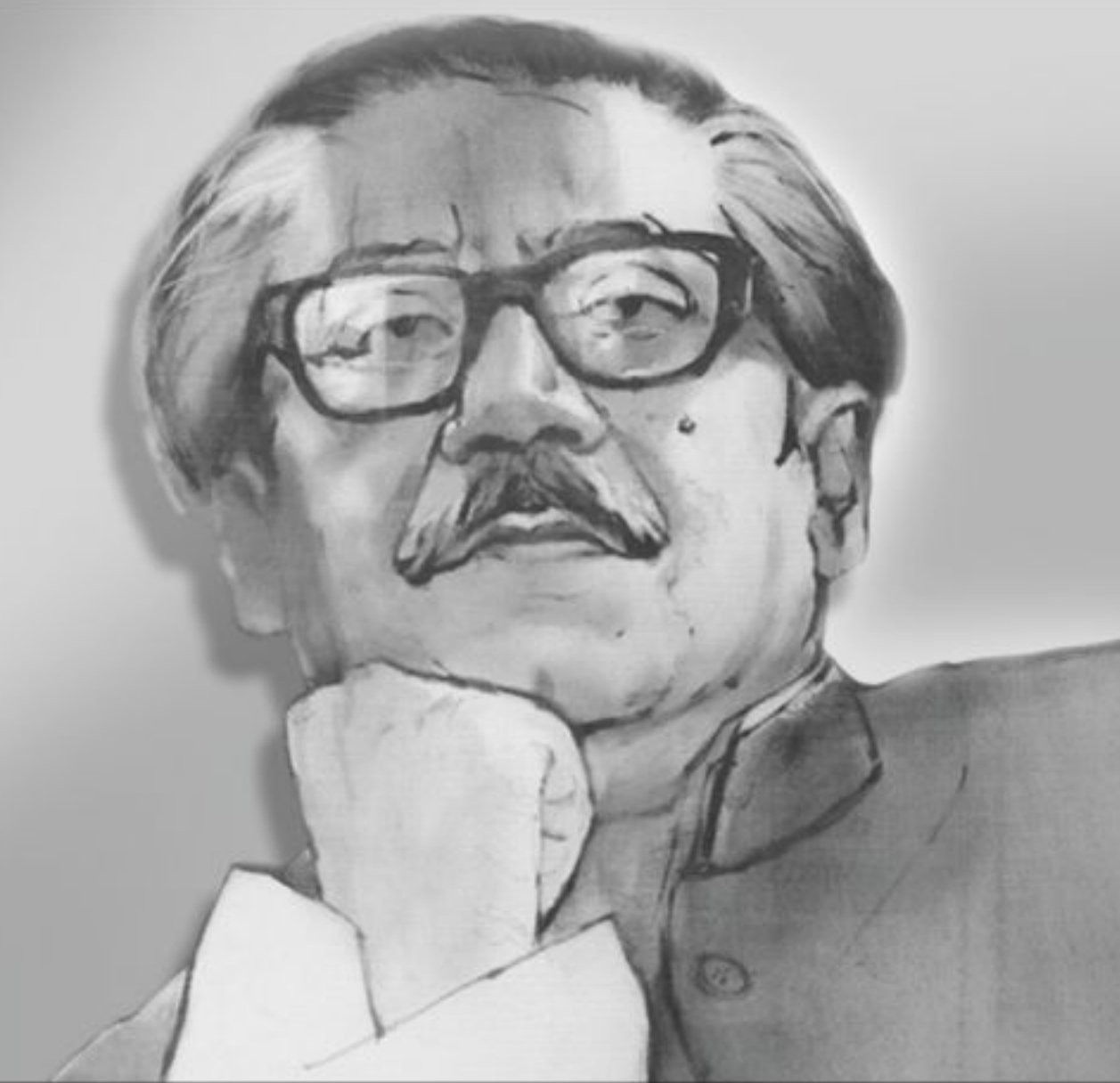


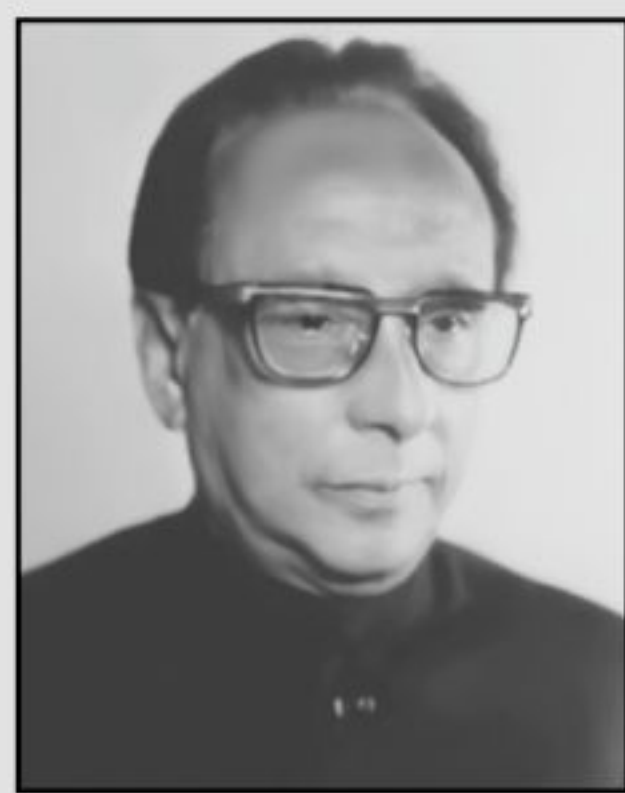
15 August

National Mourning Day

37th martyrdom anniversary of the Father of the Nation
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Special Supplement

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PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

Message

August 15, the National Mourning Day of Bangalee nation. Today is the 37th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the greatest Bangalee of all times. On this day, I pay my profound respect to the architect of sovereign Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as well as to the memory of his family members who embraced martyrdom.

The 15th August 1975 is regarded as a shameful chapter in the history of Bangalee nation. On this day the undisputed leader and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family members except his daughter Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana were brutally assassinated at his own residence by a group of assassins who were being directly and indirectly indulged with the conspirators as well as anti-liberation force. Wife of Bangabandhu Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib, sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, daughters-in-law Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, brother Sheikh Naser, farmers' leader Abdur Rab Serniabat, youth leader Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni and his wife Arzu Moni, Baby Serniabat, Sukanta Babu, Arif and Abdul Nayeem Khan Rintu were also assassinated on this day. This brutal event is rare not only in the history of Bangalee nation but also in the history of the world. I pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of those departed souls of all martyrs on this Mourning Day.

The contributions of Bangabandhu in our national history are of paramount. The Bangalee nation, who had struggled for a long period, achieved their long-awaited independence under his able and courageous leadership. Starting from the historic Language Movement in 1952, Bangabandhu led the nation at every struggle and movement including 58's movement against Martial Law, 66's Six-Point Movement, 69's Mass Uprising and 70's General Election towards attaining self-reliance and fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of our common mass. He, therefore, had to go to jail for several times and had to face inhuman sufferings for this active and leading role in attaining sovereignty. Finally, the great leader Bangabandhu declared country's independence on 26th March in 1971 after inspiring our people with the spirit of Bangalee nationalism over two decades. Hence, he had been sent to jail again and had to be ready for gallows during his imprisonment. In spite of manifold pressures during his imprisonment in Pakistan, he was firm with his principle and yet he did not compromise with the opponent on idealism. He always upheld the people's interest throughout his life. Though the conspirators killed the Father of the Nation yet they could not wipe out the ideal and beliefs of Bangabandhu. I am confident that the name of Bangabandhu will remain ever-imprinted in the mind of crores of Bangalee so long the country and its people will remain alive.

The trial of Bangabandhu assassination has been made in the soil of Bangla after 35 years. Today the nation is somewhat stigma-free. Now we should take all our initiatives to bring the death-sentenced fugitives back to country in order to execute the verdict. The nation will be aware that the killers have no room at any corner in the world.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu dreamt a 'Golden Bangla' throughout his life. It is our utmost responsibility to materialise his dream by building a happy and prosperous country. If we do so the soul of Bangabandhu would remain in ever-rest in peace and we would be able to pay our deepest homage to him.

On this National Mourning Day, let us make our grief into strength and devote ourselves in building up a prosperous Bangladesh.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Md. Zillur Rahman

We smell his Memories by
touching the Pages
Sheikh Rehana

There was nothing left for us except tears and pains after 15th August 1975. We did not know whether we would be able to return to the country, what was the condition of our house at Dhanmondi on Road-32, whether we would be able to visit Tungipara! Question arose in our minds whether our entire lives would be spent in this manner? But somewhere there was that courage or faith in Allah that someday we would be able to return to our country. Bangladesh was earned in pain, and we had to stay abroad! This could not be, the people of Bangla could not bear that! It was very difficult to control grief after losing everything - father, mother, brothers. Our eyes were flooded with tears, our minds were broken, we were also young; how could we control ourselves! We, two sisters, cried out holding each other, spent lot of time crying, tried to console one another.

Then when apa (elder sister) returned to the country after becoming the chief of Awami League, we had only one dream - to establish the ideals of our father and work for the welfare of the people. When apa returned to the country in 1981, she was not allowed to enter our house at Road-32. She was forced to offer prayers by standing on the road outside. We had so many memories of this house, so many people used to throng this place during the 6-point and independence movements; so many meetings were held here, so many people! And that house is now secluded, silent and completely empty! We had to suppress our anguish in our hearts; we could not say anything to others. We used to draw strength and comfort from within ourselves. I returned to Bangladesh in 1983. After coming home, I felt tremendous pain; my heart was shattered while entering that house. Fate put this monument built by our father on our path. It has been a priceless asset in our lives.

Our family used to nurture family values. We saw our father in jails since our birth; we learnt from our mother how to show respect to elders and it is not proper to touch or look at their possessions without permission. Our mother used to carefully preserve the diaries written by father along with his other favourite items; we used to observe from a distance, but did not have the courage to touch those or have a look. We were too little to know then that there would be so many lines inside and those would become such a treasure for us. We used to gaze from a distance; we could not comprehend then that these would become documentary manuscripts of history.

My father's life had been depicted in such diverse manner! Side by side with grooming himself amid exceptional experiences, he used to think about politics and politicians of that era, the ordinary people and his parents. He was one of the most trusted and principled politicians of his time. He had the invincible courage of youth, the glory of self-sacrifice, and an amazing foresight. He has narrated here everything in his life in simple colloquial language.

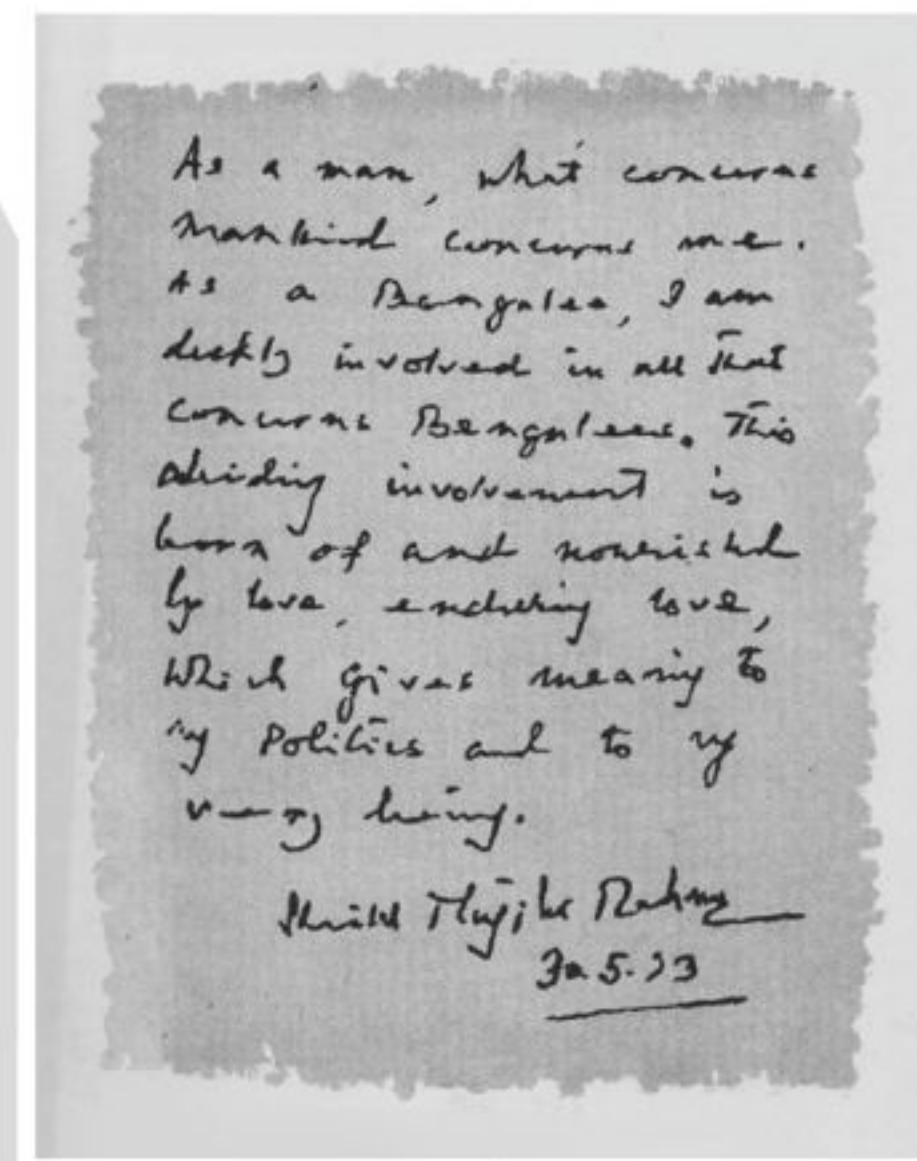
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Some Words on The Unfinished
Memoirs by Bangabandhu
Md. Zillur Rahman

(This special feature is written by Md. Zillur Rahman, the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and one of the closest associates of Bangabandhu.)

The person who initiated me into politics is Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. That's right! The great sculptor of the independence of Bangladesh, the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the source of all my political thoughts, inspirations, spirits and energy that have been with me for the last sixty-six years.

In 1946, I joined a group of students from the University of Dhaka and went to Sylhet to campaign for the Referendum for Pakistan. I met a diligent, sharp, brilliant student leader during the tour. I was told that he was from Islamia College, Calcutta. To everyone, he was simply known as 'Mujib bhai.' I was immediately moved by his charismatic quality as a leader. He told me, "Come and see me when you are in Dhaka." That was the beginning of a long relationship. When the cruel bullets of the assailants ended the lives of Bangabandhu and most of his family members on August 15, 1975, I lost my political mentor, the country its patriot and the world a large-hearted idealist.



A 1971 edition of Newsweek dubbed Bangabandhu as the 'Poet of Politics'. He has been called an 'epic poet' by Nirmalendu Goon among others. From my personal experience, I can attest him as a man who was always devoted to secure the rights of the land and its people. His life was the ultimate sacrifice for various struggles including the one for Pakistan, Language Movement, Anti-autocratic Movement against Ayub Khan, Six-Point Movement, the Liberation War and, above all, the life-long commitment to the 'bringing of happiness back to the

oppressed.' Naturally, the news of publishing the autobiography of a man whose very life has become synonymous to struggle made me curious, and I could not wait to read the unsaid words of this legendary figure.

When daughters of Bangabandhu Sheikh Hasina-the leader of the People-and Sheikh Rehana came over to Bangabhaban on June 20, 2012 and handed me a copy of the unfinished memoir, I started reading it in one breath. The book immediately transported me to those golden days from the memory lane. I agree with Rehana who has aptly put it, "Bangabandhu has worked his whole life for the people of the land. My sister and I leaf through this book to feel the smell of our father (in his work)." Yes Rehana, while reading this book I felt the live presence of Bangabandhu. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "When we handed over the manuscript of the book to the publisher, we felt as if we were giving away the most cherished treasure of our life." This book authored by Bangabandhu is not only an invaluable asset for the country but also a significant record of the unsaid history of the undivided India.

In the book launching ceremony, Sheikh Rehana said, "Analogous to the unfinished book of Bangabandhu, the lives of our two sisters are equally incomplete. Religions propriety allows the near and dear ones to see the bodies of the deceased before they are buried and to offer necessary prayers. We could not do that; hence, our lives have remained ever so incomplete." While the book invokes many regrets, it also depicts a deep sense of lacking felt both by the daughters of Bangabandhu as well as by the whole nation.

The book begins with a handwritten excerpt of Bangabandhu: "As a man, what concerns mankind, concerns me. As a Bangalee, I am deeply involved in everything that concerns Bangalees. This abiding involvement is born of and nourished by love, enduring love, which gives meaning to my politics and to my very being." (Bangabandhu's personal notebook, May 3, 1973).

What I find most interesting about the book is the fact that Bangabandhu had to rely only on his memory while writing it; he did not have recourse to any other source materials. His maiden attempt at writing a book included details about his birth, family history, ancestors, childhood and restless teenhood, travels, everyday happenings, political analysis, likings and disliking (even the smallest ones). Bangabandhu hadn't minced any word; he clearly stated as to how he was sent to jail as a young man for getting into a fight or why he was older than most of his classmates at school. While recalling his schooldays, he wrote: "I was older than most boys in my class because of the four years I had lost due to my illness. I was a very obstinate boy. I had my own gang of boys. I would mercilessly punish anyone who offended me. I would fight a lot. If any member of my band was ever insulted we would pounce on the offender. At times my father would become fed up with my aggressive manner." (p.9). I don't know how many among us have the courage to make such candid confessions.

It is amazing that in this 288-page book, Bangabandhu did not try to glorify his life or activities. In a storytelling mode, he narrated events related to his personal joy and pain, his ideas about the land and its people, which eventually turned out to be the untold stories of the undivided India. He covered a wide array of events including the Riots of 1946, the movement for Pakistan in 1947, the movement for language between 1948 and 1952, the inception of Awami League in 1949, the election of 1954, the cabinet formation by "Juktfront" and the dissolution of the Parliament - nothing had been left out. He mentioned his days inside the prison. He talked about various leaders and personalities who played both small and large parts in the struggles for freedom of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Through the tales of the growing up of a young adult in Tungipara, we get an insightful analysis of various incidents that were unfolding and shaping into the history of the subcontinent. It talked about many unheard stories of history. The book explained how Awami League joined Juktfront, despite objection from both



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is among Awami League leaders and workers. Awami League leader Md. Zillur Rahman besides him.

(landownership), he took up a job at the court in the capacity of Sherestadar. Although Suhrawardy was the political mentor of Bangabandhu, Mujib's first lessons of politics came from his father who inculcated a sense of political consciousness and ideal citizenship in his son.

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PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Message

The 15th August is the National Mourning Day. On this day in 1975, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with his family members, was assassinated in one of the most barbaric carnages in the human history.

Eighteen members of the family along with Bangabandhu's wife Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, sons Captain Sheikh Kamal, Lt. Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, daughter-in-law Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, brother Sheikh Naser, peasant leader Abdur Rab Serniabat, youth leader Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni and his wife Arzu Moni, Baby Serniabat, Sukanta Babu, Arif and Abdul Nayeem Khan Rintu were killed on the fateful night. Bangabandhu's Military Secretary Col Jamil was also killed. Some members of a family at Mohammadpur were also killed by artillery shell fired by the killers.

On the Day of National Mourning, I pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the souls of the martyrs of the 15th August.

The people of this territory snatched the glowing sun of the Independence, breaking the shackles of subjugation of thousands of years, under the dynamic, courageous and charismatic leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Bangalees have gotten their own nation-state.

But Bangabandhu was killed when he had undertaken an arduous task of building a Golden Bangla reconstructing the war-ravaged country and unifying the whole nation. The defeated forces of the Liberation War made an abortive effort to ruin the tradition, culture and advancement of the Bangalee nation. Their target was to destroy the non-communal democratic fabric of Bangladesh.

The anti-liberation forces linked to the carnage initiated the politics of assassination, coup and conspiracy. Martial Law had been promulgated suspending the constitution and overthrowing the government elected by the people. The then military dictator established autocracy destroying democracy. The trial of Bangabandhu's brutal assassination was blocked by promulgation of indemnity ordinance and the killers of the Father of the Nation were rewarded. The subsequent governments of BNP-Jamaat alliance had continued to reward the killers.

Bangladesh Awami League won an overwhelming people's mandate in 2008 general elections. The present government has been working hard to materialise "Vision 2021" and other election pledges to build a digital Bangladesh. We are marching forward to build a modern Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty by 2021, the golden jubilee year of our independence.

We have freed the nation from the stigma through implementing the verdict of the Bangabandhu killing case. Measures have also been taken to accelerate the trial of the killers of four national leaders. The trial of war criminals and grenade attackers is also progressing.

But the rejected reactionary forces are out to subvert the march forward of development and democracy through hatching conspiracy and creating chaos. I urge the countrymen to remain alert to the troublemakers.

The killers could have killed Bangabandhu but they could not kill his dream and ideals. Millions of people of this soil have been nurturing in their hearts the ideals of sacrifice of Bangabandhu. Let us take forward with bold steps the struggle to build a Golden Bangla as dreamt by Bangabandhu turning the grief of the great loss of the Father of the Nation into strength.

We must win the struggle to establish an economically solvent democratic and non-communal Bangladesh which will be totally free from hunger, illiteracy and poverty.

Insha Allah, victory is ours.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever

Sheikh Hasina

Bhashani and Bangabandhu and how the forum eventually fell apart. The penchant analysis of these events included in the book had been done without any prejudice. The memoir, similar to the historic speech of March 7, is indeed an exemplary instance for Bangla literary history.

In his Memoirs, Bangabandhu has brought together thousands of characters. He has shown immense control of language and space to make these characters come alive. Even the short presence of characters such as Chandraghosh (p.186), an old lady from Gopalganj (p.260), a ten-year-old school boy imprisoned for his participation in language movement (p.101), Shajahan, the youngest son of Ali Amzad, or the notorious dacoit Rahim Miah of Gopalganj leave a lasting impact on the minds of the readers. Two characters recur in the book: his father Sheikh Lutfur Rahman and his wife Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Renu. The author has provided in-depth analysis of the political acumen and open-heartedness of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, and Maulana Bhashani.

The father of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Lutfur Rahman was a well-respected man. After losing the title of Jaminder