



## CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2015

# BNP leaders enter city polls race

Mintoo, Salam collect forms; Emajuddin-led pro-BNP citizens' body meets CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without making any formal announcement, the BNP yesterday entered the polls battle to take on its rival Awami League in the Dhaka and Chittagong city elections.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, and Abdus Salam, treasurer of the party, collected nomination papers, to join the mayoral race in the capital's two city corporations.

In Dhaka North City Corporation, Mintoo's main challenger will be businessman Annisul Huq, who has been endorsed by the ruling AL.

Salam, who was a city BNP leader for many years, will face AL-sponsored candidate Sayeed Khokon, son of late mayor Mohammad Hanif, in Dhaka South City Corporation.

In line with the BNP strategy, pro-BNP professionals in Chittagong at a press conference last evening announced that they would back M Manjur Alam Manju, the incumbent port city mayor, to stand up to the AL-picked contender AZM Nasir.

Under the banner of Chittagong Development

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

# Haji Salim in deep water

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Haji Mohammad Salim is most likely to quit his mayoral bid in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) election as the Awami League high command reportedly wants him to.

Though no official announcement in this regard has been made yet, chances are high that he would do it soon.

An independent MP and leader of the AL's Dhaka city unit, Salim said he had submitted his resignation from his parliamentary position to the speaker, a must for contesting

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



# INDEPENDENCE DAY TODAY

## At the dawn of INDEPENDENCE

### Bangabandhu aide recalls history taking turn at Dhanmondi 32

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

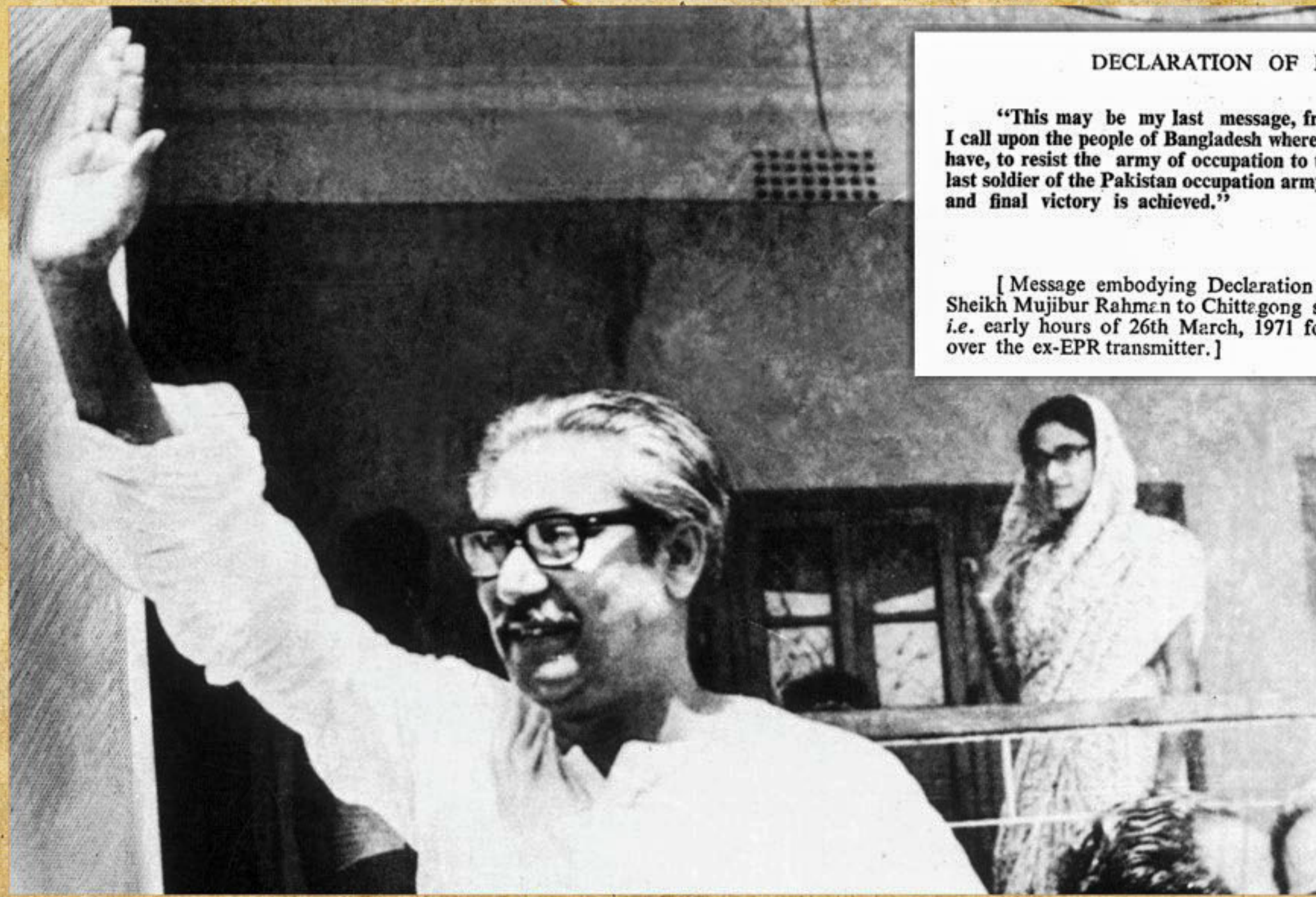
It was like an eerie calm before the storm.

Since the morning of March 25, 1971, people's nerves were on the edge as it became almost clear that talks between the Awami League, the Pakistan People's Party and the Yahya Khan junta had failed.

No one had any idea what was going to happen.

All eyes were on one house -- the Dhanmondi 32 residence of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 THE THIRD VIEW -- PAGE 6



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

"This may be my last message, from today Bangladesh is independent. I call upon the people of Bangladesh wherever you might be and with whatever you have, to resist the army of occupation to the last. Your fight must go on until the last soldier of the Pakistan occupation army is expelled from the soil of Bangladesh and final victory is achieved."

[Message embodying Declaration of Independence sent by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Chittrengong shortly after midnight of 25th March, i.e. early hours of 26th March, 1971 for transmission throughout Bangladesh over the ex-EPR transmitter.]

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, left, waves while his daughter Sheikh Hasina looks on at the historic Dhanmondi-32 house on March 23, 1971. Above, Bangabandhu's Declaration of Independence of March 26, 1971, as mentioned in Bangladesh Swadhinata Juddho: Dalil Potro, volume-3, and the constitution of Bangladesh. PHOTO: FILE

## A note from Simon Dring

### One of the friends of Bangladesh

It was at this hour 44 years ago today that the first Pakistani army units began moving into Dhaka - and a night of unimaginable horror began to unfold. It was my chance and my privilege to have been able to document



SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

# No end to killings

2 more innocent victims of arson attacks lose battle for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both of them were landless. One of them, Khorshed Alam, was a day labourer and the other, Yadul Mollah, a truck helper. But they had this common dream of buying a piece of land and building a small house.

Khorshed even saved up quite a sum of money and Yadul used to work overtime to fulfil their dreams, their family members told this correspondent.

But gruesome arson attacks on trucks put an abrupt end to their dreams. Both of them died at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



Relatives of arson victim Khorshed Alam in tears after he died at DMCH yesterday. Khorshed was injured in an arson attack on a truck in Chandpur on March 19. PHOTO: STAR



TOP QUOTE

"There is no justification for not participating in the election. They [BNP] should run even if they lose. Because election is like an ornament in the democratic system."

PROF. EMAJUDDIN AHMED  
CONVENER OF PRO-BNP INTELLECTUAL PLATFORM "SHOTO NAGORIK"

## স্বাধীনতা তুমি

### চা-খানায় আর মাঠে ময়দানে ঝোড়ো সংলাপ

সময়, শ্রেষ্ঠপট পাল্টালেও কিছু অনুভূতি  
পাল্টায় না কখনোই। কোটি মানুষের হৃদয়ে  
জন্ম নেয়া স্বাধীনতার চেতনা উঠে এসেছিলো  
কবি শামসুর রাহমানের কবিতায়।  
সেই চেতনা থেকেই আমরা এসেছি এতোদূর।  
একই চেতনায় এবার আমরা এগিয়ে যাবো  
বহুদূরের পথে।

**চলো চলুন** **গ্রামীণফোন**