

English translation:

Many years have passed after this... it has been almost 35 years, but we still have not really achieved a state of peace. After getting independence in 1971, a major change took place in 1975. Whether we call him the architect behind the Liberation War or the father of the nation, Bongobondhu¹ Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated. Although before this he did run the country through dictatorship... . Anyway, after the assassination, there was martial law for a while, then there was mass ... then the national elections took place. President Ziaur Rahman was also shot and assassinated. Then came General Ershad. He ruled for a long time, from 1983 until 1990 ... about seven, eight years and after this... in between in 1988 and 1990, due to the revolution, he had to resign from his presidential post. After that, through election, a new democratic parliamentary government was established. The political party established by Ziaur Rahman, BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party), was the ruling party, with Ziaur Rahman's wife, Begum Khaleda Zia as the Prime Minister. When the next elections took place again after five years, then the party established by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Awami League, won the election, and his daughter Sheikh Hasina became the Prime Minister. But... it was not exactly... democracy could not be established in either term. Anyway, five years after that, national elections took place again and the BNP came to power for the second time. That term ended in November of 2001... no... in December. It ended it December, but did not really end properly.

In 1996, we had started a new process of handing over the power to a new government; the process of having a caretaker government is unique to Bangladesh. When the term ends for the current party, the retired Chief Justice of the country takes up the position as head of government. He and the Advisory Board of the Caretaker Government will then arrange the elections within three months and then the party which wins those elections will take over again. But this time, it did not happen quite as it should have. Since the President himself became the Chief Adviser and he took some debatable steps, the opposition party at that time, Awami League, started a protest movement throughout the country for about two and a half months... they revolted for two and a half months within the three month period. Then, finally, on the 11th (January 11, 2007) the President who had taken the post of Chief Adviser announced a state of emergency in the country and resigned from the Caretaker Government, along with his entire Advisory Board. After this an impartial, praiseworthy man, who had also worked in the World Bank, came on the scene. This was Fakhruddin Ahmed, who was made the new Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh. He formed the Advisory Board and is in the process of finding solutions for the constitutional and various other complications that exist in the system. And we are also resting our hopes on his government.

¹ The title "bongobondhu" means "friend of Bengal."

One thing worth mentioning is that since the state of emergency, the army is heavily involved in the restoration of law and order, and other duties of the country. We are also hoping that we will have a fair and transparent election soon and that the new government will run the country smoothly and make progress.

-What... should I say thank you and all that? How long was it?

-Your one was a bit more than six minutes.

-Only? Do you need more?

-You can if you want to. There's no problem.

-I've finished all the history. What else should I say? Okay ...you turn it off... let me think and then I'll talk.

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