

Role of Bangabandhu in the Development of Post-Independence International Relations: A Study on Selected Dhaka Dailies

Abstract

Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the dreamer of Bengali independence, has left Bangladesh at a unique height on the World stage. His contributions to the development of international relations in Bangladesh after independence are undeniable. Bangabandhu has prepared the map of Bangladesh's foreign policy and international outline. The main objective of this study is to analyze how Bangabandhu's roles, steps and activities in the development of international relations after independence have been reflected in the newspapers. The study was carried out through purposive sampling of newspaper stories using systematic sampling methods. In the four years from 1972 to 1975, the number of sample newspapers in the Daily Ittefaq stood at 188, while the total number of news was 17,484. Among the sampled newspapers, international news related to Bangladesh was 330 (1.89%), of which the highest was 228 (69.09%) on the front page, the lowest was 4 (1.21%) on the sixth page, the highest was 113 (34.24%) in 1974 and the lowest was 68 (20.61%) in 1975. In terms of news type, simple news was the most printed at 249 (75.45%) and the lowest investigative and feature news at 3 (0.91%) and 3 (0.91%) respectively. The highest number of news sources was government and non-government organizations with 117 (35.45%) and the lowest was 8 (2.42%) press conferences. The study focused on five types of news issues (recognition, international conferences, international organizations, the United Nations, and diplomatic meetings). By presenting the logical results of the research work, it is proved that the strong position of Bangladesh in the international arena is a far-reaching result of Bangabandhu's farsighted policy and leadership in the development of international relations after independence. The results of this research will play an important role in understanding Bangladesh's international relations and Bangabandhu's contributions. In a very short period after independence, Bangabandhu and his government have created a golden history by achieving international recognition, getting membership in different organizations, and improving relations with different countries and organizations. The study recommends more in-depth analysis and documentation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's diplomatic strategies and their long-term impacts on Bangladesh's international relations to serve as a guiding framework for future research and foreign policy development.

Keywords: Bangabandhu, Bangladesh, Development, Post-Independence, International Relations, Content Analysis

1. Introduction

The People's Republic of Bangladesh and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the 'greatest Bengali of all time', are an unforgettable chapter in the same thread^[1]. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the dreamer of Bangladesh, is not just a name, Bangabandhu means the history of the victory of Bengalis^[2]. The Bengalis saw the red Sun of victory, the Bengalis got an independent map, a Constitution, a flag and a national anthem because they were born in the lap of a lucky mother in the soft alluvial soil of Bengal. 'Biswabandhu Sheikh Mujib' is not only the founder of an independent state but the father of the nation of a state^[3]; within a short time of crossing the country's borders, he became a popular world leader^[4]. Bangabandhu not only thought about the welfare of the people of his country, he felt with his heart the sorrow, pain and misery of the destitute people all over the world. He would often say, "The world is divided into two parts: the exploiters and the exploited." I am in the party of the exploited^{[5][6]}.

As the great hero of the War of Liberation, history has made him unforgettable, as well as in the eyes of the **World** leader and the international community, he is a great leader of contemporary history, the best son of the Bengalis, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Just as Lenin, Mahatma Gandhi, Fidel Castro, Lumumba and Nelson Mandela have been remembered in the struggle for freedom and liberation of the **World** humanity^[7]; It was not too late for Bangabandhu to make his position in that list. Those discussed and popular leaders of the international arena did not make the mistake of evaluating him. Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, while addressing the crowd, said, "Mujib's courage is an inspiration for Asia and Africa"^[8]. Fidel Castro said to Bangabandhu, "I haven't seen the Himalayas but have seen Sheikh Mujib"^[9]. Even the international media did not hesitate to worship. The New York Magazine published on April 5, 1971, described Bangabandhu as the 'poet of politics'^[10]. In the post-war period of Bangladesh, the glory of his leadership was not only revealed by dealing with internal problems, but his guidance in the international arena was able to take Bangladesh to a unique general height. After the liberation war of 1971, Bangabandhu's outstanding leadership was not limited to the state-building and internal affairs of Bangladesh; Bangabandhu has presented a unique example to firmly establish Bangladesh's non-aligned international position in the bilateral, regional and multilateral arena. Bangabandhu's role in building the foundation of a realistic foreign policy for Bangladesh in the hostile and politically extreme environment that Bangladesh had to face during the Cold War was unforgettable.

Understanding the atrocities of the Cold War and addressing global leadership, Bangladesh's first President and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said, " We are a small country, we want friendship with all and malice towards none"^[11]. Through his statement, the map of Bangladesh's foreign policy and international outline has been drawn, which has placed Bangabandhu in the seat of important work in building Bangladesh's foreign policy and world outlook. The main objective of the foreign policy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his government was to ensure necessary foreign aid, credit, food grains and technical assistance for rapid socio-economic reconstruction. On the other hand, the recognition of Bangladesh as an independent state was also one of the foreign policy goals of Bangabandhu's government. Bangabandhu's political wisdom, far-sighted thinking and diplomatic experience played an important role in determining the objectives and ideological basis of Bangladesh's foreign policy^[12]. Besides, Bangabandhu's 1972 **Constitution** stated that Bangladesh would remain unarmed from the use of force in international relations and would strive for complete disarmament. As a result, after passing through various ups and downs fifty years after independence, Bangladesh has made a self-sufficient and confident foreign policy in the foreign policy roadmap given by Bangabandhu to run the state. Newspapers are the mirror of society and the state^[13]. Important events of the state are constantly reflected in the mirror of the newspaper. The most important event after independence was the recognition of Bangladesh in the international arena, foreign aid and the development of international relations with different countries. Therefore, it is important to know about the role of Bangabandhu in the development of international relations after independence and the reflection of the steps taken in the newspapers. In this context, the present research work has been carried out.

1.2 Goal and Objectives of the Research

1.2.1 Main Goal

The main goal of the present research is to analyze how Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations after independence has been reflected in the newspapers. The research has also been carried out with several important objectives in mind.

1.2.2 Objectives

- I. To investigate the quantity, type, dimension, coverage, status and treatment of news on Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations.
- II. Analyzing news about international recognition.
- III. To analyze the news of the United Nations, other international organizations, international conferences and diplomatic activities for the development of international relations of Bangladesh by Bangabandhu.

2. Relevant Literature Review

Although there is no direct research related to current research. Some relevant research and books have enriched this research.

Leadership and Development of Bangabandhu

Bangabandhu was unique in leadership and he was firmly committed to the development of Bangladesh. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman showed charismatic, visionary, and transformational leadership qualities that were instrumental in shaping Bangladesh's history, leadership and development. His leadership was crucial to the country's independence movements, highlighting the significance of personality, socio-historical context, and leader-follower relationship^[14]^[15]^[16]. He set the stage for Bangladesh's food security and economic expansion with his strategic efforts in the agricultural sector, featuring advancing agricultural research, education, and market development.^[17]^[18]^[19]. He was also a highly regarded leader in Bangladeshi history because of his historic speeches, including as the well-known speech on March 7, 1971, which exhibited his oratory prowess and capacity to move large crowds^[20].

Kamal, Haque, Manjuma, and Hossain^[21] in their book 'Emergence of Independent Bangladesh' discuss 'The Reign of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (1972-1975)' in which Bangabandhu's foreign policy, the architect of independent and sovereign Bangladesh's foreign policy, Bangabandhu's diplomatic skills and success in developing international relations are highlighted. Within just three and a half years, Bangabandhu was able to get recognition from 130 countries for Bangladesh, which no other statesman could set a bright example of getting recognition from so many countries in such a short time in the history of the modern world. Due to Bangabandhu's diplomatic skills, Bangladesh became a member of the United Nations specialized agencies located in Geneva, Vienna, London, Rome, New York and Washington DC before becoming a member of the United Nations, which has been described in this book. The membership of the Commonwealth, the Alliance Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference was the manifestation of the world's unwavering confidence in the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which has been highlighted in the book.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's unique and revolutionary leadership highlights his important roles in Bangladesh's foreign policy, economic growth, food security, and independence. Through a narrative of his diplomatic accomplishments and the rapid worldwide recognition he secured for Bangladesh, the study expertly shows the lasting impact of his visionary leadership on the country's progress and worldwide prominence.

Bangabandhu's International relations and foreign policy

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's international relations and foreign policy were vital in shaping Bangladesh's place in the global arena. Bangladesh was once allied with the Indo-Soviet Axis, but following a military takeover, it turned to the West and prioritized regional and international power alignments^[22]. Bangladesh's geopolitical position was reinforced by its active participation in international organizations, swift expansion of bilateral partnerships, and encouragement of regional cooperation initiatives, all of which reflected its economic interests^[23]. The foreign policy of the nation changed from being land-centric to being marine-centric, with an emphasis on settling maritime conflicts and aspirations to become a "middle power" in regional and international affairs^[24]. Bangladesh's pursuit of economic and political advantages in the competitive South Asian area, underpinned by the ideas of neoclassical realism, is reflected in the strategic balance of its ties with its neighbours, especially with China and India^[25]. Bangladesh's foreign policy, which is built on the values of equality, national sovereignty, and peaceful settlement of disputes, also places a strong emphasis on the brotherly ties that arise from Islamic solidarity among Muslim nations^[26].

Hossain^[27] in his book 'Bangabandhu's Foreign Policy Bangladesh, South Asia and the Recent World' highlighted various aspects of Bangabandhu's foreign policy and international relations. In the author's proper assessment, the achievements and successes of Bangladesh in the field of Bangabandhu's foreign policy were commendable and discussed how the India-Bangladesh Friendship Treaty affected Bangladesh's politics and international relations.

Apart from this, Rahman^[28] in his book 'Third World Christat: Shekh Mujib and the Struggle for Freedom', In this book, the author has highlighted the issues from the movement of the British period to the end of Pakistan, Sheikh Mujib, various levels of diplomacy during the liberation war and war, international recognition after independence, challenges and ideology of Sheikh Mujib's charismatic politics, globalism, his thoughts and ideals in the international context.

From Bangabandhu's political activities to economic, social, cultural and biographical issues, books, articles, poems novels, etc., there was no research on how Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations after independence was reflected in the newspapers. Bangabandhu's thoughts on foreign policy plans and activities for the development of international relations were unique. Even after 52 years of independence, such an important issue remains neglected and less discussed. The present study explores how the role of the great hero of independence in the development of international relations after the independence of Bangladesh was reflected in the news and other content in the much-discussed Bengali 'Daily Ittefaq' of 1972-1975. As a result, this research is expected to open a new direction to know Bangabandhu's leadership in the international arena and

the international relationship of Bangladesh and its guidelines for the future. These studies highlight Bangabandhu's crucial role in positioning Bangladesh on the World map and give a strong foundation for understanding his lasting impact on the country's foreign policy.

2.1 Theoretical Framework of Research

Two points are noteworthy in analyzing and presenting the research titled 'Role of Bangabandhu in the Development of Post-Independence International Relations: A Study on Selected Dhaka Dailies'. One. Presentation of news and other content in newspapers and two. International Relations. To better understand and understand these two topics, the logical help of 'Representation Theory' which is closely associated with Stuart Hall, a prominent cultural theorist who extensively explored how language and media create meaning and represent the world to people^[29] and 'International Relations Theory' relevant to current research has been taken. Representation is "the use of language to speak or present the World meaningfully to people". Therefore, the theory of representation has been used in analyzing and presenting news and other content of the Daily Ittefaq. International relations theory is the study of international relations from a theoretical perspective. International relations theories (Liberalism: John Locke, Immanuel Kant, and Woodrow Wilson are foundational thinkers whose ideas contributed significantly to liberal international relations theory^{[30][31][32]}, Neorealism: Kenneth Waltz is a key figure, particularly known for his work "Theory of International Politics," which established the framework for neorealism^[33].) function like colored sunglasses, in which the wearer can only see things related to that theory^[34]. Therefore, international relations theory has been tried to understand international relations better.

3. Methodology

Newspaper is a vital tool to understand the complete status of a country. Because important events are presented objectively in the newspaper. Therefore, the newspaper is one of the information repositories to understand the role of Bangabandhu in the development of international relations. During the rule of Bangabandhu, the Daily Ittefaq was the most renowned media. It has historical significance, wide readership, accessibility and a rich data source. Therefore, the content of the Daily Ittefaq has been analysed to deeply understand the role of Bangabandhu in developing international relations. The 'Content Analysis Method' has been chosen as the method of conducting the present research work. The Daily Ittefaq is the only newspaper that has survived in Bangladesh from the 1950s to now. The contribution of 'Daily Ittefaq' to the formation of nationhood in Bangladesh is well known. It has been working relentlessly from the beginning of the war of liberation to bring forward the just demands of the people of East Pakistan and Bangladesh. Besides, the most widely published and circulated daily newspaper at the sample time was 'Daily Ittefaq'^[35], so the Daily Ittefaq has been chosen using the purposive sampling method to find out the results of the research by analysing the current research information, data and content and the systematic sampling method has been determined for the selection of the sample number of the Daily Ittefaq. All the newspapers of the Daily Ittefaq from 1972 to 1975 have been determined as the totality of the research. Since the present study looks at Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations, the period of Bangabandhu's rule (1992-1995) has been fixed as the period of this study. The duration of this study

is 4 years from January 1972 to December 1975 has been taken as the research period in the hope of obtaining the final results keeping in view the objectives of the present research.

3.1 Determining the Sample Number of Daily Ittefaq Newspaper

Table 1; Determining the sample number of newspapers in 1972

Month	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week
January	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
February	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
March	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
April	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
July	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
August	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
September	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
October	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
November	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
December	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

In this way, each year's newspaper has been taken in the same way, maintaining the continuity of the month and week. That is, the number of Daily Ittefaq has been sampled by maintaining the continuity mentioned up to 1973, 1974 and 1975 like 1972. However, if for some reason no day newspaper is available, then the next day's newspaper has been analyzed. So, according to the above sampling method, the number of sample newspapers of Daily Ittefaq stood at 188 in four years.

In the sample newspaper, news and content on the development of Bangabandhu's international relations have been used as the main information and data of the present research. In the final sample, the news and content on Bangabandhu's post-independence international relations development have been divided into different categories. Such as total news coverage by page, volume of news published by year, type of news headline, type of news, source of news, quotations used in the news, volume of news related to the issue, issue of news by year (Recognition, United Nations Affairs, International Organization Affairs, International Conferences, Diplomatic Meetings).

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Amount of news about Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations

The Daily Ittefaq had 1461 newspapers in 1461 days from 1 January 1972 to 31 December 1975. The total number of news in the sampled 188 newspapers was 17,484. Of the sampled newspapers, 330 (1.89%) were international news related to Bangladesh.

Table .2: Page-wise total news quantity

Page No.	News Number	Percentage
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First Page	228	69.09%
Third Page	26	7.88%
Fourth page	9	2.73%
Fifth Page	19	5.76%
Sixth Page	4	1.21%
Seventh Page	13	3.94%
Last/8th page	31	9.39%
Total	= 330	= 100%

A total of 330 news about Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations were printed from 1972-1975. Among them, the most 228 (69.09%) news was printed on the first page and the least was 4 (1.21%) on the sixth page. A total of 98 (29.7%) news were printed on other pages. Because the most important page of news is the front page and most news is printed on the front page. So, it can be said that the news about Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations has been presented seriously.

4.2 Annual presentation of news about Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations

Table -3: Amount of year-wise news publications

Year	First Page	End/8th Page	Inner Page	Total Number of News	Percentage
1972	53	18	42	113	34.24%
1973	49	8	15	72	21.82%
1974	69	0	8	77	23.33%
1975	57	5	6	68	20.61%
Total News	= 228	= 31	= 71	= 330	= 100%

It is to be noted that the inner page here refers to the third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh pages of the Daily Ittefaq at the time of the sample.

In 1972, the Daily Ittefaq published 53 news stories on the front page, 18 on the last page and 42 on the inner page. That is, the total number of news in 1972 was 113 (34.24%). Similarly, in 1973, 72 (21.82%), of which 49 were on the first page, 8 on the last page and 15 on the inner page; In 1974, 77 (23.33%), of which 69 were printed on the front page, no news was found on the last page at the time of the sample, and 8 news was placed on the inside page; In 1975, there were 68 (20.61%), of which 57 were on the front page, 5 on the last page and 6 on the inner page.

4.3 Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations news types

The success of a report depends on two factors: (1) the importance and excellence of the information and (2) the type of information presented^[36]. Therefore, the success of the effectiveness and acceptability of news on Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations will depend on the type and how the report is presented.

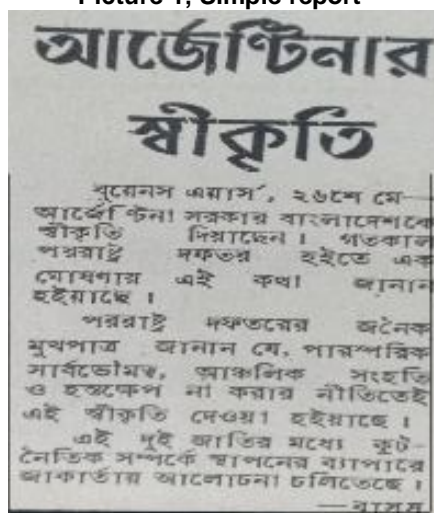
Table.4: Types of News

News Type	Number of news	Percentage
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Simple	249	75.45%
Explanatory	48	14.55%
Investigative	3	0.91%
Descriptive	22	6.66%
Features	3	0.91%
Others	5	1.52%
Total	= 330	= 100%

Out of the total of 330 news about Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations in Daily Ittefaq newspaper, 249 (75.45%) were simple news, 48 were explanatory (14.55%), 22 were descriptive (6.66%), 3 were investigative (0.91%), 3 were feature (0.91%) and others were 5 (1.52%) were printed.

Picture 1; Simple report



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 26 May 1972)

On May 26, 1972, the Daily Ittefaq published a news headline titled 'Argentina's recognition' is a piece of simple news. The Argentine government's recognition of Bangladesh is based on its principles of mutual sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs, which has been highlighted in a very simple way.

A few points to note from an analysis of data and data from Table 4: The news about Bangabandhu's role, steps and activities in the development of international relations after independence has been published simply. Which was 75.45% of the total news. The percentage of explanatory and descriptive news is 14.55% and 6.66% respectively. Feature/humanitarian news was found at 0.91% in the sampled time. Besides, how Bangabandhu has presented a war-torn country so quickly in the world with the charisma of his leadership, deserves to be seen from an investigative point of view. But the investigative reporting was only 0.91%.

4.4 Source of news about Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations

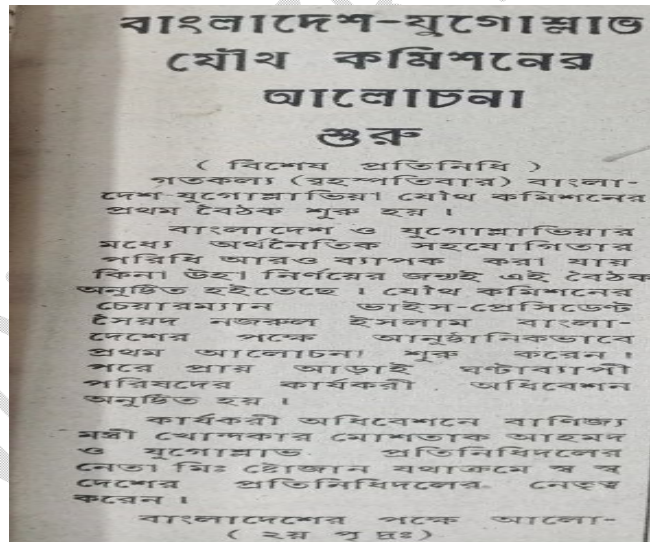
117 (35.45%) news sources on Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations were government and non-government organizations, 88 (26.7%) international conferences, 40 (12.12%) political figures, 34 (10.30%) diplomatic meetings, 17 (5.15%) different ministries, 13 (3.93%) press briefings, 8 (2.42%) press conferences and 13 (3.93%) news received from other related sources. Notably, most news sources were government and non-government organizations.

Table 5; Type of news source

Type of News Source	Amount of News	Percentage
Government and Non-government Organizations	117	35.45%
International Conference	88	26.7%
Political figures	40	12.12%
Diplomatic meeting	34	10.30%
Ministry	17	5.15%
Press Briefing	13	3.93%
Press Conference	8	2.42%
Related Other Sources	13	3.93%
Total	= 330	= 100%

For example, the Daily Ittefaq on 11 May 1972 published a news report titled "Bangladesh-Yugoslav Joint Commission Talks Begin" was the source of the diplomatic meeting.

Picture 2; News source Diplomatic meeting



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 11 May 1972)

The scope of economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Yugoslavia will be expanded and a joint commission is being discussed between the two countries for this purpose.

4.5 Use of quotations in news about Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations

Table -6: Use of Quotations in News

Quotation Giver	News Number	Percentage
Bangabandhu	157	47.58%
Diplomatic Person	121	36.67%
Politicians	18	5.45%
Ministry	30	9.09%
Others	4	1.21%
Total	= 330	= 100%

Quoting Bangabandhu was used in 157 (47.58%) news reports, 121 (36.67%) of diplomatic persons, 18 (5.45%) of national and international level politicians, 30 (9.09%) of different ministries, and 4 (1.21%) quotes of other concerned persons and organizations.

On August 12, 1973, the Daily Ittefaq published a report titled 'Bangabandhu's message on the occasion of the World Youth Festival: 'We are forever on the side of the freedom-loving people of the world'.

Picture: 3; News quoted by Bangabandhu



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, August 12, 1973)

In that news, Bangabandhu said, "The people of Bangladesh will always stand beside the world people engaged in the struggle for national liberation." Besides, Bangabandhu hoped that the upcoming World Youth Assembly would inspire efforts for world peace, show the way to free mankind from the curse of poverty and illiteracy and raise a strong voice against imperialist rule and exploitation. Bangabandhu mentioned that the youths of Bangladesh are a treasure of our pride and their contribution to the Liberation War is memorable. This is how Bangabandhu's immortal messages to the youth on the occasion of the World Youth Festival have been highlighted in the news.

4.6 News issue on Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations

Table: 7; News issue

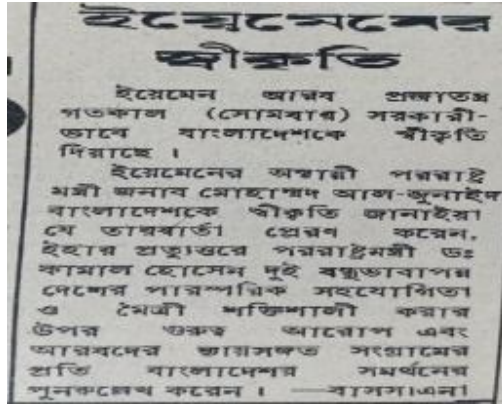
Issue	News Number	Percentage
Recognition Related	56	16.97%

UN Affairs	16	4.85%
International Organizations	30	9.09%
International Conference	41	12.42%
Diplomatic Meetings	70	21.21%
Others	117	35.46%
Total	= 330	= 100%

4.6.1 Recognition-related news

It was a big challenge for Bangabandhu to get recognition from all the countries of the **World and World** leadership for post-independence Bangladesh. During the sample period, 56 (16.97%) recognition news were published.

Picture: 4; Recognition related news



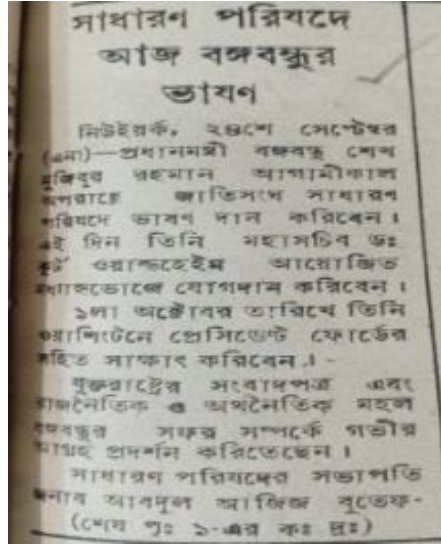
(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 31 July 1972)

The Daily Ittefaq on July 31, 1972, published a news report titled 'Recognition of Yemen' that has been presented here as a piece of recognition news. The Yemen Arab Republic officially recognized Bangladesh. In response to the cable of Yemen's Acting Foreign Minister Mr. Mohammed Al Junaid recognizing Bangladesh, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Kamal Hossain reiterated Bangladesh's emphasis on strengthening cooperation and friendship between the two friendly countries and Bangladesh's support for the just struggle of the Arabs.

4.6.2 UN Affairs news

On September 25, 1974, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his historic speech in Bangla at the 29th session of the United Nations General Assembly. On September 17, 1974, Bangladesh was included as the 136th member of the United Nations by unanimously ratifying the United Nations General Assembly under the strong leadership of Bangabandhu, the poet of politics. During the sample period, 16 UN-related news were published (4.85%).

Picture: 5; UN Affairs news



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 24 September 1974)

The news titled 'Bangabandhu's speech at the General Assembly Today' published on September 24, 1974, is presented here as news on the United Nations. The news briefly highlighted Bangabandhu's historic first speech at the United Nations and Bangabandhu's meeting with different heads of state.

4.6.3 International Organizations related news

Due to Bangabandhu's farsightedness in the international arena, Bangladesh took place in world politics in a very short time. The pioneering thinking of Bangabandhu, the architect of the state of Bangladesh, was reflected not only in administrative measures but also in international organizations and conferences. This can be seen from the current research data and data. According to the available data, 30 (9.09%) news related to international organizations were published.

Picture: 6; International Organizations related news



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 14 October 1973)

The news published on October 14, 1973, with the headline 'Bangladesh elected president of the Asian Group at the United Nations' is shown as an example of the news about international organizations. Bangladesh will get the status of the chair of the Asian group at the United Nations

in October and the news about various regional groups of the United Nations has been highlighted in the news.

4.6.4 International Conference related news

According to the sampled data, the number of news related to international conferences is 41 (12.42%). Bangabandhu's role in improving relations with other countries and organizations after independence is incomparable. Bangabandhu was a world leader, which testified to Bangabandhu's activities at various international conferences. For example, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman spread light among hundreds of leaders at the Algerian Non-Aligned Conference.

Picture: 7; International Conference-related news



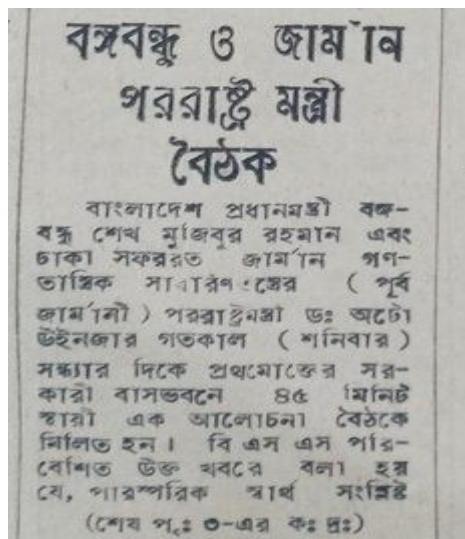
(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 10 September 1973)

The news published on September 10, 1973, titled 'Bangabandhu's success in Ottawa and Algiers conferences is outstanding' is shown as an example of the news about international conferences. The world leadership and members of the Jatiya Sangsad highly praised the world leader Bangabandhu for his outstanding achievements at the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference in Ottawa and the Non-Aligned Summit in Algiers.

4.6.5 Diplomatic Meetings related news

Bangabandhu was a strong and prudent leader. Based on his diplomatic philosophy, today's Bangladesh has been able to build strong relations with the world society. Bangabandhu's diplomatic philosophy was very sharp and intense. According to the current study, 70 (21.21%) news related to diplomatic meetings have been published.

Picture: 8; Diplomatic Meetings related news



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 22 November 1973)

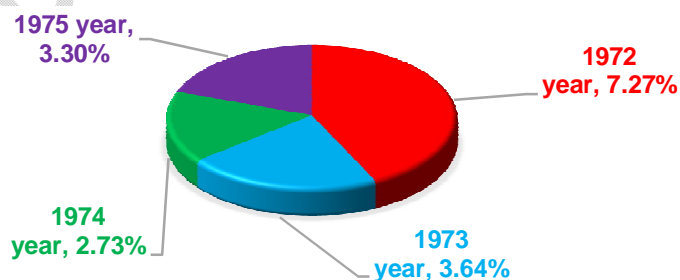
The news published on November 22, 1973, titled 'Meeting between Bangabandhu and German Foreign Minister' has been presented here as news about diplomatic meetings. Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and visiting German Foreign Minister Dr Otto Winzer held a 45-minute discussion at the official residence of Bangladesh. Where issues related to mutual diplomatic interests have been discussed, which has been highlighted in the news. In addition, 117 (35.46%) news were published on other related issues. From the review, it can be seen that most of the issue-based news has been published on the issue of diplomatic meetings.

4.7 Year-wise presentation of news related to Bangabandhu and international issues

A total of 56 (16.97%) recognition news was published in the Daily Ittefaq. Of these, 24 (7.27%) in 1972, 12 (3.64%) in 1973, 9 (2.73%) in 1974 and 11 (3.33%) in 1975.

Graph 1 shows that the highest number of recognition news was published in 1972 and the lowest in 1974. The percentages are 7.27% and 2.73% respectively.

Graph: 1; Amount of recognition news from 1972-1975

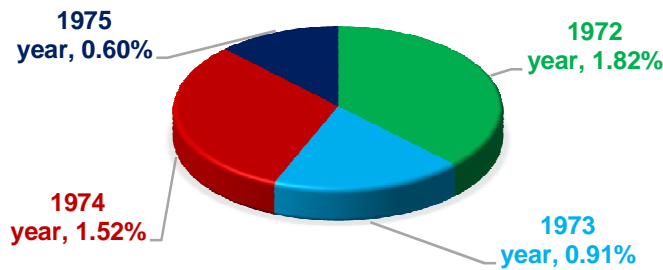


(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 1972-1975)

A total of 16 (4.85%) UN news stories were printed. Of these, 6 (1.82%), 3 (0.91%), 5 (1.52%) and 2 (0.60%) were printed in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975 respectively. As Graph 2 shows, the highest

number of news reports on the United Nations was in 1972 (1.82%). The lowest was published in 1975 (0.60%).

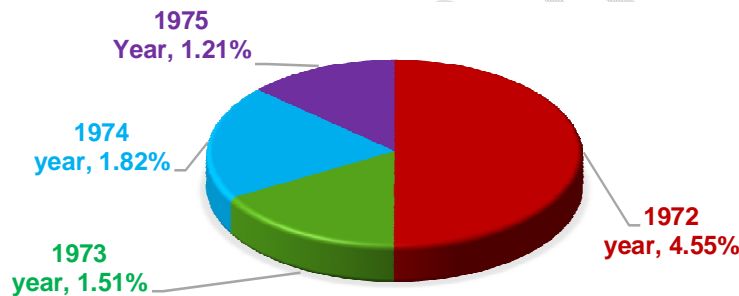
Graph: 2; Amount of news on the United Nations from 1972-1975



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 1972-1975)

A total of 30 (9.09%) news related to international organizations were printed. Of these, 15 (4.55%), 5 (1.51%), 6 (1.82%) and 4 (1.21%) were published in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975 respectively. Graph 3 shows that 1972 saw the highest number of news reports on international organizations. The percentage is 4.55%. The lowest published was in 1975. The percentage is 1.21%.

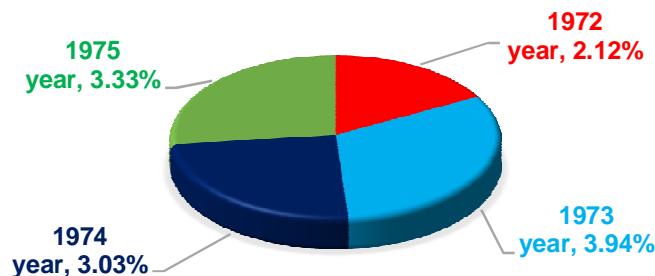
Graph: 3; Amount of news about international organizations from 1972-1975



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 1972-1975)

A total of 41 international conference news was published (12.42%). Of these, 7 (2.12%), 13 (3.94%), 10 (3.03%) and 11 (3.33%) were published in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975 respectively. Graph 4 shows that the highest number of international conference news was published 3.94% in 1973. The lowest number of international conference news was published 2.12% in 1972.

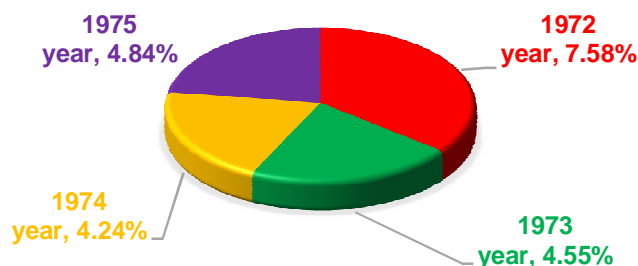
Graph: 4; Amount of news about international conferences from 1972-1975



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 1972-1975)

A total of 70 (21.21%) news related to diplomatic meetings were printed. Of these, 25 (7.58%), 15 (4.55%), 14 (4.24%) and 16 (4.84%) were published in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975 respectively. Graph . 5 shows that the most coverage of diplomatic meetings news was 7.58% in 1972. The lowest reported was 4.24% in 1974.

Graph. 5; Amount of news about diplomatic meetings from 1972-1975



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 1972-1975)

Despite various obstacles and difficulties of Bangabandhu and his government, it was seen that within three and a half years of independence, Bangladesh became a member state of the United Nations and was able to get recognition from many countries all over the world. ^[37]

Bangladesh's international recognition began on 6 December 1971 with the recognition of Bhutan and India^[38]. Membership of the United Nations in 1974 was an important event^[39]. After independence, Bangladesh has been recognized by different countries of the world and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was revered as a great hero of world history in the world assembly; It was possible for Bangabandhu's humanitarian, intelligence political wisdom, love for the oppressed people, honest courage and strong personality and this was proved through news published in the Daily Ittefaq on March 22, 1972. The news was published under the headline "Bangabandhu to the Nixon government: Recognize within ten days, or stop the mission." The intro of the news was: "Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave the Nixon government of the United States ten days to recognize Bangladesh. Otherwise, he said, the Bangladesh government will close the US mission in Dhaka."

It is also seen that Bangabandhu gave ten days to the mighty United States to recognize Bangladesh. Besides, Bangabandhu and Democratic Party candidate Mr. Bill Hagle's meeting came up. In the meeting, Bangabandhu strictly highlighted the position of Bangladesh.

Picture: 9; Text analysis of recognition news



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 22 March 1972)

A kind of oppressive authority is established by the ruling class over the people, where no important responsibility of the ruling class towards the people is revealed. In the analysis of the news, it is seen that Bangabandhu's authority was in the minds of world leaders, the authority was in the love of the oppressed people.

According to the liberal theory of international relations, it is not the capacity of the state, but the preference of the choice of the state that determines state behaviour. Analyzing the news, it can be seen that Bangabandhu did not think about the capabilities of Bangladesh, but with political wisdom, he decided to treat the United States by prioritizing the needs and preferences of Bangladesh. Given this, Bangabandhu in a strong voice urged the United States to resolve the issue of recognition of Bangladesh quickly.

From the news analysis, it can be seen that Bangabandhu worked tirelessly with new enthusiasm every day after independence to rebuild the country. His main objective was to ensure a respectable position for Bangladesh in the world. As a result, Bangabandhu was able to get the highest number of country recognition in just three and a half years.

In addition to Pakistan's opposition to Bangladesh's recognition, Bangabandhu had to face various diplomatic challenges. At that time, geopolitical polarization around Bangladesh's recognition and support in the international arena became public. Foreign Minister Dr Kamal Hossain, who served during Bangabandhu's regime, said, "It is a difficult thing to get recognition for a new state. Because everyone evaluates what the state claims, what its past, what its present is, and what the future might be. But they recognize it. That is why recognition is a testament to their success. We were able to do that"^[40].

From the analysis, it is evident that after independence, Bangabandhu was a successful state hero and undisputed leader in getting recognition from different countries and international organizations of

the world. Beyond the ten horizons and the boundaries of Bangladesh, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu took Bangladesh to the world arena, where he spoke about the sovereign, fearless and independent Bangladesh, Bengali nationhood, Bangladesh and the culture of prosperity of thousands of years of Bengali heritage.

25 September 1974 is a very important and historic day for Bangladesh in the national and international arena. On this day, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressed the United Nations as the first head of state of independent Bangladesh. This is a great moment for Bangladesh. It was not easy for Bangladesh to become a member of the United Nations. China, one of the five permanent members of the United Nations, has had strong objections to Bangladesh since the liberation war^[41]. On August 27, 1974, the Daily Ittefaq published a report titled 'World shocked by China's role'. The beginning of the news was—

"Information Minister Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury today expressed his anger over China's role in the question of inclusion of Bangladesh in the United Nations. "The world is shocked by China's veto."

Analyzing the news, it is seen that China could not accept that Bangladesh is a reality. In this regard, prominent personalities and politicians of Bangladesh expressed anger and sorrow in different parts of the news.

Photo: 1; Text analysis of news about the UN and International Organizations



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 27 August 1974)

Due to the anti-liberation forces, it became a challenge for Bangabandhu to get recognition and membership in the United Nations. However, due to Bangabandhu's successful foreign policy in just three years, Bangladesh succeeded in overcoming that challenge. On September 18, 1974, Bangladesh became the 136th member state of the United Nations^[42].

Photo: 2; Text analysis of news about the UN and International Organizations



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 18 September 1974)

On September 18, 1974, the news was published under the headline 'Bangladesh joins the United Nations today'. The news was about Bangladesh's membership in the United Nations and the 29th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York lasting three months.

Photo: 3; Text analysis of news about the UN and International Organizations



(Source: Daily Ittefaq, 17 October 1974)

On October 17, 1974, the Daily Ittefaq published the news under the headline 'Bangladesh as a permanent observer at the United Nations'. It is evident from the headline of the news that where Bangladesh's inclusion in the United Nations was questionable, Bangabandhu's political and diplomatic wisdom not only included Bangladesh in the United Nations but also played an unquestionable role in getting Bangladesh the status of permanent observer in the United Nations. UN Secretary-General Kurt Wald Heim said Bangladesh has been appointed as the seventh

permanent observer state of the United Nations. Besides, how a country can become a permanent observer country of the United Nations is known by analyzing the news.

From January 1972 to August 1975, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman got the time to run the country for only three and a half years. In this short time, he made the identity of Bangladesh known in the world. During this period, Bangladesh became a member of 27 international organizations^[43]. On 20 April 1972, an editorial was published in the Daily Ittefaq titled 'Membership of the Commonwealth'. Analyzing and reviewing the editorial, it is seen that when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the president of the first and provisional government of Bangladesh, went to London on his way back to Dhaka after being released from the prison of the Pakistani military junta, there is evidence that he formally applied for Bangladesh's membership in the Commonwealth. Besides, all the members of the Commonwealth have agreed to the question of inclusion of Bangladesh and the attitude of Pakistan and its allies against Bangladesh's membership has been reflected in the editorial.

On April 18, 1972, Bangladesh became the 34th member of the Commonwealth, an organization of independent and sovereign states under the British Empire. Besides, Bangladesh became the first member among international organizations to become a member of the Commonwealth^[44]. According to the neorealism of international relations theory, international organizations consider international organizations in interpreting the structure, influence, and, of course, behaviour of state member states. It also shapes all foreign policy in the international arena. For example, the United Nations or international organizations act as law enforcers, protectors and guardians for various issues starting from the onset of any conflict between its member states.

Whenever Bangabandhu got a chance to speak at the world assembly, the United Nations and other international organizations, he would highlight the oppressed Bengalis, Bangladesh and the deprived people of the world. Besides, he always called for equality with world peace, always saying, "Peace is very important for the existence of mankind and it will reflect the deep aspirations of men and women of the whole world." And only peace based on justice can last^[41].

From the appropriate analysis, it can be seen that Bangabandhu was a symbol of hope and an island voice of the deprived people of Bangladesh and the world in the United Nations and international organizations. Bangabandhu had taken far-reaching plans for the reconstruction and overall development of Bangladesh after the war. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had taken all possible steps to build a time-befitting modern state based on the spirit of the Liberation War to materialize the cherished dream of the Bengalis for thousands of years to run a country properly.

From all the analysis and discussion this present study found that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's leadership was central to the liberation war and independence movement of Bangladesh. Millions of people were inspired by his vision, charm, and unwavering pursuit of independence, which mobilized the world community to support Bangladesh and its people. His role can be highlighted in several points:

1. Diplomatic Advocacy

- **Global Tours and Diplomacy:** Post-independence, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started on significant diplomatic missions to gain international support and recognition for Bangladesh. His visits to countries like India, the Soviet Union, and various European nations were vital in securing early recognition.
- **Speech at the UN General Assembly:** In September 1974, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's speech at the United Nations General Assembly, delivered in Bengali, was a historic and significant moment. It was a strong declaration of Bangladesh's identity, sovereignty and supremacy on an international stage.

2. Humanitarian Appeal

- **Highlighting Genocide and Atrocities:** Bangabandhu effectively communicated the terrible crimes committed by the Pakistani military during the Liberation War. This humanitarian appeal resonated globally, winning sympathy and help for the newly independent nation.
- **Securing Aid and Development Support:** His capacity to clearly state Bangladesh's demands contributed to the country's successful acquisition of major development and foreign aid, which was vital for the war-torn nation.

3. Recognition by the United Nations

The UN recognition of Bangladesh was a crucial milestone. The process involved overcoming several diplomatic roadblocks and the strategic lobbying initiatives by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his government. Bangabandhu had to confront the obstacles posed by the Security Council.

- **Vetoes and Geopolitical Tensions:** Early attempts to join the UN were hindered by China's vetoes and other geopolitical challenges. The leaders of Bangladesh showed their dedication and excellent diplomacy at this particular moment.
- **1974 Membership:** Despite these challenges, Bangladesh was ultimately approved by the United Nations on September 17, 1974. This recognition was evidence of the rigorous diplomatic negotiations and persuasive argument by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his government.

4. UN Specialized Agencies Engagement

Under the direction of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's engagement with several UN specialized organizations, including UNESCO, WHO, and UNICEF, proved the nation's adherence to international standards and regulations. Worldwide support in fields like child welfare, education, and health was also made possible by this collaboration.

5. Commonwealth of Nations and its Membership

Among the earliest notable acknowledgements was Bangladesh's admittance to the Commonwealth of Nations in 1972. This accomplishment was made possible in large part by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's diplomacy and the approval of important Commonwealth countries.

6. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) its Membership

Joining the Non-Aligned Movement in 1973 was another strategic and calculated step. It aligned Bangladesh with a group of nations advocating for sovereignty and economic development, free from the influence of major powerful groups. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's leadership ensured that Bangladesh's opinion had an impact on this significant international platform.

7. World Bank and IMF Membership:

Bangladesh's membership in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) allowed important economic support and integration into the global economy. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's leadership effectively navigated the requirements and negotiations for these memberships.

5. Conclusion

Bangladesh's architect Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman always dreamt of building a Sonar Bangla and sacrificed his happiness throughout his life to materialize it. He has given his life forever to the victims of exploitation and deprivation. Every Bengali should know every step, activity and role after the independence of such a great man born once in a thousand years. With this intention, an objective attempt has been made to carry out the research work titled 'Role of Bangabandhu in the Development of Post-Independence International Relations: A Study on Selected Dhaka Dailies'. The main objective of the present research is to analyze how Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations after independence has been reflected in the newspapers. In addition, the present study has been carried out with several other special objectives.

Bangabandhu and Bangladesh have been portrayed as the background of the present research, where Bangabandhu's history means the history of Bangladesh, this issue can be deeply understood, and the relations of different countries and organizations with Bangladesh in the post-independence period have been briefly highlighted, where it is seen that Bangabandhu and his government have created a golden history of success in improving relations with different countries and organizations in a very short time after independence.

By reviewing the previous literature relevant to the research, the foundation of various logical concepts of current research has been strengthened. Which is expected to give the current research uniqueness. After reviewing the previous lessons, it can be said that although there is research, books, articles, poems and novels on Bangabandhu's political activities and economic, social, cultural and personal life, etc., there is no research on how Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations after independence has been reflected in the newspapers.

At present, Bangladesh's strong position in the international arena is a far-reaching result of Bangabandhu's farsighted policy and leadership in the development of international relations after independence. There is a possibility of confusion and preservation of information about Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations as no previous research has been done in this regard. It is hoped that the current research work will serve as a guide for this related research in the future to deal with this crisis and confusion. The results of this research will play an important role in understanding Bangladesh's international relations and Bangabandhu's

contributions. Since the research work has been done by the scientific method; Therefore, it appears that logical results have been presented through the present research work.

6. Limitations and Future Direction of the Study

In the present study, an attempt has been made to understand Bangabandhu's role in the development of international relations through content analysis of Daily Ittefaq, which is a limitation of current research. Content analysis alone is insufficient to understand Bangabandhu's role in developing international relations in Bangladesh after the Liberation War. Therefore, interviews of Bangabandhu's contemporary politicians and international relations analysts can be included to understand Bangabandhu's role more deeply in this context in the future. Only the Daily Ittefaq has been taken as the mass media here, but it can be analysed by analysing the content of its contemporary national and international media.

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