Indonesia's nationalist leadership, with Ahmad Sukarno at the head, decreed that the country was on the road to self-determination. That was in 1945. In that same year, the people of Korea finally threw off the yoke of Imperial Japan and since then have observed their national day in August.

In August 1975, a few days before Bangabbandhu's assassination, former president Abu Sayeed Chowdhury joined his cabinet as a minister without portfolio. Following the bloody coup of 15 August, Chowdhury took over as foreign minister. In the same month, General Ziaur Rahman took over from General K M Shafiullah as the Bangladesh army's new chief of staff. Towards the end of August 1975, the coup makers placed the four leaders of the 1971 Mujibnagar government — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansoor Ali, A H M Quamruzzaman — under arrest and carted them off to prison. They were to be murdered in incarceration three months later.

the Kennedys would see their new-born baby die. Three months later, President John F. Kennedy would be assassinated in Dallas. Early in August 1990, Iraq's Saddam Hussein sent his army into Kuwait, keeping the country under occupation for months until a coalition led by the United States



August 1946, Hindu-Muslim riot devastated Calcutta killing thousands of people.



Subhas Bose



Benigno Aquino



Harry Truman



General Ziaul Huq

In August 1968, Warsaw Pact forces led by the Soviet Union, unwilling to accept the Prague Spring inaugurated by Alexander Dubcek, invaded the country, removed the reformist leadership and restored conservative communism in Czechoslovakia. Years later, in August 1991, a band of diehard communists in Moscow forced reformist Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev out of power in a coup. The coup, of course, collapsed in a matter of days and Gorbachev was restored in office, albeit in much weaker form. The disintegration of the Soviet Union would be complete by the end of the year.

Princess Diana and Mother Teresa died within days of each other in August 1997. In August 1963, restored Kuwait to freedom. Iraq would never be the same again, coming as it did under severe international sanctions and passing into poverty and gathering disorder. In August 1963, Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan, speaker of the Pakistan national assembly and, earlier, president of the country's constituent assembly, passed away.

On 28 August 1963, the American civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his stirring 'I Have A Dream' speech before a million-strong crowd in Washington DC. He envisaged a time when people would not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.

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