**Four Principles of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh got its independence on 1971 and promulgated its constitution on 1972. The constitution consisted of four principles or central pillars; which are – nationalism, socialism, secularism and democracy. These four fundamental principles of the constitution of Bangladesh, put forward by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is described below.

Firstly, nationalism refers to the idea that the interest of a nation is above that of any individual or a group. Nationalism is one of the fundamental principles of constitution, because both in the Pakistan period or after that, all the people of this country worked together to achieve the interest of them as a nation. In the Pakistan period, various movements like language movement, non-cooperation movement, liberation war proved the nationalism. After independence, the constitution adopted Bengali nationalism, which was later replaced by Bangladeshi nationalism. It relates nation with country.

Secondly, socialism is a political and economic system that says that property and the means of production should be owned by the community as a whole, while permitting cooperative private ownership. In the Pakistan period, the system that was prevalent was capitalism, because Pakistan government was in alliance with the United States. However, after getting independence, Bangladesh moved to a socialist system, where means of production like jute and sugar factories were owned by the state, though private ownership was permitted.

Thirdly, secularism refers to exclusion of religion from the legislative system of the state. Initially, Pakistan was founded on the basis of communalism. There were some promises that all religious group will have equal rights, however the reality was dominance of Muslim rule in the Pakistan period. After independence, the country completely moved to the idea of ‘neutrality of religion’. Though the state religion was constituted to be Islam, people of all religions could observe their religious belief with no obstacle.

Fourthly, democracy is a system of governance where people are able to elect their legislative representatives. Though there was a constitution promulgated on 1956 for the republic of Pakistan, however the martial law did not let it flourish completely. Moreover, the people of East Pakistan did not ever get the opportunity of democracy; for instance, the election of United Front, the election of 1970 – all were just for showing. After independence, the system of democracy started to embark by the leadership of Awami League. Though there were a couple of eras with martial law, democracy still exists, to some extent, in Bangladesh till date.

To sum up, these four fundamental principles are essential and relevant to present day and beyond. Because, socialism helps to reduce inequality, democracy helps to form a better government, secularism helps to bind all the religious community into one unit as a nation, developing nationalism - all of these are present and relevant in the current time and will be essential for the future to maintain harmony among all.