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Bangladesh's population realized quickly after its liberation that they required a codified constitution, set of laws, and process for passing new laws. Because of this, the constitution's drafting was completed in just six months after starting. A year after Bangladesh was liberated, on December 16th, the constitution went into effect after being passed on November 4th. Contrarily, the constitutions of India and Pakistan took two years and nine years, respectively. The Bengali constitution contains the four founding ideals of the nation: democracy, nationalism, secularism, and socialism.

From our former citizenship experience in modern-day east Pakistan, these 4 pillars held a wealth of historical context. People in east Pakistan, often known as Bengal, battled for their democratic rights throughout the rule of the United Pakistan dictatorship because they were denied them. As an illustration, consider the six points demanded in 1966. All protests and actions during Pakistan's entire rule, including the 1971 independence war, were founded on Bengali nationalism. Thus, nationalism was regarded as the second tenet of our constitution. Thirdly, politics have always been pursued with the help of religious beliefs. As a result, the concept of secularism was included in the constitution. It implies that the state is more concerned with your identification and obligations as a citizen of Bangladesh than with your religious convictions. It is a citizen's business what they believe. Last but not least, during the Pakistani era, economic inequality was commonplace, and over the course of the country's 24 years of existence, the rate of inequality between the rich and the poor grew steadily worse. In order for the populace to benefit from reduced relative poverty, free healthcare, the advantages of public ownership, and declining marginal utility of income, it was determined to protect economic rights in accordance with socialism.

However, these four pillars have stayed the same and are observed during every parliamentary action. The Bangladeshi constitution has undergone a total of 17 amendments, like many other constitutions around the world. Nevertheless, M. Jashim Ali Chowdhuri claims in his paper titled "Elections in "Democratic" Bangladesh" that "Constitutional government in Bangladesh has achieved a certain degree of stability since then, but much has also been lost during this 'work-in-progress' period. The preceding two decades (1990–2010) could possibly be classified as a 'illiberal democracy' period that gave rise to the elected dictatorship of the current prime minister” (Chowdhuri, 2015). Despite the fact that the 2013 Shahbagh movement began as demonstrations by young bloggers and activists calling for justice for war crimes committed during the Bangladesh liberation struggle, the movement may be characterized as a form of secular cultural nationalism. This demonstrates how prevalent nationalism is in Bangladesh even now. “Dhormo jar jar utshob shobar” is a slogan that portrays secularism as it is currently practiced in Bangladesh. The government's interests began to shift from socialism to capitalism following Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's unjustly assassinated in 1975, despite the fact that the government's policies remained socialist after obtaining independence. “At the moment, Bangladesh has one of South Asia's economies that is most focused on free markets. With our neighbors, we have various bilateral and regional free trade agreements. With the United States, Bangladesh has a Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement. Bangladesh is giving the highest emphasis to attracting foreign direct investment into its economy. We have a sizable stake in the growing international commerce flow as well as the worldwide readymade garment industry. Under the World Trade Organization regime, Bangladesh is one of the leading proponents of Duty Free and Quota Free Market Access. Bangladesh needed 35 years to transition from a socialist to a capitalist society. However, with only a few socialist leaders in the present parliament, Bangladesh is currently running entirely on capitalist principles” (Abdin, 2016, p.1).

References :

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