

চ বি জা আর্কাইভজ

- ৪১১ -

NEW NATION NEW PLEDGE

২৬



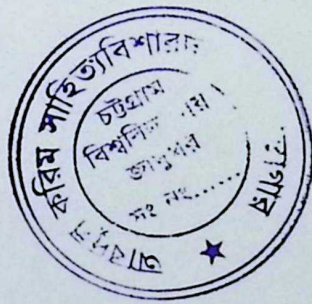
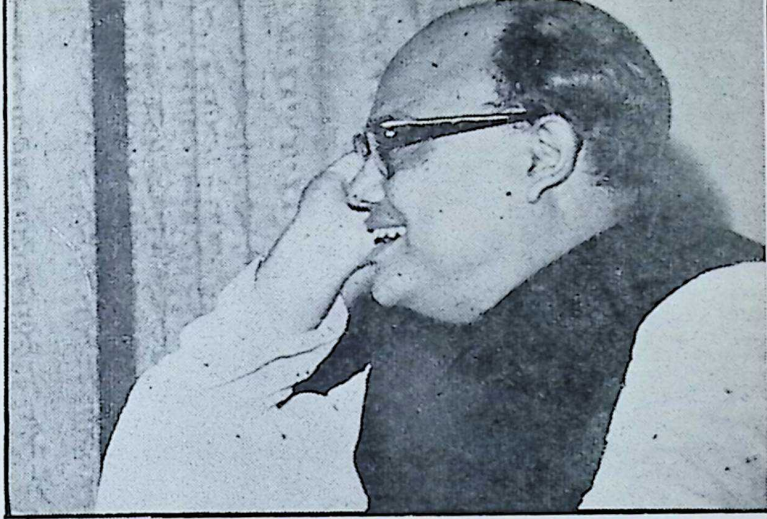
Syed Nazrul Islam
ACTING PRESIDENT



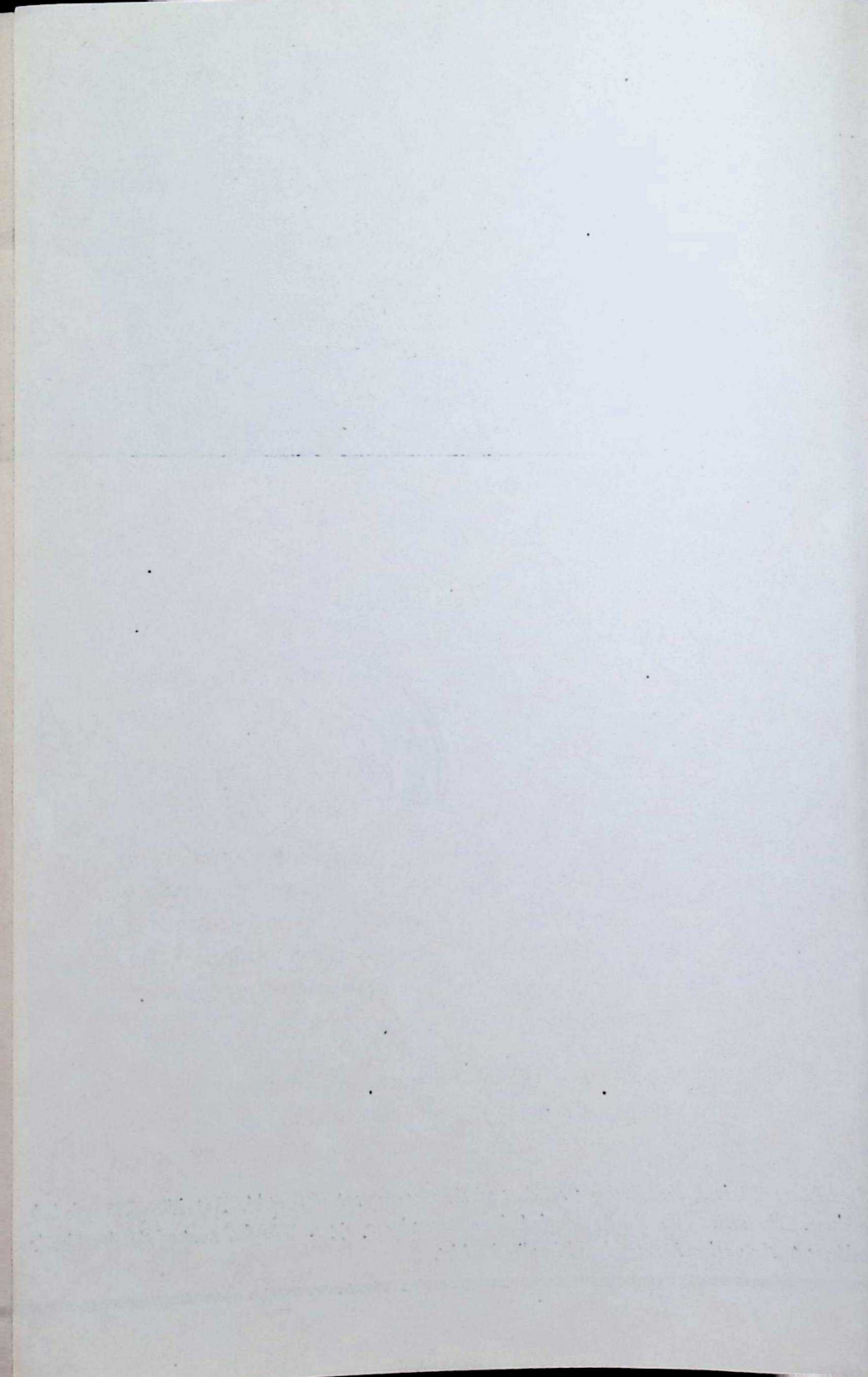
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

2011.11.11





Syed Nazrul Islam, the Acting President of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh addressed the nation over Radio Bangladesh on December 7, 1971. The full text of the President's address to the nation is reproduced in this booklet.





My Dear Countrymen,

Today we have been able to wade accross the turbulent sea of miseries. The dark night of misfortune has reached its fag end and a happy promising dawn is already showing its silver lining. The expanse of Bangladesh today glares in the celestial light of independence.

At this hour of great national achievement, I extend my greetings of felicitations to all of you. To-day, on the pages of history of our national

liberation war has entered an event of great significance. Our friendly neighbour, the greatest seat of democracy, India, has recognised the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The untiring efforts of the Prime Minister of India over the last 8 months in rousing international public opinion against the organised and premeditated pogrom perpetrated by the Pakistani Military junta in Bangladesh and her endeavour to project our just cause to the world is laudable. I, on behalf of my Government and the seventyfive million people of Bangladesh offer our heartfelt gratitude to herself, her Government and the Indian people.

Greetings to the forces

Today the armed forces of our great neighbour India are fighting hand in hand with the valiant Mukti Bahini to rout-out the Pakistani invaders from our sacred soil and in doing so, the people of Bangladesh and the people of India have established a bond of friendship—emerging from their common feeling toward the bloodbath in Bangladesh. I, on behalf of my people also greet the brave Indian armed forces for embarking-upon the greatest service of actively helping our freedom struggle.

For almost $8\frac{1}{2}$ months we have been fighting the bitterest of wars history has ever recorded. The history of this struggle is ornamented with,

innumerable stories of gallantry, fortitude, sacrifice and successive defeats of an immoral force. The valiant sons of Bangladesh who have humbled death, defied bullets and have taken-up arms to annihilate the intruders, deserve our salutation.

Today, we also remember with profound respect the *martyrs* of Bangladesh whose blood has painted the lush green landscape of Bangladesh red.

We want Mujib

At this hour of imminent victory I remember with profound respect the father of our nation Banga-bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. At this great hour, he is not amongst us. He lies captive in the prison of the barbarous Pakistani hordes. We do not know, amidst what sort of agony lies the great son of Bangladesh at this moment.

The person who has ignited the aspiration of freedom amongst us and whose ideals we have followed throughout our journey to victory has to be brought back amongst us to see his dream fulfilled. We promise to put up the best of our efforts towards that direction.

I would like to make it clear to the barbarous marauders of Islamabad that just as we have humiliated and humbled their fire power so shall we shelve their heinous design of imprisoning and dishonouring

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, for we firmly believe that our victory and achievement of freedom remains incomplete without getting him amidst us to share this great feeling.

Bangladesh a Reality

Upon India's recognising the legitimate and lawful government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh I would appeal to all nations of the world to recognise this inevitability and condone the legitimate demand of 75 million freedom-loving people of the world and help democracy flourish.

It is my firm belief that in not too distant a future many countries of the world would extend their recognition to us. Our posterity shall not forget those so called big powers who have not yet seen the legitimacy in our demand and have tried to sabotage our great cause on the plea of their national interest. I, on behalf of my people extend their best wishes to all freedom-loving people of the world and appeal to some of the big powers to abstain from supporting a murderer who has trampled humanity most nakedly. Independent Bangladesh has to-day become a reality and the invaders are on the run at every sector. Our valiant freedom fighters with the active assistance of our allied forces are spelling death for the occupation forces whether in the sea, land or air. The marauders have been contained in a handful of cantonments only.

The day is very near when we shall completely eradicate the Yahya's hordes from the soil of Bangladesh.

I would appeal to my countrymen to assist our advancing armed forces in all possible manner.

Civil administration

My Government now is busy in fast setting up of civil administration in the vast liberated areas of Bangladesh. I am happy to announce that we are getting full co-operation and assistance from the people in the liberated areas in our endeavour to returning the country to absolute normalcy.

As a result 23 years of colonial rule and last eight months of blood-bath, the economy of Bangladesh has suffered immensely. We all share equal responsibilities in rebuilding our economy and social development projects. And I am confident that my people will face this challenge with equal zeal as they did during the period of last eight months of the bitter war. No effort should be wanting in putting our country back to its course of fast growth and development.

National affairs

We have already announced the policy of my government with regard to our national affairs. A prosperous and happy Bangladesh has to be founded on the basis of the principles of secular-democratic

and socialistic ideals. In Bangladesh, there will not be any difference or division on the basis of race, sex or religion. Hindu-Muslims-Buddhists or Christians—all Bengalis would share equal rights and find fulfilment of their aspirations in national developments.

Fundamental rights

In democratic Bangladesh, everyone's basic right will be respected and guarded and every citizen will be allowed to freely exercise his inherent political rights. Government elected by the people will act as the defender of our territorial integrity, run administration and fulfil the task of taking the country towards the abode of prosperity and progress. Our main objective would be to perpetuate lawful rule and I would appeal to you all to co-operate with the government in enforcing law and order and to bring back discipline. Don't take law in your own hands. Let Your government look after that. You should set an example of maintenance of peace and order in your own areas and in your endeavour, the liberation forces and the representatives of my government would extend to you a helping hand. Twenty three years of colonial tyranny and exploitation by the vested interests has devastated the economy of Bangladesh. We pledge to re-build it.

I declare on behalf of my Government that through

perpetuation of a socialistic order, we shall put forward our best of efforts to re-juvenate the shattered economy of Bangladesh.

New Social Order

We shall introduce such an economic structure that will finish privileges and the class system once and for all and ensure full opportunity to the peasants, workers and the common man to grow with the rest of the country. In this we look forward to your full co-operation.

Very soon, my Government shall place before you a comprehensive development programme. I would appeal to my countrymen to study it carefully and help us implement it.

We have given blood and honour to achieve our independence and to fulfil this independence, every one of you have to pledge hard work. The dear brethren of ours who have been forced by the invaders to take refuge in India have been accorded in their spirit of sacrifice a recognition by the world conscience. Your days of misery and hardship are going to be over very soon. You would be returning to your own homes and hearths with honour and dignity. The Bangladesh Government has accepted the full responsibility of bringing you back and rehabilitating you.

Keynote of Foreign Relations

I would take this opportunity to announce on behalf of my Government and my people that our foreign policy will be that of non-alignment and in this, we wish to develop friendship with all peace-loving nations and peoples of the world on the basis of peaceful co-existence. We oppose and condemn colonialism and imperialism and actively support all peoples and nations struggling for democracy, socialism, freedom and peace.

Final Hour has Arrived

For the valiant people of Bangladesh, the hour has struck—go forth to weed-out the last shred of reaction from the abode of peace—beauteous Bangladesh.

Our allied forces are today well poised to hurl a mortal blow on the enemy. Join hands with them and destroy the last vestiges of the enemy presence in Bangladesh.

To-day your only objective should be to march to Dacca and fly the banner of Bangladesh there. I Pray to the almighty Allah for bringing the day of victory nearer.

The final hour is round the corner, every Bengali should endeavour, in his own manner, to take part in this great achievement. Inshallah, we shall soon establish our full administrative control over the

capital city of Dacca and only then the dream of Banga Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will come true.

Long live Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Long live the Struggling People of Bangladesh.

Long live Bangladesh Liberation Forces.

Joi Bangla.