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Sheikh Mujib Murder Enquiry

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY

The earliest effort to enquire into the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members and of the four national leaders was to constitute a commission in the UK in 1980. The commission published their preliminary findings on March 20, 1982. Here we publish the preliminary report.

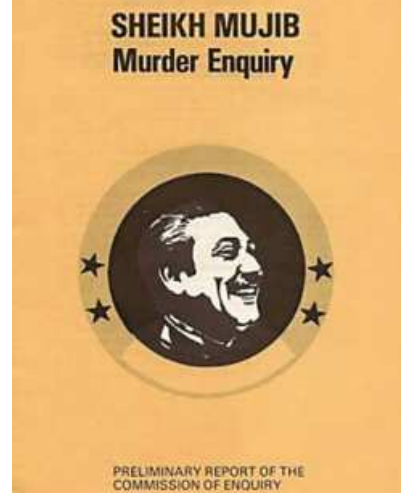
This Commission of Enquiry was formally constituted on 18 September, 1980, to enquire into the circumstances which were impeding the processes of law and justice from taking their course in relation to those responsible for the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family on 15 August, 1975, and of the four national leaders Syed Nazrul Islam (Vice President), Tajuddin Ahmed (first Prime Minister), Monsur Ali (Prime Minister), and Qamruzzaman (Minister for Industries and former Party President) while under detention without trial in the Dacca Central Jail on 3 November, 1975.

The initiative to constitute this Commission was taken by Sir Thomas Williams, Q.C., M.P., in response to an appeal made by Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, surviving daughters of late Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and by Mr. M. Selim and Sayed Ashraf-ul-Islam, sons (sic) of murdered Prime Minister and Vice-President. This appeal had been widely supported in public meetings held in Bangladesh as well as abroad. The first meeting of the Commission was held in one of the Committee Rooms of the House of Commons on 18 September, 1980, under the Chairmanship of Sir Thomas Williams, Q.C., M.P. It was attended by Mr. Sean MacBride, S.C., Mr. Jeffrey Thomas, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. Aubrey Rose, Solicitor. After the meeting, a statement announcing the setting up of the Commission and its terms of reference was issued at a press conference held on the same day.

The Commission proceeded to examine the dossier of papers delivered

to each of the members, containing available evidence relating to: (a) the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family on 15 August, and four national leaders in the Dacca Central Jail on 3 November, 1975; (b) the persons who have publicly acknowledged responsibility of murders; and (c) the steps taken by the Government of Bangladesh in relation to these matters. From the perusal of the papers, the following facts emerge:

That Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the following members of his family were assassinated in his residence at Road No. 32 Dhanmandi R.A., Dacca, in the early hours of the



Cover of the report.

morning of 15 August, 1975: 1. Begum Fazilatunnessa, wife of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 2. Sheikh Kamal, eldest son of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 3. Sheikh Jamal, 2nd son of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 4. Sheikh Russel, youngest son of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, (age -9 years), 5. Mrs Sultana Ahmed Khuku, wife of Sheikh Kamal, 6. Mrs. Pervin Jamal (Rosey), wife of Sheikh Jamal, and 7. Sheikh Naser, brother of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

That on 15 August, 1975, at the same time, the following persons were also murdered: 1. Mr. Abdur Bob Semiatat, brother-in-law of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman) Minister for Power,

Irrigation and Water Resources), 2. Miss Baby (age-4 years), daughter of Mr. Semiatat, 3. Arif, son, 4. Babu, grandson, (age - 3 years), 5. A visiting nephew, 6. Three guests, 7. Four servants, 8. Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni, a nephew of Bangabandhu and one of the Secretaries of the ruling party. 9. Mrs. Fazlul Huq Moni (niece of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and pregnant at the time).

On 3 November, 1975, the following national leaders were murdered in the Dacca Central Jail: 1. Syed Nazrul Islam (former Vice-President); 2. Tajuddin Ahmed (first Prime Minister); 3. Monsur Ali (former Prime Minister); 4. A.H.Q. Qamruzzaman (former Minister for Industries, and former Party-President).

That the above murders were carried out by a small number of army personnel, led by certain retired and serving military officers. That the identity of the officers involved can be derived from the list of army personnel who negotiated their departure from Bangladesh to Bangkok on 3 November, 1975.

Their departure followed a coup directed against the army personnel who were involved in the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Among the persons who left for Bangkok from Bangladesh were: 1. Lt. Colonel Faruque 2. Lt. Colonel Abdur Rashid.

That apparently the following persons were the leaders of the coup: 1. Lt. Col. Faruque; 2. Lt. Col. Rashid; 3. Major Shariful Huq (Dalim).

That in a conference held in Bangkok, Lt. Col. Faruque acknowledged responsibility for the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family as well as for the killings in the Dacca Central Jail of Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Monsur Ali and A.H.Q. Qamruzzaman.

Such responsibility was once again claimed in a press interview published in the London Sunday Times of 30 May 1976 and in a TV interview in London on 2 August 1976.

That the Government of Bangladesh, on 26 September, 1975 promulgated an Ordinance under

the title: "The Indemnity Ordinance, 1975", purportedly "to restrict the taking of any legal or other proceedings against any personnel for any act or things done in connection with, or in preparation or execution of any plan for or steps necessitating, the historical change and the Proclamation of Martial Law on the morning of the 15 August 1975".


That the Ordinance requires a certificate to be issued by the President to the effect that any act, matter or

thing was done or step taken by any person mentioned in the certificate in connection with, or in preparation or execution of any plan for, or as necessary step towards, the change of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Proclamation of Martial Law on the morning of 15 August, 1975, shall be sufficient evidence of such act, matter or thing having been done or step having been taken in connection with, or in preparation or execution of any plan

for, or as necessary step towards, the change of such Government.

Such a certificate would be deemed to provide conclusive evidence of the facts stated therein. It is not known whether any such certificates were issued. That the Government on 5 November, 1975, by a notification in the Gazette, No. 768, (Annex C) set up a three-member Judicial Inquiry Commission in the following terms:

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প্রতিটি অর্জনে তোমাকে মনে পড়ে
আছো তুমি প্রতিটি বাঙালির হৃদয় জুড়ে

তোমার ত্যাগে পেয়েছি সোনার বাংলা একদিন
তোমার দেখানো পথে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছি প্রতিদিন

তুমি জীবনে দিয়েছো মুক্তির চেতনা
শোক নয়, শক্তিতে তুমিই আজ ধারণা


হৃদয় বিকশিত করে রয়েছো অল্লান
মুজিব - তোমায জানাই সহস্র সালাম

১৫ আগস্টের সকল শহীদের প্রতি জানাই বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা।

বিকাশ

১৫ ই আগস্ট
জাতীয় শোক দিবস

বাংলাদেশের
স্বাধীনতা
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Bangladesh




হাজার বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি
জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান
ও তাঁর পরিবারবর্গের প্রতি আমাদের গভীর
শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

IUB

ইনডিপেন্ডেন্ট ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ (আইইউবি)

১৫
আগস্ট
জাতীয় শোক দিবস



মহানায়কের
হাত ধরে পেয়েছিলাম স্বাধীন উপাধি
অকৃতজ্ঞ ঘাতকদের জন্য হয়েছিল অপ্রার্থিত সমাধি

PADMA BANK
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