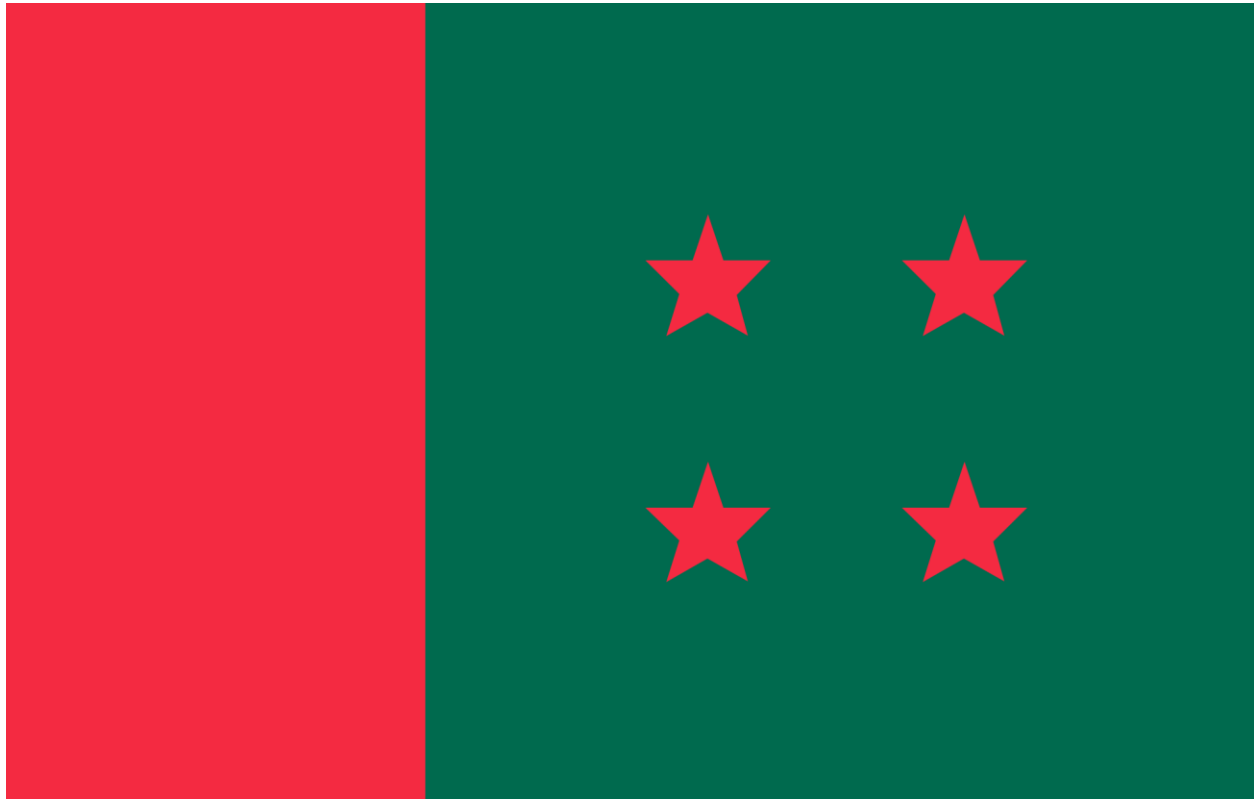


Foundation of the Awami league



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Secondly I would also like to thank my parents and friends who helped me a lot in finishing this assignment within the limited time.

Executive summary

The Awami League was founded on 23 June 1949. It was established with Maulana abdul hamid khan bhasani as president, ataur rahman khan, Sakhawat Hossain and Ali Ahmed Khan as vice-presidents, Shamsul Hoque as general secretary, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (then interned in jail), Khondakar Mostaq Ahmed and AK Rafiqul Hussain as joint secretaries, and Yar Mohammad Khan as treasurer.

Then Awami league plays an important role in Language movement and united front's 21 point, Six-point, Agartala and Mass upsurge, Liberation, Reconstruction, Fighting terror and Restoring Democracy and developed the digital Bangladesh

Introduction:

Bangladesh Awami League is the oldest and largest political party of Bangladesh. With the founding and operating principles of democracy, nationalism, socialism and secularism, the party has become synonymous with progress, prosperity, development and social justice. This publication gives a brief account of the illustrious history of the party which has become synonymous with that of the country.



Formation

It was 1949. The wounds of the partition of the Indian Sub-Continent just two years back were still fresh. After the creation of Pakistan, it became immediately apparent that the discriminatory politics of the dominant West Pakistan could not live up to the aspirations of the majority Bangali people living in East Pakistan. Disenfranchised, a progressive segment of the Muslim League decided to form their own party.

1949- A party is born:

The Awami League was founded in Rose Garden of KM Das Lane, Dhaka on 23 June 1949 at a convention of the leaders and workers known to be a faction of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League headed by huseyn shaheed suhrawardy and abul hashim. The new party was named East Pakistan Awami Muslim League. It was established with Maulana abdul hamid khan bhasani as president, ataur rahman khan, Sakhawat Hossain and Ali Ahmed Khan as vice-presidents, Shamsul Hoque as general secretary, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (then interned in jail), Khondakar Mostaq Ahmed and AK Rafiqul Hussain as joint secretaries, and Yar Mohammad Khan as treasurer. From the very inception the Awami League has been a secular and non-communal party. As a mark of its secular posture, the term 'Muslim' was deleted from the name of the party at its third council meeting held on 21-23 October 1955.



Historic Rose Garden, Dhaka

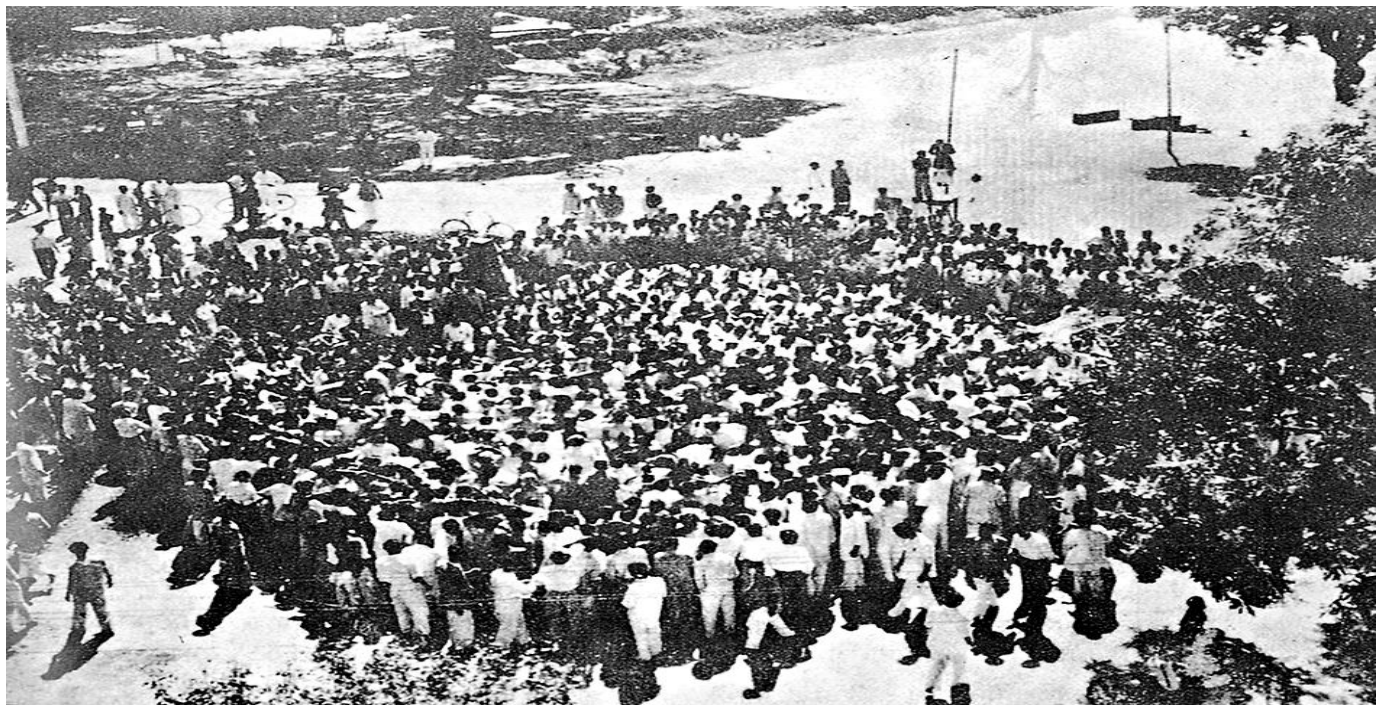
1950s -Language movement and united front's 21 point:

On 26th January, 1952 the Governor-General Khwaja Nazimuddin announced that Urdu will be the only state language. While being treated at the Dhaka Medical's prison ward, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman communicated with the party leaders and workers and gave directions for waging the language movement. On 31st January of the same year, with the erstwhile Awami League President Maulana Bhashani in chair, the 'All Party State Language Movement Committee' was formed at the library hall of Dhaka Bar to press for declaring Bangla as the state language of East Pakistan. On 21st February, the decision was taken to defy government imposed restrictions on movement. The procession demanding Bengali as the state language was indiscriminately fired upon. Rafique, Salam, Jabbar, Barkat and Ohiullah became the first martyrs of the Language Movement.

On 9th July, 1953 the first National Council of Awami League held after formation at Mymensingh elected Maulana Bhashani as the President and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the General Secretary. On 14th November, the decision was taken to form the 'United Front' (Juktofront) with Awami League in the lead. The historic draft of 21-Point was adopted

On 8th March, 1954 the Provincial Assembly elections returned an overwhelming endorsement for the 21-Point. At the council session held between 21st to 23rd October, 1955 the word 'Muslim' was removed from the name of 'East Pakistan Awami League' to make the party more inclusive and secular.

On 18th March, 1957 Maulana Bhashani resigned from Awami League. On 31st May, after relinquishing his Cabinet position, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took charge of the party's rejuvenation as the General Secretary.



Language movement at Agartala (21st February 1952)

1960s- Six-point, Agartala and Mass upsurge:

On 7th February, 1962 the military junta started arresting Awami League leaders including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On 5th February, 1966 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman raised the historic 6-Point demands at Lahore, which was the first concerted movement to press home the aspirations of the Bangalis. This included, among others, the demands for a federal system of government with parliamentary elections, autonomy for the provinces, separate currencies, separate taxation systems, separate foreign exchange accounts, and separate armed forces



From left: six point, Agartala conspiracy and mass upsurge

On 18th January, 1968 Sheikh Mujibur was indicted as Accused No. 1 in the ‘State Vs Sheikh Mujib and Others’ case. This came to be known infamously as the ‘Agartala Conspiracy’ case. On 10th January of the same year, Student Movement Council announced its 11-Point programme and movement based on Sheikh Mujib’s 6-Point. On 24th January, in response to the brutal clampdown on the students, nationwide mass upsurge began. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was set free as the regime dropped the Agartala Conspiracy Case. On 23rd February, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was bestowed with the ‘Bangabandhu’ title by students in the presence of hundreds of thousands of people at Race Course Field, Dhaka. On 25th March, Ayub Khan’s regime fell. General Yahya took charge, and imposed martial law. On 5th December, Bangabandhu famously announced.

1970s – Liberation, Reconstruction and Tragedy:

ON 7th December, 1970 the decisive general elections in Pakistan were held. Among the 300 seat Parliament, out of 169 seats in East Pakistan, Awami League won in a landslide 167 seats. This was followed by another massive win for Awami League in the elections for the Provincial Assembly of East Bengal, where the party won in 288 out of 300 seats. Rather than hand over power to the democratically elected Awami League, in March 1971, Yahya announced indefinite postponement of the session of National Assembly.



Awami League's election campaign 1970

On 7 March 1971, Bangabandhu gave his landmark speech, effectively declaring Bangladesh's independence. His words 'This time the struggle is for our liberation, this time the struggle is for our independence. On 23rd March 1971, the purported negotiations effectively broke down. Bangabandhu raised the National Flag at his Dhanmondi residence with this own hands

On the dark night of 25th March 1971, the Pakistani military launched the infamous 'Operation Searchlight', the genocide and mass killing of the unarmed, civilian Bangalis. At the late night of 25th March, and the early hours of 26th March, and before he was arrested, Bangabandhu formally declared the independence of Bangladesh. Through the wireless of the erstwhile East Pakistan Rifles (EPR), The Liberation War had begun

Declaration of Independence

"Pakistan Army has suddenly attacked the E.P.R. base at Pilkhana and Rajarbag Police line and killed the citizens. Fight is going on in every street of Dhaka and Chittagong. I appeal for help to the nations of the world. Our freedom fighters are gallantly fighting against the enemy to free our motherland. In the name of Almighty Allah, it is my appeal and order to you all to continue the fight till the last drop of blood to liberate the country. Seek help from the police, E.P.R. Bengal Regiment and Ansars to stand by you and to fight with you. No compromise. Victory is ours. Drive away the last enemy from our holy motherland. Convey the message to all Awami League leaders, workers and other patriotic and freedom-loving people. May Allah bless you. Joy Bangla."
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
25th March, 1971.



Government formed at Mujibnagar

Bangabandhu was arrested and taken to Pakistan. On 10th April 1971, the elected representatives of Bangladesh got together and form 'Bangladesh Mass Council'. The council endorsed the 26th March declaration of independence by Bangabandhu and drafted an instrument of independence. They elected Bangabandhu as the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and formed a Cabinet with Deputy President Syed Nazrul Islam as the acting President and Tajuddin Ahmed as the Prime Minister. On 17th April, the newly formed Cabinet took oath at 'Mujibnagar', a liberated part of the country and was announced to be the temporary capital of independent Bangladesh



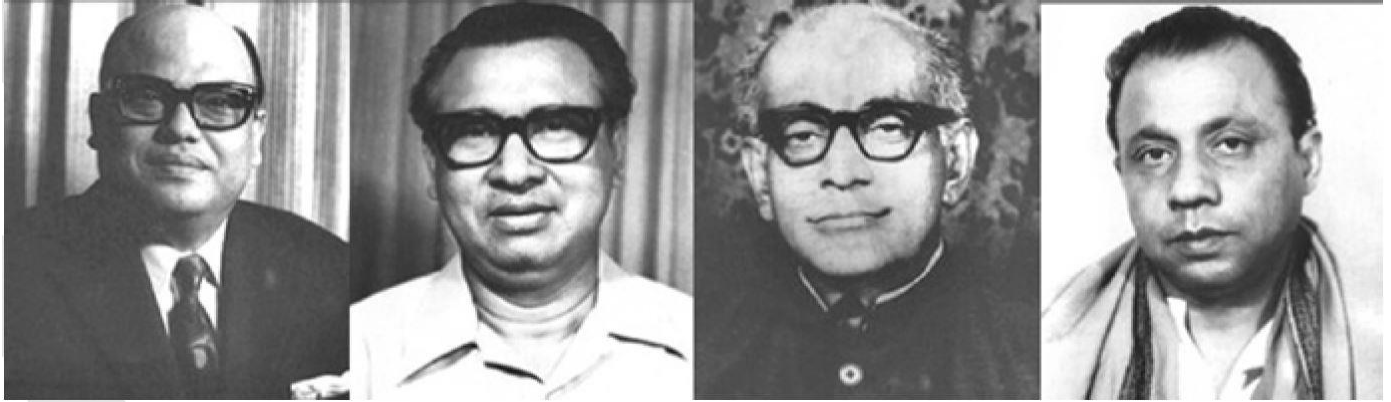
On 16th December 1971, the Pakistani forces surrendered at the historic Race Course Field, Dhaka. After being freed from his Pakistani prison, Bangabandhu returned home on 10th January 1972. On 12th January, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took oath as the first Prime Minister of the independent and sovereign Bangladesh.



Bangladesh Awami league council session (20 January 1974)

In 1974, when the anti-liberation forces accelerated their disruptive activities, Bangabandhu felt the necessity of uniting all the pro-Liberation forces of the country under one banner. To this end, he formed the Bangladesh Krishak-Sramik Awami League on 24 January, 1975.

the cruelest assassination of history took place on August 15, 1975. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family killed by anti-liberation group helped by some army. The killers did not just stop there. In November 1975, they killing the four national leaders, Syed Nazrul Islam, Mohammad Mansoor Ali, Tajuddin Ahmed and AHM Kamruzzaman inside Dhaka Central Jail.



From left: Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Mansoor Ali and AHM Kamruzzaman

1980s- Rejuvenating Party and Restoring Democracy:

In 1981, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sheikh Hasina, who remained in exile since 1975, was elected the President of Bangladesh Awami League. A new era for the party began to emerge from the shadow of the 1975 tragedy. She returned home on 17th May after being in exile for more than 5 years

1990s- Decade of Democracy and Sheikh Hasina:

In 3rd January, 1990 Sheikh Hasina, who was quickly gaining popularity around the country for her straightforward statements and honest, pro-people policies, declared her “7-Point Movement for Right to Food and Vote”. In February 1991, in the first elections held after the fall of the then military regime, the Sheikh Haisna-led Awami League won 88 out 300 seats in the National Parliament. However, the party actually won 30.08% of the total votes cast, while the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (which formed the Government) did only slightly better with 30.81%.



On 12th June 1996, Awami League won majority in National Parliamentary Elections. A new era of development, peace and prosperity was ushered in, not seen in the country since the death of the Father of the Nation in 1975. The country saw major mile-stones during this period. On 2nd December of the same year, Sheikh Hasina signed the historic Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord, bringing an end to decades of conflict and unrest in the hill areas. Overall development was noticeable as the country progressed in all economic and social indicators.



Sheikh Hasina takes oath as the prime minister of Bangladesh (june 23, 1996)

In 1999, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was nominated for the UNESCO Peace Prize for bringing peace in the Hill Tracts and won the Ceres Medal from UN FAO for her work in fighting hunger.

2000s-Fighting terror and Restoring Democracy:

In 2001, Hundreds of thousands of Awami League workers and members of minority communities were killed, raped and harassed. In the most notorious of such attacks, on 21st August, 2004, a grenade attack was launched at an Awami League rally in Bangabandhu Avenue, Dhaka aiming to render the party leaderless including eliminating Sheikh Hasina. Sheikh Hasina suffered serious injury to her hearing. 24 people including Awami League workers were killed.

In August 2005, the terrorist group Jamaatul Mujaheedin Bangladesh detonated 500 bombs simultaneously across the country. Awami League and its leaders became constant targets for these groups, emboldened by the inaction and often help of the BNP-Jamaat government.

After being released, on 12th December, a rejuvenated Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina unveiled the election manifesto called 'Dinbodoler Shonod' (Manifesto of Change) which high-lighted such aims as turning Bangladesh into a technology advanced middle income country by the year 2021. Resonating among the people, especially the youth and first time voters, on 29th December 2008, the Awami League-led Grand Alliance won a landslide victory in the national elections by securing 264 out of 300 seats.

2009 to present- progress and Development:

Since 2009, Bangladesh has experienced its most rapid development period to date. Maintaining around 6.4% average economic growth over seven years, while the world was experiencing a global economic meltdown, the country made tremendous strides

in most major economic indicators such as export earnings, remittance income, per capita income, and foreign exchange reserves. In 2015, the country for the first time since its independence, became a lower middle income country from a low income country. Poverty has been brought down from over 37% to 22.4%.



The country has seen rapid progress in such crucial sectors as education, healthcare, food security, creating jobs, empowering women, providing access to energy, fighting terrorism and so on. Especially due to the successes of the last seven years, Bangladesh became a bright example in the developing world for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Under the Digital Bangladesh vision of Awami League, Bangladesh is quickly transforming itself into the next IT hub. Sheikh Hasina, her government, and the country under her leadership has won numerous prestigious international awards for successes in ICT, MDGs, education, reducing hunger, empowering women etc.

On the international front, Sheikh Hasina led Awami League is playing an active role in addressing such crucial global issues as terrorism and violent extremism, migration and refugee issues, climate change, women empowerment, increased regional connectivity and cooperation and developing a culture of peace. Bangladesh is also currently the second largest troops contributing country in the world for UN Peacekeeping missions.

Awami league Leaders:



1. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, 2. Shamsul Hoque , 3. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 4. Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish, 5. Tajuddin Ahmed, 6. Zillur Rahman, 7. AHM Kamruzzaman, 8. Syed Zohra Tajuddin, 9. Abdul Malek Ukil, 10. Sheikh Hasina, 11. Abdur Razzaq, 12. Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, 13. Abdul Jalil, 14. Syed Ashraful Islam

Conclusion:

Bangladesh Awami League is an inextricable part of the country's historical events, both triumphant and tragic. However, with its deep roots in history and tradition, it has always proved to be the most for-ward looking party as well. With Awami League in power, the people can be optimistic of an even better future for themselves and the country.

Joy Bangla Joy Bangabandhu

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