

## United front election

⊕ Describe the formation of united front and evaluate the factors that led to the success of UF in 1954 election.

⇒ The United Front was a partnership of political parties in East Bengal which contested and won Pakistan's first provincial general election.

(2)

The first election of East Bengal Legislation was held in March 1954 under the India Act of 1935. The contesting parties in the election were the ruling Muslim League a United front, which is a ~~front~~ which is ~~a front~~ also called Jukto front. It ~~was~~ consisted of 4 parties- Awami Muslim League, Krishak Sramik Party, Nizam-e-Islam, Gomatomtui Dal.

The election ~~was~~ resulted in a landslide victory for the United front which won 228 of the 309 seats (including 9 reserved seats for women).

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UF = united front

The reason behind this victory was -

- i) ~~that~~ UF was a powerful alliance of various political parties of East Bengal.
- ii) The UF campaigned on an election manifesto consisting of 21 points. The point contains agriculture, industries and socio-economic development of East Bengal. The 21 points ~~in~~ ~~for~~ promises to make Bengali the national language, provincial autonomy, rehabilitation of poor refugees, improving irrigation to protect the country from flood, to declare 21st of February as 'Shaheed day' - were some of the 21 points.
- iii) Three commanders of the UF were A.K. Fazlul Haque, Suhrawardy and Maulana Bhashani were very popular leaders at that time were very popular

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ML = ~~ML~~ Muslim League

whereas Muslim League leaders never gained popularity in this region.

- iv) Muslim League's failure to frame the system of governance <sup>and failure to run government</sup> after independence made people vote for UF instead of ML.
- v) The people of East Bengal suffered from discrimination in all areas including social, educational, military, political. By highlighting these in their programme, UF was able to create a reaction against the ML in the public.
- vi) Corruption and nepotism was one of the reasons of the defeat of ML and victory of UF. While ML was running the govt. 20,000 people ~~died~~ died in Khulna famine.



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Due to the fall in price of jute farmers are in trouble. Jute costing 19 taka per man were sold for 40-50 taka by brokers. Along with this, shortage of and increased price of ~~see~~ essential commodities made people's life miserable.

In the election the UF strongly publicized the various faults of the ruling party ML. This made people lose their faith from ML and they saw a new hope of having a better government system in UF. This ultimately ultimately led to the success of UF in 1954 election.

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⑦ What happened after UF won the election? How was the UF cabinet abolished? What was the aftermath of this abolishment?

⇒ After UF won the election in 1954, they established a full cabinet (committee of senior ministers) of 14 people. On 15th May, the Awami Muslim League joined the cabinet and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was appointed Minister of Agriculture, cooperatives <sup>and</sup> Rural development.

Thus ~~they~~ <sup>UF</sup> were forming the new Government, but the Juktofront cabinet lasted for only a few weeks.

On 29th May 1954, it was

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dismissed by central government.

On May 2 there was a bloody clash between the prison authorities and local residents in front of the Dhaka central jail and another bloody clash between Bengali and Bihari workers at Adamji Pataki Jute Mill. These two incidents left the UF cabinet embarrassed and it was pointed termed as the weakness of the UF government, and thus the UF cabinet was dismissed and came to an end only after 56 days.

After the UF cabinet was abolished

The Pakistani government started

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mass arrests of UF activists. Former Chief Minister Fazlul Haque was placed under house arrest, Maulana Bhasani was banned from entering the country and many young leaders including Sheikh Mujib were arrested and UF offices were locked. In response to this there was great discontent in East Bengal and the Front workers decided to build a strong movement against the govt's mass arrest and undertake revolutionary activities. However, ~~for~~ ~~there~~ as there was no result for the absence of main leaders Fazlul Haque, Bhasani, Suhrawardy and Sheikh Mujib.



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⊗ Describe the significance of 1954 election and the ~~formation~~ of UF govt.

⇒ The victory of the UF in 1954 election was of immense importance.

This victory ended the ML's long seven-year rule of exploitation and oppression. This election was a united protest against the unjust, discriminatory failed rule of ML. The Bengali through this election made ML understand ~~why~~ that they no longer want the ML in East Bengal.

For the first time in the political history of Bengal and Pakistan, in the 1954 election, the parties entered

into an election war, again each other presenting a specific election manifesto. The M2 prioritized the protection of 'Islam' and 'Pakistan' in his manifesto, whereas UF announced a 21 point program containing demands to the welfare of people of ~~EB~~ East Bengal. After UF won the election, they demanded full autonomy in East Bengal province and politics took on a new dimension ~~to~~ for the best interest of East Bengal. It could be marked as the time period when middle class participation

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in Bengal politics began. From UF election to the election of 1970 consisted the actual preparation of the freedom of BD. Thus the election of 1954 and UF played a significant role in the independence movement and development of independent BD.

(A) How was Awami League formed?

⇒ The Awami Muslim League was founded in Rose Garden of KM Dan Lane, Dhaka on 23 June 1949. It was founded by a faction of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League led by Hussein Shaheed Suhrawardy and ~~Ab~~ Abul Haslim. It was established

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with -

- ① Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani as president
- ② Shamsul Haquees as general secretary,
- ③ Sheikh Mujib, Khondokar Mostaq Ahmed and AK Rafiqul Hussain ~~as~~ as joint secretaries.

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. Thus Awami Muslim League was named Awami League.