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Zulfikar Bhutto to be remembered as architect of democracy

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The first democratically elected Prime Minister of **Pakistan** Shaheed Zulfikar Ali **Bhutto** will be remembered forever for his contribution to democratic norms, giving nation a unanimous **1973** constitution and providing respect and honour to the common man. The nation will celebrate 84th birth anniversary of founder Chairman of **Pakistan** Peoples Party and former Prime Minister on January 5, with a renewed pledge to work for solidarity and strengthening democratic institutions. **Bhutto** was born on January 5, 1928.

Zulfikar Ali **Bhutto** laid the foundation-stone of democratic process in the county with the formation of **Pakistan** Peoples Party on November 30, 1967.

Besides giving the nation a consensus Constitution, passed unanimously by the National Assembly on April 12, **1973,** it was the credit of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali **Bhutto** to make the defence of the country invincible through initiating nuclear programme.

Shaheed Zulfikar Ali **Bhutto** will also be remembered for his struggle for the rights of poor masses as he gave the conscious to the common man to raise voice for his rights including the right to vote. Zulfikar Ali **Bhutto** was the only son of Sir Shah Nawaz **Bhutto**. He completed his early education from Bombay's Cathedral High School and in 1947, he joined the University of Southern California, and later the University of California at Berkeley in June 1949.

After completing his degree with honours in Political Science at Berkeley in June 1950, he got admission in Oxford University. **Bhutto** married to Nusrat Isphahani on September 8, 1951 and his first child, was former Prime Minister of **Pakistan** Benazir **Bhutto**, the first women prime minister of the Muslim World.

Zulfikar Ali **Bhutto** launched **Pakistan** Peoples Party and in the general **elections** held in December 1970, the party won with vast majority in West **Pakistan**. Following the 1971 war and the separation of East **Pakistan**, Yahya Khan resigned and **Bhutto** took over as President on December 20, 1971. He took many practical measures to revive the honour, dignity and respect of common man in the country.

After the National Assembly passed the **1973** Constitution, **Bhutto** was sworn-in as the Prime Minister on August 14, **1973** Besides starting major development projects, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali **Bhutto** made sincere efforts to host second Islamic Summit in Lahore on February 22, 1974.

General **elections** were held on March 7, 1977. The PPP emerged as the victorious but at the behest of General Ziaul Haq, **Pakistan** National Alliance, a political alliance of rightist forces accused government of so-called rigging in the **elections.**

Negotiations with PNA resumed and an Agreement was reached on June 8, 1977 for holding fresh **elections** on October 8, 1977. But on July 5, 1977 Chief of Army Staff General Ziaul Haq imposed Martial Law, dissolved the National Assembly, the Senate and provincial assemblies and held Constitution in abeyance.

Following a political crisis created by some elements for their vested interest, Zulfikar **Bhutto** was imprisoned by General Zia-ul-Haq. On April 04, 1979, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali **Bhutto** was hanged, after the Supreme Court upheld the death sentence passed by the Lahore High Court.

Besides taking reforms in different fields, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali **Bhutto** had many achievements to his credit including lifting of Martial Law on April 21, 1972, inauguration of **Pakistan's** first Nuclear Power Plant at Karachi on November 28, 1972, establishment of Port Qasim Authority on June 27, **1973,** starting of identity Cards for Citizens on July 28, **1973,** agreement for repatriation of 93,000 prisoners of war from India on August 28, **1973,** foundation Stone laying of **Pakistan** Steel Mill on December 30, **1973,** establishment of Allama Iqbal Open University on May 21, 1974 and holding **Pakistan's** first Seerat Conference on March 03, 1976.

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