

EXAMINING THE PARTY LEADERSHIP DYNAMICS OF AWAMI LEAGUE IN THE POLITICS

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Abstract

The Awami League has been a driving force in Bangladesh's political landscape since its inception in 1949. As the country's leading and ruling party, it has played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's history, from the pre-independence era to the present day. Under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, daughter of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the party continues to advocate for secularism, democracy, nationalism, and socialism. This research chronicles the Awami League's journey, from its early days to its significant role in the 1971 liberation war. The study delves into the party's manifesto, its influence on the electoral process, and its economic policies, which prioritize development, poverty reduction, and infrastructure growth. As one of the most influential political parties in Bangladesh, the Awami League has a rich history of leadership and governance. However, its dominance is challenged by a strong and powerful opposition, which faces its own set of challenges. This study aims to analyze the Awami League's history, evolution, decline, development, and progress in the current political scenario, providing valuable insights into the party's enduring legacy and its continued impact on Bangladesh's political landscape.

Keywords: *Language issue, Mujib six points, Formation of Bangladesh, Liberation, Reconstruction.*

INTRODUCTION

The wounds of the partition of Indian sub –continent just two years back were still fresh. After the creation of Pakistan, it becomes immediately apparent that the discriminatory politics of the dominant west Pakistan could not live up to the aspiration of the majority Bengali people living in the East Pakistan. The Awami Muslim League was established on June 23, 1949, at a meeting in Dhaka's K M Das Lane, presided over by Aatur Rahman Khan and Husain Shaheed Suhailwardy. During the conference, Shamsul Haque was chosen as the Party's general secretary and Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bashani as its president. Following that, there is a language dispute between East and West Pakistan. On 26 January 1952 Governor General Khwaja Nazimuddin announced Urdu as the national language. And the Bengali people want Bengali as the national language. Through the 1950 and 1960 the need to balance, conciliate or suppress the Bengali of East Pakistan exerted a

malign influence on the Pakistan development. The First protest in the east was in defense of the Bengali language, and in the opposition to the extension of Urdu as the state language. From there opposition turned into demand for greater autonomy, and Bashani was elected as the president and Mujib Ur Rahman as the general secretary .On finally into the program of Defacto separation. And the procession was started for the demand of Bengali language.

14 November the United front (Jukto front) was established and the historic 21 points was adopted. In 1955 the word 'Muslim 'was removed from the name of East Pakistan Awami League to make the party more inclusive and secular. On 18 March 1957 Maulana Bashani resigned from the party and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman lead the party .Than in 1958 Martial Law was implemented in the country, And General Ayub Khan become the CMLA .Ayub then tried to prevent Bengali domination by abolishing the provinces of west Pakistan and lumping them together in one unit' alongside the other 'unit' of east Pakistan. This is turned greatly increased local discontent in the West Pakistan. Ayub Khan detained numerous political figures, including Mujibur Rahman, and outlawed all political parties. After Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was released on December 7, 1959, he began to plot with his workers to create an independent nation.

Then Ayub khan presented the 'Basic Democracy' and politicians rejected it. Awami League and other parties formed the National Democratic Front (NDF). During the year of protest against Ayub Khan ,On 5 February 1966 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman presented the Historic 6 –points .Mujib 'six points ' agenda was a return to the original plate foam of Muslim League in British India ,demanding maximum autonomy for East Pakistan and reducing Pakistan to a loose confederation. six points of the formula were: a form of federal government, a parliamentary The system directly elected via one-person-one-vote, two separate reserve banks and currencies for the two wings of Pakistan, Other than defense and foreign policy all issues will be dealt by the federal provinces, a paramilitary force for East Pakistan, fiscal affairs, much as taxation and resources allocation, will be state responsibility, and, monetary and trade policies, such as foreign reserve maintenance and establishing trade links, will be handled separately by the two wings. On18 January 1968 Mujibur Rahman was arrested in a conspiracy case and this came to be known as the famous 'Agartala Conspiracy case'.

On 8 January 1969 to restore democracy Awami League and seven other parties formed the 'Democratic Action Committee (DAC).And after that the Student Movement Council start protest in the country and Mujib was set free. On 23rd February was bestowed with the 'Bangabandhu' title by the students in the presence of hundred and thousands of people at Race Course Field, Dhaka. On 25 March Ayub Khan Regime fell and General Yahya khan took charge and imposed martial law in the country. General Yahya khan announces the first general elections in the history of Pakistan. The general election held on 7 DECEMBER 1970 was the first ever throughout Pakistan held on the basis of 'one man, one vote and resulted in an overwhelming victory of Mujib Awami League in the East Pakistan and a large majority for Bhutto Pakistan People's Party in West Pakistan.

In the December 1970 election Awami League won 160 out of 162 seats in East Pakistan and Pakistan People's Party won 81 seats out of 138 in the west Pakistan.Mujeeb therefore demand to foam the national government, with

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confederation the inevitable results. This was acceptable neither to Yahya Khan, nor to the Punjabi elites, nor to Bhutto, who demand an equal share in the government on the basis of his Party majority in the West Pakistan. Awami League clean sweep the elections. Mujib thanked the people, his party, his party workers, students, laborers' and other admirers who went to see him. The poll results were a clear verdict in favor of its party program as he pointed out. In the provincial Elections Awami League also get majority. After that Yahya Khan handed the power to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the National Assembly session was also postponed. The announcement of postponement of the National Assembly session was received in East Pakistan with fierce resentment.

The conclusion formed in East Pakistan were (a)the army was determined to frustrate all effective moves towards a democratic transfer of power, and (b)there was collusion between Yahya and Bhutto. After that Awami League start protest in the country. And Political unrest starts in the country. A series of moves and counter moves took place in the following months, accompanied by increasingly violent mass protest and clashes with the military in East Pakistan. Then at the mid night at the end of 25 March, the military launched a savage campaign of repression in East Pakistan (operation Searchlight).And the war was started between the army and the East Pakistan. The Indian droops enter the East Pakistan. This was the first confirmation that Indian soldiers had operated inside East Pakistan in the current crises. By the first week of December India formally recognized the newly independent state of Bangladesh and on 16 December 1971 Formation of Bangladesh take place. After that the new journey of Awami League started in an independent state of Bangladesh.

Awami League become the leading party of Bangladesh after its independence on 12 January, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took oath as the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh. And his dream was to make Bangladesh more prosperous and to build a Golden Bangla (Sonar).Awami League faced a lot of challenges to reconstructing the war-ravaged country. Awami League work for the reconstruction of communication system. Rehabilitation of Refugees, stable the economy etc. After that Awami League announced the general elections in 1973 and won 293 seats out of 300. In On 15 August 1975 the founding father of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with their family members except their two daughters. The killers just not stop there. In November 1975 the four prominent leaders were also killed. From 1977 onwards the party was led by Syeda Zohra Tajudin, the wife of slain Tajuddin Ahmed.

After that a military rule starts in the country. In 1980 Sheikh Hasina daughter of Mujibur Rahman lead the party and work for restoration of democracy and fighting for human rights. On February 1991 first general elections were held after the fall of military regime. In the elections Awami League was defeated by the Bangladesh Nationalistic Party. Than in 1996 again the general elections were conducted and on 12 June 1996 Awami League won majority in the elections and become the ruling party under the leadership of sheikh Hasina. In 2001 General Elections Awami League once again becomes the opposition party and Bangladesh Nationalistic Party becomes the ruling party. After that in 2008 general elections Awami League once again become the ruling party. On 29 December 2008 Awami led Grand Alliance won a landslide victory in the national elections by securing 264 out of 300 seats. Now Awami League work on different projects maintaining 6.4 %

average economic growth, poverty reduction focus on education .Healthcare, empowering women and work on energy sector also. The 10th Parliamentary election in Bangladesh held on 5 January 2014 produced a parliament with no opposition party The election, boycotted by the main opposition party the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), delivered a two-thirds majority to the incumbent Awami League. And Awami League once again becomes the leading party of Bangladesh. Than in 2018 the 11TH Parliamentary elections are conducted. Sheikh Hasina has won a third term in an election the opposition candidate dismissed as “farcical.” Hasina said the victory was “nothing for her personal gain, rather it is a great responsibility toward the country and people.

In the current scenario in Bangladesh Awami League lead the country under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina by winning the elections in the third time. Now the questions arises what happen in the 12th parliamentary elections which are conducted in 2024. Awami League played a significant role in the Political evolution of Bangladesh. The study examines the political history of Bangladesh, its evolution, struggle in making an independent state of Bangladesh. How Awami League played its role to stabilize the country after separated from West Pakistan and focus on economy, poverty reduction, employment and infrastructure development. The study also examines that leading and prominent political party of Bangladesh till now. In general elections Awami League present its different manifestos to influence the people and that’s why Awami league won majority general elections in Bangladesh. From 2014 to 2018 Awami League is the only leading and prominent party and rule in Bangladesh.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Khan Hamid, (2001) *Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan*, Karachi : Oxford University Press. After the independence of Pakistan clashes and conflicts are started between the east and West Pakistan. In East Pakistan Bengalis are in Majority. At that time Governor General Khwaja Nazimuddin declared ‘Urdu’ as a national language but the Bengali demands Bangla also should be the national language because they were in majority than the language issue is started .The book study also elaborate the Mujib six points in detail and their demand for provincial autonomy. The general elections of 1970 are also very important in this context because 1970 elections are the first general elections in the history of Pakistan and Awami League won the elections with majority and after the election conflict started between east and West Pakistan which resulted the separation of East Pakistan and it becomes the new independent state of Bangladesh. The study also examines that after the formation of Bangladesh which challenges are faced by Awami League.

Lieven Anatol, (2012) *Pakistan A Hard Country*, New York: Penguin Books Published. The study examines the genesis of Pakistan in very broad way .It tells the history of independence and after that the political condition of East Pakistan and West Pakistan. The period of Ayub Khan when he banned all the political parties and the formation of Bangladesh that how Pakistani military Launched the Operation Searchlight.

To examine and study the ‘History of Bangladesh from 1949 -2016’.It elaborate the formation of Bangladesh that it is formed in 1949. In the beginning it was Awami Muslim League but Later on in 1955 the Muslim removed from its name to make it more secular .In the beginning Maulana Bashani was its president but later

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on he resigned and its was led by the Sheikh Mujibur Rahman .After the formation of Bangladesh Awami League become the leading and prominent party in Bangladesh. Mujib become the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh.1973 Mujibur Rahman announced the first general elections in the Bangladesh and Awami League won the elections with majority ,but in 1975 the Father of Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated and the military rule start in the country. After that in 1991 military regime fell and general elections are conducted and Bangladesh Nationalistic Party become the leading party and Awami League is in opposition.

The study also examine that in 1996 again the general elections are conducted and Awami League become the majority party and work for the development and progress of the country.

In 2001 general elections again Bangladesh Nationalistic Party is in majority and Awami League was defeated. In 2008 parliamentary elections are conducted and Awami League won the majority vote and become leading and prominent party of Bangladesh under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina Daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In 2014 10th parliamentary elections are conducted and Awami League once again become the leading and ruling party and work on economy, poverty reduction ,employment and infrastructure development of the country.

Rizwan and Butt (2018) *Glimse of Electoral History in Pakistan 1970-2018*. AL Zouq Publisher, n.d examines the first ever general elections conducted in the history of Pakistan. General Ayub Khan handed power to General Yahya Khan. Yahya Khan announced the First general elections on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage. Many Political Parties are participated in the elections .But the results shows the victory of Awami League in east Pakistan and Pakistan People's Party in the West Pakistan. The old Traditional Parties badly rooted in the elections. Awami League Become the major party and focus on Mujib six point's agenda and provincial Autonomy.

The reading 'Bangladesh Parliamentary Elections Jatiya Sangsad 1996' the reading examine the elections of 1996 in Bangladesh. In these elections Awami League won by majority vote by securing 146 seats and become the ruling party in the country .The Bangladesh Nationalistic Party securing 116 seats and the Jatiya Dal secure 32 seats.

By Academia education the Article' Comparative Analysis of Different Elections Manifesto of Bangladesh 'The reading examines the Manifesto of Awami League. Manifesto is the expression of the Political will of the party .Parties can change their Manifestos according to the changing conditions of Political System. In the beginning Awami League Focus on Mujib six points Agenda and Provincial Autonomy, later on its founding principles are also included in it the democracy, nationalism, socialism and secularism. Later on Awami League Focused on economic development, poverty reduction, education, healthcare, energy sector, climate change, empowerment, infrastructure development and commerce and trade also.

The New York Times 'Article 'Bangladesh Prime Minister Wins third Time Amid Deadly' The reading examine that in 11TH Parliamentary elections in Bangladesh Awami League won the elections by third consecutive term. And the opposition rejected the election result. Sheikh Hasina promised to improve the economy and promoting development. The Awami League won 287 out of 298 seats win by a greater majority. Opposition claimed it the rigged elections but the Awami

League declared it free and fair

MANIFESTO OF AWAMI LEAGUE

Manifesto is the expression of the political will of the party. Political Parties express future actions, plans; strategy and policy. The study of Parties Manifesto and their organizational structure seemed important to know how they targeted the voters for mobilizing them in electoral activity and in this way insured their participation in the electoral process. Manifesto of the party designate them liberal, conservative and moderate and depict the country socio political environment. Manifesto of party was changed with the changing circumstances. Awami League in 1970 Focused on Mujib 6 points Agenda and provincial autonomy. After that Awami league focused on its four founding principles democracy, nationalism, socialism and secularism. In 1991 Awami League Manifesto focused on mixed economy an elected government accountable to the people and the secular vision. In 1996 Awami League focused on economy, agriculture development, focused on national industries and employment, increase of production and export, assistance to small cooperative. In 2001 Awami league focused on economic development, poverty reduction, education, and healthcare and infrastructure development. In 2008 election manifesto of Awami league it focused on poverty reduction and charter for change. Focus on Agriculture, development, employment, energy sector, village development and urban facilities, environmental and water resources, commerce and trade etc. In 2014 Awami League focused on economic development, energy sector, infrastructure development, Good governess and women empowerment.

In 2018 general elections Awami league won third consecutive term and in these elections Awami League focused on transforming of Youth into skilled manpower and ensuring employment, adopted zero tolerance policy against corruption, women empowerment ,gender parity and child welfare, speedy and proper implementation of mega projects, consolidating democracy and rule of law, elimination of poverty, upgrade the level of education, increasing investment in public and private sector, notes that the 12th parliamentary elections were going to be held in Bangladesh in 2024 and Awami ensuring power and energy sector, Blue economy development of marine resources.it is League try their best to win the elections once again. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling Bangladesh Awami League (AL) party Wednesday announced its polls manifesto for the 2024 national election, vowing to build a developed, prosperous and smart Bangladesh by 2041.

FLAG, SYMBOLS AND SLOGANS OF AWAMI LEAGUE

The flag of Awami League has a green field which is prominent color in Bangladesh flag. In the centre of the flag there is usually a red circle. The four stars in the flag represent the four founding principles democracy, nationalism, socialism and secularism.

The symbol of Awami League is 'Boat'. The Boat also traced back to struggle and independence of Bangladesh. It represents the leadership and guidance. It has also connection to heritage. And it is also the symbol of progress and development.

The salutation "Joy Bangla" is the official slogan of the Awami League. It was the slogan and war cry of the Mukti Bahini that fought for the independence of Bangladesh during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. Currently Awami League has a slogan of charter for change. In upcoming general elections Awami League slogans is Smart Bangladesh.

PARTY LEADERSHIP OF AWAMI LEAGUE

On June 23, 1949, a group of brave individuals, including Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bashani, Yar Mohammad, Shamsul Haque, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, were born. Their names are still ingrained in Bengali culture to this day. At the center, Suhrawardy took on a prominent role. Either the ruling party or a potent opposition in the person of individuals such as Aatur Rahman Khan was to hold sway in the province that was then East Bengal and is now East Pakistan. Nevertheless, it would encounter a significant ideological dilemma. The National Awami Party (NAP) chief was Moulana Bashani's new role when he left the organization in a fit of wrath. During the decade of Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan, from October 1958 to March 1969, there were numerous transgressions against the Awami League. It would only reappear in 1962 as a member of an alliance of opposition political parties after being outlawed during the martial law era. Suhrawardy fled the nation after being placed under custody and later released, dying in Beirut in 1963. It was earlier in the journey that the party's prominent figure, Shamsul Haq, metaphorically vanished. He will die dejected and hopeless. It was evident that a group of youthful leaders led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who were radical in nature, were starting to gain control inside the party. Mujib ended his involvement in the opposition front and revitalized the Awami League at the beginning of 1964.

Mujib introduced the six-point formula in 1966 as a means of requesting regional autonomy. By May 1966, Mujib and his youthful friends were again behind bars. That did not stop two of the party's young leaders, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Amena Begum, from planning a historic nationwide walkout on June 7, 1966, in support of the Six Points across East Pakistan. Under Mujibur Rahman's charismatic leadership; the Awami League scored a resounding win in the 1970 election.

After a year, Mujibur Rahman became Bangladesh's first prime minister and East Pakistan changed its name to Bangladesh. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Tajuddin Ahmad's leader, showed him the door less than three years after he had organized and led the freedom movement on the battlefield. It was a precursor to the calamity that was to befall the gathering. Mujibur Rahman and their relatives were slain in 1975. It was back to struggle in the dark months of August 1975 to May 1981. Mizan Chowdhury and Dewan Farid Gazi held their factions together. And then it was Zohra Tajuddin who bravely fought on, until Sheikh Hasina took charge in 1981. She took the party back to power twenty one years after 1975. And Hasina has been there since, as the longest surviving leader of the party.

PARTICIPATE IN ELECTORAL PROCESS

The first general elections are held in 1970 in the history of Pakistan on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage.

Election of 1970

The elections were originally scheduled for October 1970, but the devastating cyclone in East Pakistan upset the plans. After that new date of elections is announced by government of Pakistan. Now the elections are held on 7 and 17 December 1970. During the election campaign, it became obvious that "national" parties had little grass-root support, while parties with mass support tended to be regional. On one hand, there were "Rightists" like Pakistan Muslim League and it's all three factions, Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP), Jamiat Ulema-i Islam (JUI),

Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP) and Jamaat-i-Islami Pakistan (JIP) who were gradually losing popular support and on the other, there were “Leftists” including National Awami Party (NAP) of Abdul Wali Khan and Sindh United Front (SUF) under G. M. Syed.

Elections Results

The elections of 1970 resulted in an overwhelming victory for Sheikh Mujib Awami League in East Pakistan. The Awami League won an absolute majority in the National Assembly by securing 160 out of 300 seats.

Table 1

Party	Punjab	Sindh	NWFP	Baluchistan	EastPakistan	Total
AL	-----	-----	-----	-----	160	60
PPP	62	18	1	-----	-----	81
PML(Q)	1	1	7	-----	-----	9
CML	7	-----	-----	-----	-----	7
JUI(H)	-----	-----	6	1	-----	7
MJU	4	3	-----	-----	-----	7
NAP(w)	-----	-----	3	3	-----	6
JIP	1	2	1	-----	-----	4
PML (C)	2	-----	-----	-----	-----	2
PDP	-----	-----	-----	-----	1	1
Independence	5	3	7	-----	1	6
Total	82	27	25	4	162	300

Source: Pakistan Observer, January 20, 1971

In the provincial elections Awami League also clean sweeps the elections. Elections to the provincial assemblies were held on 17 December 1970. As expected, Mujib Awami League swept the polls in East Pakistan. It bagged 266 of the 279 contested seats. Elections to the 21 remaining seats were scheduled for 17 January 1971 due to the cyclone.

AWAMI LEAGUE IN ELECTION OF 1973

In 1971 East Pakistan becomes an independent state of Bangladesh. Awami League was the leading party under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Mujib announced general elections in 1973. General elections were held in newly independent Bangladesh on 7 March 1973. The result was a victory for the Bangladesh Awami League, who won 293 of the 300 seats, including eleven constituencies where they were elected unopposed without a vote.

Table: 2

Party	Percentage	Votes
Awami League	73.20	293
National Awami Party	8.32	0
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal	6.52	1
National Awami Party Bashani	5.32	0
Bangladesh Jatiya League	0.33	1
Bangla Jatiya League	0.28	0
Communist Party of Bangladesh	0.25	0

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<i>Bangladesh Jatiya Congress</i>	0.20	0
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Source: Nohlen et al., Government of Bangladesh.

AWAMI LEAGUE IN ELECTION OF 1991

The relatively peaceful campaign occasionally became intensely personal between the two main contenders. The Awami League called for a mixed economy, an elected government accountable to the people and a secular orientation, while the BNP advocated a more Islamic outlook, a presidential system and a free-market economy. Altogether there were some 2,800 candidates from nearly 80 parties.

On polling day, the centre-right BNP won 141 of the 300 general seats but the Awami League fared worse than expected with approximately 30% of the seats, nevertheless comfortably ahead of the previously ruling Jatiya (National) Party. International poll observers deemed the voting process generally free and fair. Analysts attributed Begum Khaleda’s victory largely to her uncompromising battle against military rule. On 20 March, she was sworn in as the first woman Prime Minister of Bangladesh, heading a BNP Council of Ministers and thereupon announcing that the primary task of her civilian Government would be the management and restoration of the ailing national economy. Itself short of a parliamentary majority, the BNP obtained pledges of support from smaller parties, including the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami. It thus, moreover, obtained 28 of the 30 indirectly-elected woman’s seats.

Table: 3

<i>Political Parties</i>	<i>total</i>
<i>Bangladesh National Party (BNP)</i>	69
<i>Awami League</i>	2
<i>Jatiya Party</i>	5
<i>Jamat-e-Islami</i>	8
<i>Bangladesh Communist Party</i>	5
<i>Others</i>	
<i>Independents</i>	2

Source.27, February 1991 Elections results

AWAMI LEAGUE IN ELECTION OF 1996

General elections were held in Bangladesh on 12 June 1996. The result was a victory for the Bangladesh Awami League, which won 146 of the 300 seats, beginning Sheikh Hasina's first-term as Prime Minister.

As a result of these events, the run-up to the elections stood in sharp contrast to the preceding ones. Nearly 3000 candidates and all major parties were in contention. While the campaign saw sporadic violence, polling day itself was relatively peaceful and marked by a record turnout. Final results gave the centrist

Awami League a total of 146 seats - 30 more than the BNP but just five short of absolute majority. Third place went to the centre-right Jatiya (National) Party (JP) of former military President Hussein Mohammed Ershad, himself elected although jailed. The fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, however, stumbled badly in retaining only three of its seats. While there were some allegations of irregularities, foreign observers from 14 countries deemed the election well-run and generally free and fair.

Table: 4.

Political Group	Total
Awami League	46
Bangladesh National Party (BNP)	16
Jatiya Dal	2
Jamaat-e-Islami	3
Others	

excluding the 30 seats reserved for women; 27 of these seats are held by Awami League

Source: Statistics 12 June 1996 Elections results.

AWAMI LEAGUE IN THE ELECTION OF 2001

Ms Hasina's government, that was dissolved on 15 July 2001 to pave the way for the parliamentary elections, was the first in the country's history to complete its full term in office, first as a minority government supported by smaller parties and then as a majority one, thanks to by-elections and the appointment of her supporters to 27 of the 30 reserved seats for women. During the full term of the Awami League government, Ms. Khaleda Zia's BNP boycotted Parliament for long periods and organized general strikes and street demonstrations against the government. The results of the parliamentary elections showed that the BNP, which had formed an alliance with three other (Islamic) parties, had won 193 of 300 seats, while the outgoing Awami League had won 62, the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh 18, and the National Party (Ershad) 14. Turnout was near 75%.

The international and national monitors declared the polling free and fair even though the Awami League alleged massive vote rigging by the BNP. The accusation was denied by the Chief Election Commissioner, who declared the charges "baseless". International observers, from the European Union, the United Nations and the Carter Center of former US President Jimmy Carter, also praised the heavy voter turnout.

Table: 5

Political Group	Total
Bangladesh National Party	193

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(BNP)		
<i>Awami League</i>	62	
<i>Jamaat-e-Islami</i>	17	
<i>Jatiya Party</i>	14	
<i>Others</i>	8	
<i>Independents</i>	6	

Source: Bangladesh Parliamentary elections 1 October 2001.

AWAMI LEAGUE IN ELECTION OF 2008

The outcome of the 9th Parliamentary elections was a landslide victory for the Awami League which won 230 seats to the BNP 29 seats in the 300 seats Assembly. Eighteen women including the two party leaders entered parliament through this route. An additional 45 women entered parliament through party nominations after the election, in accordance with the Constitution. The final won 230 seats to the BNP's 29 seats in the 300 seat assembly. Eighteen women including the two party leaders entered parliament through this route. An additional 45 women entered parliament results gave 263 seats to the AL-led alliance of which 230 went to the AL. The BNP took 30 seats and its allies three (see note 2). The remainder went to independent candidates. Nineteen women were elected

Table: 5

<i>Results</i>		
<i>Political Group</i>	Total	
<i>Bangladesh Awami League (AL)</i>	230	
<i>Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)</i>	30	
<i>Jatiya Party (National Party) (Naziur)</i>	27	
<i>Independents</i>	4	
<i>Jatiya Samajtantric Dal-Jasad</i>		
<i>Bangladesh Jamaytee Islami (Bangladesh Islamic Block)</i>	2	
<i>Bangladesh Workers Party</i>	2	
<i>Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP)</i>	1	
<i>Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)</i>	1	

Source: Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad elections 2008.

AWAMI LEAGUE IN THE ELECTION OF 2014

The Bangladesh Awami League (AL) and its allies, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, took a total of 245 seats of the 300 seats at stake. The elections were boycotted by an 18-party opposition alliance, led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Due to the boycott, a total of 153 seats were decided uncontested. The Jatiya Party led by former president Hussein Mohammad Ershad took 34 seats.

Table: 6

<i>Results</i>			
<i>Political Group</i>	Total	<i>General seats</i>	<i>Women seats</i>
<i>Bangladesh Awami League (AL)</i>	273	234	39
<i>Jatiya Party</i>	40	34	6
<i>Independents</i>	19	16	3

Bangladesh Workers Party	7	6	1
Jatiya Samajtantric Dal (JSD)	6	5	1
Jatiya Party-JP	2	2	0
Bangladesh Tarikat Federation	2	2	0
Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF)	1	1	0

Source: Parliament (30.01.2014, 03.04.2014, 17.04.2014, 01.01.2015, 26.01.2015, 01.01.2017)

AWAMI LEAGUE IN THE ELECTION OF 2018

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling party won Bangladesh's election with a large majority, the country's Election Commission said early on Monday, giving Mrs. Hasina a third straight term following a vote that the opposition rejected as flawed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has secured her third consecutive term with a landslide victory in Bangladesh's national election.

Table: 7.

Party	Seats
Awami League	302
Jatiya Party	26
Bangladesh Nationalistic Party	7
Workers party of Bangladesh	4
Nationalistic democratic movement	0
Bangladesh Congress	0
Jatiya Party	1

Source: Daily Star. Financial express, Dhaka tribune

IMPACT OF AWAMI LEAGUE ON PAKISTAN POLITICS

Awami League was established in 1949. Initially it is Awami Muslim League but later on it becomes Awami League. When Language issue was started Awami League Played a leading and prominent role for the demand of Bengali language ,later on it form the Democratic front .Sheikh Mujibur Rahman 6 Points agenda change the whole political scenario of Pakistan because it demand the Provincial Autonomy.

The elections of 1970 play a major role in this connection because in the elections Awami League in the East Pakistan clean sweeps the elections. After that East Pakistan the big part of Pakistan separated from each other and the formation of Bangladesh occur in the leadership of Awami League. After that Awami League becomes the major and leading Party in Bangladesh .From 2008 to till now Awami league won the general elections in Bangladesh under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina Daughter of Father of Nation Mujibur Rahman. The party governance has been both progress and challenges.

CONCLUSION

The Awami League has had a profound and multifaceted impact on the political landscape of Pakistan and Bangladesh. The party's significant contributions include its instrumental role in the language movement and its landslide victory in the 1970 elections, which ultimately led to the establishment of an independent Bangladesh. Since then, the Awami League has remained a dominant force in

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Bangladesh's politics, working towards the country's progress and development. However, the party's recent years in power have been marked by controversy, with critics accusing it of suppressing opposition and manipulating elections. Despite the opposition's boycott, Sheikh Hasina declared the 2014 elections free and fair, and the party has since maintained its grip on power. As Bangladesh prepares for its 12th parliamentary elections in 2024, the Awami League has launched its campaign under the slogan "Smart Bangladesh," aiming to secure another term in office. With its rich history and enduring influence, the Awami League remains the oldest, most prominent, and leading party in Bangladesh, shaping the country's political destiny.



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