



Research Paper

# The Formation of Mujibnagar Government (1971) and its Role in the Liberation War of Bangladesh: A Historical Review

## AUTHOR

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### Abstract

Pakistan was established on the basis of the Lahore resolution of 1940. The province of East Bengal is annexed to the state of Pakistan as it has a Muslim majority. But the aspirations and motives with which the province of East Bengal was associated with Pakistan were damaged. Because the West Pakistani authorities started exploiting the province of East Bengal from the very beginning. As a result, the independence movement started in East Bengal. In this context Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh and Mujibnagar government was formed. Therefore, the present study has tried to highlight how the Mujibnagar government was formed and what was the role of this government during the war of liberation.

**Keywords:** Mujibnagar government, Liberation war, Independent Bangladesh, Bengali Nationalism, People's Republic of Bangladesh.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Displacement and erosion of Muslim elites due to post-Palashi political changes, unequal development of Hindu-Muslim community under British rule, backwardness of Muslims in all spheres of society, social division of Bengal, Hindu-Muslim conflict in service, Hindu renaissance, Islamic reform movement, British divide Neet etc. strengthens communal thinking by changing the course of tolerant reforms of the Pak colonial era. On the one hand, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's Aligarh Movement in North India, Nawab Abdul Latif's Mohammedan Literary Society in Bengal, Syed Amir Ali's Central National Mohammedan Association, establishment of All India Muslim League in 1906, The partition of Bengal by the British in 1905, the abolitionist movement of Hindu politicians, etc. pushed the Hindu-Muslim community towards secession. This sectarian isolation encouraged the Muslim leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah to propagate the two nation theory and as a result, India was inevitably divided in 1947. The purpose for which the Muslim community of East Bengal joined Pakistan was not fulfilled, as the continued absence of democracy and constitutional rule in Pakistan complicated the situation. It is surprising to think that Pakistan was governed by the Indian Rule Act of 1935, nine years before the first constitution was drafted. Although it was possible to draft a constitution in 1956, it lasted only two years. Because first General Iskander Miza and later General Ayub Khan issued martial law and repealed the constitution.

However, General Ayub Khan introduced another constitution in 1962, but by establishing the authority of the military bureaucracy over constitutional rule, it turned Pakistan into a volatile state. As a result, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman raised a six-point demand in 1966 with the aim of breaking the colonial state structure of Pakistan and liberating the Bengalis. The Pakistani government arrested Bangabandhu to stop the six-point demand movement. But the student society movement was started in East Bengal with the aim of

liberating Bangabandhu. In the face of the movement, Bangabandhu was finally released. After the release of Bangabandhu, anti-government movement started. At one stage of the movement the Ayub Khan government fell. General Yahya Khan came to power. General Yahya Khan came to power and held Pakistan's first national election in 1970. In that election the Awami League under the leadership of Bangabandhu won a single majority. But even though the Awami League won a single majority, General Yahya Khan did not hand over power to the Awami League. Obligated, Bangabandhu called for a strike from 6 am to 2 pm on March 1, 1971 to March 6, 1971 and delivered a historic speech to the nation at Resource Maidan in Dhaka on March 7, 1971 at 4 pm. In that speech he indirectly declared the independence of Bangladesh. In the wake of which the government of Pakistan launched a military operation called Operation Sach Light in Dhaka city in the early hours of March 26. This time Bangabandhu directly declared the independence of Bangladesh. The Pak army took Bangabandhu to West Pakistan. The struggle for the liberation of the Bengalis began. In this situation the government of Bangladesh was formed. This government was named Mujibnagar government. The present article examines the formation of the Mujibnagar government and its functions during the war.

### **Fill in the blanks in the research field**

No book or article published on the formation of the Mujibnagar government and its important role in the liberation war of Bangladesh found a place for research and analysis. In other words, in books and articles published on the formation of the Mujibnagar government and its role during the war, in most cases, some issues are discussed sporadically from a general point of view. Therefore, I have written this article realizing the need for research on the formation of Mujibnagar government and its important role in the liberation war of Bangladesh.

### **Research methods and data collection**

Basically I collected data from primary sources. Newspapers and periodicals are important components of this study. We have also collected information from Bangladesh National Archives, National Public Library, Central Library of various universities, various private libraries, official documents related to the Liberation War and discussion programs of various political parties. Besides, I have interviewed some freedom fighters who participated in the liberation war and some people involved in various administrative work appointed by the Mujibnagar government.

### **The purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study is to examine the formation of the Mujibnagar government and its role in the liberation war of Bangladesh. Due to positional weakness, exploitation, backwardness, disrespect and social and political deprivation, the Bengalis took part in various movements led by Bangabandhu to liberate East Pakistan from the colonial exploitation of the Pakistani rulers. Although the Awami League won the 1970 elections in Pakistan, the Pakistani government did not hand over power to the Bengalis. Instead, he used the army to kill the Bengalis. Therefore, the purpose of writing this article is to analyze various aspects of the formation of Bengali Mujibnagar government against the government of Pakistan and its role in the liberation war of Bangladesh.

### **1.1 The formation of Mujibnagar government (1971)**

When the Bengali resistance started on 26 March 1971, Tajuddin Ahmed and Barrister Amirul Islam crossed the border on 1 April 1971 in the hope of India's help in the war of liberation and reached Delhi with the help of senior officers of the Indian Border Force. (Rahman,1999 & Ahmed,1996). After a short stay there, he met the then Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Indira Gandhi listened to them patiently. But they had no legal basis to seek India's help. That is why after meeting Indira Gandhi in Delhi, Tajuddin formed a government with himself as Prime Minister and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President (Rahman,1982). Indira Gandhi accepted the cabinet formed by Tajuddin Ahmed and assured India's support in the liberation war of Bangladesh. Sitting in Delhi, Tajuddin recorded a speech to the nation on the formation of the Bangladesh government with the help of the Indian authorities and sent the record to the Siliguri radio station for broadcast. After staying in Delhi for a few days, Tajuddin arrived in Kolkata in a special BSF helicopter. In the meantime, the MPs of Bangladesh elected in the 1970 elections stayed at the MLA Hostel in Kolkata. The MPs who arrived in Kolkata refused to accept the news that Tajuddin Ahmed had formed the government in Delhi and informed the Indian authorities. Group meeting begins (Hossain,1977).

However, AHM Kamruzzaman was in favor of a united position. In his efforts, a meeting was held at Lord Sinha Road on the night of April 9, 1971. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed, Barrister Amirul Islam, Capt. Mansur Ali, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni. . Apart from the MP, many Awami League leaders were present at the meeting (Rahman,1982). At the meeting, Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni proposed to form a revolutionary council. Most of the members present at the meeting

supported Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni's proposal. In this situation, Barrister Amirul Islam argued that Tajuddin had spoken to Indira Gandhi as the general secretary of the party.

He has the right to speak as general secretary in the absence of party president Bangabandhu. In light of these arguments, the Council of Ministers formed by him was finally supported by all present at the meeting. The next day of the meeting, on 10 April 1971, at 9.30 pm, the speech was broadcast on the Siliguri radio station (Mohammad,1997).

He said in his speech that at midnight on March 25, Yahya Khan threw his bloodthirsty armed forces on the unarmed people of Bangladesh. So our dear leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh by calling for resisting it (Hassan,1994). As a result, the outside world became aware for the first time that the Bangladesh government had been formed and through this the issue of Bangladesh's declaration of independence became clear to the world leaders (Ali,1992).

On April 10, 1971, Tajuddin, Barrister Amirul Islam, Capt. M Mansur Ali, Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni and Tofail Ahmed left for Agartala and landed at Bagdobra Airport in Siliguri District. There they spend the night. Syed Nazrul Islam and Abdul Mannan took refuge under the sloping hills of the Mymensingh border. They were called by sending news. Syed Nazrul Islam accepted Tajuddin Ahmed as the Prime Minister. Then on 11 April they reached Agartala. Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed, Zahur Ahmad Chowdhury and others were stationed there. Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed was reluctant to accept Tajuddin Ahmed as the Prime Minister. Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed agreed to accept Tajuddin Ahmed as the Prime Minister only after he got the post of Foreign Minister. Eventually, Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed was appointed foreign minister, and it was in Agartala that Tajuddin Ahmed, as prime minister, divided the office among the ministers. The portfolios are divided among the ministers-

1. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -----President
2. Syed Nazrul Islam -----Vice President
3. Tajuddin Ahmed -----Prime Minister
4. Khandaker Mostaq Ahmad -----Foreign Affairs, Law and Parliament
5. AHM Kamruzzaman -----Internal Supply, Relief and Rehabilitation
6. Captain Mansur Ali -----Finance, trade and industry (Rahman,1999).

## **1.2 Oath-taking ceremony of Mujibnagar government**

Vaidyanath Tala of Meherpur subdivision of Kushtia district was elected for the swearing in ceremony. The inauguration of the cabinet was held at Vaidyanathatala on 17 April 1971 at 11 am. Led by young civil officer Tawfiq Elahi Chowdhury, some freedom fighters were in charge of security in the area. Vaidyanathatala was renamed Mujibnagar.

The inauguration ceremony started at 11.10 am. The function was attended by cabinet members, Awami League leaders, invited guests and some freedom fighters (Niaji,1998).

The function was conducted by Abdul Mannan. The program began with the recitation of the Qur'an. A group of local freedom fighters led by Mahbubuddin Ahmed, a young police officer, took part in the God of Honor parade of the cabinet. After that the members of the cabinet and the chief commander of the liberation war Connell M.A.G. Osmani took the seat. Then Awami League Chief Whip Professor Yusuf Ali read out the Declaration of Independence. Independent Sovereign Bangladesh was renamed the People's Republic of Bangladesh. After reading the manifesto, "*Amar Sonara Banla Ami Tomai Bhalo Basi*" was sung as the national anthem (Ahmed,1996). In the meantime, the Declaration of Independence states that if the President is unable to attend for any reason, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President. According to this section, Vice President Syed Nazrul Islam administered oath to the members of the Council of Ministers. The Vice President and the Prime Minister then gave short speeches (Rahman,1999).

At the end of the speech, the Prime Minister answered the questions of the journalists. The cabinet returned to Calcutta on the same day. The Bangladesh government was never in Mujibnagar. But the name Mujibnagar is used symbolically. The actual office of the government was established in Calcutta (Ahmed, 1994).

## **1.3 Constitutional declaration of independent Bangladesh**

In the 1970 elections, members of the National and Provincial Councils elected from East Pakistan met in Calcutta and formally issued the following declaration and ratified Bangabandhu's declaration of independence. The announcement said- "Professor Yusuf Ali read out the Declaration of Independence at the inaugural function of the Cabinet held at Mujibnagar on 1 April 1971. It was marked as the constitutional declaration of independence of Bangladesh. The announcement says- According to the declaration, the people of Bangladesh, who have sovereign power, have decided in favor of the elected representatives. According to him, we, the elected representatives, consider it our sacred duty to establish equality, humanity, dignity and social justice for the people of Bangladesh through mutual dialogue by forming Constituent Assembly in our cooperatives. We are announcing the decision to transform Bangladesh into a sovereign people's republic and

we are endorsing the declaration of independence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the East” (Islam,1996).

#### **1.4 The Laws Continuance Enforcement Order**

In order to ensure the continuity of the law in all cases, the President issued this order on 10 April 1971 with the powers conferred by the Charter of Independence. It was declared effective from 26 March 1971. The purpose of this order was to legitimize and enforce all the laws in force since the Pakistan period (Rahman,1982).

However, the laws that seem inconsistent for Bangladesh cannot be enforced. Through this order, the employees are assured that all the public, private, military, judicial and diplomatic officers who declare their allegiance to Bangladesh will have the right to continue their service as per the norms and benefits. This law guarantees job security to the employees and gives them the legal legitimacy to continue the benefits they enjoyed during the Pakistan period (Rashid,2001).

#### **1.5 Ministries and Departments of Mujibnagar Government**

The Government of Bangladesh was inaugurated on 10 April 1971. The inaugural function of this government was held on 17 April 1971 at Baidyanathtala in Meherpur subdivision of Kushtia district and the government was renamed the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Baidyanath Tala was renamed Mujibnagar and symbolically Mujibnagar was the temporary capital. The actual capital of the Bangladesh government was established in Calcutta. During the nine months of the war, this government came to be known as Mujibnagar Sarkar. The ministries and departments of this government were as follows-

1. Ministry of Defense
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Ministry of Finance, Industry and Commerce
4. In the Cabinet Secretariat
5. General Administration Department
6. Ministry of Health and Welfare
7. Ministry of Information and Radio
8. Ministry of Home Affairs
9. Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation
10. Department of Parliamentary Affairs
11. Department of Agriculture
12. Engineering Department (Rahman,1999).

Apart from ministries and departments, the government had the following agencies:

1. Planning Commission
2. Industry and Commerce Board
3. Control Board, Youth and Reception Camp
4. Relief and Rehabilitation Committee
5. Sharanathi Welfare Board (Rashid,2001 & Rahman,1999).

#### **1.6 Functions of Mujibnagar government during the war in 1971**

##### **Ministry of Defense**

The Ministry of Defense plays an important role in running the Mujibnagar government. The Ministry of Defense was under the control of Prime Minister Tajuddin. Prime Minister Tajuddin led the war of liberation under this ministry. Under his leadership Bangladesh was able to achieve independence. The steps taken by this ministry during the war of liberation are mentioned below-

#### **1.7 Management of the War of Liberation**

The War of Liberation was conducted by a civilian institution, i.e. the Mujibnagar government. It was not managed by any military institution i.e. the army. The army under its Chief General M.A.G. Osmany worked under the supervision and direction of Tajuddin government. The war of liberation was a people's war (janajuddho). With the exception of a few ( members and followers of fanatical Jamate Islam and its associated organizations such as Al-badar,Ai-sams,Rajakars etc.), one and all Bengalis were engaged in the war of liberation in various capacities- army men, members of the Freedom Fighters, their helpers, providers of food and shelter, physicians, nurses and sympathizers and supporters of the war of liberation. Broadly speaking those who accept the four fundamental principles of state policy- Nationalism, Democracy, Socialism and Secularism – are freedom fighters. Those who do not accept these are collaborators Rajakars (Maniruzzaman,1975)

Both men and machines are needed to manage the war. Members of the East Pakistan Army, EPR and police who joined the war of independence had their weapons. In addition, India provided the necessary weapons, ammunition, air force aircraft and troops (Rahman,1999)

The war of liberation began in the early hours of March 26; But it started with genocide. Yet many cities like Chittagong, Sylhet, Jessore, Bogra, Naogaon etc. were independent for some time. Thousands of troops have already been brought to Dhaka from West Pakistan. The freedom fighters could not survive for long in the face of modern weapons of the Pak army. They crossed the border and reached Agartala. They met with the Prime Minister and other ministers of the Tajuddin government and Army Chief General MAG Osmani to discuss preparations for war (Ahmed, 1990).

### **1.8 War Strategy**

The Prime Minister, the army chief and the army officers decided to conduct the war by the conventional and guerilla warfare. The persons who were in the army, EPR and police would be the members of the conventional forces and the freedom fighters without training would be trained in guerilla warfare at Deradun and other places in India (Ali,2015).

### **1.9 Guerilla and conventional sectors**

Division of Bangladesh into 11 sectors

For guerilla and conventional warfare Bangladesh was division into 11 sectors. Each sector was placed under the command of a sector commander. Sector 1 was composed of Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tract districts and parts of Noakhali district and was under the command of Major Ziaur Rahman upto June and thereafter Captain M.Rafiq; Sector 2 of Noakhali district and parts of Dhaka, Comilla and Faridpur districts under Major Khaled Mosarraf followed by Major ATM Haider; Sector 3 of parts of Comilla, Sylhet, Dhaka and Mymensing districts under Major K.M. Shafiullah followed by Major A.N.Nuruzzaman; Sector 4 of parts of Sylhet district under C.R.Datta; Sector 5 of parts of Sylhet district under Wing Commander Major Mir Shawhet Ali; Sector 6 of parts of Ranjpur district and Dinajpur district under Wing Commander M.K.Bashar; Sector 7 of parts of Dinajpur district and Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra district under Major Kazi Nuruzzaman; Sector 8 of parts of Kushtia and Jessore districts and parts of Faridpur and Khulna districts under Major Abu Osman Choudhury followed by Major M.A.Manzoor; Sector 9 of parts of Barisal district and parts of Khulna districts under Major M.A.Jalil followed by Major Joynal Abedin; Sector 10 of naval commando coastal area and inland navigation-the naval commanders worked under the sector commanders for materializing particular mission and ; Sector 11 of parts of Tangail districts and parts of Mymensing district under Major Abu Taher followed by Flight Lt. Hamidullah Khan ( Rahman,1999 )

### **1.10 Division of the Regular force**

#### a) Regular force

There were three regular forces of Brigade size. These were 'Z' force under the command of Major Ziaur Rahman, 'K' force under the command of Major Khaled Mosharraf and 'S' force under the command of Major K.M. Shafiullah. The soldiers of the above forces came from army, EPR and police. They were already trained for conventional warfare (Ali,2015).

#### b) Sector troops

The soldiers of these troops were those who could not be accommodated in the brigade forces because the number of soldiers in a brigade is limited (1800 all inclusive). They were also from army, EPR and police. They were divided into units and sub-units. These units and sub-units were placed in the sectors (Ali,2015).

#### c) Bangladesh Air Force

The Mujibnagar government formed the Bangladesh Air Force on 2 September 1971 in Dimapur, India with two helicopters named Dakota Otter and Elevate. About 67 pilots joined the battle. Under Air Commander AK Khandaker, the forces were quickly trained. On 1 December 1971, the army launched a successful air strike on the Pak army in Chittagong (Rahman,1999).

#### d) Bangladesh Navy

Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed and M.A. With the efforts of G. Osani, Bangladesh Navy was formed with 8 sub-mariners. The force was trained on the Jamuna River in India from 23 April 1971 to 8 May 1971. Thereafter, 357 youths from various youth camps in the border areas were recruited into the force and till May 13, 1971, they were trained in the Bhagirathi river in West Bengal. As of December 16, 1971, the force had 515 members. Sector 10 is made up of these naval commando forces. These forces conducted successful operations against the Pak army during the war called Operation Jackpot (Rahman,1999).

#### e) Irregular Forces

On the morning of March 26, 1971, the Pak army attacked the unarmed crowd in Dhaka. The resistance struggle of the Bengalis began. But this resistance did not last long. As a result, the trained Pakistani forces easily



occupied almost the whole of Bangladesh. When the Mujibnagar government was formed on 17 April, regular forces were formed. However, the Mujibnagar government formed regular as well as irregular guerrilla forces to defeat the Pak army quickly.

f) Freedom fighters

The government formed this force to conduct the war. The members of this force were called freedom fighters. They were trained at various military training centers in the border areas of India and Bangladesh. When the training was over, they were sent to different war sectors with weapons. They participated in the war under the command of the Sector Commanders (Sengupta,1974). Apart from the regular and irregular forces who were under the control, supervision and direction of the Mujibnagar government there were several other forces who were under their local commanders and fought independently and became successful in freeing certain areas from the clutches of the Pak army of occupation. Among these area-based forces were Kader Bahini, Mujib Bahini, Afshar Bahini, Hemayet Bahini, Latif Bahini. These forces were able to build resistance against the Pak army along with the government forces (Sen,1986).

**1.11 Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The main responsibility of this ministry was to build world public opinion in favor of the liberation war. To this end, the Ministry has set up Bangladesh Missions in Kolkata, Delhi, London, Washington, New York and Stockholm. The ministry also sent delegations to the United Nations, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries. As a result of these diplomatic activities, world public opinion was formed in favor of the war of liberation (Imam,1997).

**1.12 Ministry of Finance**

The Mujibnagar government formed the Ministry of Finance to run the state during the war. During the war, the ministry formulates a budget and collects taxes and revenue from the Free Zone. As an autonomous body, the ministry forms a trade board. During the war, the board explores various sources of foreign income. Negotiates trade agreements with India. This budget covers other expenses, including salaries and allowances for wartime government officials and employees (Rahman,1999).

**1.13 Secretariat**

The Mujibnagar government is headed by a full-fledged secretariat. Its Chief Secretary was Mr. Ruhul Quddus, Establishment Secretary was Mr. Nurul Quader Khan, Internal Secretary was Mr. Abdul Khaleq, Defense Secretary was Mr. Abdus Samad, Information Secretary was Mr. Anwarul Haque Khan, Foreign Secretary was Mr. Mahbulul Alam Chashi, Cabinet Secretary was Mr. Tawfiq Imam and Finance Secretary Khandaker Asaduzzaman. The Chief Secretary is in charge of the Secretariat of the President. One of the responsibilities of the Chief Secretary was to coordinate inter-ministerial matters (Rahman,1982).

**1.14 Administrative department**

In July, the Mujibnagar government divided Bangladesh into 11 administrative regions. This administrative area is called the Zonal Council. The Regional Chairman is elected by direct vote of the members of the Provincial and National Assemblies who have declared allegiance to the Mujibnagar Government. A regional administrator is appointed in each region under the control of the central government. Regional chairmen act as political coordinators in its subordinate areas (Rahman,1999).Each region appoints the following regional officers:

- a). Regional Health Officer;
- b). Regional Education Officer;
- c). Regional Relief Officer;
- d). Regional Engineering Officer;
- e). Regional police officer;
- f). Regional Information Officer;
- g). Regional Accounting Officer (Asad,1992).

**1.15 Zonal Council Responsibilities**

During the war the Mujibnagar government assigned the following responsibilities to the Zonal Council-

1. To coordinate and co-operate with the Sector Commanders engaged in the War of Liberation.
2. Conducting freedom fighter camps and arranging to send freedom fighters to recruit and training carefully.
3. Arrange for distribution of booklets, leaflets and posters published by the Information Department in addition to the refugee camps.
4. Coordinate work with Indian authorities in caring for refugees.
5. If any government servant comes from the area occupied by the Pak army, his name and identity should be recorded and he should be employed and paid according to his qualifications.

After the victory of the Bangladesh government in the war of liberation, this administrative structure was functional till it took over the government (Rahman,1999).

#### **1.16 Ministry of Health and Welfare**

This ministry set up field hospitals at various places for the treatment of the public during wartime. Doctors and nurses were recruited in those hospitals during the war. Even students studying in medical colleges are hired as doctors and nurses to fill the shortage of doctors and nurses. Moreover, these hospitals provide first aid training to women (Haque,1997). For this the Mujibnagar government formed the management board of the Narsing Training Center. The members of the Board of Directors were Mrs. Badrunnesa Ahmed MNA, Begum Rafia Akhter Dolly MNA, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury and Mumtaz Begum. These hospitals employ male doctors as well as female doctors. Among the female doctors were Captain Sitara Begum, Dr. Makhduma Nagis Ratma, Dr. Nurunnahar Zahur, Dr. Shamsunnahar Kamal, Dr. Renukana Barua and Dr. Zobaida (Nasiruddin,1997).

#### **1.17 Ministry of Information and Radio**

This ministry played an important role during the war. As soon as the war broke out, an independent Bengali radio station was set up at Kalurghat in Chittagong. The Mujibnagar government took over the management of this independent Bengali radio station from 25 May 1971. The government gave the main responsibility of running this radio station to Abdul Mannan MNA. Zillur Rahman MNA, Mohammad Khaled MNA and Taher Uddin Tagore MNA were appointed as advisors (Hossain,1977). This radio station is able to inspire and unite all those who participated and supported the liberation war. The Mujibnagar government broadcasts various programs called Agnishikha, Ranabheri, Battlefield News, Darpan, Bishwajnamat, Jallader Darbar, Charampatra to invigorate and unite all those who participated and supported the liberation war. This radio station plays a role in shaping the world opinion as well as the freedom fighters and accelerates the independence of Bangladesh ( Garg,1984).

#### **1.18 Ministry of Home Affairs**

During the War of Liberation, the Ministry issued travel documents and conducted various investigations under the Zonal Administrative Council. This ministry is responsible for maintaining law and order during wartime (Rahman,1999).

#### **1.19 Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation**

On March 25, 1971, when the Pakistani army started massacring the unarmed people of this country, people started fleeing their homes to India for fear of their lives. Thus about one crore refugees took refuge in India. India alone spent Rs 260 crore from March to September for the refugees (Karim,1980), During this period financial aid from countries other than India comes in at around Rs. Until December 16, 1971, the main task of the Ministry was to manage the relief work from within the appropriate structure of these shelters.

Moreover, the ministry has to face tough challenges like returning refugees from India at the end of the war and resettling them in their own homes. However, the Mujibnagar government was able to tackle this difficult challenge in a short period of time (Rahman,1982).

#### **1.20 Planning Commission**

The Mujibnagar government formed a five-member planning commission. Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Chowdhury was the chairman of the commission. The other members of the commission are Dr. Khan Sarwar Mushed, Dr. Mosharraf Hossain, Dr. MR Bose and Dr. Anisuzzaman. The Commission appoints its own officers and employees from among the intellectuals and professionals. The Mujibnagar Government assigns the following functions to the Commission (Rahman,1999).

1. Formulation of long term development plan for independent Bangladesh on the basis of the manifesto of Bangladesh Awami League and the objectives formulated by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the senior leaders of Awami League;
2. Preparation of medium term plan for country and economic restructuring. Align this plan with the long term plan;
3. Since restructuring will be a major undertaking and no time can be wasted on the part of the government in resolving this issue, all plans and programs have to be prepared immediately, so planning has become a matter of real urgency (Asad,1992).

Therefore, in the light of the recommendations of the Planning Commission, the government has had to pay attention to the following problems in restructuring the country-

1. Problems of resettlement of displaced persons;
2. Housing problems of evicted people;

3. Food supply;
4. Restoration of communication system;
5. Rehabilitation of general facilities such as health, electricity, water, treatment etc;
6. Reopening of all damaged ports, factories, industrial establishments etc;
7. Bringing back law and order;
8. Restoration of educational facilities;
9. To provide education to the youth who join the army as much as possible;
10. To nationalize banks, insurance and other financial institutions as per the policy announced by the government;
11. Rehabilitation of trade and commerce;
12. To formulate future trade policy of the country etc (Rahman,1982).

### **1.21 Youth Reception and Control Board**

During the War of Liberation, the Mujibnagar government set up 24 youth camps and 112 reception camps in the border areas. A board is formed to control these. Professor Yusuf Ali MNA was the head of the board. People crossing the border from Bangladesh first had to report to the reception camp and from there they were sent to various refugee camps. Youths were sent to youth camps. Freedom fighters were selected from different youth camps (Rahman,1999).

### **1.22 Advisory Committee of Mujibnagar Government**

An 8-member advisory committee was formed with the leaders of various political parties supporting the liberation war to advise the Mujibnagar government on the liberation war. The committee was headed by Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and convened by Tajuddin Ahmed. The other members of the committee were Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed, Moni Singh, Manoranj Dhar, Captain Mansur Ali, AHM Kamruzzaman, Tajuddin Ahmed and Khandaker Mostaq Ahmed (Rashid, 2001).

## **II. CONCLUSION**

In the above analysis, it can be said that the Mujibnagar government was able to liberate the country from the enemy in just nine months by performing its duties in a very orderly and successful manner. During these nine months, members of all levels of the Mujibnagar administration have faithfully performed their duties in spite of various obstacles and limitations. They have received very low salary allowances. With a small manpower, the government was able to ensure regular troop formation, training, arms supply, logistics and chain of command on various battlefields, including 11 sectors. The government was able to take up the challenge of providing food to the refugees who took refuge in India and distributing it through the rules. Moreover, during the war, the government had to provide general medical treatment to the freedom fighters. This government was able to make a significant contribution to shaping world opinion. The victory of Bangladesh on 16 December 1971 was largely due to the planning and dedicated efforts of the Mujibnagar government. Thus, at the end of a glorious and heroic war of liberation led by the Mujibnagar government, an independent sovereign People's Republic of Bangladesh was born in the world court.

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