

Welcome to the Presentations on

1. Historical Background of Bangladesh
2. Background and Spirit of Liberation War

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Session Plan

- **Historical background and external dependency**
- **Beginning of inclusive society**
- **British and Pakistani rule**
- **Language Movement**
- **1954 election and conspiracy**
- **Backstage preparation**
- **Six point movement followed by Agartala Case**
- **Mass upsurge 1969**
- **1970 poll and conspiracy**
- **Historic March 7**
- **Non Cooperation**

Session Plan

- **Ruthlessness on protesters**
- **Mujib- Yahya meeting**
- **Operation ‘Search light’ dreadful March 25**
- **Declaration of Independence**
- **Bangladesh Government formed**
- **Local resistance followed by all out war**
- **Teliapara Tea Garden Meet**
- **Road to victory**
- **Killing of intellectuals**
- **Final Victory, surrender of Pakistani Army**
- **Questions & Answers**

Introduction

- **Quest for independence among the Bengali people and exploitation, disparity and cultural hegemony by the Pakistani vested interest group paved the way to the emergence of Bangladesh through the Liberation War.**
- **Therefore, the Bengali nation joined the Liberation War to materialise the long-cherished dream of a democratic, liberal, secular, equitable country where there will be no exploitation and discrimination and social justice will prevail everywhere.**
- **The Bengali people were dominated by the Pakistani vested interest group at all spheres of life i.e. economic, political and cultural.**

Glorious Past

- **This nation has a history of thousand years**
- **Had a reach civilisation contemporary to the Sind civilisation (3000 years B.C.)**
- **Conflicting relation with Vedic civilisation (2000 years B.C.).**
- **Had a powerful and resourceful kingdom named ‘Gandaridai’ or ‘Ganga Riddhi’ when Alexander The Great invaded India.**
- **Considering the military power of this kingdom, Alexander decided not to attack and went back.**

Gandaridai : Military Strength

- **The nephew of king Porus, King Xandrammes had an army of:**
- **200000 infantry**
- **20000 horses**
- **2000 chariots**
- **4000 elephants trained and equipped for war**
- **Considering the military power of this kingdom, Alexander decided not to attack and went back**
- **The other part of Bengal was Prasioi**

Legacy of External Dominance

- **Hardly ruled by any Bengali ruler before the independence of Bangladesh**
- **One glorious exception is King Sasanka of 8th century**
- **Another Bengali ruler was Sultan Jalaluddin Muhammad Shah (previously known as Jodu, son of King Ganesh) of 15th century**
- **The other rulers, irrespective of religion, creed, i.e. Pala and Sena dynasties, Turk. Pathan and Iranian ethnicities were outsiders but embraced this land as their homeland.**
- **Particularly, the Ilyas Shahi and Hussain Shahi dynasties patronised Bengali culture and literature. Seed of Bengali Nationalism Sowed.**

Journey Towards Inclusiveness

- **Sufism**
- **Vaishnava philosophy**
- **Communal harmony**
- **Development of Bangla literature by both Hindu and Muslim writers**
- **Mutual Respect**

British Era

- **Divide and Rule**
- **Permanent Settlement Act 1793**
- **Social reform**
- **Spreading of education**
- **Unequal development of Hindu and Muslim communities**
- **The gap was widening**
- **Communal mistrust that resulted in communal violence fuelled by British rulers**
- **‘Two Nation Theory’ that led to the creation of Pakistan**
- **Erstwhile East Bengal became a part of Pakistan**

Language Movement

- **Imposed Urdu, mother tongue of 7% people as state language, ignoring Bangla, mother tongue of 54% people**
- **Motion raised by Dharendra Nath Dutta, to declare Bangla as state language along with Urdu, rejected in Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on February 25, 1948.**
- **Those who had the opportunity to speak in support of the historic pro-Bengali amendment were as follows: Prem Hari Barman, Bhupendra Kumar Dutta, Srish Chandra Chattopadhyaya and Rajkumar Chakravarty.**

Language Movement

- **General strike called in East Bengal on March 11, 1948. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with others arrested while picketing.**
- **Urdu shall be the only state language of Pakistan-declared by MA Jinnah on March 21 and 24, 1948 in Dhaka.**
- **February 21 & 22 1952, Police opened fire on students demanding Bangla as State Language at Dhaka University campus killing as many as 13 people.**

Further Development

- **Landslide victory by United Front in 1954 polls**
- **Commemorating Language Movement, 21 point programme was their election manifesto**
- **21st February, Bangla New Year Day declared public holidays**
- **Newly formed cabinet led by AK Fazlul Haque dismissed by central government shortly. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, youngest cabinet member imprisoned with others**
- **Bangla and Urdu recognised as state languages. East Bengal renamed as East Pakistan in 1956 constitution**
- **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Moulana Bhasani refused to sign the constitution protesting the renaming and communal outlook of the constitution**

Military Rule and Student Upsurge

- **Martial Law declared by Iskander Mirza followed by Ayub Khan in 1958.**
- **21 February excluded from public holiday list**
- **Student movement in 1962 against the report of Sharif Commission on education**
- **Many students sacrificed lives on September 17, 1962**
- **Since September 17 observed as ‘Education Day’.**
- **New constitution formulated in 1962, no major changes**
- **Embargo against observance of Rabindranath Tagore’s birth centenary in 1961**
- **State patronised hooliganism in educational institutions**
- **Emergence of NSF hooligans**

Internal Colonisation

- **Lion share of foreign exchange earned from jute. Mostly spent for West Pakistan. Peasants were deprived of fair price.**
- **During 1947-55, 2000 crore taka was spent for western part against 252 crore taka for eastern part.**
- **In 1947 there were nine and five textile mills in eastern and western parts respectively. In 1971 it was 43 and 140 respectively.**
- **No Bengali secretary until later part of Yahya regime.**
- **Higher education and agricultural productivity declining in eastern part.**
- **‘Forum group’ worked relentlessly to identify disparity.**

Back Stage Preparation

- **Bangladesh Liberation Force (BLF), under cover unit of Chhatra League formed in 1962 to work for independent Bangladesh. Renamed as 'Mujib Bahini' in 1971.**

Six Point Programme

- **There was disparity between the two parts of Pakistan at economic, social, political sectors**
- **Minimal representation of Bengalis in civil service and armed forces**
- **East Pakistan deprived of development, industrialisation despite earning lion share of foreign exchange from jute**
- **Old capital in Karachi, new capital in Islamabad and provincial capital of west Pakistan in Rawalpindi. Dhaka treated as mere town**
- **All government offices located in West Pakistan**

Six Point Programme

- **Raised by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on February 5, 1966 in Lahore in a conference of opposition political parties. Key features-**
- **Establishing Federal Government in Pakistan in the light of Lahore Resolution**
- **Autonomy of state governments in all issues except foreign affairs and defence**
- **Uniform taxation and revenue policy; separate and easily convertible or same currency (provided close monitoring)**
- **Ensuring due share of state governments in foreign exchange.**
- **Militia forces under the control of state government**

Pakistan Government Reacts

- **Ayub Khan termed it ‘treacherous’ and threatened to use ‘language of arms’.**
- **‘Mujib will never see the sunlight again’-threatens Monaem Khan.**
- **Mujib was arrested after short intervals soon after declaration of the six point demand. He was arrested eight times.**
- **Finally, he was arrested on 8th May 1966. His whereabouts were not informed to the family members.**

Agartala Case

- **Soon after declaration of six point, a case titled ‘State versus Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’, later on known as ‘Agartala Conspiracy Case’ against 35 persons with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as prime accused.**
- **Others include politicians, defence personnel, civil servants. Some of those were Lt. Commander Moazzem Hussain, Capt. Shawkat Ali, Sgt. Zuhurul Haque, BB Manik Chowdhury, Bidhan Krishna Sen, Ruhul Quddus, Ahmed Fazlur Rahman and Shamsur Rahman Khan.**
- **Camera trial held in Military Tribunal**
- **General strike observed demanding release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on June 7th, 1966. Many people including Manu Miah embraced martyrdom.**

Mass Upsurge 1969

- **All party students action committee formed on 5th January 1969 under leadership of then DUCSU Vice President Tofael Ahmed. Placed 11 point demand. Consisted of Chhatra League, two factions of Chhatra Union and a faction of NSF.**
- **The 11 point recognised and included six point demand.**
- **Demands included release of political detainees, equitable education policy, non-aligned foreign policy, concession for students in public transports.**

Mass Upsurge 1969 (Cont.)

- **Student leader Asaduzzaman martyred on January 20, followed by Matiur Rahman on January 24**
- **Teacher of Rajshahi University Dr Shamsuz Zoha brutally killed by Pakistani army on February 18.**
- **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman released unconditionally on February 22. Agartala Case withdrawn.**
- **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared as ‘Bangabandhu’ in a mammoth gathering at Res Course On 23rd February. DUCSU VP Tofael Ahmed read out the declaration on behalf of people.**
- **Ayub Khan tried to survive by dismissing Monaem Khan on 24th March 1969.**
- **Ayub Khan resigned on 25th March 1969 and handed over power to Army Chief Yahya Khan.**

Liberation Struggle: Key Figures

- **Experienced leaders: Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain M Monsur Ali and AHM Quamaruzzaman**
- **Youth leaders: Sheikh Fazlul Haque Mani, Sirajul Alam Khan, Abdur Razzaq and Tofael Ahmed**
- **Student leaders: ASM Abdur Rab, Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui, Shajahan Siraj and Abdul Quddus Makhon**
- **Economist: Rehman Sobhan, Nurul Islam, Mosharraf Hussain, Anisur Rahman and Swadesh Bose**

Fall of Ayub Khan: Poll 1970

- **Mass upsurge compelled Ayub Khan to resign and hand over power to army chief Yahya Khan on March 25, 1969.**
- **Meanwhile, Ayub Khan dismissed unpopular Governor of East Pakistan Munaem Khan.**
- **General Election held in December 1970 under Legal Framework Order (LFO). Due to devastating cyclone of November 12, election in affected areas held later on**
- **Awami League under Bangabndhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's leadership won landslide victory.**
- **In National Assembly, Out of 313, 169 seats allocated for Pakistan. Awami League won 167 and achieved absolute majority. In Provincial Assembly, Awami League won 298 out of 310 seats**

Post Election Development

- **Pakistani rulers stunned by the result. They were expecting ‘hung parliament’**
- **Not willing to hand over power to majority party**
- **‘Larkana blue print’. PPP leader ZA Bhutto joined the conspiracy of military clique, demanded two prime ministers in two parts!**
- **Assembly called in Dhaka on March 3. Threatened West Pakistani lawmakers who arrived Dhaka to join Assembly.**
- **Scheduled session postponed on March 1, new date for session on March 25.**
- **Bloodshed in Dhaka and other areas as police and army fire indiscriminately on protestors**

Historic 7th March

- **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered historic speech at then Race Course**
- **In a gathering of more than one million, he actually declared the independence of Bangladesh**
- **Demanded transferring power to elected representatives; return of army to barracks; probe and trial of killing protesters; and stopping siphoning resources to West Pakistan**
- **Cautioned against attack on ethnic, religious minorities**
- **Called for peaceful non cooperation and taking preparation for struggle of independence**
- **Proclaimed 35 guidelines to make the movement a success**

Negotiation ! Preparation for Genocide

- **On march 15, Yahya Khan reached Dhaka for discussion with Bangabandhu**
- **Yahya Khan was aided among others by ZA Bhutto, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was accompanied by Tajuddin Ahmed and others**
- **Discussion continued for 10 days**
- **Actually, Pakistani junta was taking time for implementing blue print of genocide by sufficient number of forces by canceling normal flights between Dhaka and West Pakistan**
- **Yahya Khan unilaterally cancelled discussion and left Dhaka along with ZA Bhutto on March 25 under the cover of night.**

Operation ‘Search Light’-Birth of a Nation

- **Pakistan Army started massacre on Bengalis under code ‘Operation Search light’ on March 25 night**
- **Main targets in Dhaka include University, Shahid Minar, Pilkhana, Police line and old areas of the city**
- **That day, more than 15000 people were killed.**
- **World witnessed emergence of a new independent nation- Bangladesh**

Mujibnagar Government Formed

- **Being directed by Bangabandhu, senior Awami league leaders reached India and formed Bangladesh Government on April 10 with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Syed Nazrul Islam and Tazuddin Ahmed as President, Acting President and Prime Minister Respectively.**
- **Captain M Monsur Ali and Abul Hasnat Muhammad Quamaruzzaman were other cabinet members**
- **Formally took oath on April 17 at Mujibnagar (then Baidyanath Tala), Meherpur.**
- **Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was Head of Advisory Council. Other members were Comrade Mani Singh, Professor Mozaffar Ahmed and Manoranjan Dhar**

Local Resistance, Guerrilla Warfare

- **In many areas, there was local resistance against Pakistani occupation forces with light weapons**
- **Resistance survived for around one month**
- **Gradually, entire Bangladesh went under Pakistani control**
- **Bengali youths took shelter in India, underwent military training and attacked the occupation forces**
- **Around ten million Bengali people took refuge in India and provided with food, shelter, military training and arms**

Role of Bengali armed forces members

- **East Bengal Regiment formed on February 15, 1948. Following repeated demands by ‘Tiger Ghani’.**
- **In 1953, Ziaur Rahman, KM Shafiullah and other Bengali youths joined East Bengal Regiment. Became vocal about the rights of the Bengalis. In 1955, Khaled Mosharraf joined them.**
- **Played heroic role in Indo-Pak war of 1965. Witnessed the inefficiency of Pakistani army.**
- **Moreover, the Bengalis were subject to discrimination everywhere.**

Histoieic Teliapara Tea Garden Meet

- **After crackdown of 25th March the Bengali officers of Pakistan army assembled at Teliapara tea garden of Habiganj on 4th April, 1971.**
- **It was convened by MAG Osmani.**
- **‘Mukti Bahini’ was formed with MAG Osmani as the Chief and MA Rab as his deputy.**
- **The country was initially divided into four regions under :**
- **Ziaur Rahman, KM Shafiullah, Khaled Mosharraf and Abu Osman Chowdhury**

Liberation Fighters

- **Mukti Bahini (previously Mukti Fouj) formed under leadership of General MAG Osmani.**
- **MA Rab and AK Khandker were Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff respectively**
- **Z force, S Force and K force were formed under the leadership of Ziaur Rahman, KM Shafiullah and Khaled Mosharraf respectively.**
- **Bangladesh divided into 11 sectors under 10 Commanders**
- **Mujib Bahini (Bangladesh Liberation Force-BLF): Led by Sheikh Fazlul Haque Mani, Sirajul Alam Khan, Abdur Razzaq and Tofael Ahmed**
- **Kaderia Bahini: Led by Abdul Kader Siddiqui**

Road to Victory

- **Pakistan army started conceding heavy casualties freedom fighters were successfully implementing operations**
- **Despite collaboration from Rajakar, Al Badr, Al Shams Pak army found victory impossible**
- **Suddenly, Pakistan attacked India on December 3 and the latter directly involved in the war the following day.**
- **Bangladesh-India joint command (Mitra Bahini) formed.**
- **Pakistan found victory of Bangladesh inevitable**
- **With help by Al Badr and Al Shams they abducted and killed the intellectuals of Bangladesh particularly on December 14 and immediate before final defeat**

Eliminating Intellectuals

- **Intellectuals played pivotal in laying and strengthening the foundation of Bengali Nationalism. Therefore, became the target of the occupation force and their collaborators**
- **Blue print prepared to kill the renowned intellectuals in line with the list prepared so that Bangladesh remains intellectually bankrupt forever even though achieving independence**
- **First phase of this plan was implemented on 25 March and afterwards**
- **Final strike came with help by Al Badr and Al Shams they abducted and killed the intellectuals of Bangladesh particularly on December 14 and immediate before final defeat**

Final Victory (Cont.)

- **Joint command gave Pakistani Army ultimatum for surrender and assured of Geneva Convention**
- **On December 16, at 4.31 pm, Pakistani army led by Lt. General AAK Niazi surrendered at Race Course, Dhaka along with 93 thousand soldiers to the Joint Command**
- **Self proclaimed 'Martial Race' suffered humiliating defeat once again**
- **Bangladesh liberated at the cost of three million martyrs, humiliation of four lakh war affected women and unprecedented devastation**

Independent Bangladesh

- **Members of Indian ‘Mitra Bahini’ withdrawn on March 15, 1972 following farewell parade on March 12th.**
- **A 404 member ‘Constituent Assembly’ formed on March 23, 1972.**
- **Committee comprising 34 law makers assigned to formulate constitution.**
- **Draft constitution formulated on November 04, 1972.**
- **The constitution came into force on 16th December 1972.**

Thank You Very Much!

