

State of Democracy in Bangladesh

May 17, 2023

May 17, 2023: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "Awami League (AL) has successfully maintained the confidence, trust and popularity of the masses despite the fact that it is almost impossible to do so, when AL has been in power for such a long period since 2009 till the date."



Prime Minister at Gana Bhavan: We must make Awami League and its Associate Bodies Stronger from the Grass-roots

Forty-two years back, Sheikh Hasina had returned to Bangladesh on 17th May, six years after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed at Gan Bhavan by some disgruntled army colonels.

Even though a secular democratic system has been put in place by Sheikh Hasina during her rule, Bangladesh has had a troubled history of coups by the army and collaboration of some political leaders, with those who opposed the freedom struggle by Mukti Bahini in 1971.

Sheikh Hasina said that after returning home, her only target was to bring back the country on the path of the **Liberation War spirit** and to see that Bangladesh's **true history** was known to the young.

"We will bring smiles on the faces of the distressed people and build '**Sonar Bangla**' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation," she said.

May 17, 2023: Ganatantra Mancha, an alliance of seven political parties, has declared two road marches in Dhaka South and Dhaka North on May 23 and May 28 respectively. It will be followed by a road march towards Dinajpur from Dhaka on June 4 to June 6.

Saiful Haque, coordinator of the alliance and general secretary of **Bangladesh-er Biplobi Workers Party**, said that the people in the country were going through extreme hardship due to price hike of essential commodities, including food, the crisis of gas, electricity and repeated hikes in the prices of utility service.

The only other major party in the opposition is **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)**, which is in alliance with Jamaat. BNP has given mixed signals about its participation in the January 2024 elections.

In 2021, at Durga Puja, simultaneous attacks on a number of Hindu temples were organized. Many observers suspect that these attacks were designed as a protest against Awami League government by a section of the opposition.

www.DiGiNews360.com decries this form of protest. Today when the minority Hindus have been reduced to about 8%, and when the USA's Freedom of Religion in Bangladesh applauds the work of the Awami league government, we hope the opposition will also work to enhance the reputation of Bangladesh in the world.

May 16, 2023: On Tuesday, Pro-BNP and AL-leaning lawyers locked into a clash while holding separate programmes on the **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** office premises over its recent annual polls, leaving around two dozen lawyers injured. Leaders from both sides blamed each other for the incident.

www.DiGiNews360.com stands for a dignified life for all in a democratic world. We call upon both the ruling party and the opposition to participate in the January 2024 elections in a truly democratic spirit so that the troubled history of coups, counter-coups and semi-dictatorships can be left behind.