

# Lecture 09

# Forms of Government in Bangladesh since Independence

# 1972–80: Post-independence Era

## Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Administration

- Upon his release on 10 January 1972, [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman](#) briefly assumed the provisional presidency and later took office as the prime minister, heading all organs of government and decision-making.
- The government faced serious challenges, which including the rehabilitation of millions of people displaced in 1971, organising the supply of food, health aids and other necessities.
- Mujib helped Bangladesh enter into the [United Nations](#) and the [Non-Aligned Movement](#).
- He travelled to the [United States](#), the [United Kingdom](#) and other European nations to obtain humanitarian and developmental assistance for the nation.
- Mujib forged a close friendship with [Indira Gandhi](#), strongly praising India's decision to intercede, and professed admiration and friendship for India.
- A five-year plan released in 1973 focused state investments into agriculture, rural infrastructure and [cottage industries](#).
- In 1974, Bangladesh experienced the deadliest famine ever, which killed around 1.5 million Bangladeshi people from hunger.

# Left Wing Insurgency

- At the height of Sheikh Mujib's power, left wing insurgents, organised by Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal's armed wing Gonobahini fought against the government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to establish a Marxist government.
- The government responded by forming the Jatiya Rakkhi Bahini which began a campaign of brutal human rights abuses against the general populace, including the force became involved in numerous charges of human rights abuse including political killings, shooting by death squads, and rape.
- Members of Jatiyo Rakkhi Bahini were granted immunity from prosecution and other legal proceedings.

# Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (BAKSAL)

- According to [Abdur Razzaq](#), the 1974 famine profoundly affected Mujib's views on governance, while political unrest gave rise to increasing violence.
- During the famine, 70,000 people were reported as dead (Note: Reports vary).
- In response, he began increasing his powers. On 25 January 1975 Mujib declared a [state of emergency](#) and his political supporters approved a constitutional amendment banning all opposition political parties.
- Mujib assumed the presidency and was given extraordinary powers. His political supporters amalgamated to form the only legalised political party, the [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League](#), commonly known by its initials—BAKSAL.
- The party identified itself with the rural masses, farmers and labourers and took control of government machinery.
- Using government forces and a militia of supporters called the [Jatiyo Rakkhi Bahini](#), Mujib clamped down on any opposition to him.

# Assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Aftermath

- On 15 August 1975, a group of junior army officers invaded the presidential residence with [tanks](#) and killed Mujib, his family and personal staff.
- Only his daughters [Sheikh Hasina Wajed](#) and [Sheikh Rehana](#), who were visiting [West Germany](#), escaped.
- They were banned from returning to Bangladesh.
- The coup was planned by disgruntled [Awami League](#) colleagues and military officers, which included Mujib's colleague and former confidanté [Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad](#), who became his immediate successor.
- There was intense speculation in the media accusing the US [Central Intelligence Agency](#) of having instigated the plot.
- Lawrence Lifschultz has alleged that the CIA was involved in the coup and assassination, basing his assumption on the then US ambassador in [Dhaka](#) Eugene Booster.
- Order was largely restored after a coup in 1977 gave control to the army chief [Ziaur Rahman](#).
- Declaring himself President in 1978, Ziaur Rahman signed the [Indemnity Ordinance](#), giving immunity from prosecution to the men who plotted Mujib's assassination and overthrow.

# The Dictatorship of Ziaur Rahman, 1975–81

- Successive military coups resulted in the emergence of Army Chief of Staff General Ziaur Rahman ("Zia") as strongman.
- He pledged the army's support to the civilian government headed by President Chief Justice Sayem.
- Acting at Zia's behest, Sayem dissolved Parliament, promising fresh elections in 1977, and instituted martial law.
- While continuing the ban on political parties, he sought to revitalise the demoralised bureaucracy, to begin new economic development programs, and to emphasise family planning.
- Keeping his promise to hold elections, Zia won a five-year term in June 1978 elections, with 76% of the vote. In November 1978, his government removed the remaining restrictions on political party activities in time for parliamentary elections in February 1979.
- These elections, which were contested by more than 30 parties, marked the culmination of Zia's transformation of Bangladesh's Government from the MLA to a democratically elected, constitutional one.
- The AL and the [Bangladesh Nationalist Party](#) (BNP), founded by Zia, emerged as the two major parties.
- In May 1981, Zia was assassinated in [Chittagong](#) by dissident elements of the military.
- In accordance with the constitution, Vice-President Justice [Abdul Sattar](#) was sworn in as acting president.

# The Dictatorship of Hussain Muhammad Ershad, 1982–90

- Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General [Hussain Muhammad Ershad](#) assumed power in a bloodless coup on 24 March 1982, citing the "grave political, economic, and societal crisis" that the nation was in.
- This move was not unanticipated, as Ershad had previously expressed distaste with the ageing Sattar (who was past his 75th birthday) and his handling of national affairs.
- Like his predecessors, Ershad suspended the constitution and—citing pervasive corruption, ineffectual government, and economic mismanagement—declared martial law.
- Despite a boycott by the BNP, led by President Zia's widow, Begum [Khaleda Zia](#), parliamentary elections were held on schedule in May 1986. The Jatiya Party won a modest majority of the 300 elected seats in the National Assembly.
- The participation of the Awami League—led by the late President Mujib's daughter, Sheikh Hasina Wajed—lent the elections some credibility, despite widespread charges of voting irregularities..
- By 1989, the domestic political situation in the country seemed to have quieted.
- The local council elections were generally considered by international observers to have been less violent and more free and fair than previous elections.
- However, opposition to Ershad's rule began to regain momentum, escalating by the end of 1990 in frequent general strikes, increased campus protests, public rallies, and a general disintegration of law and order.

# Transition to Democracy

- A wide umbrella of political parties united against Ershad.
- Ziaur Rahman's widow, Khaleda Zia, led the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which allied with the Bangladesh Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's daughter Sheikh Hasina.
- [Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh](#) and other Islamic parties and alliances joined the opposition ranks.
- They called for strikes and protests that paralysed the state and its economy.
- Students launched an intensifying opposition campaign, which ultimately forced Ershad to step down.
- On 6 December 1990, Ershad offered his resignation.
- On 27 February 1991, after two months of widespread civil unrest, an interim government headed by Acting President Chief Justice [Shahabuddin Ahmed](#) oversaw what most observers believed to be the nation's most free and fair elections to that date.



# First Khaleda Administration, 1991–96

- The centre-right Bangladesh Nationalist Party won a plurality of seats and formed a government with support from the Islamic party Jamaat-I-Islami, with [Khaleda Zia](#), widow of Ziaur Rahman, obtaining the post of prime minister.
- Only four parties had more than 10 members elected to the 1991 Parliament: The BNP, led by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia; the AL, led by Sheikh Hasina; the Jamaat-I-Islami (JI), led by [Ghulam Azam](#); and the Jatiya Party (JP), led by acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Choudhury while its founder, former President Ershad, served out a prison sentence on corruption charges.
- In February, Khaleda Zia was re-elected by a landslide in voting boycotted and denounced as unfair by the three main opposition parties.
- In March 1996, following escalating political turmoil, the sitting Parliament enacted a constitutional amendment to allow a neutral caretaker government to assume power and conduct new parliamentary elections; former Chief Justice [Muhammad Habibur Rahman](#) was named [Chief Adviser](#) (a position equivalent to Prime Minister) in the interim government.
- New parliamentary elections were held in June 1996 and the Awami League won plurality and formed the government with support from the Jatiya Party led by deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad; party leader Sheikh Hasina became Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

# First Hasina Administration, 1996–2001

- [Sheikh Hasina](#) formed what she called a "Government of National Consensus" in June 1996, which included one minister from the Jatiya Party and another from the [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal](#).
- The Jatiya Party never entered into a formal coalition arrangement, and party president Hussain Muhammad Ershad withdrew his support from the government in September 1997. Only three parties had more than 10 members elected to the 1996 Parliament: the Awami League, BNP, and Jatiya Party.
- Jatiya Party president, Ershad, was released from prison on bail in January 1997.
- In July 2001, the Bangladesh Awami League government stepped down to allow a caretaker government to preside over parliamentary elections.
- Political violence that had increased during the Bangladesh Awami League government's tenure continued to increase through the summer in the run up to the election.
- In August, Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina agreed during a visit of former President Jimmy Carter to respect the results of the election, join Parliament win or lose, forswear the use of hartals (violently enforced strikes) as political tools.
- The caretaker government was successful in containing the violence, which allowed a parliamentary general election to be successfully held on 1 October 2001.

# Second Khaleda Administration, 2001–2006

- The [Four Party Alliance](#) led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party won over a two-thirds majority in Parliament.
- Begum Khaleda Zia was sworn in on 10 October 2001, as Prime Minister for the third time (first in 1991, second after the 15 February 1996 elections).
- Despite her August 2001 pledge and all election monitoring groups declaring the election free and fair, Sheikh Hasina condemned the election, rejected the results, and boycotted Parliament.
- In 2002, however, she led her party legislators back to Parliament, but the Bangladesh Awami League again walked out in June 2003 to protest derogatory remarks about Hasina by a State Minister and the allegedly partisan role of the Parliamentary Speaker.
- In June 2004, the AL returned to Parliament without having any of their demands met.
- In February 2006, the AL returned to Parliament, demanded early elections and requested significant changes in the electoral and caretaker government systems to stop alleged moves by the ruling coalition to rig the next election.
- The AL blamed the BNP for several high-profile attacks on opposition leaders and asserted the BNP was bent on eliminating Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League as a viable force.
- The BNP and its allies accused the AL of maligning Bangladesh at home and abroad out of jealousy over the government's performance on development and economic issues.
- Dialogue between the Secretaries General of the main ruling and opposition parties failed to sort out the electoral reform issues.

# Political Crisis and Caretaker Government, 2006–2008

- The months preceding the planned [22 January 2007, elections](#) were filled with political unrest and controversy.
- Following the end of [Khaleda Zia](#)'s government in late October 2006, there were protests and strikes, during which 40 people were killed in the following month, over uncertainty about who would head the [caretaker government](#).
- The caretaker government had difficulty bringing the all parties to the table.
- Awami League and its allies protested and alleged that the caretaker government favoured the BNP.
- The interim period was marked by violence and strikes.
- Later [Hussain Muhammad Ershad](#)'s nomination was cancelled; as a result, the Grand Alliance withdrew its candidates en masse on the last day possible.
- They demanded to have voters' lists published.
- On 27 August 2007 violence broke out in the [University of Dhaka](#) campus between students and soldiers of Bangladesh Army.
- Students called strikes and burned effigies of the army chief.
- Police attacked the students and physically assaulted Acting Vice-chancellor Prof [AFM Yusuf Haider](#) and other faculty members of the University of Dhaka.

# Second Hasina Administration(2008-2013)

- The Awami league won [national election on 29 December 2008](#) as part of a larger electoral alliance that also included the [Jatiya Party](#) led by former military ruler General [Hussain Muhammad Ershad](#) as well as some leftist parties.
- According to the Official Results, Bangladesh Awami League won 230 out of 299 constituencies, and together with its allies, had a total of 262 parliamentary seats.
- The Awami League and its allies received 57% of the total votes cast. The AL alone got 48%, compared to 36% of the other major alliance led by the BNP which by itself got 33% of the votes.
- [Sheikh Hasina](#), as party head, is the new Prime Minister.
- Her term of office began on 7 January 2009 after Fakhruddin Ahmed.
- The new cabinet had several new faces, including three women in prominent positions: Dr [Dipu Moni](#) (Foreign Minister), [Matia Chowdhury](#) (Agriculture Minister) and [Sahara Khatun](#) (Home Minister).
- Younger MPs with a link to assassinated members of the 1972–1975 AL government are [Syed Ashraful Islam](#), son of [Syed Nazrul Islam](#), [Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh](#), son of [Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni](#), and [Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj](#), son of [Tajuddin Ahmad](#).
- Since 2009, the Awami League government faced several major political challenges, including BDR (border security force) mutiny, power crisis, unrest in garments industry and stock market fluctuations.
- Judicial achievements for the party included restoring 1972 constitution (set by the first Awami League government), beginning of war crimes trials, and guilty verdict in 1975 assassination trial.

# Vision 2021 and Digital Bangladesh

- **Vision 2021**

- **Vision 2021** was the [political manifesto](#) of the [Bangladesh Awami League](#) party before winning the [National Elections of 2008](#).
- It stands as a [political vision](#) of Bangladesh for the year 2021, the [golden jubilee](#) of the nation.
- The policy has been criticized as a policy emblematic of [technological optimism](#) in the context of Bangladesh and the state repression of media, low internet penetration, inadequate electricity generation. The Vision 2021 is an articulation of where this nation needs to be in 2021 – the year which marks the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence.

- **Digital Bangladesh**

- **Digital Bangladesh** implies the broad use of computers, and embodies the modern philosophy of effective and useful use of technology in terms of implementing the promises in education, health, job placement and poverty reduction.
- The party underscored a changing attitude, positive thinking and innovative ideas for the successes of “Digital Bangladesh”.

- **War crimes tribunal**

- During the [2008 general election](#), the [Awami League](#) (AL) pledged to establish the tribunals in response to long-standing calls for trying war criminals.
- The first indictments were issued in 2010.
- However, the main perpetrators of the war crimes, the Pakistan soldiers, remained out of the reach of the courts.
- The government set up the tribunal after the [Awami League](#) won the general election in December 2008 with a more than two-thirds majority in parliament.

# Third Hasina Administration, 2014–2018

- [General election](#) were held in Bangladesh on 5 January 2014, in accordance with the [constitutional requirement](#) that the election must take place within the 90-day period before the expiration of the term of the [Jatiyo Sangshad](#) on 24 January 2014.
- The elections were controversial, with almost all major opposition parties [boycotting](#) and 154 of the total 300 seats being uncontested.
- Around 21 people were killed on polling day.
  - **2014 Bangladesh Election violence**
- On 5 January 2014, the 10th general elections were held in Bangladesh. The Opposition [Bangladesh Nationalist Party](#) and its ally [Jamaat-e-Islami](#) had already boycotted the elections. The buildup to the elections were marred by successive strikes and violence by the opposition parties.
  - **Student protests against VAT on education**
- The **2015 Bangladesh student protests on "No VAT on Education"** were protests by students of private [universities in Bangladesh](#) demanding the VAT imposed on higher education in private universities be eliminated.
  - **Quota Reform Movement**
- The **2018 Bangladesh Quota Reform Movement** is an ongoing students' movement demanding reforms in policies regarding recruitment in the Bangladesh government services.
  - **Road Safety Protests**
- A series of public protests in Bangladesh advocating improved [road safety](#) were held from 29 July to 8 August 2018.
- They were sparked by the deaths of two high-school students in [Dhaka](#) struck by a bus operated by an unlicensed driver who was racing to collect passengers.

# Fourth Hasina Administration(2019-Present)

- [2018 Bangladeshi general election](#) were held on 30 December 2018.
- The result was a landslide victory for the [Awami League](#) led by [Sheikh Hasina](#).
- The elections were marred by [violence](#) and claims of vote rigging.
- Opposition leader [Kamal Hossain](#) rejected the results, calling it "farcical" and demanding fresh elections to be held under a neutral government.
  - **Mujib Year and Golden jubilee**
- The government of [Bangladesh](#) has announced the commemoration of **2020-2021** as the **Mujib Year** ([Bengali](#): [মুজিব বর্ষ](#)) on the occasion of the centennial birth anniversary of the founding leader of the country, [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman](#) .
- This year will be celebrated from 17 March 2020 to 16 Dec 2021.
- The UN General Assembly, UNESCO, has decided to jointly celebrate the Mujib Year with Bangladesh at the [UNESCO](#) 40th General Assembly.
  - **Bangla 50**
- For the year 2021, the "**Bangla50**" initiative launched to celebrate 50 years of independence from [Pakistan](#) and is called in [Bengali](#) [সুবর্ণ জয়ন্তী](#); Subarṇa jāyantī, with a logo that spells "BD50".
- Several celebration programs will be held in countries including India, Russia, Germany, Sweden, Hungary, Poland, Nepal and Bhutan.



• Thank You

# Lecture 10

- **Salient Features of Bangladesh Constitution;**

# Constitution

- A constitution is an aggregate of fundamental principles or established precedents that constitute the legal basis of a polity, organization or other type of entity and commonly determine how that entity is to be governed.
- The **basic** principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it.
- A written instrument embodying the rules of a political or social organization.

# Three Main Characteristics of a Constitution

- Three main characteristics of a **constitution** are treated as:
- (1) a **constitution** is a supreme law of the land,
- (2) a **constitution** is a framework for government;
- (3) a **constitution** is a legitimate way to grant and limit powers of government officials. **Constitutional** law is distinguished from statutory law.

# Salient Features of Bangladesh Constitution

- The original constitution was made in 1972 and it amended 15 times. It embodied some fundamental and basic features or characteristics. These features are as follows:
  - **1. Written Constitution:**
  - The Constitution of The People's Republic of Bangladesh is a written one, and has a formal document. With 153 articles, 7 schedules, 10 parts and 1 preamble. All provision where we go, that's written down here.
  - **2. Rigid Constitution:**
  - The constitution of Bangladesh is a rigid one. It cannot amend by the ordinary lawmaking procedure, and it very difficult to modify or change. Only vote of two third majority of parliament members can amend this constitution.

# Salient Features of Bangladesh Constitution

- **3. Preamble:**
- The constitution of Bangladesh starts with a preamble. This is called as the guiding stator moral basis of the constitution. Preamble lays down the most important national goals such as Democracy, Socialism, Nationalism and Secularism.
- **4. Supremacy of the Constitution:**
- Constitutional supremacy has been ensured in the constitution of Bangladesh. Article 7 provided that “this constitution is the supreme law of the republic”. And it is the fundamental law of the country, in any other law is inconsistent with this constitution that other law shall be void.
- **5. Unitary Government System:**
- Article 1 of the constitution provide that “Bangladesh is a unitary peoples republic as opposed to federal republic. And all power under the constitution.” In unitary Government system constitution is central power of the state.

# Salient Features of Bangladesh Constitution

- **6. Unicameral Legislature:**
- Articles 65 of the constitution provide a unicameral legislature for Bangladesh. It is only one house to be known as the 'House of Nation'.
- **7. Directive Principle:**
- Part II, Article 8 to 25 of the constitution provides the directive principle (fundamental principle of state policy). The main principles are: – Nationalism, Socialism, Democracy, Secularism. Government must ensure these principles on their governing policy.
- **8. Fundamental Right:**
- Fundamental rights are absolute rights a citizen of a country. Part III and Article 27 to 44 of the constitution provide 18 fundamental rights such as equality before law, equality of opportunity in public employment, right to protection of law, protection of right to life and personal liberty, freedom of movement, freedom of thought etc. Fundamental rights protected by the constitutional guarantee. If executive violate these rights the defendant can go Supreme Court for remedy according to under Article 44 of this constitution.
- **9. Parliamentary Form of government:**
- The constitution of Bangladesh provides a Westminster type of parliamentary system. In other word cabinet form of government.

# Salient Features of Bangladesh Constitution

- **10. Independence of judiciary.**
- The Constitution of 1972 ensured the independence of Judiciary. Firstly, Provision was made that the Chief Justice would be appointed by the President and other justice of the Supreme Court appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice. Appointment of subordinate judges and magistrates was also to be exercised with consultation of the Supreme Court. Secondly, a judge could not be removed from his office expect by and order of the President passed to a resolution of parliament supported by a two-third members of the parliament.
- **11.Ombudsman:**
- Part V, Article 77 of the constitution provides a ombudsman system to overview the activities of civil bureaucracy, to eradicate corruption in the administration and to ensure the responsibility of the government. But till now this office has not yet been implemented in Bangladesh.



• Thank You

# Lecture 11

- **Democracy and Political Parties in Bangladesh**

# Democracy

- **Democracy** is a form of government in which the people have the authority to choose their governing legislators.
- The decisions on who is considered part of the people.
- A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

## Types of Democracy:

- The *notion* of democracy has evolved over time considerably, and, generally, **the two current types of democracy are direct and representative.**
- In a direct democracy, the people directly deliberate and decide on legislation. |
- In a representative democracy, the people elect representatives to deliberate and decide on legislation, such as in parliamentary or presidential democracy.
- Liquid democracy combines elements of these two basic types.
- **Different types of democracies**
- Direct democracy.
- Representative democracy.
- Constitutional democracy.
- Monitory democracy.

# Democracy in Bangladesh

- **Democracy in Bangladesh** was first introduced when the British ruled South Asia from 1700 to 1947, where Bangladesh was among the first British colonies in the subcontinent. It was then where the Westminster style of democracy was introduced that was prevalent in Britain at the time.
- Since Bangladesh achieved its independence on 26 March 1971 from Pakistan; Bangladesh introduced parliamentary democracy into its political system, however, a military coup in 1975 halted the process.

# Democratic Values

- **Freedom of expression and association**

- Bangladesh has suffered from assaults on university students - who are regarded as the pioneers of grassroots movements in the past - in order to change their political opinions. After the 2019 elections were held, reports of vote rigging emerged which sparked protests by the Left Democratic Alliance

- **Free and independent media**

- Journalism in Bangladesh has been under immense pressure as evident in the rankings of the country in the World Press Freedom Index. Bangladesh stood at 144 out of 180 countries in 2016, and the rankings only slipped as Bangladesh received 146 in 2018, 150 in 2019, and 151 in 2019. Amnesty International reported that the main hindrance to free journalism is that several media outlets in Bangladesh are affected by owners and political influence, which hinders the diversification of opinions.

- **Free and fair elections**

- Bangladesh elections in 2014 were marred with allegations of irregularities, such as voter suppression, fake votes and capturing of polling booths. The Bangladesh National Party (BNP) and its allies boycotted the 2014 elections as their demands of a caretaker government in place to oversee the elections were not met. This resulted in the Awami League to win the general election even as 153 out of the 300 parliamentary seats went uncontested.

# Democratic Values (Cont..)

- **Independence of judiciary**

- The constitution of Bangladesh allows the President to appoint the Chief Justice of Bangladesh after receiving advice from the Prime Minister. In 2010, 6788 out of the 10,489 cases reviewed by a committee relating to the ruling party were dropped as the law ministry suggested that the cases were 'politically motivated'.

- **Transparency and accountability in public administration**

- Using positions of power to grant favours to relatives, supporters and friends is considered a norm in Bangladeshi politics. Most leaders of Bangladesh have been alleged into being involved in large corruption scandals either directly or indirectly.

- **Respect for human rights and freedom**

- Violations of human rights in Bangladesh take the forms of extra-judicial killings and custodial torture and deaths. An estimated of 154 extra judicial killings in 2009 and another 127 deaths were confirmed through extra-judicial in 2010, with larger numbers expected.

# Political Party

- A political party is an organization that coordinates candidates to compete in a country's elections. It is common for the members of a political party to have similar ideas about politics, and parties may promote specific ideological or policy goals.
- Political parties have become a major part of the politics of almost every country, as modern party organizations developed and spread around the world over the last few centuries. Some countries have only one political party while others have dozens, but it is extremely rare for a country to have no political parties.
- Parties are important in the politics of [autocracies](#) as well as [democracies](#), though usually democracies have more political parties than autocracies.
- Autocracies often have a single party that governs the country, and some [political scientists](#) consider competition between two or more parties to be an essential part of democracy.
- **Political party**, a group of persons organized to acquire and exercise political power.
- Political parties originated in their modern form in Europe and the [United States](#) in the 19th century, along with the electoral and [parliamentary systems](#).
- The term *party* has since come to be applied to all organized groups seeking political power, whether by democratic elections or by revolution.

# Political Parties in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh has a fading two-party system, which means that there are two dominant political parties, with extreme difficulty for anybody to achieve electoral success under the banner of another party.
- However, though the center-left Awami League (AL) and center-right Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) dominated Bangladesh politics for a long time, currently both are heading coalitions of like-minded parties with the AL leading the secular and liberal elements while BNP is rallying the right-of-centre parties.



# Alliances of Political Parties

- **Grand Alliance**

- The **Grand Alliance** (মহাজোট) also known as **14 Party Alliance** is a coalition government in Bangladesh that formed in 2008 and consisted of the [Bangladesh Awami League](#), [Jatiya Party](#), [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal](#)- JASAD, [Workers Party](#), [Liberal Democratic Party](#) and nine other parties.
- The Liberal Democratic Party left the Grand Alliance before the election and contested independently. It joined the [18 Party Alliance](#) in 2012.

- **20 Party Alliance**

- The **20 Party Alliance** is an alliance of some [Bangladeshi](#) political parties led by [Bangladesh Nationalist Party](#) and other right wing parties. It was formed on 2014 in Dhaka, extending its predecessor the [18 Party Alliance](#). The 20 Party Alliance is formed as an effort to strengthen the anti-government movement demanding restoration of the [caretaker government](#) system.

- **Left Democratic Alliance**

- The **Left Democratic Alliance** is an alliance of 8 Leftist Political parties including [Communist Party of Bangladesh](#), [Basad](#), [Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh](#), United Communist League Of Bangladesh, Ganatantrik Biplobi Party, Bam Gonotantrik Andolon and Gonoshonghoti Andolon.

- **Jatio Oikko Front**

- The **Jatio Oikko Front** is a newly formed alliance Consisting of Four political parties including [Bangladesh Nationalist Party](#), [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal](#)-JSD, [Gano Forum](#) And Mahmudur Rahman Manna's Nagorik Oikko Bangladesh. This Alliance is trying to build up a National Unity Along with other democratic parties ahead of The 11th Jatiya Sangsad Elections. This is the biggest association of political parties in Bangladesh .

# Major Political Parties

- **Bangladesh Awami League**

- The **Bangladesh Awami League** ([Bengali](#): বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ; translated from [English](#): **Bangladesh People's League**) is one of the two largest political parties of [Bangladesh](#). It is the country's current governing party, after winning a majority in heavily criticized [2014 parliamentary elections](#) where the majority of seats were uncontested. The All Pakistan Awami Muslim League was founded in [Dhaka](#), the capital of the Pakistani province of [East Bengal](#), in 1949 by Bengali nationalists [Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani](#), [Yar Mohammad Khan](#), [Shamsul Huq](#), and later [Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy](#). In 1953, the party's council meeting voted to drop the word "Muslim" from its name in order to give it a more secular outlook, owing to the need to include the province's large [Hindu](#) population in Pakistani politics. Amongst the leaders of the Awami League, five have become the [President of Bangladesh](#), four have become the [Prime Minister of Bangladesh](#) and one became the [Prime Minister of Pakistan](#). His daughter and also the incumbent Prime Minister of Bangladesh, [Sheikh Hasina](#), has headed the party since 1981.

- **Bangladesh Nationalist Party**

- The **Bangladesh Nationalist Party** ([Bengali](#): বাংলাদেশ জাতীয়তাবাদী দল, [transliterated](#): *Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Dôl*), often abbreviated as **BNP** was founded on 1 September 1978 by Bangladeshi President [Ziaur Rahman](#), politician and physician [A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury](#), human rights activist and lawyer [Moudud Ahmed](#) and leftist politician Mashiur Rahman as the key people. BNP has won the second, fifth, sixth and eighth national elections and two presidential elections, in 1978 and 1981 respectively. The party also holds the record of being the largest opposition in the history of parliamentary elections of the country with 116 seats in the seventh national election of 1996. The party does not have any representation in the parliament after its boycott of the [national election of 2014](#) which the party had termed a scandalous farce and was marked by a very low turnout.

# Major Political Parties (Cont..)

- **Jatiya Party (Ershad)**

- The **Jatiya Party (Ershad)** (*National Party (Ershad)*) was established by President [Hussain Mohammad Ershad](#) on 1 January 1986. The Army Chief Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammad Ershad had usurped the state power by a coup d'état on 24 March 1982, and ruled the country as chief martial law administrator till December 1983. Political parties and activity had been prohibited during the state of emergency, when Justice [A. F. M. Ahsanuddin Chowdhury](#) was appointed [President of Bangladesh](#).
- The Jatiya Party had a rift in leadership and an internal wrangle in 2000. The three factions were headed by General Ershad, Anwar Hossain Manju and Naziur Rahman Manju. In the general elections of 2001, the Ershad group of the Jatiya Party won 14 seats, and the Anwar Hossain group won one seat.

# Minor Political Parties

1. [Communist Party of Bangladesh - CPB](#)
2. [Bangladesh Humanistic Democratic Party - BHDP](#)
3. [Bangladesh Jasod - Sharif Nurul Ambia](#)
4. [Socialist Party of Bangladesh - SPB](#)
5. [Workers Party of Bangladesh](#)
6. [Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh](#)
7. [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal - Jasod](#)
8. [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-JSD](#)
9. [Communist Party of Bangladesh \(Marxist–Leninist\) \(Barua\)](#)
10. [Bangladesh National Awami Party](#)
11. [Bangladesh National Awami Party - Bangladesh NAP](#)
12. [Gano Forum](#)
13. [Gano Front](#)
14. [Krishak Sramik Janata League](#)
15. [Liberal Democratic Party - LDP](#)
16. [Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh](#)
17. [Jatiya Party \(Manju\)](#)
18. [Bangladesh Jatiya Party](#)
19. [Bangladesh Jatiya Party – BJP](#)
20. [National People's Party - NPP](#)
21. [Progressive Democratic Party - PDP](#)
22. [Ganotantry Party](#)
23. [Jatiya Ganatantrik Party](#)
24. [Bangladesh Sanskritik Muktijot](#)
25. [Bangladesh Kalyan Party](#)
26. [Bangladesh Nationalist Front](#)
27. [Zaker Party](#)
28. [Bangladesh Islamic Front](#)
29. [Islamic Front Bangladesh](#)
30. [Bangladesh Tarikat Federation](#)
31. [Islami Andolan Bangladesh](#)
32. [Islami Oikya Jote](#)
33. [Jamiat Ulema-e Islam](#)
34. [Khelafat Majlish](#)
35. [Bangladesh Khilafat Andolan](#)
36. [Bangladesh Muslim League](#)
37. [Bangladesh Janakallyan Party](#)
38. [Bangladesh GonoSokti Andolon-BPM](#)
39. [Purba Banglar Sarbahara Party](#)
40. [Bangladesh Green Party \(Mukherjee\)](#)
41. [Bangladesh Justice Party](#)
42. [Bangladesh Minority Janata Party](#)

# Regional Parties

1. Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti - PCJSS
2. United People's Democratic Front - UPDF
3. Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (M.N. Larma)
4. UPDF Democratic

# Unregistered Parties

1. [Bangali Janatar Party \(BJP\)](#)
2. [Nagorik Oikya](#)
3. [Ganasamhati Andolon](#)
4. [Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami](#)
5. [United National Party](#)
6. [Amar Bangladesh Party-Ab party](#)
7. [Bangladesh New Generation Party-BNGP](#)

# Functions of a Political Party

- Every political party has a number of [functions](#) to perform. Here we have listed some of them.
  1. A political party contests elections by putting up candidates.
  2. The candidates are selected by members and supporters of a party.
  3. Every party has different policies and programmes. Voters make a choice in accordance with the policies and programmes liked by them.
  4. In a [democratic country](#), a large group of people that has certain similar opinions group together and form a party. Then, give a direction to the policies adopted by the government.
  5. Those parties which lose elections form the opposition. They voice different views and criticise the government for their failures and mobilize opposition to the government.

# Functions of a Political Party (Cont..)

1. Political parties shape public opinion. With the help of the pressure groups, the parties launch movements for solving problems faced by the people.
2. Parties even offer access to government machinery and welfare schemes. The local party leader serves as a link between the citizen and the government officer.
3. Political Party (Ruling Party) can bring foreign Aid.
4. Make good relationship with foreign countries.
5. Can Maintain diplomatic activities.
6. Can criticize government activities.
7. Work for the safety and security.



# Importance of Political Parties

1. A democracy cannot exist without the presence of a political party. This is clear from the function performed by the political parties. In case, there are no political parties then:
2. Every candidate in the election would be an independent candidate. Any individual candidate does not have the efficiency to promise any major policy change to the people. In such a scenario, no one will be responsible for how the country is run.
3. In the long run, only a representative democracy can survive. Political parties are the agencies that gather different views on various issues and present them to the government.

• Thank You

# Lecture 12

- **Administrative System in Bangladesh**

# Administration

- Administration is the management of public affairs with government.
- **Administration** is the range of activities connected with organizing and supervising the way that an organization or institution functions.
- **Some more Definitions:.....**
- **1. Management** of the affairs of an organization, such as a business or institution.
- **2. The duties** of an administrator.
- **3. The body of people** who administer an organization.
- **4. The conduct** of the affairs of government

# Basic Functions of Administration:

- 1. Planning:** By planning is meant to predetermine who will do which task at what place and how. The administrators have to take due steps for the successful execution of the functions from time to time.
- 2. Organizing:** This function involves task division, grouping responsibilities into departments, specifying organizational relationships, and staffing (recruitment of workers to fulfill certain positions).
- 3. Directing:** Employees must receive guidance towards a common goal. In this case, you must allocate resources appropriately and provide effective support. Directing requires good interpersonal skills and the ability to motivate people
- 4. Controlling:** Control is the evaluation of quality in all areas and the detection of possible or actual deviations from the plan.

# Administrative System

- **Administrative systems** refer to **systems** and processes for filing and record keeping, office correspondence, visitor and phone call management, internal communication, financial management and other **administrative** duties.
- **Key features of a good administrative control system include:**
  1. A defined organisational structure.
  2. A system of authorisation and responsibility.
  3. **Performance** standards.
  4. Policies and Procedures for staffing.

# Administrative System in Bangladesh

## • Regions

- Traditionally Bangladesh is divided between four regions by the fertile Ganges-Brahmaputra delta; formed by the confluence of the Ganges (local name Padma or *Pôdda*), Brahmaputra (Jamuna or *Jomuna*), and Meghna rivers and their respective tributaries.
- **Northern Bengal**: Comprising Rajshahi Division and Rangpur Division.
- **Eastern Bengal**: Also known as eastern Bangladesh, comprising Chittagong Division, Sylhet Division and proposed Comilla Division, known for the Surma-Meghna River System.
- **Central Bengal**: also known as Central Bengal Region, comprising Mymensingh Division and Dhaka Division, excluding proposed Faridpur Division.
- **Southern Bengal**: Comprising Barisal Division, Khulna Division and proposed Faridpur Division.

# Divisions

- **Bangladesh** is divided into eight major administrative **divisions** (*Bengali*: বিভাগ *Bibhag*). Each division is named after the major city within its jurisdiction that serves as the administrative capital of that division:
- Barishal (বরিশাল *Barishal*)
- Chittagong (চট্টগ্রাম *Chittagong*)
- Dhaka (ঢাকা *Dhaka*)
- Mymensingh (ময়মনসিংহ *Mymensingh*)
- Khulna (খুলনা *Khulna*)
- Rajshahi (রাজশাহী *Rajshahi*)
- Rangpur (রংপুর *Rangpur*)
- Sylhet (সিলেট *Sylhet*)
- **Proposed divisions**
- Comilla Division – proposed to consist six northwestern districts of the existing Chittagong Division, formerly known as Comilla Region.
- Faridpur Division – proposed to consist five southern districts of the existing Dhaka Division.



# Districts

- The [divisions](#) are divided into 64<sup>l</sup>districts, or zila ([Bengali](#): জেলা, [romanized](#): *jela*). Each district is run by a **Deputy Commissioner** (popularly abbreviated to "DC") who is appointed by the government from a [Deputy secretary](#) of [BCS](#) Administration Cadre.
- Division      Districts      Name of Districts
- 1. [Barisal](#)      6 [Barguna](#), [Barisal](#), [Bhola](#), [Jhalokati](#), [Patuakhali](#), [Pirojpur](#)
- 2. [Chittagong](#)      11 [Bandarban](#), [Brahmanbaria](#), [Chandpur](#), [Chittagong](#), [Comilla](#), [Cox's Bazar](#), [Feni](#), [Khagrachari](#), [Lakshmipur](#), [Noakhali](#), [Rangamati](#)
- 3. [Dhaka](#)      13  
[Dhaka](#), [Faridpur](#), [Gazipur](#), [Gopalganj](#), [Kishoreganj](#), [Madaripur](#), [Manikganj](#), [Munshiganj](#), [Narayanganj](#), [Narsingdi](#), [Rajbari](#), [Shariatpur](#), [Tangail](#)
- 4. [Khulna](#)      10  
[Bagerhat](#), [Chuadanga](#), [Jessore](#), [Jhenaidah](#), [Khulna](#), [Kushtia](#), [Magura](#), [Meherpur](#), [Narail](#), [Satkhira](#)
- 5. [Mymensingh](#)      4 [Jamalpur](#), [Mymensingh](#), [Netrokona](#), [Sherpur](#)
- 6. [Rajshahi](#)      8 [Bogra](#), [Jaipurhat](#), [Naogaon](#), [Natore](#), [Chapai-Nawabganj](#), [Pabna](#), [Rajshahi](#), [Sirajganj](#)
- 7. [Rangpur](#)      8  
[Dinajpur](#), [Gaibandha](#), [Kurigram](#), [Lalmonirhat](#), [Nilphamari](#), [Panchagarh](#), [Rangpur](#), [Thakurgaon](#)
- 8. [Sylhet](#)      4 [Habiganj](#), [Moulvibazar](#), [Sunamganj](#), [Sylhet](#)

# Upazilas

- The districts are divided into sub-districts called Upazila (Bengali: উপজেলা, romanized: *upojela*). Upazilas are similar to the county subdivisions found in some Western countries. Bangladesh has 492 upazilas (as of 9 January 2017). The upazilas are the second lowest tier of regional administration in Bangladesh. The administrative structure consists in fact in Divisions (8), Districts (64) and Upazila (492).
- Upazilas were formerly known as thana which literally means police station. Despite the meaning, thanas functioned much as an administrative and geographic region, much as today's upazilas.
- All administrative terms in this level were renamed from *thana* to *upazila*. For instance, *Thana Nirbahi Officer* (lit. *Thana Executive Officer*) was renamed to *Upazila Nirbahi Officer* (lit. *Upazila Executive Officer*).
- The word *thana* is now used to solely refer to *police stations*. Generally, there is one police station for each upazila; but larger administrative units may have more than one police station covering different regions.
- The Upazila is administered by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Upazila Parishad. UNOs are Senior Assistant Secretary of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS).
- Each **Upazila Parishad** (or council) has a *chairman*, a *vice-chairman* and a *woman vice-chairman*. All three are elected through direct popular election.
- The Sub-districts are further subdivided into 4,554 Rural Councils and 323 Town Councils or Paurasabha or Municipality.

# Rural Blocks, Cities and Towns

- **City Corporations**

- The cities with a city corporation, having mayoral elections, include Dhaka South, Dhaka North, Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Barisal, Rangpur, Comilla, Narayanganj, Mymensingh and Gazipur total 12. The city corporation are divided into wards, which are further divided into mahallas. Direct elections are held for each ward, electing a councillor. The city mayors are elected for a span of five years.

- **Municipal Corporations**

- Total 327 In the metropolitan areas, excluding the cities with city corporations, have municipal corporations, also known as Paurasabha. Paurasabhas are divided into wards, which are further divided into Mauzas and Mahallas. Direct elections are held for each ward, electing a chairperson and a number of members. The municipal heads are elected for a span of five years.

- **Union Councils**

- Union Councils (or **Union Parishads** or **Unions**) are the smallest rural administrative and local government units in [Bangladesh](#). Each Union is made up of nine Wards. Usually one village is designated as a Ward. There are 4,554 Unions in Bangladesh. A Union Council consists of a chairman and twelve members including three members exclusively reserved for women. Union Parishads are formed under the *Local Government (Union Parishads) Act, 2009*. The boundary of each Union is demarcated by the Deputy Commissioner of the District. A Union Council is the body primarily responsible for agricultural, industrial and community development within the local limits of the union.

# More Information about Administrative Systems

- Lowest level elective units
  - **Rural villages**
  - **City and municipal wards**
- Non–elective ceremonial units
  - **Mahallas**
  - **Mouzas**

Thank You