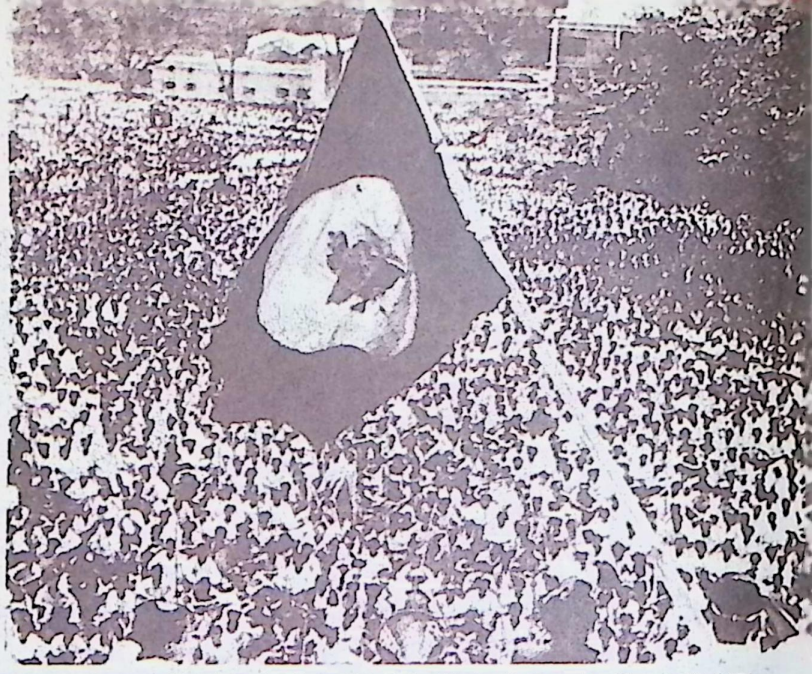
After the meeting, Bangabandhu told them that it had been decided that a parliamentary form of government should be introduced pending the framing of the constitution. Dr Kamal says, "He asked if a provisional constitutional instrument could be prepared immediately, to enable a Cabinet to be sworn in the following day? Could a draft be placed before the Cabinet within the next hour?"

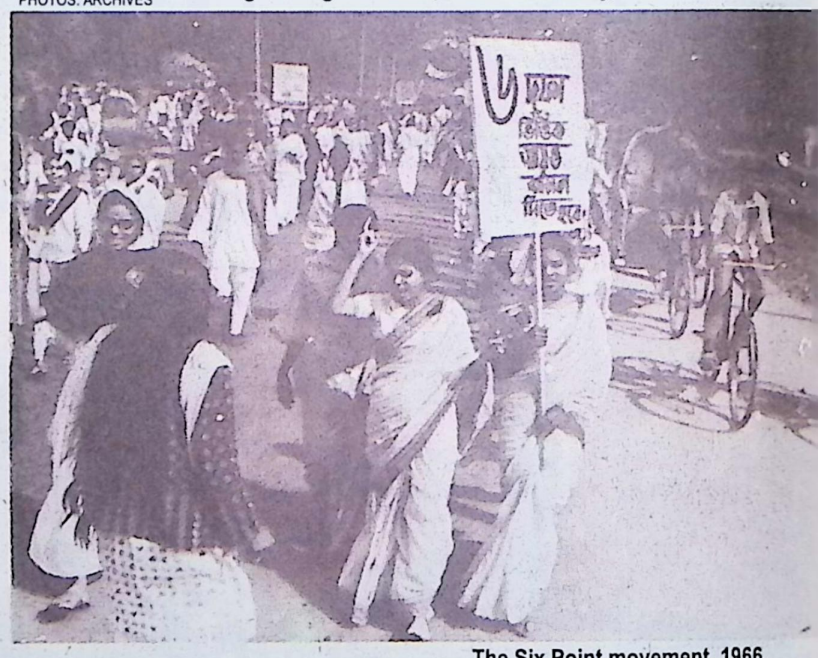
A draft was prepared, approved by the Cabinet and sent to the government press for publication in the Gazette. Justice Chowdhury was to be sworn in as the president and Bangabandhu the prime minister. But who was to administer the oaths of office? The old provincial High Court had become defunct. A provisional High Court needed to be constituted and a chief justice appointed. The first choice was senior lawyer Kamruddin Ahmed who had been in active politics in the fifties and had lost a son, a freedom fighter, in the war. Given his mental and physical state, he declined. Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem became the chief justice. A new cabinet was sworn in with Bangabandhu as the prime minister.

Dr Kamal Hossain was entrusted with the responsibility to steer the process of writing the Constitution and thus given the Law portfolio. With very limited resources and very little time, a Law ministry had to be established immediately. He persuaded Dr Munim, a sitting judge



PHOTOS: ARCHIVES

Hoisting the flag at Bottola, Dhaka University, March 23, 1971.



The Six Point movement, 1966.







