





Summary of 1954 Election:

(141) ०२। ১৯৫৪ - युङ्क्रल्डेत निर्वाहन - YouTube

- ☐ Elections 1954: held in East Pakistan between 8-12 March 1954.
- ☐ The contesting parties in the elections were the
 - ruling Muslim League and
 - > a four-party alliance called United Front.

- (141) ০২.২০. অধ্যায় ২ : ১৯৫৪

 <u>সালের নির্বাচনে মুসলিম লীগের পরাজয়</u>

 <u>ও যুক্তফ্রন্টের বিজয়ের কারণ —</u>

 <u>YouTube</u>
- (141) ০২.২১. অধ্যায় ২ : পাকিস্তান থেকে বাংলাদেশ (১৯৪৭–১৯৭১) – যুক্তফ্রন্ট মন্ত্রিসভা, ১৯৫৪ [HSC] – YouTube

Awami Muslim League



The Awami League was the **first opposition party** in the then Pakistan.

Formation Of Awami Muslim League

- ☐ The Awami League was founded in Rose Garden of KM Das Lane, Dhaka on 23 June 1949.
- ☐ Founded by a faction of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League headed by HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY and ABUL HASHIM.

Leaders

It was established with

- Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani as President
- Shamsul Hoque as General Secretary
- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (in jail at the time of formation), Khondakar Mostaq Ahmed and AK Rafiqul Hussain as Joint Secretaries

Awami Muslim League to **Awami**

League



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.

Demands

- •Recognition of **Bangla** as one of the state languages of Pakistan.
- One man one vote democracy.
- •Framing of a constitution parliamentary form of government.
- Regional autonomy and removal of disparity between the two wings.

Election in 1954

•The first election of East Bengal Legislation was held in March 1954.

•The contesting parties in the elections were the ruling Muslim League and a four-party alliance called United Front (Juktofront).

United front

- Awami Muslim League
 (Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani)
- 2. Krishak Sramik Party (AK Fazlul Haque)
- 3. Nizam-e-Islam (Mawlana Athar Ali)
- 4. Ganatantri Dal (Hazi Danesh)

(Some sources state five-party alliance including Khilafat-e-Rabbani Party: <u>Elections 1954 — Banglapedia</u>)

21 points

- □ The United Front campaigned on an election manifesto consisting of 21 points.
- ☐ These points demanded development in
 - > agriculture,
 - > industries and
 - socio-economic development of East Bengal.

21 points

1.	To recognise Bangla as one of the State Languages of Pakistan;
2.	To abolish without compensation zamindari and all rent receiving interest in land, and to distribute the surplus lands amongst the cultivators; to reduce rent to a fair level and abolish the certificate system of realising rent;
3.	To nationalise the jute trade and bring it under the direct control of the government of East Bengal, secure fair price of jute to the growers and to investigate into the jute-bungling during the Muslim League regime to punish those found responsible for it;
4.	To introduce co-operative farming in agriculture and to develop cottage industries with full government subsidies;
5.	To start salt industry (both small and large scale) in order to make East Bengal self-sufficient in the supply of salt, and to investigate into the salt-bungling during the Muslim League regime to punish the offenders;
6.	To rehabilitate immediately all the poor refugees belonging to the artisan and technician class;
7.	To protect the country from flood and famine by means of digging canals and improving irrigation system;
8.	To make the country self-sufficient by modernizing the method of cultivation and industrialisation, and to ensure the rights of the labourer as per ILO Convention;
9.	To introduce free and compulsory primary education throughout the country and to arrange for just pay and allowances to the teachers;
10.	To restructure the entire education system, introduce mother tongue as the medium of instruction, remove discrimination between government and private schools and to turn all the schools into government aided institutions;

21 points

11.	To repeal all reactionary laws including those of the Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities and to make them autonomous institutions; to make education cheaper and easily available to the people;
12.	To curtail the cost of administration and to rationalise the pay scale of high and low paid government servants. The ministers shall not receive more than 1000 taka as monthly salary;
13.	To take steps to eradicate corruption, nepotism and bribery, and with this end in view, to take stocks of the properties of all government officers and businessmen from 1940 onward and forfeit all properties the acquisition of which is not satisfactorily accounted for;
14.	To repeal all Safety and Preventive Detention Acts and release all prisoners detained without trial, and try in open court persons involved in anti- state activities; to safeguard the rights of the press and of holding meetings;
15.	To separate the judiciary from the executive;
16.	To locate the residence of the chief minister of the United Front at a less costly house, and to convert Burdwan House into a students hostel now, and later, into an institute for research on Bangla language and literature;
17.	To erect a monument in memory of the martyrs of the Language Movement on the spot where they were shot dead, and to pay compensation to the families of the martyrs;
18.	To declare 21st of February as 'Shaheed Day' and a public holiday;
19.	The Lahore Resolution proposed full autonomy of East Bengal leaving defence, foreign affairs and currency under the central government. In the matter of defence, arrangements shall be made to set the headquarters of the army in West Pakistan and the naval headquarters in East Bengal and to establish ordnance factories in East Bengal, and to transform Ansar force into a full-fledged militia equipped with arms;
20.	The United Front Ministry shall on no account extend the tenure of the Legislature and shall resign six months before the general elections to facilitate free and fair elections under an Election Commission;
21.	All casual vacancies in the Legislature shall be filled up through by-elections within three months of the vacancies, and if the nominees of the Front are defeated in three successive by-elections, the ministry shall resign from office.

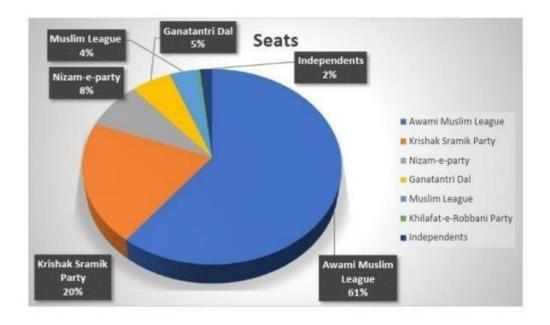
Muslim League's Campaign

- ☐ The Muslim League's election campaign was based on religion.
- ☐ They said that the Muslim League would establish a constitution based on Islamic principles.

United Front's Advantage

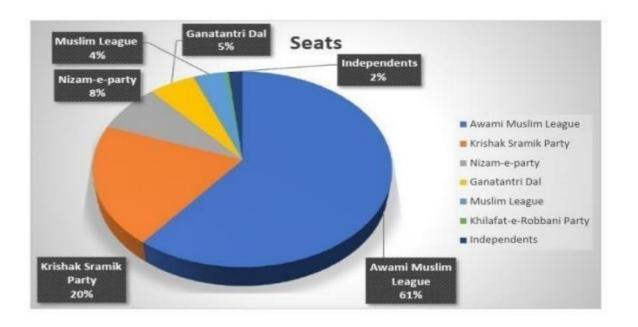
- □ With the support of left political workers, the United Front leaders could operate with considerable ease at the grassroots level.
- ☐ The United Front gained popularity due to issues like
 - the killing of students on 21 February 1952, and
 - ever rising prices of essential goods, particularly of salt and rice.

Result



The elections resulted in a landslide victory for the United Front which won **223 among 309 seats** (including 9 reserved seats for women).

Result

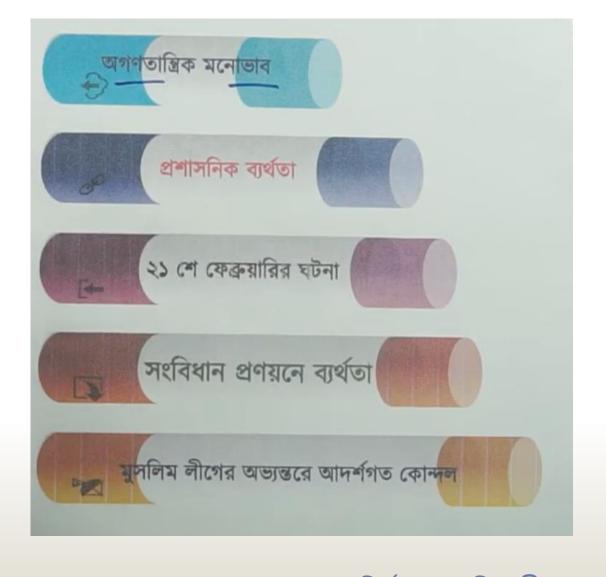


- Muslim League won only 9 seats,
- > Khalafat Rabbani won only 2 seats
- > and non-party won 12 seats.

Reasons for Defeat of Muslim League

- 1. Formation of United Front and widespread support in East Pakistan.
- 2. Failure to formulate the constitution of the Muslim League.
- 3. Lack of competent leadership.
- 4. **Isolation** from the mass population.
- 5. Conflict within Muslim League.
- 6. **Central policy** towards East Bengal, lack of tolerance, injustice and exploitation policy.
- 7. Corruption and nepotism.

Reasons for **Defeat** of Muslim League



(141) ০২.২০. অধ্যায় ২ : ১৯৫৪ সালের নির্বাচনে মুসলিম লীগের পরাজয় ও যুক্তফ্রন্টের বিজয়ের কারণ – YouTube

Significance

Bengali nationalism won this election. This election represents the rise of a secularist political ideology.

Politics devoid of religious influence began in 1954 to replace religious dominance in pre-partition politics.

One of the *main agendas* of the United Front was the **full autonomy** of the East Pakistan province.

Significance

- Politics took on a new dimension as a result of party coalitions formed in East Bengal's best interests.
- Despite the differing ideologies of United Front's separate parties, the movement's eventual success was guaranteed by their agreement on the movement's greater goals (i.e., full autonomy of East Pakistan).

Aftermath of the Election

- ☐ Juktofront cabinet did not last very long, it was dismissed by the central government on 30 May 1954.
- ☐ The reason given was:
 - the riot in Adamjee jute mill (Narayanganj) and
 - > Chandragona paper mill (Karnaphuli)
- indicated that the government could not maintain law and order.
- ☐ This was a **false** and **planned** accusation to overthrow the government.

Conspiracy against United Front

- On March 25, East Pakistan governor Choudhury Khaliquzzaman asked Krishak Sramik Party leader AK Fazlul Huq to form the ministry.
- ☐ But in the ministry formed on 3 April the **Awami** Muslim League was left out.
- ☐ This created a **crisis** within United Front.
- ☐ The same day a serious riot between the Bangali and non-Bangali workers of the Adamjee Jute Mills at Narayanganj and Karnaphuli Paper Mill caused the death of nearly 1500 workers.
- The communist activists were held **responsible** for the tragedy, and the Fazlul Huq government was **blamed for its failure in controlling the situation**.

Dismissal of United Front Ministry

- ☐ On May 30, 1954, the ministry was dismissed, and direct governor's rule was imposed.
- Around 1600 Front leaders and workers, including 30 members of the legislature, were put behind the bars.

CT 02 - SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY

Lectures –

14, 15 & 16.

Format –

Answer any two 5-mark questions out of three.

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