

Bangladesh Elections 2024: PM Sheikh Hasina elected to a 5th term

January 8, 2024

Please do read the Editorial Comments on the 2nd and 3rd pages.

January 8, 2024: **Dacca**, Bangladesh: Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** has won a fifth term in power with her party, the **Awami League** (AL), winning 223 out of 300 seats, at the country's 12th general election, held on Sunday, 7th January.

India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh **Pranay Verma** hoped that, during the new term of her government, there will be even stronger momentum and growth in the bilateral partnership in support of each other's national development.



*Prime Minister of Bangladesh: **Sheikh Hasina** (from 6th January 2009)*

Earlier, PM of BD from 23 June 1996 to 15 July 2001

President of Awami League from 16th February, 1981

The main opposition party, the **Bangladesh Nationalist Party** (BNP), boycotted the elections as BNP insisted that the incumbent government was unable to organize a free and fair election. BNP demanded that PM **Sheikh Hasina** should step down and that elections should be organized under a neutral care-taker PM. Awami League rejected the demand, since there is no provision of a care-taker PM in the constitution of Bangladesh.

The voting percentage was only of the order of 40%, since the main Opposition Party had asked people to boycott the election.

Bangladesh is a Muslim majority country with a population of 170 Mn. It had 25% Hindus in 1947. BD has a well-organized radical Islamist party, which continues to attack Hindu temples and vandalize celebration of Hindu festivals. The result is that today BD is left with Hindus forming only 8% of its population.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Bangladesh won its independence in 1971, after a war, in which three million people sacrificed their lives, according to the Bangladeshi government. www.DiGiNews360.com notes that the exact number of deaths is unclear and estimates vary widely.

www.DiGiNews360.com notes that President Hasina is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibar Rehman, the first President of Bangladesh and the person, who led the independence struggle and wrested Bangladesh from Pakistan, which was treating BD as its colony.

The PM **Hasina** is a secular person, who wants Hindus to enjoy the same rights as the Muslims. However, the main Opposition Party **Bangladesh Nationalist Party** (BNP) has close association with both the radical Islamists and Pakistan. Hence, Hindus may have to start leaving BD faster, if BNP were to come to power.

Secondly BNP has also developed close relations with China, Pakistan and the Groups, which assassinated **Sheikh Mujibar Rehman**, along with most of his family members during the early hours of **15 August 1975** at his Dhanmondi 32 residence as part of a coup d'état. Hence, BNP's nationalism and independence of decision-making is doubtful.

USA had been trying to help BNP before the elections. Social Media were used widely to create an environment against Awami League. www.DiGiNews360.com is not able to identify those, who coordinated the intensive Social Media campaign against PM **Sheikh Hasina**.

But, the observers say that in Bangladesh, **China** and **USA** had joined together **against the interests of India and of democracy in the Global South**.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: www.DiGiNews360.com would prefer if AL were to win, since the BNP and its other radical Islamist parties are not parties, which look at the humanity as a single brotherhood.

*China wants to have **client states in South and East Asia**. China has invested an estimated \$10 Bn in Bangladesh, including on **Sylhet International Airport**. When **Ram Madhav of India Foundation** and a senior official of the ruling party in India called on PM Sheikh Hasina at her official residence **Ganabhaban** on March 19, 2023, **PM Sheikh Hasina** told him that “India can use our Chattogram and Sylhet ports if they want.” The Chhattogram port is strategically located and use of the port and the Sylhet airport can improve the connectivity to India’s north-eastern States. This may make India as a major beneficiary of the Sylhet airport.*

From India’s point of view, BNP is both anti-India and anti-Hindus in Bangladesh. Till the people of Bangladesh set up another secular party, www.DiGiNews360.com, India and in fact the entire democratic world, would like AL to rule Bangladesh.

Note: Please read “Bangladesh Elections 2024: US tries to be the Judge” dated November 17, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/bangladesh-elections-2024-us-tries-to-be-the-judge/>
