The other bit is about his loyalty to Suhrawardy. That Suhrawardy was a passionate Pakistani is not contested, and Mujib had gone along, but after Kagmari or the martial law imposition, this becomes a clearly contested assertion. Suhrawardy never gave up on Pakistan, but Mujib was meeting Khoka Roy, a rabid enemy of his mentor and their patron, the US, to discuss independence, without any sharing of thoughts with his chief. And once turned down, he was on his way to Sylhet to talk to India without informing anyone. Suhrawardy's man would hardly have broken up Pakistan.

After Suhrawardy's death, he focused entirely on the politics of East Pakistan, and the Pakistan Awami League became a signboard existence only. He was not interested in Pakistan, and that may explain why he was also reluctant to make any sacrifices for the Pakistan he was not too keen about in 1971. There was a lot of mutual hostility at that time, if anyone cares to remember.

In the end, he was doing what he did best. Leading a people, though some questions will stick around about the cost-benefit analysis of independent Bangladesh and the blood-letting and suffering that people endured. In all fairness, one must remember that the decision to strike by the Pakistan army was sealed and ready, long before even the parliament convening drama by Gen. Yahya Khan began. Did Mujib go along with inevitability?

The second history of Sheikh Mujib begins

Sheikh Mujib's second history is brief, lasting from 1971 to 1975, but in this short period he managed to run Bangladesh in a way that slid him down from the immortal pedestal to that of a mortal being, where he was contested as the man of history by no more than one of the many who were inspired by his political leadership to fight for a cause that he held aloft for a quarter century.

Ziaur Rahman is not just a contestant against Sheikh Mujib for a place in history, but for that unique

