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FORGOING CRISIS IN BANGLADESH: - A WARNING BELL TO INDIA

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Abstract: - Civil wars, violent clashes (activities) and persecution of minorities take place in any country only when the inefficient government, corrupt administration and majority community in the said country are eager to run the country in the name of religion by disturbing communal harmony. These incidents have become common in Islamic countries (where religious fanaticism overthrew the democratic government) and one of them is Bangladesh. In this research paper, the events of Bangladesh in the 21st century will be studied in order and include its past and present violent (in the name of reservation) activities. Also, this article will throw light upon the each and every event which led to the mass movement and atrocities on the Hindu community due to the uprising in Bangladesh. This article will try to know how this civil conflict is a warning bell for India and what steps can India take to keep itself alert and safe?

Keywords: India, Bangladesh, Refugee Crisis, Citizenship, Quota system, Violence

Introduction

The history of India has been golden, but over a period of time, many important events have divided the integral form of this country into many pieces and planted the seeds of religionism and violence. After the partition of British India, two independent nations named India and Pakistan emerged. In the northeastern part of India, an area of Muslim majority (Bengali-speaking) population came into existence under the name East Pakistan and the region was controlled by West Pakistan. With the passage of time, the Urdu and Bengali language deadlock in East Pakistan led to violence, genocide and civil war. In 1971 (after the war of liberation), the conflict ended with the end of East Pakistan and the emergence of a new independent and democratic country called Bangladesh (India's victory over Pakistan and surrendering its soldiers). It was on this date i.e. 1971 and a few years before or after that, the first refugee crisis before the formation of Bangladesh, the illegal entry of people from East Pakistan into the northeastern states of India and the

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domestic political activities here after the formation of Bangladesh have given rise to the conflict in (2024) the present.

Bloodshed in West Pakistan & Role of India in making of Bangladesh

Bangladesh, earlier a part of Pakistan from 1947-1971, gained its independence as a sovereign independent country in 1971 (DrishtiIAS, 2024). 'On August 14, 1947, British India was divided into the two self-governing dominions of India and Pakistan, both of which became independent and Pakistan was born as a bifurcated state divided by 1,600 kilometers of Indian soil and by economic and social divisions between a largely Bengali East Wing and a heavily Punjabi and Sindhi West Wing' (factsanddetail.com, 2022). 'Since the partition of India in 1947, the East Pakistanis felt the forces in West Pakistan were destabilizing their values and the economic, political, social, cultural, ideological, linguistic, and educational conflict between East and West Pakistan became glaringly evident' (Bhall, 2022). 'The new Pakistan was split into two regions West Pakistan and East Pakistan (today's Bangladesh) and the distance and difference in culture, language, and identity between the two regions, and the fact that West Pakistan held more political and economic power, led to strong tensions and eventually protest movements in East Pakistan' (Kew, 2024). 'It was worst mistake which was done by British, that east Bangladesh was given in the hand of Pakistan, though Bangladesh and Pakistan had no cultural ties except religion and Bangladesh had cultural ties with India especially with west Bengal, Assam, Tripura' (Mondal, 2023). 'The Pakistani government wanted to turn Bangladeshis into exemplary Muslims by alienating them from their Hindu background and this concept of religious division was also used as a root cause for the creation of Pakistan in the first place following British colonialism of the subcontinent' (EFSAS, 2017). 'West and East Pakistan shared a religion, but not much else and for decades after Partition, the East Pakistanis (present-day Bangladeshis) were treated unfairly by the West Pakistani government and in 1948, Urdu became the only state language of both West and East Pakistan' (Kew, 2024). 'The West-Pakistani government proved even more discriminatory towards the people of East-Pakistan in all spheres of life - social, political and economic' (EFSAS, 2017). 'Bangladesh's early days were exceedingly difficult and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (SMR) had taken the reins of government with overwhelming public support, but had inherited a country in shambles' (Chowdhury, 2020). 'Bengalis in East Pakistan felt alienated from their home because of the central government in Islamabad's political, economic, and cultural marginalization of their region and over the years, the unrest in East Pakistan grew more intense and East Pakistan persisted in its poverty and political marginalization' (DrishtiIAS, 2024). 'Pakistan's Army launched the infamous Operation Searchlight which commenced across East Pakistan and it was a brutal rape, murder, and pillage campaign intended to sweep away the Bengali nationalist seeking independence' (Bhall, 2022). 'India, which shared a border with East Pakistan, played a critical role in the Liberation War of Bangladesh and its contribution was not limited to the military front, but also included humanitarian aid, moral support and diplomatic efforts' (Pinky Debnath, 2023).

In 1970, SMR, a prominent leader from East Pakistan and the father of Sheikh Hasina (SH), won the election. Despite his victory, West Pakistan's leadership refused to accept him as a Prime Minister (PM) and also refused to recognize the right of the Awami League to form a government. When SMR was denied the

position of PM despite winning the election, he became frustrated and with support from India, Mukti Bahini (MB) was formed, an army that fought against Pakistan. In 1971, they played a crucial role in Bangladesh's liberation from Pakistan. During fight for independence, various group (organization) opposed to the creation of Bangladesh, such as Jamaat-e-Islami, supported Pakistan's military, instead of supporting Bangladesh. It backed Pakistan's efforts and played a role in the conflict. This organization also formed Al-Bedr and Al-Shams, group that assisted Pakistan's military operations in Bangladesh. These groups were involved in acts of violence against civilians and were referred to as Razakars.

Migration from Bangladesh & Citizenship Crisis in India

'Millions of Bangladeshis fled to India both legitimately and surreptitiously after the partition' (Anisujjaman, 2022). 'India has experienced two phases of refugee flow coming from Bangladesh, (a) in 1947, after India experienced partition of the country and acquired Independence and (b) in 1971, when East Pakistan was separated from west in order to create Bangladesh' (Ansary, 2017). 'The politicization of migration of Bangladeshis into India operates at the intersection of religion, ethnicity, and discourses on nationalism in India because for the Hindu nationalists operating at the All-India level Muslims are infiltrators and Hindus are refugees, for the Assamese ethnic nationalist both Hindu and Muslim Bengalis are foreigners and for the Bengalis in West Bengal, the ethnicity Bengalihood comes to the fore' (Shamshad, 2017). 'The around 5000-km-long porous natural border between India and Bangladesh has provided easy passage to local populations and the Indian state regards the illegal migration of Bangladeshi nationals to Indian soil as a major contentious issue involving the economy, culture, security, and politics' (Vishal, 2019). 'Ten million refugees from East Pakistan were hosted by India, in fact, in a state like Tripura, the refugee population surpassed the population of the state, and West Bengal was another state that hosted a large number of refugees' (Pattanaik, 2020). 'Since their country's independence in 1971, Bangladeshis have migrated worldwide and India, with an estimated 2.5 million Bangladeshi emigrants in 2020, is the most common destination' (Duque, 2024).

'India and Bangladesh had a warm and cordial beginning, with India being one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan in 1971' (Bhattacharjee, 2020). 'The migration from Bangladesh to India takes place in various phases and a number of ethnic groups like Chakmas, Hajongs, Hindu Bengalis, have been migrated from Bangladesh to different parts of India and particularly Northeast India in different periods' (Dutta D. P., 2022). 'In 2019, India made the unprecedented move of listing 1.9 million people in its northeast state of Assam as illegal migrants from Bangladesh in a new National Register of Citizens before passing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which overtly discriminates against the country's Muslim minority' (Punathil, 2022). 'The torture of Pakistan army over the linguistic and religious minorities also led massive flow of refugees from East Pakistan to India' (Dutta D. P., 2022). 'In 2016, Kiren Rijiju, the then Minister of State for Home Affairs, told India's parliament; according to available information, there are about 20 million illegal immigrants from Bangladesh in India' (BBC, 2020). 'The influx of such a large number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, particularly in the border states, has proved to be a huge challenge for India with serious implications for its resources and national security' (Tripathi, 2016). 'Assam has been traditionally been a migrant receiving region because of its chronic labour

shortage and resource affluence, including fertility of the soil and it is assumed that out of 26 million people residing in Assam, around 6 million are Illegal Bangladeshi migrants' (Dutta D. P., 2022). 'The Indian Parliament passed the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act in 1983 in an attempt to address the problem, but the measure failed to make any impact and was ultimately set aside by the Supreme Court in 2005' (Tripathi, 2016). 'Migration of Bangladeshis into India, especially into Assam and Tripura, has led to numerous clashes, most of which revolve around the land and language issues' (Dutta D. P., 2022). 'India is a nation that always seeks peace and tranquilly, and it abides by U.N. regulations governing foreign relations, however, it has been noted that there is a significant influx of immigrants from Bangladesh who come to this country in search of easy, affordable and accessible jobs as labourers, housekeepers, and rickshaw drivers' (Shekhar, 2023).

Democracy, Election & Opposition in Bangladesh

'In 1991, democracy was established in Bangladesh, indeed, India became one of the key factors in the election campaign' (Bhattacharjee, 2020). During the fight for independence, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (SMR) and Ziaur Rahman (ZR), a senior military officer, were key figures in the fight against Pakistan. After the country gained independence in 1971, election was held. SMR's party won the elections with a significant majority, and he became the PM, also earning the title of 'father of the nation'. As a PM, he took action against those who opposed Bangladesh's independence, including Jamaat-e-Islami, it was banned, and its members either went underground or fled to Pakistan, and those who remained were arrested and labeled as traitors. As 1975 approached, the country's condition deteriorated rapidly. As a new country, it faced widespread hunger and economic turmoil. The nation was highly unstable, and public dissatisfaction with SMR's government grew. It became increasingly difficult for him to stabilize the country. To address these issues and maintain his hold on power, SMR announced the creation of a one-party system called Bakshal (Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League). This meant that all opposition parties would dissolve and their members would join Bakshal, the only party in country, led by SMR. This announcement angered the people, particularly the opposition, who realized they would lose their political influence. The situation deteriorated to the point that, on August 15, 1975, a group of army officers who were dissatisfied with SMR, entered his residence in Dhanmondi and killed all 17 people there, including his wife, sons, and other family members. After this incident, SMR's entire family was wiped out, except two daughters, Sheikh Hasina (SH), who was 28 years old at that time, and her sister, who had gone to Germany. In a situation, India rescued them. SH and her sister were given shelter in India. From Aug. 1975 to May 1991, SH lived in Delhi with her sister, which is why SH has a personal connection with India. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was in power for too short time to adopt any major initiatives in addressing the issues that were left-over and, were earlier, a mere subset of India-Pakistan relations' (Pattanaik, 2020). After several internal skirmishes, they saw an opportunity and, on November 7, 1975, ZR seized power in Bangladesh. Once they seized power, in 1976, they made adjustments to the district quota system, reducing its influence but increasing the job quota. ZR became the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh. And on April 21, 1977, nearly two years later, he used his power to become the President of Bangladesh. Following this, ZR formed his political party, the Bangladesh

Nationalist Party (BNP). He, later, focused on Bangladesh's demographic makeup, where according to the census, 88.3% were Muslims and 10.5% were Hindus, with the rest belonging to other communities. He shifted the country's politics from secularism and Bangladeshi nationalism to focusing on the Muslim majority, which quickly gained popularity. A segment of the Muslim population, some of whom had sympathies for Pakistan at the time, became his target group and coordinated with Jamaat-e-Islami.

ZR's BNP formed an alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami and contested the election together, and promoted religious beliefs. They replaced secularism word with absolute trust and faith in Allah, from their constitution. Nevertheless, in 1979 elections, the alliance was successful, with BNP winning 207 out of 300 seats. On May 30, 1981, a powerful faction within the army killed ZR, assassinated him, and turned the tables. After this, his wife Khaleda Zia (KZ), took over leadership of the BNP and army chief Hussain Muhammad Ershad came to power and established military rule. On the other side, in 1981, SH returned and became the president of her father's party, the Awami League. In 1986, Ershad reassigned unclaimed quotas to the women of Bangladesh. In 1990, both KZ and SH's parties managed to oust Ershad from power and opposition parties had united. In 1991, elections were held, both SH and KZ participated, standing against each other and the vote percentage between SH's Awami League and KZ's BNP was close but KZ secured more seats, largely due to support from Jamaat-e-Islami. KZ came to power and became the PM. 'Its ideological base was in centre-right ideologies, and electoral politics was based on anti-India sentiments and stances' (Pattanaik, 2020). SH constantly protested against her, accusing her of being a dictator who abused her power and she eventually convinced the public that KZ was a dictator, leading to her victory in the 1996 election, where she (SH) became the PM. Now, KZ retaliated by accusing SH of being a dictator and organized protests against her. In 2001, KZ won the elections and became the PM again. However, the legitimacy of these elections was questioned when SH publicly released a research paper through the Center for Research and Information, alleging that the elections had been rigged. In this paper, she published 22 case studies regarding the election, in which she claimed that KZ won in 22 constituencies through fraudulent means. She asserted that KZ was a fraud and alleged that 30,000 Hindu voters was systematically prevented from voting because the Hindu vote bank traditionally supported the Awami League. After 2006 SH again came into power and upon taking the office, she took measures to ensure she would never lose power again. She reimposed the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami (top leaders like Gulam Azam, Delwar Hossain Sayedee, and Motiur Rahman Nizami were prosecuted and punished) and in 2010, she formed an International Crimes Tribunal². A year later, in 2011, SH passed the fifth amendment reintroducing the word 'secular' into the constitution and she abolished the caretaker government system³ in Bangladesh, stating that elections would be conducted like in other countries, with an election commission overseeing the process. Despite these changes, she did not face much opposition and won the 2014 election again. After winning, she took another significant step. KZ ran the Zia Orphanage Trust, which had been receiving funds since 1991. SH secretly started investigating this trust. The Anti-Corruption conducted a thorough investigation, and charges were filed against KZ for illegally

² The purpose of this tribunal was to prosecute the war crimes committed during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, primarily targeting the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami.

³ This is a temporary government, composed of neutral officials, would oversee the elections to ensure fairness.

withdrawing funds from the trust. The case went to court, and by 2018, she was sentenced to 10 years in prison. She had been released for six months and has remained in jail since then. The elections were held again in December 2018, and SH won the elections once more, facing allegations of election rigging and violence. Despite the uproar, she dismissed allegations as politically motivated, and she returned to power without any significant opposition.

21st Century: Contemporary Crisis in Bangladesh

The above-mentioned individuals, ZR, Jamaat-e-Islami and SMR - are relevant to the current situation. Following independence, Bangladesh faced significant challenges due to certain decision made by the leadership and the current issue of Bangladesh has its roots connected to this particular incident. SMR integrated MB members into the military and granted them the status of freedom fighters. After independence, MB soldiers were included in the Bangladesh's Army. After this, internal factionalism started in the army. On the one side there were MB's members and on the other side there were old (before the separation of East and West Pakistan) members. The latter group had a sympathetic view towards Pakistan, having served in West Pakistan and been posted in various regions. The division resulted in two distinct factions within the army; one supporting SMR and his pro-India stance, and other with Pro-Pakistan views. SMR introduced a quota system through an order from the Bangladesh Ministry of Cabinet Services for those who had participated in the fight for Bangladesh's independence. This quota system still affects Bangladesh today and ultimately led to Sheikh Hasina facing significant challenges. It reserved 30% for the freedom fighters, i.e., the MB members. Another 10% was reserved for women who had been victims of atrocities committed by Pakistan army during the war. The remaining 10% was a distinct quota, 5% was for the tribal community, and 1% was for physically challenged individuals who had faced difficulties during that time. The root of all problems lay in 30% freedom fighter quota. When this quota was introduced, it dissatisfied certain groups within the army. SH became the PM in 1996 and upon taking office, she made a significant decision in 1997 related to the Quota system. Her father had introduced quotas for freedom fighters, and with the number of surviving freedom fighters dwindling, she extended these quotas to include their children. In 2008, when SH won, within two years of that, in 2010, she took a significant step; the freedom fighters and their children had become fewer in number to claim the quota. Since their children were also becoming fewer to claim the quota, she extended the quota benefits to their grandchildren.

In 2006, two significant files related to Muhammad Yunus⁴ (MY) were leaked through WikiLeaks, which led to many problems to him. The leaked document was related a private conversation where he suggested that both SH and KZ should be permanently expelled from politics and he praised the Army rule. SH publicly declared MY as a very dangerous person, urging others to stay away from him. She also accused him of conspiring to overthrow her government with the help of his American friend, Hillary Clinton. Consequently, she had MY jailed and removed him from his position at the Grameen Bank. However, SH was unaware that by 2024, circumstances would align in such a way and that she might have to leave Bangladesh, with MY

⁴ He established the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, an innovative concept that provided loan to the poor, he earned global praise for this, including the Nobel Prize, the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the US Congressional Gold Medal.

potentially becoming the leader of the country. SH ran her government smoothly until 2018, when another problem arose. In Dhaka, two students, Abdul Karim and Diya Khanam, were tragically killed by a bus, sparking widespread protests by students from Dhaka University. At the same time, there were protests against the freedom fighter quota system, with demands to abolish it as it was seen as outdated. Despite harsh government crackdowns, the students refused to back down. The opposition saw an opportunity in this particular incident to unite against SH. Even the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, Chhatra Shibir, joined the protests. In response, she made a strategic decision to remove the freedom fighter quota in education, temporarily restoring peace. As 2023 approached, problems started to arise for her. The ready-made garment industry, which is the backbone of Bangladesh's economy, contributing 11% to the GDP, became a point of contention but over four million people in Bangladesh are employed in this industry. In October 2023, garment workers shut down 600 factories and began protesting, demanding higher wages as their income was meager despite the industry's high profits and this protest posed a dilemma for her. The problem for SH was that if it increased the salary or wages of workers in garment industry, then all the outside companies (which had come to Bangladesh from abroad) would shift their production or manufacturing center from Bangladesh to Vietnam due to high labor rates and it would increase the unemployment, so she chose to suppress the protest instead of risking economy. At the same time, elections were scheduled for December 2023, but they were postponed to January 7, 2024. Due to absence of the opposition in this election SH won with the huge majority of seats.

In June 2024, the High Court reinstated the freedom fighter quota that had been removed in 2018, declaring its removal unconstitutional. This decision reignited tensions, with allegations that SH used her power to favor her voters. Students began to protest, arguing that although the High Court had reinstated the quota, she had the legislative power to remove it. When no action was taken for a long time, students from Dhaka University, along with some public interest lawyers, took the matter to the Supreme Court. Three students from the University, Nahid, Asif and Abu Bakr, led the protest demanding the removal of the freedom fighter quota and criticized SMR, the father of the nation, for introducing the quota in the first place and gradually, this protest spread to the entire Bangladesh became involved in this protest. Initially the protest was peaceful but as the days went by, situation started deteriorating. In a few days, Chhatra Shibir, also joined the protest and the opposition parties took to the streets alongside the students, moreover, the garment workers who had protested earlier also joined in, as soon as so many people united with the students, violence began. The entire nation is almost on the streets, leaving only the core voters of the Awami Party behind. The intensity of the protest escalates significantly by July 14, 2024. On the same day, SH holds a press conference with media from all over the country, where she made a crucial statement; 'if the children of freedom fighters will not get the reservation, will the volunteers (Razakars) get it'? People become enraged, believing that while they are protesting about jobs, they are being labeled as traitors, as razakars and the intensity of protest increase everywhere. SH thought she could control the situation with the power she had, but this was a significant miscalculation. She thought that if we control over these three (Nahid, Asif and Abur Bakr) important protest leaders so we will in a position to control the protest a whole. On July 28, 2024, these three-student leader disappeared and people searched for them and approached the police, but the police deny

having them in custody. However, one of the students, Nahid, was arrested, and a video of his arrest starts to go viral, confirming that the government had detained them. This enrages the crowd, leading them to attack the police, who respond with force and the crowd became uncontrollable. On July 21, Nahid is found in a terrible condition, unconscious on a road, along with the other two leaders. They are taken to the hospital, which only angers the public further. Recognizing its mistake, the government then takes these three from the hospital between July 26 and July 27, citing security concerns as a reason for their removal. They claim it was necessary to protect the students from potential attacks. Simultaneously, on the same day, the court decides to reduce the freedom fighter's quota to just 5%, removing the rest. Now, people started demanding more that SH will have to apologize and resign. Meanwhile, a video message surface featuring these three leaders, who, with visible distress on their faces, appeal for the protests to stop, urging everyone to remain calm and end the protest immediately. However, people suspect that the students are being coerced into making this statement, and the protests continue unstable. Violence erupted in the streets, with demands to release these three leaders. The police resort to force, but the situation spirals out of control and the government realized that the protests were being slipping out of its control. With the crowd deciding to march towards SH's residence, the government, feeling immense pressure, offers to release the three students. Upon their release, the students, in dire conditions, reveal that they were beaten and forced to give statements after being injected with something and this revelation further enraged the crowd. The next day, the Awami Party's student wing, the Bangladesh Chhatral League (BCL), is sent to counter the protest, with the police accompanying them. This results in violent clashes, with beatings and killings on the streets. Security forces are deployed, and the situation became dire, with tear gas, rubber bullets, and even helicopters being used to suppress the protests. The crowd plans to march to the PM's residence, demanding SH's resignation. On July 31, 2024, SH, through India's ambassador, requests help from India to stop the protest, but India, viewing this as an internal matter, only agrees to ensure her safety. At this point she considered deploying the army, but the army chief (Waker-Uz-Zaman), who is closed to her and also her cousin, advises against it, saying that here are too many protestors, and deploying the army would only worsen the situation. He also advised that if crowd reaches the PM's residence, it would be wise for her to resign, assuring her safety by relocating her. Ultimately, she along with her sister, left Bangladesh within forty-five minutes without making any public statement. As per her arrangement, India had Rafale jets stationed at the border for her security, allowing her to safely reach India. Initially, she was supposed to go to London, but it denied her entry, followed by the US cancelling her visa. This put India in a difficult situation because if India grants her political asylum, it risks souring relations with the new government in Bangladesh, who might demand her return, potentially damaging diplomatic ties, similar to the Tibet-China situation with the Dalai Lama. Moreover, returning her to the opposition's hands would send a very negative message. 'Islamic revolutionary authorities in Bangladesh officially banned the Awami League from participating in political activities, including elections, and also banned its student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), declaring it a terrorist organization' (Bulut, 2024). 'In a dramatic turn Hasina's regime was overthrown and the military led to the formation of an interim government which is composed of representatives from civil society, the opposition, and the military, signaling the end of Hasina's two-decade-long rule' (Borthakur,

2025). 'The coup has raised significant concerns about the future of democracy in Bangladesh' (StudyIQ.com, 2024). 'Yet, the path from overthrowing a repressive system to constructing a just and equitable democracy is neither straightforward nor guaranteed' (Gomes, 2024). 'The actions of the interim government, the response of the international community, and the resilience of Bangladesh's civil society will shape the country's future trajectory' (Sugihartono, 2024).

Violence and Atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh and Challenges for India

On the other hand, in Bangladesha, the core supporter of Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP began targeting the core supporters of the Awami Party, particularly the Hindu community, who were strong supporters of the Awami League. 'Although the Hindu persecution in Bangladesh wasn't new, but in reality, the living condition of the Hindu community in this country is not that much satisfactory and persecution has become a common phenomenon' (Dutta S. , 2021). These people are brutally killed, either hanged, burned, or murdered on the streets, in an attempt to either eradicate them or force them to flee, ensuring that there is no opposition vote bank left in the future. Hindu temples and other religious places were also set on fire. 'It was a pre-planned attack on the Hindu community, said Achinta Das, the head of the Hindu festival committee and there is a combined attempt to rob Hindu houses and lands in Bangladesh and they were being forced to leave the country' (Ethirajan, 2021). 'Recurring violence had long been a reality for Hindus in Bangladesh, with every crisis contributing to the gradual erosion of their identity and existence' (Dubey, 2024). 'The Hindu community in Bangladesh had endured severe persecution over the decades, starting with the Direct Action Day in 1946 and continuing through various violent periods such as the Noakhali Genocide in 1946, the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, and recurrent programs, including those in 1992 and 2024' (thecommunemag.com, 2024). 'Since the Independence of Bangladesh, they have faced different kinds of violence which results in turning down of population from 23% to 9%' (Dutta S. , 2021). 'Reports from Rangpur to Dhaka reveal a systematic campaign of terror against Hindu communities and the atrocities were not random acts of violence; they were coordinated attacks meant to instill fear and drive out a minorities that had contributed richly to the nation's cultural and social fabric, neither were those attacks a new phenomenon, those attacks reminded us of the 1964 East Pakistan riots which were a massacre of the Bangladeshi Hindus, led to an outpouring of refugees into India' (Dubey, 2024). 'Approximately 500 people have died in violent protests related to quota demands, with the majority being Hindus and those protestants are also being used as an excuse for Hindu persecution' (thecommunemag.com, 2024). It's hard to believe that students, the very individuals who initiated this movement, could carry out such atrocities. This has led to widespread speculation that this protest wasn't just about a simple reservation demand but a part of larger conspiracy which also involves international players. In the coming days, it would become more clearer that who actually benefited from the situation, whether it would be China, US, or even Pakistan.

Conclusion

Bangladesh had completed 50 years of its independence (in 2021), but in these five decades, this country had seen democracy being built and destroyed many a times. We can acclaim that with the help of India, it got its independence from the West Pakistan and few years later in 1971, the military rule was imposed on

Bangladesh, but in 1990, gradually the democracy and election process started and the government elected started putting up its in power. However, pro-Pakistan parties and organizations promoted fundamentalist sentiments (thoughts) in Bangladesh as an opposition. Currently, we have witnessed a new movement got started on the burning issues of Quota System Reservation and Unemployment related. As the movement filled the public with anger and soon it resulted into the end of the elected government of Sheikh Hasina which led to her resignation and to take the refuge in India. This movement of the people turned violently into fierce protest and thus democracy was uprooted again in Bangladesh. Will democracy, electoral process, rules of constitution be implemented smoothly again in the country? Will the human rights of minority the Hindus be protected? These are some unanswered questions maybe they are hidden in the womb of future. Hope the new era will disclose the following matter and seek an unbiased solution.

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