the oppressive rule of Muslim League government. The first sign of political resistance was seen in the general election of 1954 in East Bengal.

In Mymensingh, most leaders of Muslim League were from elite class (rich families). They had no relation with the mass people. They did not keep contact with the general people.⁸⁰ Moreover, the Muslim League activists were very much dominant here. On the other hand, all the progressive activists within the Muslim League who once made Muslim League a popular party at the time of 'Pakistan Movement' left Muslim League and joined Awami Muslim League.⁸¹ Thus Muslim League lost the peoples' support. It is an important question why Muslim League lost peoples' mandate within a couple of years after the partition of 'Bharat'. The most writers of independence movement of Bangladesh indicate the answer to the discriminative ruling of then Pakistan Government. But the author thinks the following two points are more important than that:

⁸⁰ Interview : Zobed Ali

⁸¹ Interview: Anisur Rahman

- a. Muslim League failed to hold or reluctant to hold the popular progressive leaders or activists who actually once organized the people for 'Pakistan Movement';
- b. Eternal Bangalee sentiment. The Bangalee people are always fond of rebellion. From the medieval age, we've seen, as soon as the royal soldiers of Delhi left 'Bangla' territory, they used to revolt against the royal representatives or forced the royal representatives to revolt themselves. Hence, Bangala was called 'Balgakpur' or 'City of Rebellion.' To resist this Bangalee sentiment, the British rulers at first strengthened their military force in Calcutta and always used to get their local force ready. But the Muslim League leaders were completely indifferent about this.

As a result, we see, the severe oppression of league government during the farmers' revolt (in 1949) at Haluaghat, Kalmakanda, Susunga-Durgapur made the general people shocked.⁸² To protect the elite zamindars, the league-government deployed armed National Guards, Anzers and 'Gundaas' against the Garo, Hajongs, Rajbongshi people who were reluctant to pay high 'levy' and 'Tonka'. The Government Force killed 15 young farmers with popular farmer leader 'Shankhamoni'. In 1950, taking the advantage of communal riot, the league government uproot the aborigines from their houses in the hills and settled 'Mohajers' there. This kind of severe oppression made the league-government unpopular.⁸³

The people were also scared about the molestation of Muslim League 'Gundaas'. All the butchers of the city were the activists of Muslim League. The 'Bihary' people in Mymensingh were also very much

⁸² Razzak, Abdur, "Moimonsingher Rajnoitik Andolon O Oitijha", *Moimonsingher Jibon O Jibika, Moimonsingh Zilla Dihsobarshiki Smrakgrontha*, Moimonsingh : Zilla Board, 1987, p.

⁸³ *ibid*

dominant. They used to behave rudely with the general people and the local administration also indifferent of these molestations. People even dared not to talk against them and were forced to keep silence.⁸⁴ But they expressed their hatred in the election of 1954.

Formation of United Front:

The concept of United Front came from 'Jubo League' while they took an initiative of uniting all the opposition parties in East Bengal, September in 1952.⁸⁵ The Communists were also working for this.⁸⁶ At the beginning Awami Muslim League and Gonotantri Dal welcomed this initiative. East Bengal Student League and East Bengal Chhatro League campaigned for this.

In May 1953, a special session of Awami Muslim League was held in Mymensingh town. In that session, Abul Monsur Ahmed, the President of District Awami Muslim League proposed to form an alliance of all opposition parties to resist Muslim League in the election of 1954. His proposal was accepted.⁸⁷

In November 14, 1953 at the Council Session of Awami Muslim League in Mymensingh, United Front was formed under the leadership of Moulana Bhasani and A.K.Fazlul Huq.⁸⁸

- United Front (1954) was an alliance of opposition parties to contest seats in the elections to the East Bengal Legislative Assembly held

⁸⁴ Interview: Anisur Rahman, Advocate Zobed Ali

⁸⁵ Rahman ,Dr. Md. Mahbubar, *Bangladesher Etihus 1947-71*, Dhaka : Somoy Prokason, April 2005, p.107

⁸⁶ Hannan ,Dr. Mohammed, *Bangaleer Etihus*, Dhaka : Anupom Prakasoni, January 1998, p.163

⁸⁷ Ahmed ,Abul Monsur, *Amar Dekha Rajnitir Ponchus Bochho*, Dhaka: Nouroj Kitabistan, Banglabazar, July 1968, p.253

⁸⁸ Rahman ,Dr. Md. Mahbubar, *Bangladesher Etihus 1947-71*, p.107

between 8-12 March 1954. The front was composed mainly of four parties of East Bengal, namely Awami Muslim League, Krishak Sramik Party, Nizam-e-Islam and Ganatantri Dal. The activists of Communist Party and Jubo League took part in the election under the banner of Awami Muslim League.

Manifesto of United Front:

The Front campaigned on an election manifesto that incorporated a package of Twenty One Point Program adopted by the Front in November 1953. In addition to full regional autonomy, the manifesto demanded that the central government should delegate to the eastern province all subjects except defense, foreign affairs and currency. It also called for recognition of Bangla as a state language, release of political prisoners, transformation of the then official residence (Burdwan House) of East Bengal's chief minister into 'Bangla Academy', construction of 'Shaheed Minar' at the site of the police firing in 1952; declaration of 21 February as a public holiday, more autonomy for Dhaka and Rajshahi universities, introduction of economic and social rights for industrial workers in keeping with the principles of ILO, nationalization of jute, guarantee of fair prices for commodities, and public support for cooperatives and cottage industries, abolition of zamindari system, introduction of cooperative farming, rehabilitation of refugees, flood control, modernizing agriculture, reforming the education system, rescinding all black laws, rationalizing the pay scale, eradication of corruption, separating judiciary from the executive, erection of a monument in memory of language martyrs etc.

Reasons behind forming the alliance:

During the early years of Pakistan, economic disparity, poor representation of Bangalees in government, and politico-cultural repression pursued by the ruling elite of Pakistan accentuated political problems in East Bengal. Most important, the deprivation of Bangalees from due participation in the decision-making process gave rise to the politics of regionalism in East Bengal. The resultant development was that the political forces of East Bengal were gradually pushed to launch new political platforms and organize movements against the central government based in the western part of the country.

The general elections to the East Bengal legislative assembly due in 1951 could not be held until 1954. Several postponements of the elections under various pretexts only proved malicious motives, organizational weaknesses and vulnerability of the ruling party, Muslim League. In fact, the United Front reflective of all shades of political spectrum in the province emerged mainly due to the failure of the Muslim League as a ruling party, and other historical, political and economic reasons. Subsequently, the Front for a while dominated the political landscape of East Bengal and had its usefulness as an effective political platform to unite diverse political groups.

Campaigning:

After the formation of 'United Front' a surge of political activity was seen among the activists of 'United Front' in Mymensingh. The furious speeches of Moulana Bhasani, A.K.fazlul Huq, H.S. Sohrwarthy waved the people. But in Mymensingh people kept their emotions for 'United Front' controlled as the Muslim League activists were randomly

threatening not to vote for the United Front.⁸⁹ People took their decision to uproot Muslim League but did not show their emotions. They smilingly mixed with the activists of Muslim League, accepted the hospitality of them but were strict to their decision. In the election, the ruling party, Muslim League spent huge amount of money to collect peoples' mandate.⁹⁰ The United Front urged the people to accept the hospitality, gift or other service from Muslim League but not vote for them. The front argued, "As Muslim League's spending money is actually peoples' money, there is no reason to deny of accepting them. People should not feel guilty taking them. Moreover, if people deny accepting, they may face molestation from the ruling party. So they should be calm and accept any hospitality of Muslim League. But they have to take right decision in the time of voting."⁹¹ People of Mymensingh also realized the analysis and did not make mistakes taking their decision. To strengthen the election-campaign in Mymensingh, all prominent leaders of United Front visited here and placed a clear sketch of discrimination of Muslim League against Bangalees of East Bengele. Their emotional voice raised a tremendous hatred among the people of Mymensingh against Muslim League. To realize the depth of peoples' hatred against Muslim League, we can observe the following incident: Abul Monsur Ahmed was a prominent political leader in Mymensingh. In the election of 1954, he was a candidate here. Another prominent political personality, the editor of *The Azad* was Abul Kalam Shamsuddin who was a relative of Mr. Monsur. Before the election, while it was assumed that Mr. Shamsuddin was going to be defeated badly, Mr. Monsur himself tried to convince the people to vote for him so that his 'security money' could be saved. Mr. Monsur was also accompanied by Mr. Shamsuddin in

⁸⁹ Interview: Anisur Rahman, Azizur Rahman, Imamur Rashid

⁹⁰ Ibid, p.

⁹¹ Ibid, p.

several campaigns but people were not convinced as Mr. Shamsuddin was a candidate of Muslim League. In the election Mr. Shamsuddin lost his security money and got only 1600 votes while Mr. Monsur, as a candidate of United Front, got the rest of recorded thirty one thousand votes.⁹² In fact, to the people, the question was defending Muslim League. People were ready to vote for any person against Muslim League. It was also obvious in the Nandail constituent area in Mymensingh. It seemed, people voted for the party, not for the person.

The main slogan of Muslim League in the election was, 'Vote for Muslim League for the survival of Islam.' On the other hand, the United Front asked the people to vote for them to escape from the discriminative and suppressive rule of Muslim League.

Along with the campaigning, the Muslim League activists in Mymensingh attacked on the processions and election-camps of United Front. They were protected by the government police and officials. At one point, the ruling party started arresting the vital activists of United Front. As many as 1200 activists of United Front were arrested around the country and several of them were from Mymensingh.⁹³

In the election, the students played a very important role. Actually, for the utmost effort of the students, the campaign of United Front became successful. Among the student leaders Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyun, Shamsul Huq, Hatem Ali Talukdar, Abdur Rahman Siddiqi etc. played a vital role.⁹⁴

⁹² Ahmed, Abul Monsur, *Amar Dekha Rajnitir Ponchus Bochho* Dhaka : Nouroj Kitabistan, Banglabazar, July 1968, p.260

⁹³ Rahman ,Dr. Md. Mahbubar, *Bangladesher Etihus 1947-71*, Dhaka : Somoy Prokason, April 2005,p.146

⁹⁴ Interview: Anisur Rahman

Result of the election:

The first general election in East Bangle was held from 8-12 March in 1954 and the result was declared on April 2, 1954. In the election, the total constituent areas in Mymensingh were 34. United Front won all 34 seats.⁹⁵ One of the most remarkable incidents of the election was that the chief minister of East Bangle Mr. Nurul Amin was defeated badly by Khaleque Newaj Khan, a young United Front candidate of 25 years, by huge difference. The renowned journalist and political figure Abul Kalam Shamsuddin also lost his security money in the election here.

Nationally, the United Front won 228 seats out of seats in the assembly, whereas the ruling Muslim League managed to capture only 9 seats, and all five members of the Muslim League Ministry including the chief minister (Nurul Amin), were defeated. As many as 1,285 candidates contested in the election held on the basis of adult franchise. In all 986 candidates contested for 237 Muslim seats, 101 candidates for 30 general seats and 151 candidates for 36 scheduled caste seats. The Pakistan National Congress, the United Progressive Party and the Schedule Caste Federation were the main contenders for the non-Muslim seats, 37 candidates contested for 9 seats reserved for Muslim women. The United Front candidates captured all the seats reserved for the women.⁹⁶

For Muslim constituencies, the turnout of voters was 37.60 percent. Although low by contemporary international standards, the turnout seemed considerable in view of the inadequate communication facilities, and the poor turnout of the women voters because of the prevailing conservative outlook in the society. For some reasons, communists did

⁹⁵ *Report on the Election to the East Bengal Legislative Assembly*, p.16-19

⁹⁶ Rahman, Dr. Md. Mahbubar, *Bangladesher Etihus 1947-71*, p.125

not campaign under their own party banner but preferred to contest as nominees of the United Front; 15 seats were won by them.

The resultant development after the election was that the United Front leader, A.K.Fazlul Hoque was invited on 3 April 1954 by the provincial governor to form the government. Importantly, however, the election result did signal the end of the dominance of the national elite in the politics of East Bengal; landowners had given away to a younger generation of professional university-trained elite, comprising lawyers, journalists, teachers and businessmen. A vast majority of the elected members were new, relatively young and inexperienced in government and politics. Out of the 228 members elected under the United Front banner, 143 belonged to the Awami League.

The tremendous victory of United Front in the election 1954 paved the way of establishing Parliamentary Democracy in East Bangle. But the leaders of the front failed to utilize the peoples' mandate. Soon after the election, the United Front broke into pieces both for Muslim League conspiracy and the conflicts of the leaders. The first cabinet headed by A.K Fazlul Huq of United Front was formed on April 03, 1954. It was a 4-members cabinet in which the participation of Awami Muslim League, the largest wing of United Front was restricted by A.K.Fazlul Hoque. This made confusions among the parties of United Front. Muslim League took this opportunity.

After the formation of cabinet, Fazlul Hoque visited Calcatta (April 30, 1954). There he gave an interview to an American journalist Mr. John P. Kalahan. Mr. Kalahan wrote in *New York Times* that Fazlul Hoque wanted the freedom of East Bangle. Fazlul Hoque protested the news report but the Pakistan Central Government believed the report and

declared him as a 'traitor.' As a result, Fazlul Hoque geared back and compromised with Awami Muslim League by expanding his cabinet. On the date of the formation of the revised cabinet in May 15, 1954 there occurred a tremendous riot among the Bangalee and non-Bangalee workers at Adamjee Jute Mill. Hundreds of workers died in that clash. It is believed that the riot was a part of blue print of Muslim league conspiracy to expel the Hoque-cabinet. The Central Government used this incident against the Hoque-cabinet and accused that they are completely failed to control the law and order situation of East bangle and suspended the front cabinet by imposing section 92-A over East Bangle(May 29, 1954). It was actually the beginning of the Muslim League conspiracy which paved the way of starting military rule in Pakistan. It is interesting to note that within March 1954 to August 1958, East Bangle observed seven cabinets one after another and three times Governor's rule. Though Muslim League was uprooted from the soil of Bangladesh, they did not give any chance to United Front to form a stable government here. At last in August 7, 1958 in the name of the situation arisen by the killing of Deputy Speaker Shahed Ali, President Iskandar Mirza suspended the constitution of 1956 and declared military rule over whole Pakistan. He appointed General Ayub Khan as Chief Martial Law Administrator.

Military Rule in 1958

After a while, only twenty days later, General Ayub Khan seized the power from President Iskandar Mirza and expelled him from the country. Thus started ten years of Ayub rule (military rule). After the promulgation of martial law, within several months, Ayub Khan arrested huge number of people including politicians, govt. officials, and business persons in the name of rectification of corruption. He made investigations

of 150 ex-Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, 600 members of provincial legislative assembly. To save the country from the corrupted politicians, he also promulgated EBDO (Elective Bodies Disqualification Order) and PODO (Public Offices Disqualification Orders.) on October 7, 1959. Under this Ordinance, Ayub Khan accused 87 popular political leaders among whom the leaders of East Pakistan were the large in number. Under this ordinance, the accused were disqualified to join any political organization or activities upto December 31, 1966.

The suspension of United Front Government made an intolerable situation in Mymensingh. As Awami Muslim League was very much strong in Mymensingh and as ex-Chief Minister Nurul Amin was defeated here, the new government, under direct rule of the Governor of Central Government, imposed heavy torture here. The activists of Awami Muslim League did not able to stay their home to avert arresting. As the popular political leaders were banned in politics, the students East Pakistan Chhatra League and Chhatra Union were working jointly through underground working as soon as the military rule was imposed.

The long-lasting unstable political crisis and the reciprocal conspiracy of the political leaders made the people fed-up about politics. As a result, people welcomed the martial law. The action-plan of General Ayub Khan against corruption also made the general people optimistic. As a result no protest against martial law was seen around the country within the first 44 months of Ayub regime except in Mymensingh.

As soon as the martial law was imposed upon whole Pakistan, in Mymensingh, under the leadership of Kazi Abdul Bari some students took out a procession and gave slogans against martial law rule. Kazi Bari

was arrested later and punished severely by the military judge. He was sentenced to beat by sticks ten times. After facing seven times beating, he became senseless and lost his hearing power for ever.⁹⁷

Another initiative during martial law was taken by some desperate young activists in Mymensingh. In November 1958 an armed force named 'East Pakistan Liberation Army' was formed. The initiative was led by 'Sada Khoka' (Fazlul Hoque) & 'Kalo Khoka' (Ali Asad) of Jamalpur and some other extremists of Jamalpur at a meeting in a boat on the river Brahmaputra. The founder activists tried to communicate with the Indian leaders for arms and cash to be prepared. They also kept contact with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. They used to meet together in different places (mostly in the field near Bokultola in Jamalpur town.) However, this spirit of the people proves that they were further ahead of the topmost leader of then East Pakistan but the plan was immatured and as a result of the investigations of military intelligence, the leaders of the initiative failed to organize the program.⁹⁸

Education Movement in 1962

During the martial law Ayub Khan also took initiative to reform education system and made a commission in December 30, 1958. Education Secretary Mr. S. M. Sharif was made chairman of the commission. The commission submitted its report as follows:

- a. Degree level education will be three-years education;
- b. The number of school and colleges should be restrained;
- c. The expenditure of the education will be borne by the government (20%) and by the guardian (80%);

⁹⁷ Hannan, Dr. Mohammed, *Bangaleer Ethus*, Dhaka : Anupom Prakasoni, January 1998, p.182

⁹⁸ Interview: Zobed Ali

- d. English is made compulsory in the classes from 6 to Degree level etc.

This commission was known: Sharif Commission. The students of Dhaka started a movement against this commission. From 15 August to 17 September, students observed different programmes rejecting the commission report. A general strike was called for on 15th August and from the day to 10th September, 1962 the students of the whole country organized regular processions. On September 17, a 'Hartal' was called for by the students. Police fired on the picketers of the 'hartal' supporters Babul, Gholam Mostafa, Waziullah etc. were shot down dead. Approximately two hundred and a half were injured. From then September 17 has been observing as the 'Education Day' across the country.

In Mymensingh, under the leadership of Rafiquddin Bhuiyun, Hatem Ali Talukdar etc. the students joined the movement.⁹⁹

6-points movement in 1966

In the history of liberation movement in Bangladesh, 1966 has occupied a special chapter because of gracious declaration of 6-points (February 6, 1966)¹⁰⁰ by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and valiant struggle of the people of the East Pakistan for this 6-points demand. Sheikh Mujib called these points as the 'Magna Carta' for the freedom of Bangalee nation. The historic 6-points were as follows:

- a. By producing a constitution, Pakistan should be made confederation as per 'Lahore Proposal' where the governments would be 'Parliamentary'.

⁹⁹ Interview: Anisur Rahman

¹⁰⁰ A convention of all the opposition parties in Pakistan was held in Lahore on 5-6 February 1966. The convention was produced mainly by the rightist parties of Pakistan. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman placed his 6-points. See also: Rahman, Dr. Md. Mahbubar, *Bangladesher Etihus 1947-71*, Dhaka : Somoy Prokason, April 2005, p.186

All the elections would be held as per Universal Franchise. Legislature will be sovereign.

- b. Only security and foreign policy will be under control of central government. All other affairs will be under control of provinces/states.
- c. i. The currency will be completely different but easily exchangeable between East and West Pakistan. Currency will be under control of provinces not central government. Two state banks will be established in two parts of the country; or
 - ii. The currency of the state will be the same and under control of the central government but there will be a clear indication in the constitution that will ensure the prevention of money laundering from one part of the country to the other.
- d. Provincial Government will be authorized to fix all kinds of taxes and Levis. A portion of collected revenue (fixed as per the constitution) will be automatically submitted to the 'Federal Fund'. This way, federal fund will be made.
- e. i. Foreign currency income will be calculated separately for each province;
 - ii. The income of foreign currency of East Pakistan will be under control of East Pakistan and the same will be applicable for West Pakistan;
 - iii. The required foreign currency for the 'Federal Fund' will be collected evenly from the both province or the constitution will fix up the share;
 - iv. The export-import of the local products of the country will be done within the both part of the country without any customs;
 - v. The provinces will be constitutionally authorized to make business pacts, to set up trade missions or export-import to other countries.

f. East Pakistan will have the authority to make para-military security force.

The historic 6-points was approved in the council of Awami League on March 19, 1966. Sheikh Mujib started his campaign along with his fellow companions from March 20. His hypnotic voice and clear indication of the discrimination of West Pakistan rulers attracted the people of East Pakistan. Mujib became an unparalleled popular leader within short span of time after the 6-points campaign. He delivered speeches in as many as 32 public meetings around the country within 50 days. He expressed 6-points as 'the demand of the soul' and people accepted it. He also accepted 11-points demand of the students and welcomed these points in his speeches. As a result, a tremendous mass-awareness was raised. The scared military government arrested Mujib on May 8, 1966. In protest of the arresting, Awami League called for a 'Hartal' around the country on June 7, 1966. The 'Hartal' was observed around the country strictly. According to the government press note, ten picketers were shot down dead by the police.

In Mymensingh, under the leadership of Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan, the students observed the 'Hartal'. All the schools and colleges were closed on June 7th, 1966. No vehicles did run on the street. The contribution of Rafiq Uddin became unparalleled in Mymensingh. While Sheikh Mujib along with 3500 leaders and activists of the first line and second line of the party (Awami League) were arrested, Mrs. Amena Begum and Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyun toured throughout the whole country to make a mass-support for 6-points.

Mass-upheaval of 1969 & its Reaction

The historic 6-points movement led Mujib's popularity to reach the apex level. One after one conspiracy case of the government and random arresting made Mujib an unparalleled popular leader. Peoples' voice became stronger for the 6-points. To rush up Mujib's venture, the government filed a case against him which became known as 'Agartala Conspiracy Case'. Mujib as well as other 34 Bangalee leaders were convicted for the conspiracy. But people did not believe the allegation against Mujib. They demanded the release of Mujib who was jailed under the security law for the 33 months. In the mean time the students started stronger movement against Ayub Government. Ayub Khan deployed Police and Army to demolish anti-Ayub movements. But the movement became unbelievably strong. In January 1969 the student movement became furious. 20 January Asaduzzman was shot by the police-fire. As a result, people became restless and come down on the street. When the workers of the industries joined with the students and the general people, it became impossible for the law enforcing agencies to control them. The 'Chhatra Sangram Parisad' demanded all the basic democrats to resign. 75% basic democrats accepted the students and resigned. The peoples' movement became furious. Most of the students and teachers expressed their support to 'Chhatra Sangram Parisad'. At Rajshahi, Dr. Zoha was shot down and beyond charged dead (February 18, 1969). The killing of Dr. Zoha made the people such furious that the ruling government was compelled to withdraw the 'Agartala Conspiracy Case' and release Mujib and others on February 22. Thus Mujib became the sole leader of Bangalee people and 6-points became their sole demand. The movement which started from the campaigning of 6-points demolished Ayub-regime and compelled the new military administrator to promise for a free

election to form a peoples' democratic government so that they might produce a peoples' constitution.

In Mymensingh, the 6-points movement had stretched to the mass upheaval in 1969. While Asad was shot down dead in Dhaka, a flame of protest spread the whole town of Mymensingh. Police fired on the mob. A student named 'Mintu' was killed by the police fire. The whole town burst into protest. As a result the police were compelled to release their uniform and became civil-dressed to avert themselves from peoples' demolition.

Chapter-05

Election of 1970 & Aftermath

The election of 1970 was the first & the last general election of the united Pakistan. In the 23rd years of history of Pakistan, there was no general election held in Pakistan as the west Pakistani rulers were reluctant to share any power with the Bangalees. But after the mass-upheaval of 1969, they could not but declare for a general election & the people of East Pakistan gave a decisive mandate on 6-points as the leading political party, Awami League, included it in her manifesto & urged people to vote on the points. However, it is astonished to observe how foolishly the political supporters of the ruling government as well as detective officials failed to give the peoples' message to the government beforehand the election. This proves that all the political parties except Awami League were rootless and completely failed to realize the peoples' interest.

Background

After the mass-upsurge of 1969, the Government headed by General Ayub Khan had collapsed and the Chief of Army Staff General Yahya Khan grasped the power. According to the promulgation, General Yahya Khan gave a 'Radio Speech' to the nation on November 28, 1969. In his speech, he declared the following points:¹⁰¹

- a. A general election will be held on October 05, 1970;
- b. The election will be held on 'single person single vote' basis;
- c. The basis of election would be universal franchise;
- d. Within 31 March, 1970, a legal frame work will be declared;
- e. The elected government will be 'Parliamentary Government';

¹⁰¹ Hannan ,Dr. Mohammed, *Bangaleer Eitihaas*, Dhaka: Anupom Prokasony, 1999, p. 253

- f. The parliament must produce a national government within 120 days or it will be collapsed automatically;
- g. The provincial autonomy will be given after the general election.

According to the previous promulgation, General Yahya Khan declared a 'Legal Framework Order' (L.F.O) on March 30, 1970. Awami League, NAP(Bhasani), NAP(Wali), Purba Pakistan Chhatra League, Chhatra Union etc. protested article No. 25 & 27 of the Legal Framework Order as these two articles were contradictory. If these two articles were imposed, the promise of giving democracy would be worthless. But the chief of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Mr. Bhutto accepted the legal frame work. He said, "The problem in Legal Frame work was only in its explanation. The Muslims were not able to unite on the explanations of Islam through 13 centuries let alone Legal Frame work."¹⁰² Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibor Rahman also accepted the legal frame work order lately because he was very much confident about the peoples' mandate. Once he was asked about the drawbacks of the LFO. He replied, "My aim is to establish Bangladesh. I shall tear L.F.O. into pieces as soon as the elections are over. Who could challenge me once the election is over?"¹⁰³ However, according to the LFO, the structure of the constituent areas was as follows:

National Assembly

Name of the Province	Number of Constituent Area	Reserved Seat for Women
East Pakistan	162	07
Panjab	82	03
Sindh	27	01
Beluchistan	04	01
North-East Frontier Province	18	01
Central Governed Tribal Area	07	-
Total	300	13

¹⁰² *The Daily Pakistan*, 14 April, 1970

¹⁰³ Salik, Siddiq, *Witness to Surrender*, Dhaka: UPL, 1997, P.1

Provincial Assembly

Name of the Province	Number of Constituent Area	Reserved Seat for Women
East Pakistan	300	10
Panjab	180	06
Sindh	60	02
Beluchistan	20	01
North-East Frontier Province	40	02
Total	600	21

According to the LFO, the constituent area occupied by Mymensingh were 23 for National Assembly & 41 for Provincial Assembly. According to the Legal Framework Order, the date of general election was declared on 5 October, 1970. But due to flood situation, President General Yahya Khan amended the date on 16 August and fixed it as 7 December 1970 for National Assembly & 17 December 1970 for Provincial Assembly.

In the Election, the candidates of different political parties in Mymensingh were as follows:

Candidates of Mymensingh in the Pakistan National Election of 1970**Table-01**

Candidates of 'Awami League' for the Election of National Assembly in East Pakistan:¹⁰⁴

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	NE-76	Mymensingh-01	Alhaj Abdus Samad, B.Sc.
02	NE-77	Mymensingh-02	Mohammad Karimuzzaman Talukdar, B.A.B.T
03	NE-78	Mymensingh-03	Mohammad Abdul Haqim, MA, LLB
04	NE-79	Mymensingh-04	Anisur Rahman Mokter
05	NE-80	Mymensingh-05	Mohammad Abdul Haqim Sarkar
06	NE-81	Mymensingh-06	Mosharrof Hossain Akanda, M.A.B.L, Advocate

¹⁰⁴ *The Daily Azad*, September 25, 1970, p.1

07	NE-82	Mymensingh-07	M. Ibrahim, BL
08	NE-83	Mymensingh-08	Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan
09	NE-84	Mymensingh-09	Syed Abdus Sultan
10	NE-85	Mymensingh-10	Prof. A.N.M. Nazrul Islam, MA
11	NE-86	Mymensingh-11	Prof. Shamsul Huda, MA
12	NE-87	Mymensingh-12	Safir Uddin Ahmed, Advocate
13	NE-88	Mymensingh-13	Abdul Momin, MA,LLB, Advocate
14	NE-89	Mymensingh-14	M. Zobed Ali, Advocate
15	NE-90	Mymensingh-15	Asaduzzaman Khan, MABL
16	NE-91	Mymensingh-16	Mohammad Zillur Rahman, MA,LLB, Advocate
17	NE-92	Mymensingh-17	Syed Nazrul Islam, MA, LLB, Advocate
18	NE-93	Mymensingh-18	Abdul Hamid, BA

Table-02

Candidates of 'Zamat-E-Islami' for the Election of National Assembly in East Pakistan:

01	NE-76	Mymensingh-01	Moulana Mohammad Moazzem Hossain, BA,B.Ed
02	NE-79	Mymensingh-04	Mohammad Mosleh Uddin, BA
03	NE-80	Mymensingh-05	Haji Mohammad Abdur Rahman
04	NE-81	Mymensingh-06	Prof. Abdus Sattar
05	NE-82	Mymensingh-07	Abdul Mubarak
06	NE-83	Mymensingh-08	Prof. Muzaharul Islam
07	NE-84	Mymensingh-09	Sharif Uddin Ahmed, MA,LLB, Advocate
08	NE-89	Mymensingh-14	Hatem Ali Talukdar, Advocate
09	NE-90	Mymensingh-15	Moulana Muhammad Abdul Zabbar

Table-03

Candidates of 'Muslim League (Convention)' for the Election of National Assembly in East Pakistan:¹⁰⁵

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	NE-76	Mymensingh-01	Noimuddin Ahmed, Ex-Speaker
02	NE-78	Mymensingh-03	Prof. Gholam Rabbani
03	NE-80	Mymensingh-05	Firoz Uddin, Advocate
04	NE-81	Mymensingh-06	Harunur Rashid, MA, BT
05	NE-82	Mymensingh-07	Fakhruddin Ahmed

¹⁰⁵ *The Daily Azad*, October 11, 1970,p.3,5

06	NE-84	Mymensingh-09	Abdul Hannan, Ex-MPA
07	NE-85	Mymensingh-10	Abdur Rashid, BA
08	NE-86	Mymensingh-11	Aftabuddin Chowdhury, Ex-MNA
09	NE-87	Mymensingh-12	Ketab Ali Talukdar, Journalist
10	NE-89	Mymensingh-14	Jasim Uddin Ahmed, BA,LLB
11	NE-91	Mymensingh-16	A.F.M. Nurullah, Ex-MPA
12	NE-92	Mymensingh-17	Abdul Ali Manu Mian, Ex-Secretary of Parliament
13	NE-93	Mymensingh-18	Abdur Rahman Khan Chowdhury

Table-04

Candidates of 'Muslim League (Council)' for the Election of National Assembly in East Pakistan:¹⁰⁶

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	NE-76	Mymensingh-01	Dr. Rafiquddin Ahmed
03	NE-78	Mymensingh-03	Mohammad Ali Khondokar
04	NE-79	Mymensingh-04	Mr. Shamsul Gani Chowdhury
05	NE-80	Mymensingh-05	Mr. Syed Ahmed, BA, Bed.
06	NE-81	Mymensingh-06	Mr. M. Hasmat Ali
07	NE-82	Mymensingh-07	Mr. Ismail Hossain Talukdar
09	NE-84	Mymensingh-09	Mr. Nazrul Islam Chowdhury
12	NE-87	Mymensingh-12	Mr. Abul Uddin Talukdar
15	NE-90	Mymensingh-15	Md. Shafiqul Islam Khan, Advocate
18	NE-93	Mymensingh-18	Abdul Malek

Table-05

Candidates of 'Muslim League (Quaiyum)' for the Election of National Assembly in East Pakistan:

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	NE-76	Mymensingh-01	Dr. Rakibuddin Ahmed
02	NE-77	Mymensingh-02	Mr. Roich Uddin Ahmed
03	NE-78	Mymensingh-03	Mr. Md. Ali Akhanda
04	NE-79	Mymensingh-04	Shamsul Gani Chowdhury
05	NE-80	Mymensingh-05	Sharifuddin Ahmed
06	NE-81	Mymensingh-06	Mr. Hasmat Ali

¹⁰⁶ Ibid, p.1

07	NE-82	Mymensingh-07	Ismail Hossain Talukdar
08	NE-84	Mymensingh-09	Nazrul Islam Chowdhury
09	NE-87	Mymensingh-12	Abul Uddin Talukdar
10	NE-90	Mymensingh-15	Mr. Shafiq Khan
11	NE-93	Mymensingh-18	Aftab Uddin Ahmed

Table-06

Candidates of 'PDP' for the Election of National Assembly in East Pakistan¹⁰⁷:

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	NE-76	Mymensingh-01	Mirza Ashraf Uddin Haydar
02	NE-77	Mymensingh-02	Mr. Khairul Bashar (Chan Mian)
04	NE-79	Mymensingh-04	Md. Aminul Islam, Advocate
05	NE-80	Mymensingh-05	Md. Mizanur Rahman
06	NE-81	Mymensingh-06	Mr. Zulmat Ali Khan, Advocate
08	NE-83	Mymensingh-08	Mr. Nurul Amin
09	NE-84	Mymensingh-09	Moulana Altaf Hossain
10	NE-85	Mymensingh-10	Shahaabuddin Ahmed, Ex-MPA
12	NE-87	Mymensingh-12	Aftab Uddin Ahmed, Advocate, Ex-MPA
14	NE-89	Mymensingh-14	M.A.Baki Mallik, Ex-MNA
15	NE-90	Mymensingh-15	Mr. Syeduzzaaman, Ex-MNA
16	NE-91	Mymensingh-16	Syed Sirazul Huda
18	NE-93	Mymensingh-18	Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, Advocate

Table-07

Candidates of 'Nezam-E-Islami' for the Election of National Assembly in East Pakistan:

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	NE-76	Mymensingh-01	Mr. Joynal Abedin Khan Lohani
03	NE-78	Mymensingh-03	Prof. Abdul Gani
04	NE-79	Mymensingh-04	Moulana Lutfor Rahman
06	NE-81	Mymensingh-06	Moulana Faizur Rahman
08	NE-83	Mymensingh-08	Moulana Halim Hossain
09	NE-84	Mymensingh-09	Mr. Mokhlesur Rahman
10	NE-85	Mymensingh-10	Kari Zakaria

¹⁰⁷ Ibid, p.3

11	NE-86	Mymensingh-11	Moulana A.K.M. Sharfuddin Khan
13	NE-88	Mymensingh-13	Moulana Monjurul Hoq Khan
15	NE-90	Mymensingh-15	Moulana Abdul Halim Hossain
17	NE-92	Mymensingh-17	Moulana Atahar Ali

Table-08

Candidates of 'NAP(Wali)' for the Election of National Assembly in East Pakistan:¹⁰⁸

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
13	NE-88	Mymensingh-13	Mohammed Wazed Ali

Table-09

Candidates of 'NAP(Bhasani)' for the Election of National Assembly in East Pakistan:

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	NE-93	Mymensingh-18	Syed Sharfuddin Ahmed, BA

Candidates of Mymensingh in the Pakistan Provincial Election of 1970

Table-10

Candidates of 'Awami League' for the Election of Provincial Assembly in East Pakistan:¹⁰⁹

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	PE-139	Mymensingh-01	Md. Ashraf Hossain, Advocate
02	PE-140	Mymensingh-02	Rashed Mosarrof, B.Com.
03	PE-141	Mymensingh-03	Mohammad Abdul Hai
04	PE-142	Mymensingh-04	Abdul Malek
05	PE-143	Mymensingh-05	Akteruzzaman, MA,LLB, Advocate
06	PE-144	Mymensingh-06	Nizamuddin Ahmed
07	PE-145	Mymensingh-07	Nadiruzzaman Khan, LMN
08	PE-146	Mymensingh-08	Md. Abdul Haqim, Advocate
09	PE-147	Mymensingh-09	Md. Kudrutullah Mondal
10	PE-148	Mymensingh-10	Md. Shamsul Hoq

¹⁰⁸ The Daily Azad, October 9, 1970, p.10

¹⁰⁹ The Daily Azad, September 25, 1970,p.1

11	PE-149	Mymensingh-11	Hatem Ali
12	PE-150	Mymensingh-12	Anwarul Kadir, Advocate
13	PE-151	Mymensingh-13	Abdul Alim Akanda, BA,B.Ed.
14	PE-152	Mymensingh-14	Mohammad Iman Ali Mian
15	PE-153	Mymensingh-15	Khandakar Abdul Malek (Shahidullah)
16	PE-154	Mymensingh-16	Mohammad Mosleh Uddin, BA,BEd., LLB
17	PE-155	Mymensingh-17	Abul Munsur Ahmed
18	PE-156	Mymensingh-18	Mostafa M.A. Motin, Advocate
19	PE-157	Mymensingh-19	Md. Abul Hashem
20	PE-158	Mymensingh-20	Abdul Majid Tara Mian
21	PE-159	Mymensingh-21	Nazmul Huda
22	PE-160	Mymensingh-22	Dr. Akhlakul Hosain Ahmed, LMF
23	PE-161	Mymensingh-23	Abbas Ali Khan
24	PE-162	Mymensingh-24	Hadis Uddin Chowdhury
25	PE-163	Mymensingh-25	Mohammad Abdul Khaleque
26	PE-164	Mymensingh-26	A.K.M. Shamsul Hoq
27	PE-165	Mymensingh-27	Mostafizur Rahman Khan
28	PE-166	Mymensingh-28	Abdus Sattar, Advocate
29	PE-167	Mymensingh-29	Abdul Kuddus B.Com.
30	PE-168	Mymensingh-30	Mohammad Abdul Kadir
31	PE-169	Mymensingh-31	Monjur Ahmed(Bacchu Mian)
32	PE-170	Mymensingh-32	Syed Badrudduza

Table-11

Candidates of 'Zamat-E-Islami' for the Election of Provincial Assembly in East Pakistan:

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	PE-139	Mymensingh-01	Sheikh Ashraf Uddin B.Sc.
02	PE-140	Mymensingh-02	A.K.M Mohiuddin
03	PE-141	Mymensingh-03	Prof. Mohammad Nur Uddin
04	PE-143	Mymensingh-05	Advocate Shamsul Hoq
05	PE-144	Mymensingh-06	Prof. Abdus Sattar, MA
06	PE-145	Mymensingh-07	Moulana Abdul Mubarak
07	PE-146	Mymensingh-08	Prof. Mujharul Islam
08	PE-147	Mymensingh-09	Advocate Sharif Uddin Ahmad, MA,LLB

09	PE-152	Mymensingh-14	Advocate Hatem Ali Talukdar, BA,LLB
10	PE-153	Mymensingh-15	Moulana Abu Taher, M.Com.
11	PE-154	Mymensingh-16	Moulana Abdul Kader, M.M
12	PE-157	Mymensingh-19	Moulana Anisur Rahman Murshidabadi
13	PE-160	Mymensingh-22	Moulana Muhammad Abdullah
14	PE-161	Mymensingh-23	Md. Fazlul Karim
15	PE-163	Mymensingh-25	Mohammad Hediattullah B.Sc.
16	PE-164	Mymensingh-26	Mastar Kalam Uddin
17	PE-165	Mymensingh-27	Moulana Majibur Rahman, MM
18	PE-166	Mymensingh-28	Prof. Mahtab Uddin, MA
19	PE-170	Mymensingh-32	Abdul Gani

Table-12

Candidates of 'Muslim League (Convention)' for the Election of Provincial Assembly in East Pakistan:¹¹⁰

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	PE-139	Mymensingh-01	Gazi Farid Uddin Ahmed
02	PE-141	Mymensingh-03	Mr. Altafur Rahman, MPA
03	PE-142	Mymensingh-04	Nurul Islam Khan
04	PE-143	Mymensingh-05	Moulana Syed Shibli Querayshe
05	PE-144	Mymensingh-06	Md. Shamedul Hoq, MPA
06	PE-146	Mymensingh-08	Mr. Mohammed Abdur Rahman
07	PE-147	Mymensingh-09	Shah Aftab Uddin
08	PE-149	Mymensingh-11	Md. Habibullah, Advocate
09	PE-151	Mymensingh-13	Khaleque Nawaj Khan, Advocate
10	PE-153	Mymensingh-15	Sheikh Abdul Haqim
11	PE-154	Mymensingh-16	Mohammad Sabed Ali Akanda
12	PE-155	Mymensingh-17	Mohammad Shafiqul Hoq
13	PE-158	Mymensingh-20	Mofazzal Hossain
14	PE-159	Mymensingh-21	Ahmed Hossain Talukdar
15	PE-163	Mymensingh-25	Imam Hussain Chowdhury
16	PE-164	Mymensingh-26	Afsar Uddin Ahmed, Advocate
17	PE-165	Mymensingh-27	Shafiuddin Laskar
18	PE-166	Mymensingh-28	Moulabi Mahtab Uddin

¹¹⁰ *The Daily Azad*, October 11, 1970,p.3,5

19	PE-167	Mymensingh-29	Md. Lokman
20	PE-168	Mymensingh-30	Abdul Karim
21	PE-169	Mymensingh-31	Abdul Jalil

Table-13

Candidates of 'Muslim League (Quaiyum)' for the Election of Provincial Assembly in East Pakistan:

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	PE-140	Mymensingh-02	Mohammad Abdul Wadud Mondal
02	PE-141	Mymensingh-03	Delwar Hossain
03	PE-144	Mymensingh-06	Captain Md. Abdur Rahim Chowdhury
04	PE-145	Mymensingh-07	Abdul Kader Talukdar
05	PE-146	Mymensingh-08	Mohammad Habibullah
06	PE-148	Mymensingh-10	Amiruddin Ahmed
07	PE-168	Mymensingh-30	Abdul Malek Sarkar

Table-14

Candidates of 'PDP' for the Election of Provincial Assembly in East Pakistan¹¹¹:

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	PE-140	Mymensingh-02	Mr. Nuruzzaman, B.Com.
02	PE-151	Mymensingh-13	A.K.M. Mobarak Hossain

Table-15

Candidates of 'Nezam-E-Islami & Jomiot E Ulamya Islam' for the Election of Provincial Assembly in East Pakistan:¹¹²

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	PE-140	Mymensingh-02	Unus Ali Mian
02	PE-148	Mymensingh-10	Alhaj Dr. Amzad Hossain Akanda
03	PE-151	Mymensingh-13	Alhaj Moulana Atiqur Rahman
04	PE-153	Mymensingh-15	A.A.M Tofazzal Hossain
05	PE-155	Mymensingh-17	Mohammed Ruhul Amin Khan
06	PE-156	Mymensingh-18	A.K.M Mofizur Rahman
07	PE-157	Mymensingh-19	Moulana Abdul Majid Khan
08	PE-158	Mymensingh-20	Moulana Ali Osman

¹¹¹ Ibid, p.3

¹¹² Ibid, October 15, 1970,p.3

09	PE-159	Mymensingh-21	Osman Gani Talukdar
10	PE-162	Mymensingh-24	Mohammad Mofizur Rahman Talukdar
11	PE-163	Mymensingh-25	Abu Hossain Sheikh

Table-16

Candidates of 'NAP (Wali)' for the Election of Provincial Assembly in East Pakistan:¹¹³

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	PE-159	Mymensingh-21	Mr. Abdul Aziz
02	PE-160	Mymensingh-22	Mr. Abdul Ahad Khan
03	PE-161	Mymensingh-23	Mr. Abdul Kuddus
04	PE-166	Mymensingh-28	Mr. Abu Naser Ruhul Amin Khan
05	PE-167	Mymensingh-29	Mr. Jomeot Ali
06	PE-168	Mymensingh-30	Mr. Kazi Abdul Bari
07	PE-169	Mymensingh-31	Radhe Shama Chowdhury

Table-17

Candidates of 'NAP(Bhasani)' for the Election of Provincial Assembly in East Pakistan:

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	PE-141	Mymensingh-03	Altaf Uddin Talukdar
02	PE-143	Mymensingh-05	Shamsul Huda Motin, Advocate

Result of the Election

The National Assembly Election was held on December 07, 1970 . In the election, the elected candidates were as follows:

Table-18

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	NE-76	Mymensingh-01	Alhaj Abdus Samad, B.Sc. (AL)
02	NE-77	Mymensingh-02	Mohammad Karimuzzaman Talukdar, BABT(AL)
03	NE-78	Mymensingh-03	Mohammad Abdul Haqim, MA, LLB(AL)
04	NE-79	Mymensingh-04	Anisur Rahman Mokter(AL)
05	NE-80	Mymensingh-05	Mohammad Abdul Haqim Sarkar(AL)
06	NE-81	Mymensingh-06	Mosharrof Hossain Akanda, MABL, Advocate(AL)
07	NE-82	Mymensingh-07	M. Ibrahim, BL(AL)

¹¹³ Ibid, October 9, 1970, p.10

08	NE-83	Mymensingh-08	Nurul Amin (PDP) * ¹¹⁴
09	NE-84	Mymensingh-09	Syed Abdus Sultan (AL)
10	NE-85	Mymensingh-10	Prof. A.N.M. Nazrul Islam, MA(AL)
11	NE-86	Mymensingh-11	Prof. Shamsul Huda, MA(AL)
12	NE-87	Mymensingh-12	Safir Uddin Ahmed, Advocate (AL)
13	NE-88	Mymensingh-13	Abdul Momin, MA,LLB, Advocate(AL)
14	NE-89	Mymensingh-14	M. Zobed Ali, Advocate(AL)
15	NE-90	Mymensingh-15	Asaduzzaman Khan, MABL(AL)
16	NE-91	Mymensingh-16	Md. Zillur Rahman, MA,LLB, Advocate (AL)
17	NE-92	Mymensingh-17	Syed Nazrul Islam, MA, LLB, Advocate
18	NE-93	Mymensingh-18	Abdul Hamid, BA (AL)

The Provincial Assembly Election was held on December 17, 1970. In the election, the elected candidates were as follows:¹¹⁵

Table-19

No.	National Seat No	District Seat No	Name & Qualification of the candidate
01	PE-139	Mymensingh-01	Md. Ashraf Hossain, Advocate (AL)
02	PE-140	Mymensingh-02	Rashed Mosarrof, B.Com. (AL)
03	PE-141	Mymensingh-03	Mohammad Abdul Hai (AL)
04	PE-142	Mymensingh-04	Abdul Malek (AL)
05	PE-143	Mymensingh-05	Akteruzzaman, MA,LLB, Advocate (AL)
06	PE-144	Mymensingh-06	Nizamuddin Ahmed (AL)
07	PE-145	Mymensingh-07	Nadiruzzaman Khan, LMN(AL)
08	PE-146	Mymensingh-08	Md. Abdul Haqim, Advocate(AL)
09	PE-147	Mymensingh09	Md. Kudrutullah Mondal(AL)
10	PE-148	Mymensingh-10	Md. Shamsul Hoq(AL)
11	PE-149	Mymensingh-11	Hatem Ali (AL)
12	PE-150	Mymensingh-12	Matin Bhuiyan (PDP)
13	PE-151	Mymensingh-13	A.K.M. Mobarak Hossain (PDP)
14	PE-152	Mymensingh-14	Mohammad Iman Ali Mian (AL)
15	PE-153	Mymensingh-15	Khandakar Abdul Malek (Shahidullah) (AL)
16	PE-154	Mymensingh-16	Mohammad Mosleh Uddin, BA,BEd., LLB(AL)
17	PE-155	Mymensingh-17	Abul Munsur Ahmed (AL)

¹¹⁴ The only elected member in Mymensingh out of Awami League.

¹¹⁵ Ittefaq, December 20,1970, p.3

18	PE-156	Mymensingh-18	Mostafa M.A. Motin, Advocate(AL)
19	PE-157	Mymensingh-19	Md. Abul Hashem(AL)
20	PE-158	Mymensingh-20	Abdul Majid Tara Mian(AL)
21	PE-159	Mymensingh-21	Nazmul Huda(AL)
22	PE-160	Mymensingh-22	Dr. Akhlakul Hosain Ahmed, LMF(AL)
23	PE-161	Mymensingh-23	Abbas Ali Khan(AL)
24	PE-162	Mymensingh-24	Hadis Uddin Chowdhury (AL)
25	PE-163	Mymensingh-25	Mohammad Abdul Khaleque(AL)
26	PE-164	Mymensingh-26	A.K.M. Shamsul Hoq (AL)
27	PE-165	Mymensingh-27	Mostafizur Rahman Khan(AL)
28	PE-166	Mymensingh-28	Abdus Sattar, Advocate (AL)
29	PE-167	Mymensingh-29	Abdul Kuddus B.Com. (AL)
30	PE-168	Mymensingh-30	Mohammad Abdul Kadir(AL)
31	PE-169	Mymensingh-31	Monjur Ahmed(Bacchu Mian) (AL)
32	PE-170	Mymensingh-32	Syed Badrudduza(AL)

The result of the election of 1970 shows the united stand of the people of Mymensingh to the 6-points of Awami League. It was also a clear indication of strong Bangalee Nationalism among the people of Mymensingh.

From the table-01 to table-18, we can find out the characteristics of the candidates. Through these tables we come to know that the candidates other than Awami League were mainly the supporters of Muslim Nationalism. They have firm belief on 'Pakistan'. Most of them belonged to elite class or came from religious section. They urged vote for the unity of Pakistan and for Islam. They ignored the inner pain of the general people which swept over their religious sentiment. In fact, most of the candidates other than Awami League were rootless as they did not score minimum vote in the election thereby lost their 'Electoral Deposit.'

On the other hand, the candidates of Awami League were mostly progressive who inherited middle class values. They had a vision for a

new nation. They unveiled the face of so-called ‘Muslim Nationalists’ by placing statistics of 23rd years of suction imposed upon the Bangalee people by the west Pakistani rulers. During the election campaign of 1970, a poster titled ‘Sonar Bangla Shasan Keno?’ (Why does the golden Bengal a graveyard?) published by Awami League caught sight of the general people. The poster was like this:¹¹⁶

<u>Subject</u>	<u>For East Pakistan</u>	<u>For West Pakistan</u>
Expenditure Of Revenue	1,500 Crore Taka	5,000 Crore Taka
Development Tax	3,000 Crore Taka	6,000 Crore Taka
Foreign Aid	20%	80%
Import	25%	75%
Service in the Central Govt.	15%	85%
Military Force	10%	90%
Rice (per Maund)	50 Taka	25 Taka
Flour (per Maund)	30 Taka	15 Taka
Oil- <u>sarisa</u> (per Ser)	5 Taka	2.50 Taka
Gold (per tola)	175 Taka	135 Taka

It gave a short but clear picture of the suction of West Pakistan over East Pakistan. The Bangalee people became fierce knowing the statistics. This raised the Bangalee Nationalism among the people of Mymensingh.

¹¹⁶ Sen ,Rangalal, *Political Elites in Bangladesh*, Dhaka :UPL, 1986

Chapter-06

Liberation War in Mymensingh in 1971

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In the first general election of Pakistan in 1970 (on the basis of single person, single vote), Awami League achieved a landslide victory. Among 162 seats for East Pakistan, Awami League got 160 seats.¹¹⁷ This result was so unexpected to the Pakistan ruling military authority that they became thundered. On the basis of the reports of the intelligence units of Pakistan, the Military Government dared to give general election expecting that somehow the rightist parties of Pakistan i.e. PDP, Muslim League, Jamat-E- Islami and the group of Azgarh Khan could be able to hold the majority in the election.¹¹⁸ But their expectation met disappointment. The sole leader of East Pakistan, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the result as the peoples' mandate on 6-points & 11-points. On the other hand, PDP¹¹⁹ leader, Nawabjada Nasrullah Khan said at Lahore, "In the election people have taken a wrong decision."¹²⁰ He also accused that the election was held on such an emotional moment that it led the people to take this wrong decision. It is very interesting to note that the statement of Nawabjada Nasrullah Khan was echoed in the statement of Moulana Bhasani. Immediately after the result of election being declared, Moulana Bhasani (who did not participate in the election for an unknown reason) rejected the result and demanded another 'public Vote' to judge whether the peoples' mandate of the election was on the basis of 6-points and 11-points.¹²¹ On

¹¹⁷ Mukul ,M. R. Akhtar (ed.), *Bangladesher Sadhinatajuddha: Dalilpatra*, (extracted in one volume), Ministry of Information, Govt. of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 1988, p.94

¹¹⁸ Hannan ,Dr. Mohammad, *Bangaleer Etihaas*, Dhaka : Anupom Prakasany, 1999, p.263

¹¹⁹ Pakistan Democratic Party

¹²⁰ *Bangaleer Etihaas*, p.264

¹²¹ *The Daily Pakistan*, December 10, 1970 AD

December 10, 1970, a meeting of Jamat-E-Islami in Dhaka, presided over by Golam Azam, also refused to accept the result. The only member of PDP in East Pakistan, Nurul Amin expressed his honor to the mandate of the people.

On December 15, 1970, the President of the majority party of East Pakistan, Bangabandhu assured Yahya Khan that a constitution based on 6-points could ensure the justice among the people living in different territories.¹²² On the contrary, the leader of PPP¹²³, Bhutto suddenly declared a 7-members of constitution making committee on the same date.¹²⁴ Later, he demanded the equal share of power in running the state as he himself also got the majority seats in West Pakistan.¹²⁵ However, though Bangalee, PDP leader Nurul Amin supported Bhutto. The former also remarked that the negotiation between PPP & AL¹²⁶ would be fruitful in procuring a constitution.

In January 18, 1971, the chief of NAP¹²⁷ (Wali), Mr. Wali Khan disclosed his party analysis on a TV interview at Rawalpindi that the two majority parties (AL & PPP) were actually proved as provincial parties, not the representatives of the whole of Pakistan because, Awami League got a landslide victory in the election but did not get any seat in the provinces of West Pakistan. Similarly, PPP got majority in 'Sindh' & 'Panjab' only but they also did not get any seat in East Pakistan or in other provinces of West Pakistan.¹²⁸

¹²² *Bangaleer Eitihaas*, p.265

¹²³ Pakistan Peoples' Party

¹²⁴ *The Daily Pakistan*, December 16, 1970 AD

¹²⁵ In fact, it was Bhutto's wrong demand as there was no existence of 'East Pakistan' after L.F.O. and also PPP could not be able to achieve majority in all the provinces of previous East Pakistan. PPP held the majority only in Sindh and Panjab.

¹²⁶ Awami League

¹²⁷ National Awami Party

¹²⁸ *The Daily Pakistan*, January 18, 1971 AD

All these controversial statements of the political parties gave an escape root to the military government to thrive their blue print. The military government was trying to make an alley so that they could postpone convening the National Assembly.

On January 3, 1971 all the elected members of Awami League, both in the election of National Assembly and Provincial Assembly, took oath at the Race Course Maydan (Now Suhrawardy Uddayan) in presence of the millions of people. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman himself operated the oath.¹²⁹ On a speech in the meeting, Bangabandhu instructed the activists of Awami League to make fortress in the union level. He also told his people not to surrender the arms until the final victory is achieved even though he himself would be killed by conspiracy.¹³⁰

It seemed, two streams of political authority were stretching towards something fishy. The ruling power was advancing with their policy shrewdly so that they could avert the Bangalees from becoming the ruling power. On the other hand, Bangabandhu was advancing along with his people to the goal bearing it in mind that no result would come out without bloodshed. Hence, he was preparing his people for the final phase of struggle.

After the general election, President Yahya Khan came to Dhaka on January 11, 1971. He sat with Sheikh Mujib in two sessions of formal discussion but no result came out. In January 14, President went back to West Pakistan without declaring anything about the transfer of power to the Bangalee elected representatives. At the airport he said, 'I'm tired . I'm going on a hunting in Bhutto's area, Larkana.' But in fact, he took a

¹²⁹ Ibid, January 04, 1971 AD

¹³⁰ *Bangaleer Etihaas*, p.268

chance to a secret meeting with Bhutto against the Bangalees.¹³¹ Yahya Khan was pretending to release power to the elected Bangalee representatives. Thus spread a confusion around the country whether the military government would transfer power to the majority party.

On January 27, 1971 PPP chief Zulfiqar Ali Khan Bhutto came to East Pakistan pretending to search any formula of negotiation with Awami League. The two leaders sat in a meeting in the house of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with their secretaries. Bhutto wanted to convince the Awami leaders to withdraw their stand on 6-points. But the Awami League leaders denied any change on 6-points. Bangabandhu declared that it was not possible for him to compromise on 6-points as it was no longer a possession of Awami League, it had become the referendum of the seventy million people.¹³²

Bangabandhu demanded convening of the National Assembly session on 15 February, 1971. But President Yahya Khan did not pay heed to Mujib's demand. Despite having mentioned Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the 'Future Prime Minister,' Yahya Khan was killing time to sort out plans to avert Bangalees from ascending in power.

At last on February 13, 1971 he declared the National Assembly session would be held on March 3, 1971 in Dhaka.

Mr. Bhutto, on a press conference in Peshwar, declared that he would not join the session unless changes were made in the 6-points program. He also threatened the elected representatives from West Pakistan not to join the assembly. He declared that he would clog up from Peshwar to

¹³¹ *The Daily Pakistan*, January 15, 1971 AD

¹³² *Bangaleer Etihaas*, p.270

Beluchistan. He also remarked that if the assembly session in Dhaka would sit, it would become a slaughter-house.

It is very interesting to note why Mr. Bhutto became so furious. Initially he was not on the hard line. After the election, in a press conference on January 13, Bhutto said that he would go to Dhaka on the third week of January to have a talk with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He also told that he felt honor for Sheikh Mujib as he fought for his people.¹³³ Bhutto's voice became furious against Awami League after his hospitality at Larkana being accepted by President Yahya Khan. Actually, the ruling military power was completely reluctant to release power to the Bangalees and as the political parties of Yahyah Khan's choice failed to achieve the majority, he decided to deploy PPP against Awami League to create a pretext for jeopardizing the National Assembly Session.

But Bangabandhu was not to be fooled. From the very beginning when L.F.O was proclaimed, he was fully aware of the conspiracy, hence he planned beforehand to reach the goal. When the protest against the irritated section 25 & 27 of L.F.O were raised, it was the issue that he had said, "I shall tear L.F.O. into pieces as soon as the elections are over."¹³⁴ Hence we see, Bangabandhu was advancing according to his pre-plan.

With all the controversial situations, Awami League was going on making a rough sketch of new constitution on the basis of 6-points program. On February 16, 1971 Bangabandhu was formally elected the leader of the Parliamentary Party, thus he became an undeclared Prime Minister of Pakistan.¹³⁵ On February 27, a draft of the constitution of Pakistan was placed before the meeting of Awami League Parliamentary

¹³³ *The Daily Pakistan*, January 14, 1971 AD

¹³⁴ Salik ,Siddiq, *Witness to Surrender*, Dhaka:University Press Limited, 1997, p.17

¹³⁵ *Bangaleer Etihaas*, p.284

Party which was presided over by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.¹³⁶ It was read out by Dr. Kamal Hossain. As the moment of the assembly session was getting nearer, tension hung in the air, Sheikh Mujib was becoming fully prepared for the assembly session. Rumors arose that Mujib was going to declare the independence of East Pakistan.

In this connection, the Governor of East Pakistan, S.M.Ahsan met Bangabandhu in an unscheduled meeting. The ambassador of USA, Mr. Joseph Furland in Dhaka also met Bangabandhu at his house to inform him about US Government's view that they would not support if he declared separation from Pakistan.¹³⁷

On the last day of February, 1971 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman asked Bhutto to join the assembly. He argued, if Bhutto refused to join the session with his 83 members and consequently if we also refused to go West Pakistan with our 160 members, what would happen then? However, Bangabandhu took all the preparations for the upcoming assembly session.

On the first day of March, 1971(Monday), at noon (1:05 pm), all the centers of Radio Pakistan broadcast a Radio Speech of President Yahya Khan. By the speech, Yahya Khan postponed the National Assembly Session for an indefinite period. The whole province exploded with anger and came to the street and spontaneously joined processions giving slogans, "Joy Bangla." Awami League chief Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called on a press conference and announced a program of actions which included hartal on 2 March in Dhaka and 3 March throughout the country and a public meeting at the Race Course Ground on 7 March. The

¹³⁶ *The Daily Pakistan*, January 28, 1971 AD

¹³⁷ *Bangaleer Etihaas*, p.290

students of Dhaka University, in a meeting held in the arts building, vowed to create 'Swadhin (independent) Bangladesh' and hoisted the flag of independent Bangladesh. During the day of hartal, police opened fire in Dhaka and the situation further became worsened. Curfew was imposed on Dhaka, but people violated the curfew, brought out processions and erected barricades on the routes of army movement.¹³⁸

Under this situation, Bangabandhu declared hartal program everyday up to 6 March from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the hartal, Law Courts, Government offices, railways, steamers and other communications were asked to be closed down. He also announced: no tax would be paid until armed forces were withdrawn and peoples' demands were met.

Realizing the dangerous nature of the situation, Yahya Khan declared on 6 March that the National Assembly Session would be held on March 25. At the same time, Lt. Gen. Tikka Khan was appointed as Martial Law Administrator and Governor of East Pakistan.

In the context of dilly-dallying by Yahya Khan on the question of handing over the power to the elected peoples' representatives, Shaikh Mujibur Rahman addressed a pre-scheduled historic public meeting on 7 March at Race Course Ground (present Suhrawarthy Uddayan).

From the historic 7th March address of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, all the Bangalee people got a green signal of preparation for the independence.¹³⁹ In the address Bangabandhu declared,

¹³⁸ *The Daily Pakistan*, March 3, 1971

¹³⁹ "The historic declaration of Bangabandhu on 7 March at Race Course Ground was seemed to us as a green signal. We finalized our plan. The agitation between Bangalee and Pakistani soldiers were also becoming intensified."- Colonel Ziaur Rahman ('Ekti Jatir Janma', *The Daily Dainik Bangla*, 26 March 1972; *The weekly Bichitra*, 16 December, 1972)

“Ebarer Sangram, Amader Muktir Sangram (This struggle is for our liberation...)

Ebarer Sangram, sadhinatar Sangram...” (This struggle is for our independence..)

Exhorting the surging ocean of people that assembled at the Race Course (the present Suhrawarthy Uddyan), the only sole leader of then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) Bangabandhu declared, “....Are Jodi Ekta Guli Chole, Are Jodi Amar Manuske Guli Kore Hatta Kora Hoy, Tumader Protee Anurodh Roilo, Ghore Ghore Durga Gore Tolo, Tumader Jar Ja Kichhu Aachhe, Tai Nie Satrur Mukabela Korte Hobe” (...If a single fire is further shot, if a single person is shot-dead, I request you, make every home a fortress. You have to confront the enemy with whatever you have in your hands.) With a fierce voice he further said, “... Rokta Jokhan Deachhi, Rokta Aaro Debo, Edesher Manuske Mukto Kore Chharbo Insha-Allah.” (.....We have given blood, we will give more; and Insha-Allah, we will liberate the country.)

This address acted as a guide to the Liberation Struggle of Bangladesh. It was, in fact, the source of eternal inspiration and symbol of the Liberation Struggle of the Bangalees.

Bangabandhu not only guided the people to be prepared for the final struggle but also declared an action program of non-co operation which was non-violent in nature. It was spontaneously followed throughout erstwhile Bangladesh. In this way, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established a parallel peoples’ government against Pakistan oppressors and took control of Bangladesh in hand.

On March 14, he announced 35 rules for running the civil administration.¹⁴⁰ The main points of that announcement were as follows:

- a) All the Government Departments, Secretariat, High-Court, Semi-government or Semi-autonomous institutions will be closed as usual;
- b) All the industrial institutions will be closed ;
- c) The District Commissioners or Sub-Division officers will not attend in the office, instead they will ensure law and order by consulting with the local Awami-League leaders or the Movement Committee’;
- d) The Department of Police also have to follow the same instructions;
- e) Radio, Television & Newspapers will be working. If these institutions do not agree to broadcast the news of mass-movement, no employee will cooperate with them;
- f) All the taxes & revenues will be stopped.

The orders of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were followed word by word throughout the whole country.

On 15 March, President Yahya Khan came to Dhaka at noon but till late hours of night he did not meet with Bangabandhu.

On 16 March, dialogue started between President Yahya Khan and Bangabandhu.

On 21 March, leader of Pakistan Peoples’ Party, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto came to Dhaka with his 12-member advisory committee. An unscheduled meeting between President Yahya Khan and Bangabandhu was held on the day. But Yahya Khan failed to manage Bangabandhu to amend 6-points program. Bangabandhu declared that he would not join the

¹⁴⁰ After the historic 7 March Speech, all the administrative power of whole of East Pakistan spontaneously came under control of Bangabandhu except military department. Thus we see, even, the chief Justice of Bangladesh Supreme Court, Justice B.A. Siddiq, refused to read out oath of General Tikka Khan without the permission of Bangabandhu. See also, Salik, Siddiq, *Witness to Surrender*, Dhaka : University Press Limited, 1997, p. 55; *Bangaleer Etihaas*, p.310, *The Pakistan Observer*, March 7-24, 1971

assembly until his 4-points demand that was declared in his 7th March speech was fulfilled.¹⁴¹

On 22 March, President Yahya Khan met on a discussion with Bangabandhu and Bhutto in the same session. But the meeting was not fruitful and again Yahya postponed the National Assembly Session of 25th March.¹⁴²

On 23 March, Bangabandhu declared public holiday. People hoisted the flag of Bangladesh in stead of Pakistani flag around the country.¹⁴³

On 24 March, after a meeting with the advisors of Yahya Khan, Taj Uddin Ahmed declared that Awami League did not want to prolong the discussion. On the day the West Pakistani Leaders left Dhaka in groups.¹⁴⁴

On 25 March, all day Bangabandhu stayed at home. People of all walks of life met Bangabandhu all day long. A rumor spread around the city that the Pakistan Army might attack the people at the night of 25th March. Bangabandhu suggested his leaders to go out of Dhaka. He himself refused to hide because he thought if he hid, the Pakistani soldiers might make massacre in search of him. So he decided to stay at home. At midnight when the Pakistan army set out to attack the city, Bangabandhu declared the independence of Bangladesh.¹⁴⁵ In his declaration, Bangabandhu said, 'This may be my last message. From today Bangladesh is independent. I call upon the people of Bangladesh wherever you might be and with whatever you have, to resist the army of occupation to the last. Your fight must go on until the last soldier of the

¹⁴¹ *The Ittefaq, The Azad and the Sangbad*, 21, 22 March, 1971 AD

¹⁴² *The Azad*, 23 March, 1971 AD.

¹⁴³ On the day an English newspaper, *The People*, in Dhaka titled a news as 'A New Flag is born.' (see *The People*, Dhaka, 23 March, 1971. The newspaper wrote'... This is the latest flag added to the total list of the flags representing various states and nations of the contemporary world.)

¹⁴⁴ *Bangaleer Etihaas*, p.322

¹⁴⁵ *The Constitution of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh*, 1972

Pakistan occupation army is expelled from the soil of Bangladesh and final victory is achieved.¹⁴⁶

It was Pakistan oppressors who imposed an unjustified warfare over the armless people of Bangladesh. After the crack down named 'Operation Search Light' the final stage of Pakistan era began which inscribed a everlasting black spot on the forehead of Pakistan Army. The Pakistan Army imposed massacre and genocide on the night over Dhaka city.¹⁴⁷

A planned military pacification carried out by the Pakistan Army — codenamed *Operation Searchlight* — started on 25 March to curb the Bangalee nationalist movement¹⁴⁸ by taking control of the major cities on 26 March, and then eliminating all oppositions, political or military,¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁶ After the death of General Ziaur Rahman, a section of people were continuously trying to establish him as the declarer of the war of independence. But it is a silly effort because, Ziaur Rahman was then a simple Major. There is no evidence of involvement in the turmoil moments of the liberation struggle of Bangladesh before his rebellion on March 27, 1971. He himself also confessed in an article that he himself got a green signal to revolt from the speech of Bangabandhu on 7th March, 1971. Moreover, only Bangabandhu was then the sole leader who could hold the authority of any declaration, because he was then the *de facto* in East Pakistan. The country was also running according to his 35-points announcement. In fact, the declaration of the independence had already stated in 7 March speech, hence, after the brutal attack of Pakistan army at the first hour of March 26, no declaration was needed. However, Bangabandhu took preparation shrewdly to give the nation a message to start the fight against invaded Pakistani Army according to the guide of 7 March Speech. And he was able to give the message through E.P.R wireless and through the radio made by Dr. Nurul Ula and some other professors of Engineering University. What Ziaur Rahman did, was that he read out the message given to him by the activists of Swadhin Bangla Beter Kendra at Kalurghat on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was the fourth among them who declared the independence of Bangladesh on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. (see also, 'Ekti Jatir Janma', *The Daily Dainik Bangla*, 26 March 1972; *The weekly Bichitra*, 16 December, 1972; Siddiq Salik: *Witness to Surrender*, University Press Limited, Dhaka, 1997, p.85 ; Robert Pain: *Massacre*, University Press Limited, Dhaka; Dr. Mohammad Hannan: *Bangaleer Etihaas*, Anupom Prakasany, Dhaka, 1999, p.302-332; Hasan Hafizur Rahman(ed.): *Bangladesher Sadhinatajuddha: Dalilpatra*, Vol. VII, Ministry of Information, Govt. of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, p.422-23 etc.)

¹⁴⁷ Salik ,Siddiq, *Witness to Surrender*, Dhaka :University Press Limited, 1997, p.71-90

¹⁴⁸ Bose ,Sarmila, 'Anatomy of Violence: Analysis of Civil War in East Pakistan in 1971: Military Action: Operation Searchlight', *Economic and Political Weekly Special Articles*, 8 October, 2005

¹⁴⁹ Siddiq Salik, *Witness To Surrender*, p. 63, p. 228-9

within one month. Before the beginning of the operation, all foreign journalists were systematically departed from East Pakistan.¹⁵⁰

The main phase of Operation Searchlight ended with the fall of the last major town in Bangalee hands in mid-May. The operation also began the 1971 Bangladesh atrocities. These systematic killings served only to enrage the Bangalees, which ultimately resulted in the secession of East Pakistan later in the same year. The international media and reference books in English have published casualty figures which vary greatly, from 5,000–35,000 in Dhaka, and 200,000–3,000,000 for Bangladesh as a whole.

According to the Asia Times, at a meeting of the military top brass, Yahya Khan declared: "Kill 3 million of them and the rest will eat out of our hands." Accordingly, on the night of 25 March, the Pakistan Army launched *Operation Searchlight* to "crush" Bangalee resistance in which Bangalee members of military services were disarmed and killed, students and the intelligentsia systematically liquidated and able-bodied Bangalee males were just picked up and gunned down.

Although the violence focused on the provincial capital, Dhaka, it also affected all parts of East Pakistan. Residential halls of the University of Dhaka were particularly targeted. The only Hindu residential hall — the Jagannath Hall — was destroyed by the Pakistan armed forces, and an estimated 600 to 700 of its residents were murdered. The Pakistan army denies any cold blooded killings at the university, though the Hamood-ur-Rehman commission in Pakistan concluded that overwhelming force was used at the university. This fact and the massacre at Jagannath Hall and

¹⁵⁰ Siddiqui, Asif, 'Deterrence and Coercive Diplomacy to War - The 1971 Crisis in South Asia', *Journal of International and Area Studies*, Vol.IV, 1997, pp 73-92.

nearby student dormitories of Dhaka University are corroborated by a videotape secretly filmed by Prof. Nurul Ullah of the East Pakistan Engineering University, who's residence was directly opposite to the students' dormitories.¹⁵¹ Hindu areas suffered particularly heavy blows. By midnight, Dhaka was literally burning, especially the Hindu dominated eastern part of the city. *Time* magazine reported on 2 August 1971, "The Hindus, who account for three-fourths of the refugees and a majority of the dead, have borne the brunt of the Pakistani military hatred."

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested by the Pakistan Army. Yahya Khan appointed Brigadier (later General) Rahimuddin Khan to preside over a special tribunal prosecuting Mujib with multiple charges. The tribunal sentenced Mujib to death, but Yahya caused the verdict to be held in abeyance. Other Awami League leaders were arrested as well, while a few fled Dhaka to avoid arrest. The Awami League was banned by General Yahya Khan.

However, most of the AL Leaders who were elected members of the National Assembly (MNAs) and the Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan managed to flee to India.

On April 10, these elected representatives were finally able to meet together at Kolkata where they formed the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh proclaimed the sovereignty of Bangladesh, electing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President, Sayed Nazrul Islam as Vice-president (Interim President), Taj Uddin Ahmed as Prime Minister, Khondokar Mustaq Ahmed as Foreign Minister, Captain

¹⁵¹ Malik, Amita, *The Year of the Vulture*, New Delhi: Orient Longmans, 1972, p. 79-83

Mansoor Ali and A.H.M. Kamaruzzaman were also included in the cabinet.¹⁵²

On April 17, this exile government reached at Bhaberpara, Baydyanathtala of Meherpur of Bangladesh which was later declared as 'Mujibnagar'. They took oath and approved the declaration of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the independence of Baangladesh. Colonel Ataul Gani Osmani was appointed as the Commander in Chief of Bangladesh Army. After the oath, Taj Uddin Ahmed gave a furious speech urging the humanity of the mankind to resist the brutal genocide of Pakistan Army. He also informed that the Bangalees were fighting boldly and final victory would be very near.

The preparation of the liberation war had already started across the country when Bangabandhu declared on 7 March, "Ebarer Sangram, Amader Muktir Sangram (This struggle is for our liberation...), Ebarer Sangram, sadhinatar Sangram... (This struggle is for our independence..). Even the people were ready to attack the cantonment of Dhaka on the historic day of 7 March speech waiting for a single command from their sole leader, the father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. But Bangabandhu was trying to solve the crisis politically to avoid blood shedding.¹⁵³

¹⁵² Maniruzzaman Talukdar, *The Radical Politics and the Emergence of Bangladesh*, Dhaka: Mowla Brothers, 2003, p. 97

¹⁵³ After the brutal killing of Bangabandhu in 1975, some opportunists questioned that Bangabandhu should declare independence directly on 7 March so that the mob at Race Course Ground could attack the army cantonment and easily achieve independence with less blood-shedding. It is actually a immature thought. If Bangabandhu did so, he would loss all the supports of international community and the military force would get a legal ground in killing Bangalees. They could then be able to prove the 'liberation war' as the terrorism of some Awami extremists rather than mass-upsurge. As a result, the opportunity of being an independent nation that was created through 23rd years of mass-struggle would go in vain. In fact, Bangabandhu was right on his way, giving no chance to his opponent to question about the morality of his movement. Moreover, he was trying to save the general people from mass-killing. Could the people resist some more than one lacs of army soldiers deployed in East Pakistan without being supported by international community? In fact, the shrewd declaration of independence in the 7th March speech rather than direct declaration was the first defeat of Pakistan military rulers. Thus they fall in a trap; either they were to release power to

After the historic speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 7 March, 1971 the whole country became a fortress made by civilians of East Pakistan. At every corner of the country, people took preparations with whatever they had to resist the army of Pakistan occupation. Mymensingh was not out of them.

With a close inspection of the nature of the war, it seemed that the war was mainly confined within the cities but gradually it spread around the country side. According to Mr. Lin Beao, “. . . countryside overwhelming the cities.”¹⁵⁴ The leadership of the war came from the middle class initially and the trend was unchanged to the last.

The Bangladesh Liberation War was an armed conflict pitting West Pakistan against East Pakistan (two halves of one country) and India, that resulted in the secession of East Pakistan to become the independent nation of Bangladesh. The war broke out on 26 March 1971 as army units directed by West Pakistan launched a military operation in East Pakistan against the Bangalee civilians, students, intelligentsia, and armed personnel who were demanding independence from Pakistan. Members of the East Bengal Regiment, East Pakistan Rifles, East Pakistan Police and other Bangalee military and paramilitary forces, and armed civilians revolted to form guerilla groups and forces (generally termed as the Mukti Bahini) to fight against the army of West Pakistan. During the following months, India provided economic, military and diplomatic support to the Mukti Bahini in East Pakistan. On December 3, 1971, (West) Pakistan launched a pre-emptive attack on the western border of India, which marked the commencement of the Indo-Pakistan War of

the Bangalees or they were to face 75 million of freedom loving people losing all international supports. The ruler took the second option that was proved fatal to them with the surrender of some 90 thousand soldiers.

¹⁵⁴ Hossain, Sayed Anwar, *Muktijuddher Etihus Charcha: Tatta O Paddhati*, Dhaka : Anupam Prokasoni, February, 2000, p.13

1971. Finally, on December 16, 1971, the allied forces of the Indian army and the Mukti Bahini (Bangladesh Liberation Army) decisively defeated the (West) Pakistan forces deployed in the East resulting in the largest surrender, in terms of the number of POWs, since World War II.

It is a question, which arose later, about the nature of the war and the identification of the participants of the war. After the brutal killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a trend developed during the reign of martial law in Bangladesh that highlighted the army as the sole role-player in the liberation war. But it was not the fact. In fact, the liberation war of Bangladesh was a *Peoples' War* in which the people of all walks of life participated under the direct command of the Government of Mujibnagar headed by the elected representatives of the soil of Bangladesh. If we view closely on the basis of war strategy, we obviously will see the worthlessness of the above question.

According to the war specialists, to be victorious in a war, three essential requirements are to be fulfilled:

- a. Support of the mass people;
- b. Support of the geographical position;
- c. Support of international community (at least neighboring territories)

Firstly, in the liberation war of 1971, Mujibnagar Government fulfilled all the three requirements. The leadership of the war was completely under control of Mujibnagar Government which was formed by the elected representatives of the general election of 1970. The elected representatives of the Bangalee people had already taken oath under Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on January 3rd, 1971 at Race Course Ground before millions of people. Thus the activities of the Government were completely supported by the 75 million people of

Bangladesh although there were a number of collaborators of Pakistan army within the country.

Secondly, it is a wonder how the 'Bangalee Guerrilla Bahini' made it possible to fight against a sophisticated Pakistan army within a plain land like Bangladesh. To be successful in a guerrilla attack, it is needed to 'hit and run' and thus needed hiding places. As Bangladesh is mostly a plain land, it was not possible to hide anywhere. So, how did the guerrillas hide? The war specialists tried to find out the answer of the question. They became astonished to discover that the guerrillas hid no where than the mass people. Thus it was proved that in the war of liberation in 1971, almost all the people became 'guerrillas'. Most of them were involved in the war and thus it was very much difficult for the Pakistan Army and their collaborators to find out the actual 'guerrilla' from the mass people. The 'guerrillas' used to hit the Pakistan troops and change their dress and get lost among the general people.

Thirdly, as soon as the 'Mujibnagar Government' formed the Bangalee ambassadors or consuls in all the foreign missions declared their support to the government and started to hold the support of international community towards 'Bangladesh'. A team of foreign affairs of 'Mujibnagar Government' wandered country to country to collect the international support for 'Bangladesh and they successfully were able to create a tremendous international pressure against the 'genocide' of Pakistani army. The Government of Mujibnagar also succeeded to get all kinds of support from the neighboring country, India. Thus they were able to fulfill all the three requirements needed to be victorious in a war.

According to the prominent researchers, in the war 1971 direct involvement of the people was as follows:¹⁵⁵

Muktijoddha	: 1,20,000 (Approx)
Bengal Regiment	: 3,000
E.P.R	: 10,000
Police	: 13,000

The above table shows, the professional Bangalee armed forces involvement in the war were only three thousand whereas, there were more than one lacs of sophisticated armed forces with the most modern ammunitions in the Pakistan side as well as approximately same numbers of local collaborators. Could this 'three thousand' unarmed Bangalee soldiers be able to resist the Pakistani army without direct involvement of mass people and the support of international community? It was not possible.

In fact, the liberation war of 1971 against the Pakistani army was completely a **people's war** under the direct command of 'The Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Mujibnagar.'

The Liberation War in 1971 had several phases.

- a. From the Crackdown on 25th March, 71 to 17th April, 71
- b. May to June
- c. July to September
- d. September to December

¹⁵⁵ Ibid, p.12; Talukder Moniruzzaman: *The Bangladesh Revolution and its Aftermath*, p.113,136 ; The C in C of Bengal Army, General Ataul Gani Osmani said that the total number of Bangalee army (Infantry, EPR and Air force) were approximately 25,000.

First Phase: From the Crackdown on 25th March, 71 to 17th April, 71¹⁵⁶

At mid-night of 25th March, Pakistani Army set out to impose the 'Operation Searchlight'. On the first hour of March 26, they arrested Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and confined him in cantonment at Kurmitola. Later he was transferred to a jail at Karachi, West Pakistan. Before being arrested, Bangabandhu sent a telex message through EPR wireless declaring the independence of Bangladesh.

At this stage, the resistance was spontaneous and disorganized, and was not expected to be prolonged.¹⁵⁷ But when the Pakistani Army cracked down upon the population, resistance grew. The Mukti Bahini became increasingly active. The Pakistani military sought to quell them, but increasing numbers of Bangalee soldiers defected to the underground "Bangladesh army". These Bangalee units slowly merged into the Mukti Bahini and bolstered their weaponry with supplies from India. Pakistan responded by airlifting in two infantry divisions and reorganizing their forces. They also raised paramilitary forces of Razakars, Al-Badrs and Al-Shams (who were mostly members of Jamaat-e-Islami and other Islamist groups), as well as other Bangalees who opposed independence, and Bihari Muslims who had settled during the time of partition. The Bangladesh government-in-exile was formed on 17 April at Mujib Nagar. However, the resistance of Bangalee people was demolished by the Pakistani Army within 22 April by imposing complete genocide.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁶ Mukul, M. R. Akhtar (ed.), *Bangladesher Sadhinatajuddha: Dalilpatra*, (extracted in one volume), Ministry of Information, Govt. of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 1988, p.517-953;

¹⁵⁷ Pakistan Defense Journal, 1977, Vol 2, p2-3

¹⁵⁸ Siddiq Salik: *Witness To Surrender*, p. 63, p. 90

Second Phase: May to June¹⁵⁹

This was a transitional period when The Government of Mujibnagar was trying to consolidate the disorganized Bengal Regiment, EPR, Bangalee Police, Students, Political activists and all other freedom fighters within a chain of command. In this stage, some operations of the 'Mukti Bahini' were held through organized way.

Third Phase: July to September¹⁶⁰

After assuming responsibility, the government of Bangladesh immediately became concerned in organizing and directing the Liberation War. A regular armed Battalion was formed consisting of the Bangalee members of the then E.P.R and the Bangalee soldiers and officers of the Pakistani Army. Another body of the forces named of 'sector Troops' was formed with the members of police, E.P.R and Army. Later on, three Brigades were formed known as 'K' force, 'S' force and 'Z' force consisting of the regular armed battalion. They are treated as 'Mukti Bahini' and 'Mukti Fouj'. An irregular force, known as the 'Freedom fighters' was formed comprising of trained students, youths, peasants, workers and people from other professions. They were also known as 'Guerrilla.'

Formation of Bangladesh Army

Bangladesh forces command was set up on 11 July, with Col. M A G Osmani as commander in chief, Lt. Col. Abdur Rob as chief of Army Staff and Group Captain A K Khandaker as Deputy Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Air Force. Bangladesh was divided into Eleven Sectors each with a commander chosen from defected officers of Pakistan army who joined the Mukti Bahini to conduct guerrilla operations and train fighters.

¹⁵⁹ *Bangladesher Sadhinatajuddha: Dalilpatra*, p. 517-953

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid*, p. 517-953

Most of their training camps were situated near the border area and were operated with assistance from India. The 10th Sector was directly placed under Commander in Chief (C-in-C) and included the Naval Commandos and C-in-C's special force.¹⁶¹ Three brigades (11 Battalions) were raised for conventional warfare; a large guerrilla force (estimated 100,000) was trained.

Guerrilla operations, which slackened during the training phase, picked up after August. Economic and military targets in Dhaka were attacked. The major success story was Operation Jackpot, in which naval commandos mined and blew up berthed ships in Chittagong on 16 August 1971. Pakistani reprisals claimed lives of thousands of civilians. The Indian army took over supplying the Mukti Bahini from the BSF. They organized six sectors for supplying the Bangladesh forces.

4th (Final) Phase: October – December

In This stage, Bangladesh conventional forces attacked border outposts. Kamalpur, Belonia and Battle of Boyra are a few examples. 90 out of 370 BOPs (Boarder Out Posts) fell to Bangalee forces. Guerrilla attacks intensified, as did Pakistani and Razakar reprisals on civilian populations. Pakistani forces were reinforced by eight battalions from West Pakistan. The Bangladeshi independence fighters even managed to temporarily capture airstrips at Lalmonirhat and Shalutikar.¹⁶² Both of these were used for flying in supplies and arms from India. Pakistan sent 5 battalions from West Pakistan as reinforcements. On 3rd December, finding no other way, to avoid defeat in the liberation war, Pakistan attacked India. Immediately, Bangladesh-India joint alliance was formed, India declared

¹⁶¹ See, Bangladesh Liberation Armed Force, Liberation War Museum, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

¹⁶² India - Pakistan War, 1971; Introduction By Tom Cooper, with Khan Syed Shaiz Ali

recognition of 'Bangladesh' as the sovereign state on December 06, 1971. Thus the war turned into 'Pakistan verses India-Bangladesh war'. On December 16, 1971 the Eastern Command of the Pakistani Army was compelled to surrender to India-Bangladesh joint allied force. Thus the emergence of Bangladesh became successful.

Liberation War in Mymensingh:

After the crackdown of the Pakistan army on March 26, 1971, resistance started spontaneously with and breadth of Mymensingh according to the guidance of the historic 7 March speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Like other areas of the country, Liberation War in Mymensingh was going on the following ways:¹⁶³

Phase	Duration	Nature of the war
First Phase	: 26 March to 17 April	Spontaneous resistance & back to the pavilion
Second Phase	: May to June	Some form of planned resistance
Third Phase	: July to September	Total planned attack
Final Phase	: September to December	All out war and achieving victory with the direct help of Indian Army.

In the time of Liberation War, Mymensingh was under sector -11. The sector stretches from Meghaloya to the North India & Dhaka to the south. It includes Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Kishorgonj, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajgonj, Tangail, eastern part of Bogra and Total Gazipur district. It was the largest sector.¹⁶⁴ The 'Muktijuddha' in Mymensingh was integrated with the events of entire sector-11 which

¹⁶³ Interview: Habibur Rahman, Field Intelligence Assistant, Member, Muktijoddha Samsad, Jamalpur District Unit ; Imamur Rashid, co-editor, *Bangladesher Sadhinatajuddha: Dalilpatra*;

¹⁶⁴ Mamoon Muntassir (ed.), *Muktijuddha Kosh*, Vol.III, Dhaka: Somoy Prakason, 2005, p.336

includes the above mentioned districts. As a result, the author includes approximately all the major events of the districts of section-11 here.

The Headquarter of the sector was set at Teldhala until October 10, then transferred to Mahendraganj. The elected people's representatives of Mymensingh were gathered at 'Tura' sub-camp and organized operations from there.¹⁶⁵

Sector Commanders:¹⁶⁶

- Major Ziaur Rahman (June 27, 1971 – October 10, 1971)
- Major Abu Taher (October 10, 1971 – November 2, 1971)
- Squadron Leader M. Hamidullah Khan (November 2, 1971 – February 14, 1972)

Sub-sectors and in-charge

2. Mankarchar (Squadron Leader M.Hamidullah Khan);
3. Mahendraganj (Major Abu Taher; Lieutenant Mannan);
4. Purakhasia (Lieutenant Hashem);
5. Dhalu (Lieutenant Taher; Lieutenant Kamal);
6. Rangra (Matiur Rahman)
7. Shivbari (divided between junior commissioned officers of the EPR);
8. Bagmara (divided between junior commissioned officers of the EPR);
9. Maheshkhola

Forces of Mujibnagar Government in Mymensingh:

After the formation and oath of Bangladesh Government on 17th April, 1971, Prime Minister Taj Uddin Ahmed paid attention to form a powerful armed force under the command of C in C Colonel Ataul Gani Osmani. This force belonged to the following category:

¹⁶⁵ See Appendix-1(interview-03)

¹⁶⁶ Mukul ,M. R. Akhtar (ed.), *Bangladesher Sadhinatajuddha: Dalilpatra*, (extracted in one volume), Ministry of Information, Govt. of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 1988, p.670-674;

- a) **Regular Force:** The retired or revolted soldiers of East Bengal Regiment and newly recruited soldiers were included in the force. This force were formed under strict military law. Rations, arms & ammunitions, uniforms, dwelling, wage everything of this force were provided by the government. The commanders of this forces informed their needs to the C in C & C in C informed the needs to the government. Thus Bangladesh Government requested Indian Government through proper channel. This way, the requirements of the regular forces were met up during the war. The Bangladesh Government decided to raise the member of this force up to 25,000 to defend the approximately 4 division soldiers of Pakistan Army. This Regular force of Bangladesh Army was known as 'Mukti Fouj'. To operate sound actions within sector-11 (in Greater Mymensingh) against Pakistani Army and their collaborators, initially a battalion of force was positioned under Major Ziaur Rahman at 'Roumary'. From June 27, 1971 – October 10, 1971, Major Ziaur Rahman led the training programs and other operations along with other officials of Indian BSF and Indian Army. On October, he was transferred to Sylhet and Major Taher was appointed as a sector commander of sector-11. Major Taher changed the existing conventional war strategy followed by Ziaur Rahman and gave more stress on guerrilla attacks along with traditional method. It became fruitful. Major Taher commanded from October 10, 1971 to November 2, 1971 when he became seriously wounded by a shell attack of Pakistan Army at the historic Kamalpur Battle. During his absence, second in command Squadron Leader M. Hamidullah Khan was given the command of sector-11. He carried on his duty from November 2, 1971 to February 14, 1972.

All over Bangladesh, there were eight battalions of regular forces in Bangladesh Army.

- b) **Sector Troops:** This is also a regular force formed with EPR, Police and Ansars. But their war strategy and weapons were something different from the regular battalion. Mujibnagar Government raised as many as 10 thousand of sector troops. They worked as the sector troops of different sector battalions.
- c) **Brigades:** To strengthen the regular force, three brigades were also formed. Z-force was formed under command of Ziaur Rahman with 1st, 3rd & 8th East Bengal Regiment; S-force was formed under command of Major Shafiullah with 2nd & 11th East Bengal Regiment; K-force was formed under command of Major Khalid Musarrof with 4th, 9th & 10th East Bengal Regiment. Z-force took position in sector-11 before joining of Major Taher.
- d) **Freedom Fighters (Gono Bahini) :** Mujib Nagar Government wanted to raise at least 80 thousand of freedom fighters known as 'Gono Bahini' along with the regular forces. The members of this force were recruited from all sections of people and they were given light training such as two weeks of training. This troops had no wage or rations. They also did not claim anything. Whenever they were sent to any operation, they were given a small amount of money and a light arms i.e. grenade, 303 rifles etc. In Mymensingh, there were as many as 20 thousand freedom fighters(Gono Bahini) who took numerous operations.
- e) **Other Bahini:** During the liberation war, some freedom loving people established some forces within the country without the help of Mujibnagar Government. However, these 'Bahinis' took permission from the government to carry on their activities along with the Bangladesh Army. In Mymensingh Kaderia Bahini, Afsar Bahini, Baten Bahini, Mujib Bahini were active.

Some irregular forces other than Bangladesh Government

Army:

Along with the above professional armed forces of Bangladesh Government, there were some other groups of forces formed locally by individual effort within the Sector-11 that caused havoc to the Pakistan Army. They were 'Kaderia Bahini' of Tangail; 'Baten Bahini' of Tangail, 'Afser Bahini' of Valuka, Mujib Bahini etc.

Kaderia Bahini:¹⁶⁷

On the first week of April, the younger brother of Abdul Latif Siddiqi, the elected Member of East Pakistan Provincial Assembly, (Tangail-4), Kader Siddiqi formed a powerful armed force with EPR, Police, Ansar and local youths to resist the Pakistan Army within the area of Jamalpur-Mymensingh-Tangail-Dhaka and some parts of Pabna. Initially he recruited 400 persons and trained them with his own invented guerrilla method at 'Deopara Hill.' The traditional method of 'guerrilla attack' was 'hit & run' but Kader Siddiqi invented a new method named 'hit & advance'. This unique method was proved very much fruitful in the liberation war of Bangladesh. However, in the mid-April, the Pakistani Air Force attacked his center at Madhupur. Thus his troops were divided on the question of fixing the next position. The EPR force within his battalion left him and advanced towards Jamalpur-Mymensingh. He took position with a small group in the deep forest of 'Madhupur Jungle.' The member of this 'force' increased up to 15,000. During Liberation War 'Kaderia Bahini' took more than 350 operations and killed more than 1000 Pakistani Army sacrificing only 31(thirty one) Muktiyoddhas.

¹⁶⁷ Interview: Habibur Rahman, Field Intelligence Assistant, Sector 11; Mukul, M. R. Akhtar (ed.): *Bangladesher Sadhinatajuddha: Dalilpatra*, (extracted in one volume), Ministry of Information, Govt. of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 1988, p.517-953; Mamoon, Muntassir (ed.), *Muktijuddha Kosh*, Vol.II, Dhaka: Somoy Prakason, 2005, p.24

The first expedition of 'Kaderia Bahini' was on 22 May, 1971. Kader Siddiqi took position with some of his force at 'Charan'. Here he attacked a big unit of Pakistani Army. After valiant battle, he captured some ammunitions and supplies of Pakistani Army. At least 15 soldier of Pakistan Army were killed as they were not ready for the attack. No person was dead on Kader's side. This achievement strengthen the morality of his Bahini.

On June 3rd, 1971 Kader Siddiqi planned for a bigger warfare at Madhupur-Ghatail-Gopalpur area. The soldier of Pakistan soldiers surrendered at this battle. Kader Siddiqi captured huge arms and ammunition as well as rations from the battle.

On June 12, 1971 'Kaderia Bahini' fought against the Pakistan Army at 'Balla'. After a five hours battle the Pakistan army fled away leaving their 16 dead soldiers.

In July, Kader Siddiqi wounded in a battle and went to India with 25 of his companions. He was cordially received at 'Dallu' boarder camp by BSF commander Captain Melwin. There he stayed several days and returned to Tangail.

In August, Kader Siddiqi demanded for the declaration of Tangail as a sector under his control. Sector commander Major Taher accepted his proposal. After that, Kaderia Bahini made series of guerrilla fights against 'Rajakars' and Pakistan Army. Kaderia Bahini fought bravely till the fall of Dhaka on 16 December, 1971.

Afsar Bahini:¹⁶⁸

Lance Nayek Afsar Uddin Ahmed (Rtd.) was a Vice-President of Valuka thana Awami League and the member of Mallikbari Union Council. On the mid-April, 1971 this retired East Bengal Regiment officer collected 8 Rifles with the help of local Awami League leader Abdul Hamid. On April 24, 1971 he recruited 7 persons and started a training at Mallik Bari. Amzad Hossain, Abdul Khalek, Abdul Barek, Abdul Malek, Sameer Uddin, Narayan Chandra Pal and Anil Songma were the first recruit. With this small group Lance Nayek Afser made some irregular 'guerrilla attack' and grasped some 25 arms. Within April, 30 the 'Bahini' increased up to 50 members. Later it was raised up to 4,500. Afsar Uddin divided his soldiers into 25 companies according to the formation of military rule.

On May 2, 1971 Afsar Bahini attacked Valuka thana with utmost effort all on a sudden. The Pakistan Army stayed at this thana became astonished at the valiant attack and fled away from the thana. In the battle, the Pakistani Police at the thana surrendered with 15 Rifles and 1550 round bullets. This achievement rose the confidence of 'Afsar Bahini' and increased its member.

On May 21, 1972 Afser Bahini again attacked the thana and captured 10 Rifles, 2 Machine Guns & huge ammunitions.

On May 22, 1971, Afsar Bahini attacked Gafargaon Army camp with the help of Muktijoddha Nurul Islam. With the sudden attack, Afser Bahini captured 8 Rifles and 6 boxes of bullets.

¹⁶⁸ Mamoon, Muntassir (ed.), *Muktijuddha Kosh*, Vol.II, Dhaka : Somoy Prakason, 2005, p.109 ; Interview: Habibur Rahman, Field Intelligence Assistant, Sector11

On July 19, 1971 Afsar Bahini attacked 'Seed store Bazar Camp' and killed 23 Pakistan Army.

On July 23, 1971 they attacked 'Goalvita Camp, Treosal' and captured 3 rifles and huge ammunitions.

On July 25, 1971 Afsar Bahini attacked 'Mallik Bari Camp' and killed 16 enemy force and captured all the arms & ammunitions from there.

On August 9, 1971 Afsar Bahini again attacked 'Mallik Bari Camp' and able to kill 14 enemy force & 4 Rajakars.

On August 14, 1971 Afser Uddin went to meet Major Abu Taher at the Indian Border. The Sector Commander Abu Taher gave him the title of 'Honorary Major' on behalf of the Government of Mujibnagar and declared valuka and the adjacent area as sub-sector within the Sector-11.

On August 15, 1971 Battalion to IC of Afsar Bahini Abdul Hakim attacked a unit of Pakistani force while they were crossing 'Bariabaha Ghat' and killed 19 soldiers. They also captured 4 Rifles.

On August 16, 1971 a group of Afsar Bahini attacked 'Dhanshilla & Khatalbari Razakar camp under the leadership of Platoon Commander Hafizur Rahman. They also captured 9 Rifles.

On August 26, 1971 Afsar Bahini attacked 'Mallikbari Camp' under the leadership of Platoon Commander Ayub Ali and killed 8 enemy soldiers. They also captured 9 Rifles. The following 29th August, another attack was organized by Platoon Commander and his group at Mallik Bari. They were able to kill 4 enemies.

On August 30, 1971 'Afsar Bahini' attacked 'Fulbary Razar Camp'. They fought for seven hours and were able to kill 25 enemies.

On September 21, 1971 Pakistani Army raided the head quarter of Afsar Bahini at 'Baraid Village' from all sides. But the intelligence of Afsar Bahini got the news earlier and ambushed them from the back. The army, thus, became fool and 14 of their soldier were killed.

Afsar Bahini also published and circulated a irregular newspaper named 'Jagroto Bangla' which focused on the successful operations of 'Afsar Bahini' & 'kaderia Bahini.'

Baten Bahini, Tangail¹⁶⁹

Khandakar Abdul Baten was the Chairman of Tangail District Chhatra League(partly) & VP of Sadat College, Karatia. After receiving the telex message of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman about the declaration of the independence of Bangladesh on March 26, 1971 immediately, he started to gather peoples to make a 'Bahini'. He started with 4 Rifles given by Atoar Rahman Khan of Delduar and some of his followers. Gradually, he strengthened his power by attacking the Pakistan Army by guerrilla method. Hearing this, Subedar Abdul Bari, Lance Nyke Azharul Islam, Lance Nyke Mojibur Rahman Talukder Montu joined his Bahini with some arms. Later Professor Akbar Ali Khan Dollar joined him with Mohidur Rahman Khan Alamgir and some youths. With the help of these people, Abdul Baten established a powerful 'Bahini' that was a serious threat to the Pakistan Force. The Members of Baten Bahini reached up to 3500 including 21 companies , 63 platoons and 100 sections. During the Liberation War, Baten Bahini made numerous operations at Tangail, Dhaka, North of Manikgonj and at some parts of Gazipur.

Among the operations the following were the most known: Attack of Singair thana, Daulatpur thana attack, capture of Gheor thana, two times attack of Saturia thana, operation at Chouhali, capturing Nagarpur thana, Dhalla bridge attack, killing of Razakars at Khashkawlea, Destruction of Zabra bridge at Manikgonj etc.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid, Vol.3, p.43

Mujib Bahini:

As the resistance of Bangalee people was going on spontaneously and scattered within the country in the initial stage, a question arose among the concerned whether the leadership of the 'Liberation War' would be under control of Awami League to the last due to the absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. If they lost control over all the fighting groups to the last and if any extremist group arose and would try to snatch the leadership of the war, the enemy force could be able to make divisions among the freedom fighters which might be proved fatal to the War of Liberation. To avert this possibility, an armed force was formed with the assistance of Director General of RAW, Major General Uban. The group was formed by the Awami Juboleague & Chhatra League leaders i.e. Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni, Sirajul Alam Khan, Nur E Alam Siddiqi, A.S.M Abdur Rob, Shahajan Siraj, Abdul Kuddus Makhan, Sarder Amzad Hossain. These leaders recruited some recognized activists of Awami League to form a powerful armed force named 'Mujib Bahini.' This 'Bahini' got trained at the defense academy of 'Deradun' & 'Haflong' of India. The top most skilled secret specialists of Indian Defense gave hard training to them. After getting training, they were positioned in different sectors and joined operations according to their own command. The chief of the political wing of 'Mujib Bahini' of Mymensingh was Syed Ahmed. A complete battalion of soldiers of 'Mujib Bahini' was employed in sector-11 under the command of M.A. Latif. This armed force successfully operated some operations in sector-11.

Mujib Bahini of Mymensingh command advanced from 'Roumari' to Kamalpur on December 4 and fought against Pakistani Armed Forces. Then they advanced to Jamalpur-Sherpur Ferri-ghat (river crossing) on 7 December and finally entered Jamalpur as an advanced force on 11

December 1971. There were some allegations against 'Mujib Bahini' in some sectors as there was no command of Bangladesh Government Army over them. But In sector-11, there was no allegation found against them.¹⁷⁰

First Phase: Spontaneous Resistance and its impact

The resistance arisen in Mymensingh was soon collapsed as Pakistani Army moved fast with heavy arms and ammunitions. The Governor and the Chief Martial Law Administrator General Tikka Khan declared, 'I need only the soil of Bangladesh, not the people'. Thus the Pakistani Army imposed massacre across the country and like in other territories of the country, the people of Mymensingh also were compelled to flee away from cities to the villages. At first the Pakistani Army took positions in the district and thana headquarters. They deployed soldiers in the important border outposts. Then they created local collaborators and with the help of these collaborators, they found out the youths of progressive minded families and killed them brutally. Mainly they targeted the families of Awami League supporters and the Hindus. They imposed firing, burning, raping unabated over the people of Mymensingh. Within 22 April, Mymensingh completely went under control of Pakistani Army and local collaborators.

As a result, People, for the first chance, fled to the villages and tried to cross the boarders. All the Awami League leaders crossed the borders and some of them established training camps adjacent to the Indian borders with the help of BSF. As a result, Bangalee EPR, Soldiers of Bengal Regiment, Police, Answers were able to gather in the following camps:

¹⁷⁰ Interview: Habibur Rahman, Field Intelligence Assistant, Sector-11

Second Phase: Exile Training Camps of Freedom Fighters:¹⁷¹

In the second phase of May some training camps were established with the personal interest of some political leaders of Awami League. Those are as follows:

1. **Mahendraganj** : Rashed Musharrof (MPA) of Islampur & Karimuzzaman Talukdar (MNA) of Sarishabari-Madargonj established this camp. Approximately 500 trainee took training initially here. Later it became the Headquarter of a sub-sector of sector-11 under Major Abu Taher & Lieutenant Mannan.
2. **Purakhasia** : Its 10/12 miles away from Mahendragonj camp. Renowned Awami League leader Advocate Anisur Rahman established this training camp. He also started with 200 of trainees. Renowned communist leader Comrade Robi Neogi took shelter here. This camp became the sub-sector Headquarter of Sector-11 later under Lieutenant Hashem.
3. **Dhalu** : It was one of the largest training camps in the northern front of the freedom fighters. The eldest Awami League leader of Nandail Mr. Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan established this camp. Later it was turned to a sub-sector Headquarter of Sector-11. Lieutenant Taher & Lieutenant Kamal took the commandant later.
4. **Rangra** :30-35 miles away from Bagmara training camp established by Awami League leader Mr. Abbas Ali Khan (MPA) of Netrokona. Later it was turned to sub-sector Headquarter of sector-11 under Matiur Rahman.
5. **Shivbari**: It was 20 miles away from Bagmara. Awami League (MPA) Mr. Hatem Ali of Gouripur established this camp with 200 trainee.

¹⁷¹ ibid

6. **Machangpani:** 30 miles south-east away from Indian district town & 'Tora' Army cantonment. Professor Matiur Rahman of Awami League of Mymensingh established this camp. Initially only 200 trainee joined the camp.
7. **Bagmara:** Abdul Latif(Tara Mian) of Awami League established this camp with 150 trainees initially
8. **Gachuapara:** Awami League (MPA) of Haluaghat Mr. Kudrat Ullah established this camp with 100 trainees.
9. **Alambazar:** 15 miles away from 'Rangra'. This camp was established with 150 trainees.

Formation of Sub-zonal Administrative Council:

1 June, 1971 with the suggestion and assistance of Brigadier Santa Sing Babajee of F.J. Sector of Eastern Command of India, two powerful Sub-zonal Administrative Council was formed in a meeting held at 'Tora Army Camp' for the northern front of Freedom Fighters. All the MNAs/MPs/Armed Officials/Civil Officials/ Political Leaders of Mymensingh were included in the two Sub-zonal Administrative Council. The administration of Mymensingh including Tangail was under control of this council. MNA of Tangail Mr. Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahajan was the Chief of this Sub-zonal Administrative Council

War Tactics of Mujibnagar Government in Mymensingh

Against the Pakistani armed forces and local collaborators, the 'Mukti Bahini' followed the following tactics:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| March to October | : Traditional fight and Guerilla fight (mainly 'hit & run; method) |
| October to November | : Attacking warfare (mainly 'hit & advance' method) |
| December | : All out action |

After the formation of the Government of Mujibnagar in April, a war plan was chalked out to free the motherland from the invaded army. Firstly, Mujibnagar Government gave stress on the formation of Bengal Army and increases of guerrillas with short training; secondly, the government tried to collapse the morality of Pakistani Army and the collaborators by series of guerrilla attacks, collapsing communications, destroying linkages of different important points of the country. According to the plan of the government the entire country was divided in 11 sectors and sub-sectors. Three Brigades were also established so that Bengal Army could follow traditional warfare. Thus the training camps on the borders of Mymensingh were turned into sub-sector headquarters. From these centers, the commanders of Bengal Army could send guerrillas into the country with proper assignment. Regular fights were also going on by EPR, Bengal Regiment soldiers, Answers.

At first, Bangladesh Army used traditional method of warfare within Mymensingh. The aim was to confine the enemy force within their cocoon, cut up their supplies and prevent to control the communication points. Bangalee Army followed this method up to May. When a large number of 'guerrillas' were trained, the war tactics were changed. From the last of June, innumerable 'guerrilla' groups were sent to the different spots of Mymensingh to destroy the communication systems and creating panic among the enemies with sudden attack. On the first of August, guerrilla attack increased tremendously and the enemy force fall in heavy pressure. From then, they were becoming confined within their headquarters and bunkers. At the nights, they never came out of their cocoons. They became so frightened that they used to open firing even for a simple movement of air in the bushes around their shelter.

War Tactics of Pakistan Army:¹⁷²

In Mymensingh, Pakistan army deployed 36 ad hoc Division under Major General Jamshed who won the Military Cross in World War II. The Division had only two regular infantry battalions – a) 33 Panjab & b) 31 Baluch. To control the territory, the Pakistan Army targeted two approaches points: a) Haluaaghat- Mymensingh approach in the east and; b) Kamalpur-Jamalpur axis in the west to prevent to advance towards Dhaka. The Division headquarter was set up in Mymensingh.

The Pakistani Army thought that they would be attacked by ‘the Muktibahini’ through Kamalpur-Jamalpur approach which could open the way of Dhaka via Tangail. The Pakistani Army took the position with 93 Brigade at Kamalpur Border outpost. Haluaghat-Mymensingh approach was given less importance.

Pakistani Army built strong RCC bunkers at the important border outposts and around the tactically important places. They deployed one or two companies of soldiers in those positions. They also set Razakars, Rangers to guard the important points of Mymensingh.

From the District Headquarters, they monitored the entire positions and reinforced where needed.

Along with this military set up, the Pakistani Army established the collaborators Razakars, Al Badars & Al Shams which were the Para-military force. This Para-military forces were deployed for scouting and finding out the ‘Muktijoddhas’ in the inner side of the territory.

¹⁷² Siddiq Salik: *Witness To Surrender*, p. 63, p. 183-85

Al Badar Bahini:¹⁷³

To control civil administration and wipe out all the progressive people specially, supporters and activists of Awami League, the Pakistani Army formed collaborator militia troops in Mymensingh. 'Badar Bahini' is one of them. The Chairman of Islami Chhatra Sangha of Mymensingh, Ashraf Hossain organized the group at Jamalpur. After the fall of Jamalpur by Pakistani Army on April 22, 1971 Ashraf Hossain formed 'Al Badar' Bahini at Mian Para, Jamalpur. Later, the High Command of Jamat E Islami & Islami Chhatra Sangha started training for the 'Badar Bahini' under the leadership of Kamaruzzaman at Mymensingh. All the units of Islami Chhatra Sangha were turned into 'Badar Bahini' unit. Matiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mujahidi, Nurul Islam were the high command of the 'Badar Bahini'.

The brutality of 'Badar Bahini' cannot be explained in words. They killed innumerable people of Mymensingh. They arrested the women searching from door to door and handed over to the army. They imposed heavy torture on the accused. Once the Chief of Badar Bahini Matiur Rahman said, 'In the time of Zihad, rape is accepted in the eye of Islam.' In fact, they were the hands of Pakistani butchers.

Some Important Battles within Mymensingh (including Sector-11):

Though the research work covers an area of the present Mymensingh district, it is difficult to realize the frequency of the war if we do not discuss it in line with the area of sector-11 because at the time of our liberation war the events of the districts within sector-11 were integrated in terms of planning and war strategy. So we are to know all the major battles within this whole area.

¹⁷³ Khan, A.S.M. Shamsul Arefin, *Ekatturer Ghatak Dalalera Ke Kothay*, Dhaka : Muktijuddha Chetona Bikash Kendra, 1988, p.128

Kamalpur:¹⁷⁴

Kamalpur was the most significant border check-point adjacent to Meghalaya check-post of India and the last border of Jamalpur. It has become a historical place where innumerable front-line battles were held between Pakistani Army and the freedom fighters of Bangladesh Liberation Army. A good number of Indian soldiers also sacrificed their lives to capture the place. Tactically it was an important place because there was direct road connection from here to Dhaka via Jamalpur-Sherpur. As a result, after the crack-down on 25th March, 1971 Pakistani Army took a strong position here. They made strong RCC concrete bunker with thorny iron hedge around the Check-point. They also spread numerous anti-personnel mine and thorny splinter of bamboo around the 'Ban' road so that no one could invade through the area. Under the command of Captain Ahsan Malik of 31 Baluch Regiment, a full company of armed forces with two companies of ranger and Razakaar militia were deployed here. In protection of this point, Second in Command of 31 Baluch Regiment, Major Ayub was deployed in Bakshigonj with artillery forces.

The freedom fighters of Bangladesh took position on Dhanua-Kamalpur.

Almost everyday, through nine month, fight between the Pakistan Army and Freedom Fighters was going on. Both the party, always stood with heavy machine-gun against the opposition.

On May 17, 1971 The Pakistany Army deployed at Kamalpur advanced and crossed the border all on a sudden. They attacked the Muktijoddha youth camp at Mahendragonj. However, the freedom fighters fought boldly under the command of Robi Niogy and Subedar Dhan Bahadur.

¹⁷⁴ Mamoon ,Muntassir (ed.), *Muktijuddha Kosh*, Vil.II, Dhaka : Somoy Prakason, 2005, p.29

Facing heavy resistance, the Pakistani Army was compelled to go back foot.

On July 31, 1971 1st Bengal Regiment decided a planned attack on the position of Pakistani Army. Battalion commanding officer Major Moinul Hussain Chowdhury led the invasion. D-company of Captain Salahuddin & Lieutenant Mannan advanced for the attack. B- Company of Captain Hafiz worked as the Follow up party. Captain Mahbub took position at Bakshigonj with his A-company as a cut up party. To give artillery support, Indian 95 Mount Brigade was deployed at Brahmanpara with 120 mm cannon & 6 inch mortar. There is a marshy land, about one kilometer long, on the way to Dhanua-Kamalpur from Mahendragonj. Moreover, to reach the attack point, the three companies took time as they were to neutralize or avoid the anti-personnel mine on their way. However, the Indian artillery force started to fire at the 'zero' hours. Consequently the Pakistani army replied with heavy firing. As a result, the three companies of Bangalee freedom fighters could not able to reach the attack point and changed their plan. D-company commander Captain Salahuddin Momtaz succeeded to capture the third-line bunkers of Pakistan soldiers and second-line bunker of Pakistani Army. However, a shell hit him and he died. To rescue the dead body of Salahuddin, Lieutenant Mannan approached but was shot injured. Due to wireless jamming, the Battalion commander could not contact with the advanced team. As a result, Major Moin was compelled to withdraw his force.

In the 31st July attack, 15 senior and 20 newly joined freedom fighters of 1st Bengal Regiment laid down their lives. On the other hand, more than 180 soldiers of Pakistani Army lost their lives.¹⁷⁵

¹⁷⁵ Interview: Habibur Rahman, Field Intelligence Assistant, Sector-11

On the last of November, The Government of Bangladesh appointed some newly commissioned officer i.e. Lieutenant Asad, Lieutenant Mizan, Lieutenant Kamal, Lieutenant Hashem and ordered to accelerate the attack on invading army. Sector Commander Taher decided to take an all-out attack on Kamalpur camp of Pakistan Army. He distributed duties to the teams of Lieutenant Asad, Lieutenant Mizan, Lieutenant Kamal, Lieutenant Hashem. On November 13 the attack started at 3:45 pm. It was a strong fortress. So, the Pakistani soldiers could be able to hold their position. Commander Taher advanced to the camp. Suddenly a shell hit directly to him. He became heavily injured. He was then transferred to a hospital at Gouhati. To save his life, his leg was cut.

Finding no other way, Bangalee force made a new plan. They obstructed the Pakistani Check-point for 11 days (From November 24 to December 4, 1971.). Every ways of supply was ambushed. Thus, the Pakistani Army tried utmost to break the confinement. They found help neither from Jamalpur nor from Dhaka. Thus they became disappointed. On December 3, formal war broke out between India and Pakistan. At last the army at Kamalpur surrendered on December 4, 1971. The fall of Kamalpur accelerate the advancement of Freedomfighters towards Dhaka. December 10 Jamalpur was captured. As a result the Kaderia Bahini of Thangail and Indian force reached Mirpur of Dhaka on December 14, 1971.

Battle of Bahadurabad Ghat-Dewangonj

Bahadurabad Ghat was the river linkage with Dhaaka to North Bengal. It's a big river port. Hence, the Pakistani army made heavy protection of this ghat. They made strong bunker around the ghat and ensure 24-hours guard. A company of para-military rangers and at least 50 Razakars guarded the area. To make them strengthened, one Platoon soldiers of 31

Baluch Regiment were deployed with heavy machine guns and mortars. They also set a tall tower and a moving search light on it.

On July 30, 1971 3rd East Bengal Regiment attacked Bahadurabad Ghat under the command of Major Safayat Zamil, A-company Commander Captain Anwar Hossain, D-company Commander Lieutenant Nurunnabi Khan and FF-Company Commander Gazi Nasiruddin. At 3:30 am of July, Freedom fighters attacked the area. Before dawn, all the soldiers of Pakistan Army were killed. Some of them were ambushed by the cut up party. All the constructions were destroyed by the Rocket launcher. One platoon soldiers of 31 Baluch, one platoon militia, one platoon ranger and many Rajakars were killed in the battle.

On the following day, Captain Anwar Hussain and Lieutenant Nurunnabi Khan attacked Dewangonj Pak-Army Camp. But the enemy had already fled away by hearing the fall of the ghat.

Battle of Nakshi

Nakshi was an important border out post. Here one platoon soldiers of 33 Panjab Regiment were deployed. 50 or 60 Razakars were also deployed in petrol duty. The Pakistani Army made high soil platform around the RCC bunker. The bunker area was also protected by thorny wire-hedge. They also spread anti-personnel mine around the position. So, it is obvious that the out- post was well protected. Commander Ziaur Rahman designed the whole invasion plan.

According to the plan, on August 3, 1971 Second in Command of eighth East Bengal Regiment Captain Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Captain Sadek Hossain and Lieutenant Mahbubur Rahman jointly attacked the Nakshi BOP with their company. The Indian BSF gave artillery support. It is

important to note, at least 75% freedom fighters of Bangalee force were newly recruited students. They got only two weeks of training.

However, at 3:35 am of August 4, 1971 the freedom fighters attacked the BOP. At the initial phase, the third line protection collapsed and all the Razakars were killed by heavy machine-gun firing. But Captain Amin Ahmed Chowdhury became injured by the wrong artillery attack. Thus, like Kamalpur battle, here also Freedom Fighters were compelled to withdraw.

In the battle of Nakshi, almost all the Pakistani soldiers except 10-12 soldiers were killed. 50 Razakars surrendered. On the other hand 26 freedom fighters were shot for wrong firing.

Battle of Chilmary:

The Battle of Chilmary was the most remarkable war in sector-11. Though the area was not under Mymensingh, the Muktiyoddhas of Mymensingh fought valiantly at the battle. It was a river port at the western part of the Brahamaputra. To protect the port, the Pakistani Army deployed a full battalion of soldiers, one battalion of militia and one battalion of Razakars. On mid-August, Z-force attacked Chilmary. On the first day of the war, the Razakars fled away and the Pakistan Army left their 3rd line bunkers. On 19 August, Pakistani army left 2nd line resistance position for the tremendous attack of Mukti Bahini. Some of them tried to escape via Ulipur to Kurigram. But 3rd East Bengal Regiment crushed them down. On the third day of battle, one battalion of soldiers of Pakistan Army withdrew their position and tried to flee away. But 3rd East Bengal Regiment killed them easily. Thus Chilmary became free. It is astonishing that no one of the Muktibahini died in the battle.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁶ Interview: Habibur Rahman, Field Intelligence Assistant, Sector-11

Battle of Kalihati Bridge:¹⁷⁷

In the time of non-cooperation movement, the 2nd East Bengal Regiment of Pakistan army was deployed here. After the crack-down 31 Baluch Regiment was deployed here to strengthen the Pakistani force. On the first of April, a convoy of Pakistani army started from Dhaka to reach Tangail town through Joydevpur. However, this convoy could not be able to reach in time due to clear the barricades on the highway. On April 8, Abdul Latif Siddiqi organized the wandering EPR soldiers. EPR Subedar Ziaul Haq joined the effort. The aim was to destroy the Kalihati Bridge so that the Pakistani Armed Force could not be able to reach Tangail town. At first they tried to destroy the bridge with hammer and other tools. Later they tried to collect dynamite from India to demolish it. By the time the explosive was reached in hand, Pakistani Army made strong defense around the bridge. Thus the freedom fighters could not be able to destroy the bridge and took position on either side of the bridge. Ignoring the defense of freedom fighters, the Pakistani Army started to advance over the bridge. As a result the freedom fighters replied with Rocket launcher and firing of L.M.G. Still, the Pakistani Force continued advancing. As a result one officer of Pakistan Army with several soldiers was killed. 4-5 lorries were destroyed in the gun-fight. On the other hand, 11 freedom fighters died in the battle.

Battle of Khagdahar:¹⁷⁸

Khagdahar is a village, 5 kilometers away from Mymensingh Town. EPR Headquarter was situated here. On March 25, 1971 there were 138 non-Bangalee EPR and 225 Bangalee EPR soldier here. The Commander was non-Bangalee Captain Kamor Ali Abbas. On March 26, wing

¹⁷⁷ Mamoon ,Muntassir (ed.), *Muktijuddha Kosh*, Vol.II, Dhaka : Somoy Prakason, 2005, p.37

¹⁷⁸ Mamoon ,Muntassir (ed.), *Muktijuddha Kosh*, Vol.II, Dhaka : Somoy Prakason, 2005, p. 55-56

commander captain Kamor Abbas tactically tried to disarm the Bangalee EPRs. But the Bangalee EPR was careful and aware of the situation of Dhaka. On March 27, Captain Abbas called in Bangalee Subedar Farid Uddin and asked him to go for rest. But Subdar Farid informed his companions that the commander tried to disarm them. They decided not to surrender arms. On the night two Bangalee EPR soldier went Khagdahaar bazaar and discussed with local political leaders. All of them decided to attack the non-Bangalee EPRs. They hit upon a plan that at 11 pm M. Hamid, Safiul Alam and some other political activists would reach near the camp and fire on the position of Pakistani EPR and a brigade of people would shout 'Joy Bangla'. No sooner had the non-Bangalee EPRs heard the peoples' voice, they thought that they were attacked by the Bangalee ERRs. They started to fire on the Bangalee EPRs. The Bangalee EPRs were also ready. As a result, heavy gunfight went on that night. Subedar Kamor Abbas tried to reinforce from his Bangloo but Sepoy Haroon, Nannu and Aftab stopped them at the rail line with 3 L.M.G.

At last, 121 non-Bangalee EPR with captain Kamor Abbas were killed. The Bangalee EPR collected 3500 Rifles, 40 LMG and 3 inch Morter no 6 were captured from the Khagdahar camp.

Genocide in Goran-Shatiachara :¹⁷⁹

Goran-Shatiachara is situated in the village 'Pakulla' of Mirzapur thana of Tangail district. It was the first resisting place in Tangail against Pakistan Army. On April 3, 1971 the local Freedom fighters with all the villagers took position against the invaded army. A valiant gun fight was held here. The Pakistani army killed more than 300 villagers including women, elderly males and the infants. 30 Muktijoddhas including EPR

¹⁷⁹ Ibid, p.96

Hubilder Abdul Khalek along with 24-25 EPR was laid down their lives in the battle. It was the first front line fight against Pakistani Army in Tangail.

Operation at Nagla Bridge, Fulpur, Mymensingh:¹⁸⁰

Nagla Setu (Nagla Bridge) was the only communicating bridge between North border thana Haluaghat and Dhobaura thana. It was the linkage between the main road of Haluaghat and Fulpur over 'Bhugai' river nearer to the Nagla Bazar. Tactically the road was very much important because through this road the Pakistani Army used to communicate with their border out posts and other territory. They also used this road for supplying food, arms & ammunitions etc. Thus some groups of Razakars were deployed on the either sides of the bridge. On July 16, 1971 Dalu sub-sector commander sent a team of 41 freedom fighters to destroy the bridge. Accordingly, commander Abdul Haq entered Bangladesh with his battalion through Baruimari & Hatibandha BOP with 700 pounds of explosive and hand grenade. The freedom fighters' battalion walked on one night and one day to reach a place half mile away from Patiajury High School. They were to reach the position on foot under raining. On July 18, approximately at 8 O'clock at night, they reached 'Nagla Bazar' and took position on the west side of the bazar. At first, Commander Abdul Haq advanced towards the bridge and observed the Razakars on guard. Then he divided his battalion into three groups and distributed duties with explosive. Three groups gradually advanced towards the bridge according to the directions of the commander. Two groups took position on either sides of the bridge and one advanced group of 10 members reached within 100 yards of the bridge. The Razakars traced the position and fixed search lights on Muktiyoddhas. No sooner

¹⁸⁰ Ibid, p.312; Interview: Anisur Rahman

had the search lights focused than the freedom fighters opened fires. Realizing the strong position of the freedom fighters, they fled away. Thus they destroyed the bridge with the explosives.

Battle at Nazirpur, Netrokona¹⁸¹

Nazirpur was a village under Kalmakanda thana of Netrokona. It's a border area adjacent to Meghalaya of India. During the war of 1971, one platoon rangers force and two platoons of Razakar force were deployed at Kalmakanda thana. Nazirpur village was an wild area with no brick made or concrete made road. So the enemy force also had to advance through rusty way of the Jangles. On July 25, the Dhalu camp commander got a news that the Pakistani Convoy would start from Durgapur camp with rations and ammunities to Kalmakanda thana army camp. Hearing this, company commander Nazmul Haq decided to resist this convoy at Nazirpur. At this battle, the freedom fighters faced causalities due to miss-communication. At first, Nazmul Haq divided the team into three groups. One group took position on the west of Nazirpur Bazar under Abdul Gani of EPR, another group took position on west of Nazirpur Bazar under Rahmatullah. Commander Nazmul Haq took at the middle of the two position at the front of Bhawnipur Kachary. The three groups were actually quite far from each other and there was no communication tools with them. It was decided that all the three groups will communicate with messengers. EPR Abdul Gani stayed at the Jangle of Nazirpur for several hours for the Pakistan Army. But he was quite impatient, and withdrew his troops from the ambushed position and returned 'Rangra' sub-camp without sending any message to Nazmul Haq. Whereas, Rahmatullah caught several Razakars without any resistance while they were bringing food-materials. Rahmatullah changed his position.

¹⁸¹ Ibid, p. 314

However, two of Razakars were able to escape and rushed to the army camp and informed the position of freedom fighters. Within 9 O'clock, Nazmul Haq was confined by the Pakistani Army from either sides of the Bazar. Finding no other way, he decided to continue the firing. After a while, Pakistani army advanced to his position with heavy firing and crawling. Within noon, Commander Nazmul Haq realized that he was to go back-foot as the army gradually was strengthening power. A bullet hurt his neck and he was compelled to withdraw his position and returned to the camp. Some freedom fighters were caught red handed and were killed by Bayonet charges. Others could be able to save their life.

Operation at Nurundi Rail way station, Jamalpur¹⁸²

To destroy the communication system of Pakistan Army, Commander of Sector-11 decided to attack on the middle of Bahadurabad Ghat & Mymensingh railway. A group of 60 freedom fighters including 6 explosive & dynamite expert were sent under the command of EPR Lance Nyek Farhad. Then, Pakistan Army took so strong position at Jamalpur –Mymensingh area that the freedom fighters could not able to make any hide-out in this area. Thus, they operated their attacks from the border camps. However, from Kamalpur FF camp of Mahendragonj sub-sector, a group of freedom fighters started for Jamalpur in June 22, 1971 with 600 pound explosive and 6 anti-tank mine. At dawn of June 23rd, the group reached 'Putimary' and took rest at a house of a freedom fighter. On June 24, the group reached 'Lakmirchar' on the bank of the river Brahmaputra. Actually, they wanted to attack 'Pearpur'. But the position of Pakistani Army was too strong to enter Jamalpur. Thus, by analyzing the local information, commander Farhad discussed with three other group commanders i.e. Zobed Ali, Elias Chowdhury and Babor Ali and

¹⁸² Ibid, p.330

decided to attack Nurundi railway station rather than Pearpur. They crossed the river Brahmaputra through 'Tulshirchar' by three boats and took position near the station. 10/12 Razakars were deployed on guard. Nyek Farhad attacked the Razakars from the north and disarmed them easily. They were tied and transferred to the boat. Then the explosive specialists set the plastic slides to the several positions on the rail lines and detonate it and set these on fire. Only after two minutes, the explosives exploded and destroyed the rail line

Battle at Bhaolea Bajú, Madhupur

Bhaolea Bajú was a village in Valuka of Mymensingh. The village is in between Valuka and Gafargaon. It was actually a resistance battle to stop Pakistani Army advancement. Pakistani Bahini wanted to crush Afsar Bahini and thus gather soldiers from Mymensingh and Dhaka on the sly. On June 24, A group of Pakistani Army took position at Bhaolea Bajú Ferry Ghat. Afsar Bahini took position on the opposite site. A valiant battle was held between the two group. The Pakistani Army tried to cross the river but the first team of six soldiers were killed by the firing of Afsar Bahini. From 9 0'clock to 1 0' clock fighting, the Pakistan Army could not be able to advance even a single inch. Then they dropped paratroopers on the back of Afsar Bahini through Helicopter. Thus, Afsar Bahini withdrew their position and went back to the deep Jangles of Madhupur.

All Out Attack of Mukti Bahini: Bangladesh-India Joint Alliance: Fall of Dhaka:

On the eve of November, the Pakistani force became tired with facing series of relentless attacks of Mukti Bahini. Their rations became short. Reinforcement also became scarcer. Success after success also made the

freedom fighters furious. The enemy force started to make the liberation war an international issue between India-Pakistan so that they could make an honorable escape.

On December 3, 1971 Pakistan attacked India. Immediately, Government of Bangladesh and India decided to make a joint war alliance.

On December 6, 1971, India gave recognition to Bangladesh.

The most important BOP of sector-11 was Kamalpur. The joint attack of Bangladesh & Indian Army compelled Pakistan soldier at Kamalpur to surrender on December 4, 1971. The fall of Kamalpur accelerated the advancement of Freedom fighters towards Dhaka. On December 10 Jamalpur was captured. On December 14, with the help of Kaderia Bahini, Indian troops reached Mirpur of Dhaka and demanded the Pakistan Army to surrender. In the mean time, the news of the fall of different positions of Pakistan Army reached Dhaka. Finding no other way, General A.A.K. Neajee surrendered to Bangladesh-India joint war alliance on December 16,1971. Thus 'the final victory' was achieved.

Conclusion

In the previous chapters, we've seen the people of Mymensingh have a great contribution for the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign state. This is the first time in history; they got their identity as members of an independent nation. From the dawn of civilization, they were to pass their days under tyranny paying tribute to the invaded rulers. But now, they have achieved their own state where they are the ruler. No one now can impose tyranny over them. However, this achievement did not come easily. They were to shed tears, give blood and lie down their lives to raise their heads amongst the nations of the world. In the first chapter, we see, the characteristics of the people of Mymensingh were mostly submissive and non-violent in nature because the impact of the geographical position. Most of the people were tenants, poor living under a feudal society. They were to go under different rulers frequently. These rulers were not native, mostly invaders. The change of rulers had less impact on their life because they have to pay tribute to the ruler whoever they may be. There have been various admixtures of ethnic elements among the people of this region. This may be a reason of absence of continuous united stand of the people. People became politically conscious during British rule. The British rulers introduced western education to make a trained servant community for running their colonial state smoothly but education raised consciousness among the rising-middle class people. To control this ambitious class, the British tried to destroy the communal harmony of Hindu-Muslim community. Thus the reciprocal hatred of Hindu-Muslim community jointly went against the British imperialism. In the British period, the Muslims of East-Bengal were being suppressed by the Hindu zaminders. Pakistan movement ushered their hope of suction-free life and strengthened the anti-British

movement as the British were usually the patron of the Hindu elites rather than Muslims. People of Mymensingh, like all other areas of Bangladesh, hoped to have equal-civil rights and equal opportunities within the Pakistan state. They did not longed for Muslim Nationalism, they longed for a suction-free state. As the Hindu zamindars were cruel during British regime, the Muslim inhabitants of East Bengal thought, they need a separate Muslim state where no one can suppress them. The activists of Muslim League were also placed this dream before the Muslim people. When Pakistan was achieved and people saw that the West-Pakistani rulers took the place of Hindu zamindars in the name of religion, they were to review their identity. They realized that they were no longer considered as the same national within the Pakistan state. Language Movement clarified their identity. This is the first time in history; the people of this region realized their national identity as 'Bangalee'. This identity was based on Language and other culture not on religion. In the chapter-3 we see, how shrewdly the Pakistani rulling elite class tried to destroy our cultural identity. In the name of 'Islam' they tried to make us a second class citizen to pave the way of ever-lasting suction. But the Bangalee people were not as foolish as they thought. The language movement sowed the seeds of 'Bangalee Nnationalism' among the people of East Pakistan. This sense of 'Nationalism' led the people towards Autonomy Movement. In fact, the Pakistani rulers did not have the talent to hold the united Pakistan. They did not follow the rules of 'peaceful co-existence' within a multi-cultural state. They used to think that they could manage the Bangalee people by imposing state-power on them. They failed to realize, "What Bengal thinks today, whole India thinks tomorrow."However, the continuous reluctance of releasing ruling power to the Bangalees gradually strengthened the unity of Bangalee people. The unity of Bangalee people reached to the apex level after the

declaration of historic Six-points. It was a clear formula of ensuring peaceful co-existence within the Pakistan state. But the West Pakistani rulers did not pay heed to the peoples' voice rather declared to face this 'Magna Carta' with weaponry. As a result, 'Autonomy Movement' turned to 'Liberation Movement'. The historic 'Agartala Conspiracy case' threw oil on the fire. In the chapter-4 and Chapter-5 we see, the strength of peoples' unity. In the election of 1970, people gave their unanimous mandate on Six-points. The Pakistani rulers should have realized the peoples' voice and release the ruling power to the Bangalee people. But they chose the hard-line. They thought, they could stop the peoples' voice with arms. But they were completely wrong. The research work shows us that the history of the people of Mymensingh is almost same as the history of the whole of Bangladesh. Here also people realized their national identity through the 23 years discrimination of West Pakistan. Language movement has opened the window of Bangalee Nationalism that paved the way to independence in 1971. In every phase of our Liberation Movement, the people of Mymensingh responded spontaneously. The concept of United Front rose from here. The people of Mymensingh dispersed the image of Muslim League by defeating the Prime Minister of East Bengal, Mr. Nurul Amin. The first protest of military rule of Ayub Khan was seen here which was led by Kazi Abdul Bari. In the final phase of our Liberation Movement, we saw the valiant struggle of freedom fighters of Mymensingh. The bravery and supreme sacrifice for the motherland is sketched in Chapter-6. However, it is a matter of great sorrow that stress has been given less for the collection and preservation of heroic events of Liberation Movement in Mymensingh. The concerned authority should come forward to preserve the facts and documents of the glorious events of the past and ensure Mymensingh might not die in the oblivion.

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বাহার, হাবিবুল্লাহ, মুক্তিযুদ্ধে টাঙ্গাইল জেলা, এম ফিল থিসিস, ইতিহাস বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ২০০২ (Bahar, Habibullah, *Muktijuddhe Tangail Zilla*, M.Phil Thesis, Dept. of History, University of Dhaka, 2002)

হক, সৈয়দ আজিজুল, ময়মনসিংহের গীতিকা: জীবনধর্ম কাব্যমূল্য, অপ্রকাশিত এম.ফিল থিসিস, বাংলা বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ১৯৮৮ (Hoq, Sayed Azizul, *Moymonshingher Geetika: Jeebondhorma Kabbamulla*, Unpublished M.Phil Thesis, Dept. of Bangla, University of Dhaka, 1988)

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Appendix-01: Interview

To cope with the research work, the researcher took interviews of several persons who took part in the different phases of liberation movement in Mymensingh. The interviews were taken in Bangla. Along with the general discussion with the interviewees, the author asked them some general questions. Those are given below (translated into English).

General Questions:

- a. What is your name?
- b. Could you please tell me your birth date?
- c. How long have you been living in Mymensingh?
- d. Could you please remember the political situation in 1952? It is believed that this incident raised 'Bangalee Nationalism' among the people of Bangladesh. Do you think it is right?
- e. Do you know anything about the first provincial legislative election in 1954?
- f. How was the peoples' reaction here then?
- g. How was the peoples' reaction in 1958 when Ayub Khan imposed martial law? Was there any protest against martial law here then?
- h. Could you please remember anything about the student movement in 1962?
- i. What do you know about the historic 6-points? Did the people of Mymensingh join the movement of 6-points?
- j. Did the people of Mymensingh aware about the mass-upheaval in 1969?
- k. How was the scenario of Mymensingh on the eve of the general election in 1970?
- l. Please give an account of liberation war in 1971, if you witnessed.

Interview-01

Advocate Anisur Rahman was one of the renowned advocates in Mymensingh district. He was born in 1943 at village Medini in Netrokona. At first he used to stay in messes while he got admitted to B.A. class in Anand Mohon College in 1955. Since 1963 to the present, has been living at Panditpara, Mymensingh town. He was elected treasurer of Awami League in Mymensingh in 1964. Thus he was a witness of different movements in Mymensingh. He was an ex-Vice Principal, Mymensingh Law College and Ex-Chairman, Bangladesh Bar Council Tribunal, Dhaka. Still he is a relentless worker and he is engaged with 'Nagorik Andolon' in Mymensingh.

Interviewee: Advocate Anisur Rahman
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Panditpara, Mymensingh
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangia
Date of interview: October, 2009



Advocate Anisur Rahman
(1943-present)

Interview-02

Alhaj A. K. M. Golam Rahman is one of the eldest persons in Mymensingh town who was a settlement survey inspector in 1956 in Mymensingh. He was born in 1928. Earlier he was a worker of Muslim League. He was a man of Gafargaon and has been living in Mymensingh town since 1946. Now he is a book-seller in Mymensingh town. He claims that he is a witness of many events occurred in Mymensingh town.

Interviewee: Alhaj A.K.M. Golam Rahman
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Rahmania Book Depot,
Station Road, Mymensingh
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: October, 2009



Alhaj A.K.M. Golam Rahman
(1928-present)

Interview-03

Advocate M. Zobed Ali is one of the eldest politicians in Mymensingh town who had a great contribution in the liberation movement in Bangladesh. He was born in December 25, 1930. He has been living in Mymensingh town since 1947. He was elected as an M.P for five times from 1970 to 1991. He was a great 'Muktijoddha'. He is also a witness of many events occurred in Mymensingh town during the liberation struggle of Bangladesh.

Interviewee: Advocate M. Zobed Ali
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Zilla School Road, Mymensingh
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: October, 2009



Advocate M. Zobed Ali
(1930-present)

Interview-04

Mr. Pradip Kumar Bishwas is an ex-teacher of Govt. Vidyamoyee School in Mymensingh. He was born in October 17, 1943. He has been living at 20 Rambabu Road, Mymensingh town since 1950. Now he is engaged in writing and some social works. He is a witness of many events of Mymensingh town.

Interviewee: Pradip Kumar Bishwas
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Zilla School Road, Mymensingh
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: October, 2009



Pradip Kumar Bishwas
(1943-present)

Interview-05

Mr. Nazim Uddin was a freedom fighter. He was a member of Student Action Committee in Mymensingh in 1969. Now he the district commander of 'Muktijoddha Samsad, Mymensingh district and Vice-Chairman, Bangladesh Awami League, Mymensingh. He has been living in Mymensingh town from his boyhood.

Interviewee: Mr. Nazim Uddin
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Muktijoddha Samsad Office,
Sonali Bank Road, Mymensingh
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: October, 2009



Nazim Uddin
1947-present

Interview-06

Mr. Nazmul Hoque is a freedom fighter. During Liberation War he took training from 'Tura' training camp with Principal Matiur Rahman and fought valiantly against Pakistani troops and their collaborators. Now he is engaged in business and living at Sonali Bank Road, Mymensingh town.

Interviewee: Mr. Nazmul Hoque
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Muktijoddha Samsad Office,
Sonali Bank Road, Mymensingh
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: October, 2009



Nazmul Hoque
1949-present

Interview-07

Prof. Reazul Islam was a communist activist during our Liberation Movement. He was born on 1 March, 1939. He was a teacher of History, Mintu College, Mymensingh. He wrote several books. He was also a brave freedom fighter. Though he was a man of Melandah of Jamalpur, he has been living in Mymensingh since long.

Interviewee: Prof. Reazul Islam
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Zilla Press Club, Mymensingh
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: October, 2009



Prof. Reazul Islam
1939-present

Interview-08

Mr. Tofazzal Hossain is a teacher of Management Department, Govt. Anand Mohon College. He was born on in 1960. During our Liberation War in 1971, he was a witness of the battle of Bhairab-bridge. Though he was a man of Bhairab, he has been living in Mymensingh since long therefore knows a lot about the Liberation Movement in Mymensing.

Interviewee: Mr. Tofazzal Hossain
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Dept. of Management,
Govt. Anand Mohon College, Mymensingh
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: October, 2009

Interview-09

Late Mr. Imamur Rashid was a teacher of Jamalpur Asheq Mahmood College, Jamalpur. He was a communist activist and joined the Liberation War in 1971. He was the nephew of Hasan Hafizur Rahman, the editor of *Bangladesher Sadhinatajuddha, Dalilpatra*. He was also a contributor of this project.

Interviewee: Imamur Rashid
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Taltala, Mirpur, Dhaka
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: March, 2000

Interview-10

Late Mr. Azizur Rahman was a librarian of Jamalpur Asheq Mahmood College, Jamalpur. He was a studious person and wrote several books. He was a familiar person in Jamalpur and also a witness of many events in Jamalpur. As a librarian, he had a rich collection of books. He was born in Jamalpur in the first decade of twentieth century.

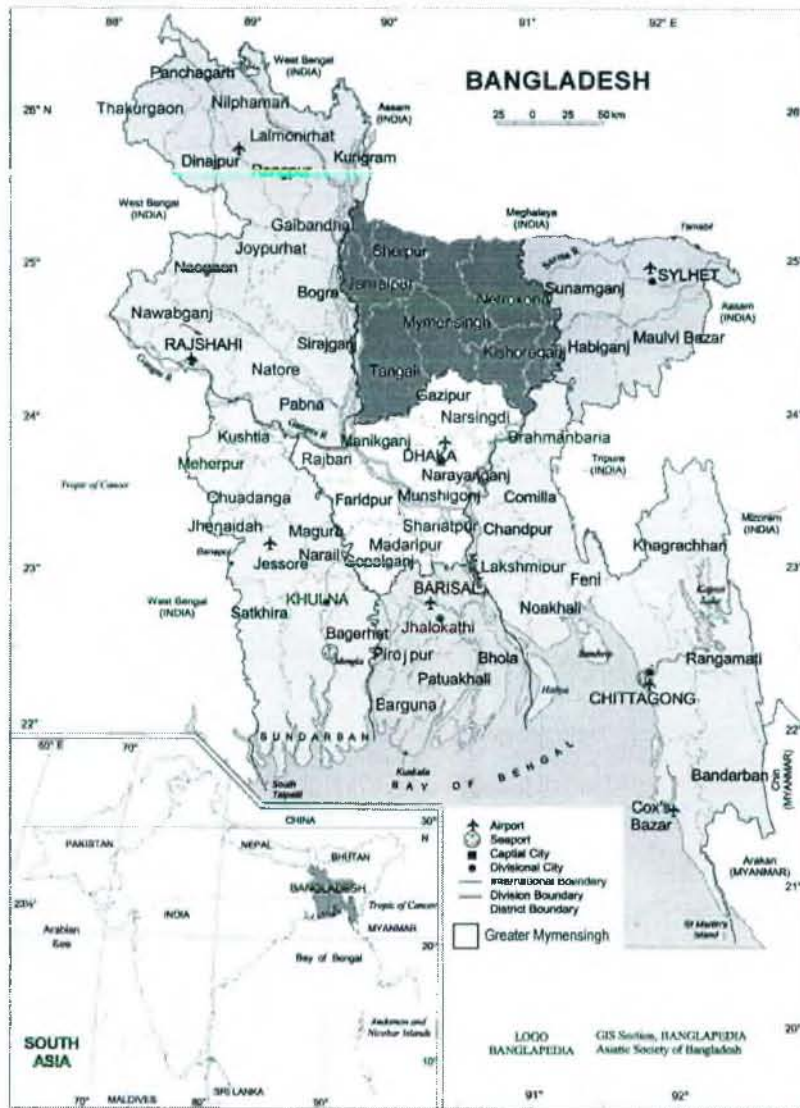
Interviewee: Librarian Azizur Rahman
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Dewanpara, Jamalpur
Media of interview: Audio Record Player
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: July, 2000

Interview-11

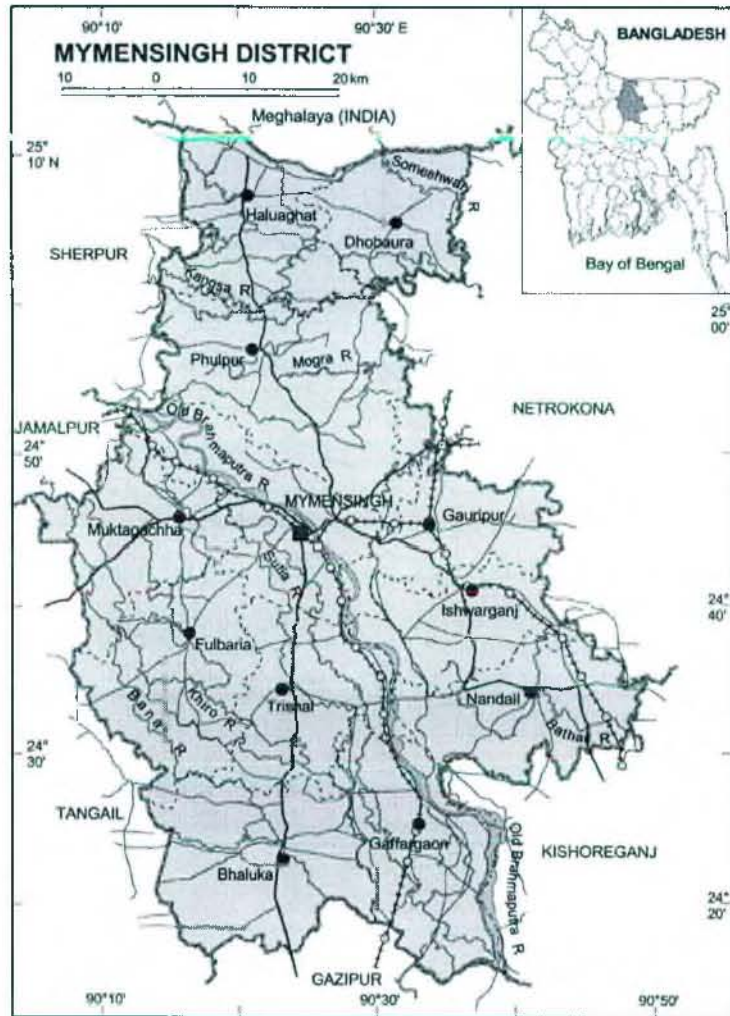
Mr. Habibur Rahman was the field intelligent assistant of Sector-11 during the liberation war 1971. Now he is a homeopathic doctor at Jamalpur. He was born at Sarishabari Upozilla under Jamalpur district. He has many documents of our liberation war & he has decided to write down the memories of the events home and abroad during our liberation war in 1971.

Interviewee: Habibur Rahman
Interviewer: Sayed M. Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury
Place of interview: Khoshmahal, College Road, Jamalpur
Media of interview: Conversation(on paper writing).
Language of the interview: Bangla
Date of interview: September, 2000

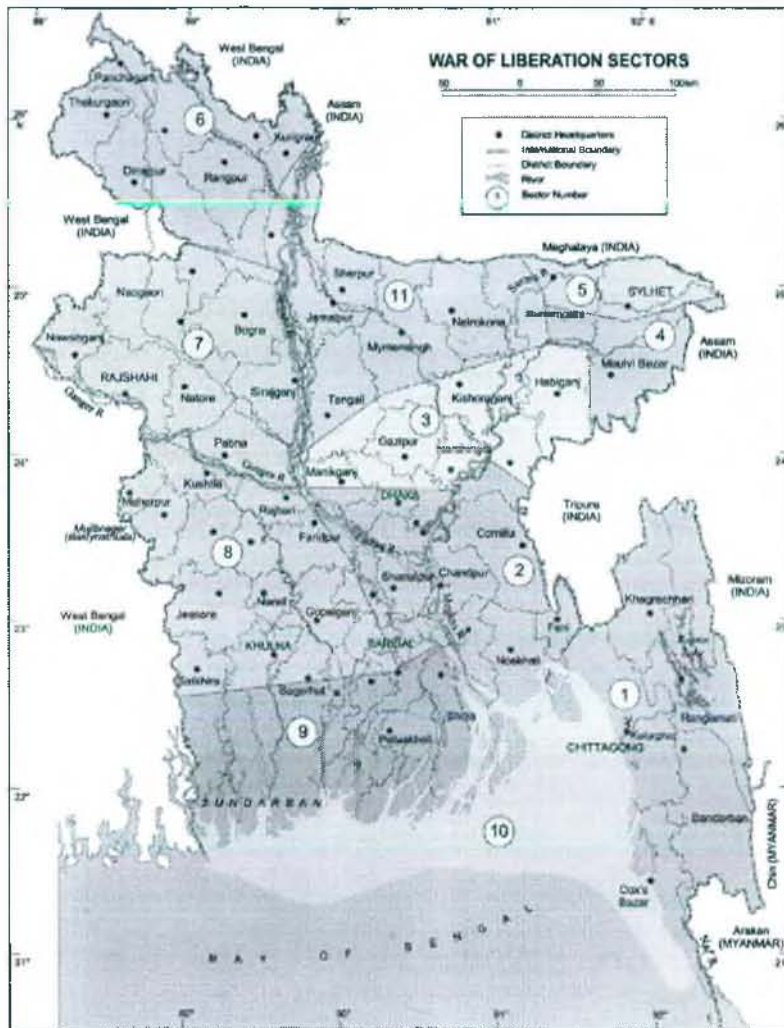
Mymensingh in the past (1971)



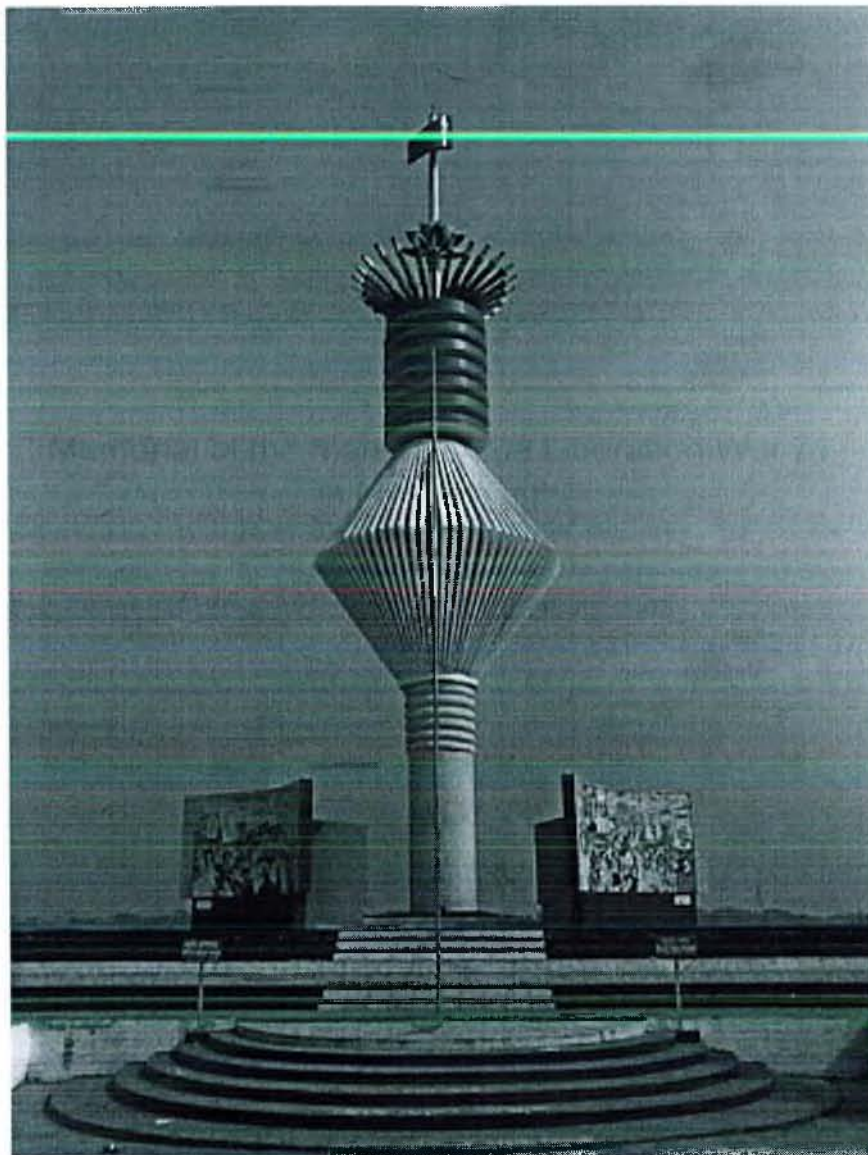
Mymensingh at present (2010)



11 sectors in the Liberation War 1971



Memorial of the martyrs of the Liberation War'71
in Mymensingh



Head Quarter and Torture Cell of
Rajakars in Mymensingh



Head Quarter and Torture Cell of Rajakars in Mymensingh



Struggle Before Liberation War'71



1952



1952



1971



1952



1970



1971

Some Personalities of Mujibnagar Government'71



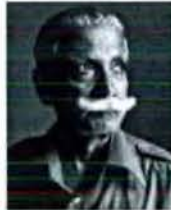
President



Syed Nazrul Islam
Interim President



Taj Uddin Ahmed
Prime Minister



Gen. M.A.G Osmani
Commander in Chief



Major Ziaur Rahman
Commander, Z-force



Major K.M. Safiullah
Commander, S-force



Major Khaled Musarraf
Commander, K-force

Brutality of Pakistani Army in 1971



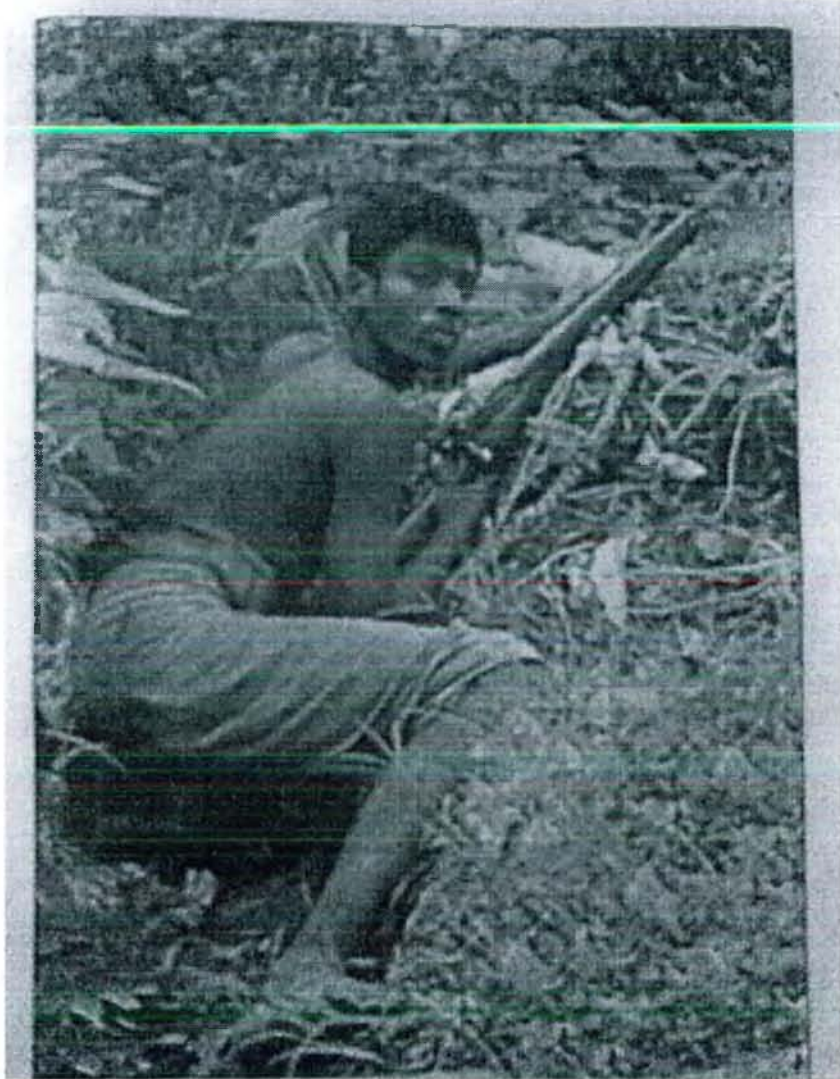
Training & War in 1971



Muktijoddhas in Operation



A Freedom Fighter



Refugees



War Activities in Bangladesh in 1971



Liberation war'71 in Media & Publications



International Response (1971)



Arms, ammunitions and vehicles Related to
The Bangladesh Liberation War71



Surrender of Pakistani Army



Return of Bangabandhu (January 10, 1972)

