

# Bangabandhu's Declaring 7th March Speech, a Road to Independence

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**Abstract-** The delivery of the 7th March Speech is an approach made by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the achievement of freedom for the people of Bengal. This speech's birth has made itself historic besides has driven the nation from a repressed region to a free country having the golden name The people's Republic of Bangladesh. The delivery of the speech by Bangabandhu is a start of gaining liberty despite being obstacles and mountain-like difficulties. The presence of this Speech has given the Bengali people glory, respect, and emancipation. Bangabandhu has picked the momentum and made the declaration of independence.

**Keywords** - Bangabandhu, Declaration, Independence, speech, 7th March

## I. INTRODUCTION

The declaration of the independence of Bangladesh comes in the presenting of the speech by Bangabandhu. He, a great speaker, makes the moves of the stand against an odd situation only for the freedom of the people of Bengal. He never delays the declaration of independence through this speech. This has truly been a passage to the victory and Bangabandhu knows it so he has raised various aspects in his great speech. Though it can be only 19 minutes long, the depth and velocity of the speech stir the whole nation. He has delineated all the major facts and the situation compared to that of West Pakistan. He also knows that he can be arrested anytime so without being delayed he declares independence in his speech because there will be none else who can do it. Before the delivery of the speech, it is written and he never follows it and makes it historic. He knows the condition of the people of Bengal and delivers it in such a way that it can be very appropriate for the achievement of liberty. He mingles the four important principles of the constitution of 72 and demonstrates the principles in the speech. It is well known UNESCO has included the speech in the Memory of the World Register as a documentary heritage on 30 October 2017. When the speech is written on the 5th march to give to the press and has shown to Bangabandhu, he denies delivering it as written, he says, "I will deliver it orally."

The Speech of 7th March delivered by Bangabandhu has mainly divided into eight parts. In it, Bangabandhu not only declares the independence of Bangladesh but presents the suppression, the historic moments, his try to settle down grave issues peacefully, his denial of the PM position, and his declaration of independence [1]. His starting is very impressive and simple. He declares the speech because he knows that it is the right time to announce the victory and makes an urge to the people of Bengal. They respond to

him spontaneously and participate in it and get the victory [2]. Without the evoke, people cannot reach the goal.

When Sir Cyril Radcliffe divides the country without thinking about the differences between East and West Pakistan, the problems start occurring and deprivation, as well as repression, add to the existing facts. The people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh) are no compared to that of the West Pakistani physically, culturally, or traditionally. The fact is known to all dissimilarity always creating chaos.

These are the majority Muslim inhabited regions added to the map of Pakistan but the East region is wholly separated geographically and culturally which is no match with the culture and tradition as the people of Bengal are fully different from West Pakistan. The 7th march speech has brought independence to the people of Bengal and disparity and oppression come to an end and allow the people of Bengal to a new identity as a free nation. The situation is so turmoil that anything can happen before two or three days of the delivery of the speech of 7th March the West Pakistani rulers go to such an extent that Bangabandhu calls for hartal (strike) peacefully for the killing and protests against the oppressive situation. 2nd March is the first national hoisting day. Millions of students-people gather to witness the historic moment. The rulers are very scared and hesitant and they set up all the machine guns and rifles in Dhaka (formerly Dacca) creating a war-like situation.

The speech has many identical aspects which have mixed with its true traits. The speech has four demands, directives, and orders for declaring independence. It is said that it is one of the greatest speeches delivered by Bangabandhu in the last 2500 years.

The reflection of the four major principles of the 72 constitutions is the main point of discussion in this article

firstly, democracy can be put to delineate the speech. In a democracy, people choose the representatives or governing legislators.

The main points of democracy have been raised in this historic speech. The most impressive aspect of democracy is in line 31 to 33 in it he said, "I went so far as to say that if anyone came up with an offer that was just, even though we were in the majority we would agree to that offer." besides he remarks that it is natural, the representatives should sit in the assembly and make a constitution but he can't do it because the Pakistani rulers violate the rule of democracy, he says, "After the election, the people of Bangladesh voted as one for me, for the Awami League. We were to sit in the National Assembly, draft a constitution for ourselves there, and build our country, the people of this land would thereby get economic, political, and cultural freedom" [3]. He always hopes and believes in democracy and has repeatedly pointed the characteristics of democracy in his historic speech. He also says, "Fine, we will be taking our seats in the Assembly then."

The most important fact of democracy is the transfer of power to the hand of representatives, he boldly orders the rulers of Pakistan about this. Without being transferred off the power to the representatives, a country can't be called a true Democratic country. He delivers very clearly, "you'll have to transfer power to the representatives of the people." He is very serious about the rights and pours the glory of democracy in his speech. His concept of democracy has earned huge acclaim after delivering it as one of the principles of the constitution of 72.

In his historic speech, one of the main points of the four principles is nationalism which paves the way for independence. In many parts of his speech, this term is hugely relevant indeed so if it is tried to find out the presence of nationalism, it will be very familiar with the exposure of nationalism because it is finely wrapped with the delivery of the speech. The principle of nationalism depends on various things such as tradition, culture, geographical area, etc. regarding Wikipedia, it is expressed that it is a movement that inspires the interest of a particular nation. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman says in his speech in lines 6 and 7 "The people of Bengal now want to be free, the people of Bengal now want to live, and the people of Bengal now want their rights." The above-mentioned lines are the pure traits of nationalism here he shows the demand of the people unitedly and clear the interest of the nation that is deprived of every right. However, he also raises the prime fact of nationalism in his speech very finely he says "You can't suppress seventy million people forever. Since we have learned to sacrifice ourselves no one can suppress us anymore." The statement he makes very appropriate to the idea.

In the same way, Bangabandhu, the father of the nation, mentions "If any attempt is made to exterminate our people all Bengalis must take appropriate action." The focus on the interest of the people is the prime factor made by Bangabandhu. He thinks that people are the source of all

power and he has to serve the people of the country, in it, he feels no unsteadiness to do his duty. The facts of nationalism, unity, are so inspirational that he demands the rights of the people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh) not only in his speech but also in his whole life. The exposure of this principle, nationalism, is the prime fact for the urge for independence for the people of Bengal.

The people of this part of Pakistan are no match with the people of West Pakistan even the unelected West Pakistani authority never let Bangabandhu along with the people of Bengal lead a peaceful life. All the conveniences are surely taken away by the then government of Pakistan. These issues shake Bangabandhu a lot, he also mixes one of the most remarkable characteristics of his speech in the following lines, in line with the concept of snatching victory. Researchers may find this to put as an extraordinary example of research as it is said in the speech "Remember: since we have already had to shed blood, we'll be able to liberate the people of this land." The essence of this principle put in the speech by Bangabandhu has been able to make the path smooth for forwarding to victory. Nationalism is the synonymous use of unity which is the power of the people of Bengal. In the symphony of the rhythm of liberty through the demand and movement against the then ruler, Bangabandhu has been victorious in the true sense.

If it is discussed as one of the reflective principles of the constitution of 1972, the presence of secularism is most prominent. He always worries about the condition, rights, and peaceful life of all the people of Bengal irrespective of having the religious title Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Buddhist Bengali, and Non-Bengali everyone. This mentioned feature, secularism, has taken Bangabandhu to the top of the highest respective place in the world. He has known his judgment among the differences unbiasedly. The use of the extract of secularism in the speech of 7th March by Bangabandhu has earned him the belief among people who present in Race-course Maidan and not are present in the Maidan of the Race Course Maidan. The speech has been laden with the wisdom of greatness.

He clearly says in his speech "In our Bengal Hindus and Muslims, Bengalis and non-Bengalis are all brothers." He despite being a Muslim thinks about other religion-holders and non-Bengalis who have become a responsibility of Bangabandhu in the time of crisis however he shoulders the safety of all the people living in Bengal. The birth of Bangladesh relies on the dependence of secularism not on that of religion. Bangabandhu knows that if East Pakistan is divided based on religion like Pakistan, this country may one day face conflict so considering all the facts he depends on the extraction of secularism.

In the speech, socialism signifies the exhibition of equal treatment among the people. Bangabandhu believes that the practice of socialism can be feasible for the achievement of liberty of the people of Bengal. Acquisition of personal wealth and profits is prohibited which will create a bar for a

peaceful society and from this perspective, he holds to expose the idea of socialism in his speech. He tries to solve the problems of the poor and always thinks of the alleviation of the hardship they bear, he says in his speech, "the poor don't have to suffer so that they don't have to go through hardships, all other things will be exempted from the General Strike from tomorrow. Rickshaws, horse carriages, trains, and launches will be allowed to move." This helps to understand Bangabandhu's equal treatment to the poor alike. The point of socialism makes the speech more convenient and is accepted all around the world. The beauty of this speech has exactly risen for the proper use of the principle, socialism. However, Bangabandhu addresses the audience as his 'brother' in his speech without knowing the social or another status that makes the speech very attached to the concept of socialism. Socialism has been put in the speech by Bangabandhu, the father of the nation, to simplify and clarify to all in the sense, everyone accepts it, and as a result, it is taken as a world's resource.

Some blazing characteristics of the speech can be the followings. 1. The struggle of the heritage of the Bengalis and history of deprivation, 2. Awareness of democracy 3. Right to self-control, 4. Word of peace, 5. esteem for humanity, and 6. Prevention when obstructed. 7. Evoke to take preparation for ensuing war, 8. Declaration of independence. The facts stated in the speech are delineated to convey the focal point, the most important point, the declaration of victory, the victory though has not been easy for its attainment, it gives the people of Bengal a different identity and a road to be marched having its entity. In some places, the speech exceeds itself in the depth of importance which has helped earn the speech proper esteem and a path of emancipation.

The historic events pave the way for the independence of Bangladesh. This speech mainly starts with the description of the suffering and with the people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh) that exert the real situation of East Pakistan. Here Bangabandhu shows the desire of the people to be independent and the increasing demand for freedom is the prime achievement delivered by Bangabandhu from starting to the end. After the division of India, it is seen that the people of Bengal may not find any peace. People have been suffering for 23 years in the context of declaring independence. When a country gets freedom, freedom always requires sacrifice. The sacrifice for victory has been a major aspect of the speech of 1971 in which people learn the system of sacrifice and dedication, attainment.

In it, Bangabandhu has shown the sacrifices of various points. His presentation and delivery in the speech have attracted many scholars to research the speech.

Bangabandhu knows the importance of emancipation and the enjoyment of freedom that can be fully achieved if a nation gets economic, political, and cultural freedom so in discussion with the theme, culture, in some points of this article is not irrelevant. The mention of time-changing historic events shown by Bangabandhu in his speech is very

proper indeed. But it is to see that the events show the deprivation and sacrifice of the people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh) mentioned by Bangabandhu is a sting in which all events make the speech of Bangabandhu to be exposed before the sea of mob uniquely. Every event from 1952 to 1959 is such an event that forces the people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh) to demand freedom by Bangabandhu as the consequences of the events. The mention of the events from 1952 to 1959 can be some moment of tolerance and sacrifice of the people of East Pakistan. History witnesses whenever a moment occurs, the brave, the Bengalis, never show back rather face the moment with courage and bravery. The speech holds the result of repression and aggression on the innocent people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh). He makes his move to make his request to Yahya Khan so that Yahya Khan calls in the Assembly. Bangabandhu says, "But he did not listen to me. He listened to Mr. Bhutto instead."

The urge of Bangabandhu to Yahya Khan is quite confirmed that Yahya Khan may come to sit in the Assembly and make the environment for drafting a constitution but the leader of Sind, Mr. Bhutto, plays the most prominent role in spreading the fire of racism. He is so active that he makes other leaders understand not to attend the Assembly. He even makes them so scared that they, the West Parliament leaders, may be killed for their visit to East Pakistan. Even Mr. Bhutto remarks the parliament house, a slaughterhouse, because of his activities, Yahya Khan dissolves the Assembly and in a secret meeting without the presence of Bangabandhu, puts all the blame on Bangabandhu despite his demand to meet in Assembly. The above-mentioned situation makes Bangabandhu call in general strike peacefully, the response and spontaneity to Bangabandhu's call raise the firmness of determination in strengthening the pillars of the struggle for the achievement of freedom.

Mr. Bhutto doesn't sit idle he makes Mr. Yahya not call in assembly but on the other hand, Mr. Bhutto contacts Bangabandhu to come to a solution however Bangabandhu doesn't pay attention to his proposal otherwise the historic speech cannot be born if Bangabandhu negotiates.

Bangabandhu reminds the duty of Yahya to observe the conditions of the people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh), how they are killed. When Bangabandhu is given the proposal of sitting in a round meeting he says what should be the importance of calling in another round table conference because Bangabandhu can't sit with the killer who killed the innocent people of his country. He says that he should not sit with those who have shed the blood of his people. It means that Bangabandhu cannot join another round table on the other hand he expresses his demands. In researching the speech of 7th March, it is seen that Bangabandhu expresses the demands which signify the very importance of the speech in the life of Bengalis. Mainly, the speech bears four demands mentioned in the speech. The withdrawal of martial law comes first and martial law is applied very forcefully on the innocent

people to take control over their voice and to oppress them. The second demand is quite related to the first one he demands to complete the return of all army personnel to the barracks, the third demand is the investigation of the murdering of the people of his country, it seems very clear that he has been demanding to probe the killing of his innocent people but if the West Pakistani Govt hardly listens to Bangabandhu. The last one is the rights, occurring very logically to the demand of the Bangabandhu expressing in his historic speech. Transferring the power to the representatives is the prime demand of Bangabandhu stating in his speech and the demand has shaken the govt of then Pakistan who are scared to transfer the power to the legal representatives. It has to be done for the welfare of the people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh) [4].

### **The denial of the Prime Minister's office**

The post of PM is one of the supreme executive posts in both presidential government or cabinet ruled government systems. The proposal is given to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman just to distract him from his activities as the country is coping with the situation of war. Yahya knows that if they can dissuade Bangabandhu from his aim for the time being then this situation will be calm besides they will be able to control the situation. But Bangabandhu, a man of his word, evens understands their conspiracy, he then denies their proposal and marches with his aim to rescue the people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh) from the oppression of West Pakistan giving them the taste of victory [5]. The part esteem for humanity shows one of his humane qualities by which one can easily understand the quality of his personality. He declares all things must be stopped except some sectors which are run by the poor people. In it, the exposure of humane quality has seen and this quality has outreached its height. Even Bangabandhu tells to pay the deserved payment to the employees. In the speech one of the most significant facts is the 'prevention when obstructed.' He says, "Convert every house into a fort; confront the enemy with whatever you have. And even at the risk of your life, and even if I am not around to direct you." He has a magical capability to adapt to any kind of situation. He is seen as never hesitant to take any decision. Despite being quite ill before the delivery of the historic speech of 7th March, he realizes the importance of the declaration of independence. Having being conscious, he puts every step and incident in the speech to make it fulfill.

Discussing the point 'prevention when obstructed' bears the idea of confronting the situation coming ahead. It is the characteristic of Bengalis that they always face a problem boldly and overcome the situation. The continuous efforts made by Bangabandhu, the father of the nation, to save his people and give them freedom. The situation is that there is streaming hartal (strike) for not accepting the legal demand of the people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh). To worsen the situation the West Pakistani rulers create a scary situation so that the environment of demands should not be achieved. Understanding the fact, Bangabandhu tells the mob to take proper preparation to prevent any odd situation. The Pakistani ruler adorns the surrounding area of

Race Course maidan with the machine gun and heavy ammunition. Any kind of situation like procession or meeting should not be held even these are beings dismissed by the then Pakistani rulers so Bangabandhu tells to take preparation and prevent any worst situation. One of the most quoted lines of the speech of 7th March is which Bangabandhu calls the people of East Pakistan to prevent the oppression with dedication and sacrifice. He says, "Remember; since we have already had to shed blood, we'll have to shed a lot more of it; by the Grace of God, however, we'll be able to liberate the people of this land." The above-mentioned quotation shows that while preventing we may sacrifice ourselves through which we will get our freedom. History shows that without the presence of sacrifice, a nation can hardly get its independence.

### **Is the 7th March speech a declaration of independence?**

The whole speech appears to be made by Bangabandhu not only to delineate the poorer situation besides he tries his best so that he can handle the situation. But the then rulers of West Pakistan never pay heed to him rather try to trample his people. And the state of movement is going to reach such an extent that Bangabandhu feels that it is the time to make an announcement and declare independence. He surely says "The struggle this time is a struggle for a freedom-the struggle this is a struggle for emancipation." These historic lines inspire both the crowd of people present there along with the whole nation. The Bengalis dive into the war of independence and bring freedom [6].

There's nothing doubtful about the declaration of independence. The presence of the 7th march speech has the most special significance that in it, Bangabandhu declares the independence of East Pakistan. And after the declaration, the whole of East Pakistan, the Bengalis, is fully united with Bangabandhu. The people seem to be waiting to respond to the call of Bangabandhu. The moment is historic and has become the epicenter of a movement that Bangabandhu declares. The people are waiting eagerly to hear such a declaration for ensuring their liberty. Bangabandhu makes the concept gigantic for the betterment of his people. People and freedom fighters engage in war, neighboring country India helps a lot along with other countries, the heroic sons sacrifice and earn the victory. Bangabandhu sparkles the fact of freedom and the victory is earned. Without Bangabandhu, there is no Bangladesh, The inspiration he ignites in the mind of 7million people through his historic speech becoming a role model for the repressed people. Bangabandhu says there are two types of people: the repressed and the repressor, I am with the repressed. The speech gets its uniqueness for its contribution to the achievement of independence.

## **II. RELATED WORK**

Bangabandhu's 7th March speech is an era-changing portal in the face of barriers. The research of this concept has hugely assisted to prove the worth of this speech. The significance of this scientific research is related to other

articles in which the researchers have presented their works in a unique way like S.Nur, "The Struggle this Time is the Struggle for Our Independence: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Historic 7th March Speech", *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, (Australia,2019, pp.107) K.I.J.Suvra, "Bangabandhu and Evolution of Bangladesh," *International Journal of Progressive Sciences and Technologies (IJPSAT)*, (Spain,2021, pp.78) The articles mentioned here can help to understand the importance and depth of this article. They have truly assisted the above article to demonstrate the perfect value of the research. Hence they are related to the concept and idea besides they have vastly added to the core meaning and thought of this research paper.

### III. METHODOLOGY

The concept of this paper has not been discussed as an article before and the demonstration as well as raising the significance of the speech as a path to victory have always been an exquisite one. The demonstration of the facts presented in the speech has led the speech to the path of victory.

The speech has turned itself into a document and got the sight of scholars to be analyzed vastly. The use of various sources has been used to make the article. There has always been a Qualitative approach for the analysis of the article. Furthermore, to review literature extensively and analysis of content have been put forth to simplify and develop the article. The use of various articles has been used as a primary source. Books related to Bangabandhu and the speech of 7th March have been used in the article as a source for the research. The theoretical system has helped to raise and clarify the idea of the article. These are the common methods and ways being used in the article.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research of this article is a passage through which the excellence and significance of this article have been exhibited nicely. The magnificence of the speech of 7th March delivered by Bangabandhu, the father of the nation, has also been shown in front of the rest of the world to show how a man can boldly try to change the fate of the repressed people. The path created for the achievement of the victory because of the declaration of this significant speech. Finding the path for the people of East Pakistan is the only aim of the father of the nation. He takes every initiative to rescue his people from the severe suppression to a peaceful independent country. Creating this research article helps understand the objective of the writing in which the impact of the 7th March speech makes the article magnitude.

### V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

The declaration of the 7th March speech has got much importance for the path to independence by Bangabandhu.

He has huge capability to lead a nation to demand their rights. He has announced the attainment of freedom. The speech is a system by which the people of East Pakistan (now, Bangladesh) can get their emancipation because it is the way of demand of the rights of East Pakistan. Their deprivation has ended by the start of the declaration of the speech of 7th March. Bangabandhu has described almost everything in the speech and makes people stand against oppression. This step has put him not only to history but created a free nation, Bangladesh, as well. The careful delineation and effect of this speech have touched the pages of history.

The aim and scope of this article are to highlight the significance of the speech of 7th March and how it plays an active part in declaring the independence of Bangladesh by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It will help the researchers to find the importance of the speech and the role of the father of the nation, Bangabandhu. Gathering the information may seem hard but it helps to create an article for exhibiting the gravity of the speech. Hence it is presented in the article is a great way. The result of writing the article has been successful for the implementation of its demonstration. The research article may have some limitations but the data and information have huge usefulness to the researchers. The article makes the ways for further research and has been included in a successful practice. The view and practical purpose of the article will have huge potentials in the fields of analysis and referring it magnificently.

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I am Ritesh Karmaker, a lecturer and research scholar. I have been working as a lecturer in English, Bangladesh since 2013. I am a member of ISROSET since 2021. I have published two research papers in reputed journal having impact factor and they are now online. My work focuses on literature, language, dialect, culture, history and civilization having deep value. I have 14 years of teaching experience and as a lecturer for 9 years as well as been researching since 2021.

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