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Bangladesh has had a pretty intense political history, especially in the last few decades. The country gained independence in 1971, but since then, politics have often been tense and deeply divided, mostly between the two major parties: the Awami League (AL) and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). These parties have a big rivalry, and unfortunately, that’s sometimes led to street protests, strikes, and even violence. One of the biggest political crises came in the early 2000s and again around 2014, when national elections were held under a lot of pressure. (1)The BNP( the Bangladesh National Party) and its allies often claimed that the elections were unfair or rigged, especially since the system for holding neutral elections was removed. This caused protests, boycotts, and even shutdowns across the country. Although this sounds bad, the Awami League’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tightened his power all across the country and focused on building and improving infrastructure, which has calmed and stabilized the country. But due to the Prime Minister having a greater power, many people claims it destroyed democracy and they question whether the opposing party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party even have a say or voice in anything.(2)

After the Bangladesh Political Crisis, to get the country to be stable and destroy civil unrests, the Awami League’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had an idea to make and improve a lot of infrastructure which was believed to be beneficial and would be investments for a greater Bangladesh. So to make a lot of these infrastructures, they needed a lot of money. They also needed a lot of money to battle the Covid-19 pandemic in the meantime. So as a result Bangladesh received 1.7 billion dollars worth of aid from multilateral companies and in 2021 Bangladesh obtained close to 3 billion dollars from partners for countering the bad impacts of the pandemic. Although this sounds good on paper, it did not work economically and caused inflation. According to the Financial Express, Bangladesh's inflation rate rose to 8.78 percent in February 2023. In reality, inflation has been declining since September 2022, until it began to rise again. Later, inflation peaked at 9.52% in August of 2022. (3)

We, the Republic of Serbia think democracy is above everything and what the people wants, the people should get. And by that, we mean that the fall of Hasina’s government was a good thing for Bangladesh, as they were a threat to democracy, arresting anyone such as the opposing party’s leader or who criticizes their regime. We, the Republic of Serbia support the new government’s policies and believe they are a fresh new start and will be succeeding in the future with Adviser Muhammad Yusuf’s economic policies that increase transparency.

To bring real stability after the political crisis in Bangladesh, a few solutions can be done upon it. First, there needs to be more trust in the election system. A lot of problems started when people felt like elections weren’t fair. So, bringing back some kind of neutral group or caretaker system to help run elections could make people feel it’s more balanced. Also, the government and opposition parties should try to talk more and listen to each other, instead of always fighting or blaming one another. Even if they don’t agree on everything, just opening up a space for peaceful discussion can lower tensions. Another big step is to protect freedom of speech and the press. If people can speak their minds without fear, and journalists can report what’s really going on, that helps build a stronger democracy. Lastly, the government should also focus on young people, giving them better education, jobs, and a voice in the future of the country.

References:
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