



A Brief Biography of Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina

Sheikh Hasina was born on September 28, 1947, in Tungipara under Gopalganj district. She is the eldest child of the founding father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman. She graduated from Dhaka University in 1973. She was elected Vice President of the Students Union of Government Intermediate Girl's College, was a member of the students League Unit of Dhaka University and was Secretary of the Students League Unit of Rokeya Hall. She married Dr. M.A. Wazed Miah, a prominent scientist, in 1968. They have a son and a daughter. Her father, mother and three brothers were assassinated by a group of discontented officers of the Bangladesh Army on August 15, 1975.

After the assassination of her family, Sheikh Hasina was exiled to New Delhi. She spent six years in exile before returning to Bangladesh on May 17, 1981.

She was elected president of the Bangladesh Awami League in 1981, while still in political exile.

In 1982, General Hossain Mohammad Ershad captured power through a coup and declared Martial Law. Sheikh Hasina formed the 15 – party alliance to launch a movement against Ershad the following year.

In the parliamentary election held in 1986, she won three seats. She was elected Leader of the Opposition. She led the historic mass movement in 1990 and announced the constitutional formula for peaceful transfer of power through Articles 51 and 56 of the Constitution.

In 1991, Hasina's Awami League emerged as the largest Opposition party. She was defeated in the Dhaka constituency that she contested but won from her home constituency in Gopalganj. Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party took oath as the nation's first female Prime Minister.

But Hasina triumphed in the 1996 Parliamentary Elections and went on to become the second female Premier of the country when her party won 146 seats.

In the 2001 Parliament elections, Hasina's Awami League lost.

Having regained power, her government has achieved commendable success over the last four years with the signing of the historic 30-year Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India, the signing of the historic peace Accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts and the inauguration of the Bangabandhu Bridge on the river Jamuna.

Sheikh Hasina has dedicated her life to the welfare of her nation and its people. She has, in the last few years, changed the lives of the poor living in the rural areas to a large extent by undertaking programs for alleviation of poverty, enhancement of per capita income, creation of job opportunities and increase in production.

During her tenure as the Prime Minister, she ran a housing and income generation program for the poor in the rural areas called 'Asrayan'.

She introduced stipend for the elderly and widows and also started a program, 'A Home, A Farm' to encourage household farming and 'Returning Home' to reverse the trend of migration from rural to urban areas.

Sheikh Hasina took oath as Prime Minister of Bangladesh at a ceremony held at Banghabhaban on January 06, 2009.



In 1997, Sheikh Hasina earned three degrees. She was conferred a Doctor of Law degree by the Boston University, USA, in February, Honorary Doctor of Law by the Waseda University, Japan, in July, and an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Liberal Arts by the University of Abertay Dundee, United Kingdom, in October.

She was conferred an Honorary Degree of Desikottama (Doctor of Literature, honoris causa) by Visva Bharati University of West Bengal, India on January 28, 1999.

She was also conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, on the ground of her distinguished creative contributions in the service of society by the Australian National University on October 20, 1999.

Dhaka University conferred an Honorary Doctor of Law degree to Sheikh Hasina on December 18, 1999, for her contributions towards peace and democracy.

The Catholic University of Brussels, Belgium, conferred an Honorary Doctorate degree on Sheikh Hasina on February 4, 2000 for her role in establishing democracy, protecting human rights and peace.

Sheikh Hasina has been conferred Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by the Bridgeport University, USA on September 5, 2000.

She was also awarded UNESCO's Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize in 1998 for her remarkable contribution to bringing peace by ending the 25-year conflict in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

She was awarded the Pearl S. Buck Award "99 on April 9, 2000 in recognition of her vision, courage, achievements in political, economic and humanitarian fields by Randolph Macon Women's College in the USA.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has awarded the prestigious CERES' Medal to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in recognition of her fight against hunger on August 2, 1999.

The All India Peace Council awarded her the Mother Teresa Award in 1998.

The Mahatma M.K. Gandhi Foundation of Oslo, Norway, awarded Sheikh Hasina the M.K. Gandhi Award in 1998 for her contribution towards promotion of communal understanding, non-violent religious harmony and growth of democracy at the grassroots level in Bangladesh. ■



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1. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Chinese President Hu Jintao.

2. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Afghan President Hamid Karzai (left) and Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh (right).

3. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter Saima Hossain (left) with US President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle Obama.

4. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in the United Nations Office, Geneva, Switzerland.



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