Awami League Denial Could Trigger Vote Boycott: Sheikh Hasina



Collected picture

Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stated that if the Awami League is not allowed to participate in the national elections, the party's supporters will boycott the vote on a large scale.

In an interview with Reuters, she said she would not recognize any government formed through elections conducted without her party. Under such circumstances, she added, she would not return to the country and would continue to stay in India. Notably, she left Bangladesh during the student-led violent uprising in August 2024.

Since her departure, an advisory council led by Professor Muhammad Yunus has been managing Bangladesh's interim government, which has promised to hold the national elections in February.

Sheikh Hasina remarked, "Imposing restrictions on the Awami League is not only unjust but also self-destructive. The upcoming government's election must be legitimate. Denying millions of people their voting rights makes a fair political system impossible."

She also referred to recent actions by the country's Election Commission. In May, the commission suspended the Awami League's registration, and prior to that, the party's activities were restricted under the advisory government.

Sheikh Hasina expressed hope that the situation would change and that her party would be allowed to participate in the elections. "We are not asking our voters to support any other party. We hope that if given the chance to contest, we can ensure fair representation of our supporters through proper voting," she said.