

Barbaric violence by BNP-Jamaat Photo Exhibition and Discussion

Statement by

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

The chair,
Colleagues,
Diplomats,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum and Very Good Morning to you all.

I welcome you all at the photo exhibition and discussion on the mindless violence carried by BNP-Jamaat alliance.

In the month of February, I first pay my deep homage to the language martyrs, including Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar and Shahfi. I recall with gratitude one of the pioneers of the language movement, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

I recall the 3 million martyrs of the liberation war and 200 thousand women who lost their innocence during war of liberation.

I pay my homage to 22 thousand workers and leaders of Awami League, including former Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Ahsanullah Master and Manzurl Imam, who were killed by BNP-Jamaat.

I also recall the people killed by BNP-Jamaat violence and petrol bombs before the 5 January election and since 5 January this year. I pray for the salvation of the departed souls and extend my sympathies to the wounded ones.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great pain that we have gathered here to discuss on inhuman behaviour and brutal activities of a political alliance. And what are they doing?

They are killing people hurling petrol bombs. They are destroying people's property by arson attacks. These mindless acts are being done to gain personal or group interests. People of Bangladesh never witness such cruel acts after 1971. The people of the outside world also did not hear such deed of a political party.

The BNP-Jamaat clique let lose a reign of terror to resist the 5 January election. They vandalised and torched hundreds of vehicles. As many as 200 people, including 20 law enforcers, were killed by their petrol bombs, handmade bombs and other sorts of violence. They felled thousands of roadside trees. They torched small shops, government and private establishments, power plants.

The goons of BNP-Jamaat vandalised mosques, temples, pagodas and churches, and torched hundreds of copies of the holy Quran.

On the election day, they killed 26 people, including presiding officer and torched 582 schools across the country.

Braving all obstacles, people exercised their voting rights and helped continue the democratic process.

Prior to the election, we had tried to sit for dialogue to hold a participatory election. We were ready to give concession at any length under the constitution. We were ready to constitute an all party cabinet to supervise the election.

There is no provision of un-elected government in Bangladesh's constitution following the annulment of the caretaker government system by the Supreme Court. Our only demand was to hold the election under the constitution.

But BNP-Jamaat alliance wanted to assume power through backdoor creating constitutional crisis. The main issue that kept BNP at Bay from participating in the election was the ineligibility of Jamaat to participate in the election as Election Commission cancelled its registration.

The BNP-Jamaat again launched similar mindless violence since 5 January this year. They are killing people by petrol bombs. So far 55 people have been killed by petrol bomb and other attacks since 5 January. More than 550 people have been wounded. They torched over 400 vehicles and 28 establishments. Incidents of 28 subversive acts occurred in railways and 6 in waterways.

What is the benefit through killing of innocent people? What does BNP want to achieve through destroying the country's economy? To whom, they want to take revenge by crippling people's livelihood?

However, there is a link between the history of BNP's emergence and the current inhuman acts. Their leader Ziaur Rahman started politics in uniform. Zia hanged Col Taher who saved his life. He killed hundreds of officers and sepoy of armed forces, particularly the freedom fighter officers.

During her first term in office BNP leader killed 18 farmers who demanded fertilisers. During her 2001-2006 stint, BNP-Jamaat goons killed 26000 workers and leaders of Awami League. As many as 18 attempts were made on my life. With the grace of the Almighty Allah, I was escaped.

Dear audience,

They were out to destroy the country's economy when the country was marching ahead with sound socio-economic indicators. Bangladesh becomes a role model in global economic development following our pragmatic measures in socio-economic fronts.

The country achieved 6.2 percent GDP growth for the last 6 years. The inflation rate downed to 6 percent. The country's national budget was 61 thousand 57 crore taka in 2005-06 which was raised to 2 lakh 50 thousand 506 crore taka in 2014-15.

The per capita income rose to USD 1,190 in 2014 from USD 543 in 2005-06. Nearly 50 million people have been elevated to the middle class.

The rate of poverty was 41.5 percent during BNP-Jamaat regime which was reduced to 24 percent. People's income raised and over 100 million jobs have been created.

The quantity of remittance was USD 4.80 billion in 2006 which was tripled to USD 14.23 billion in 2013-2014. The foreign exchange reserve raised by 6 times to over USD 22 billion from USD 3.48 billion in 2005-06.

The quantity of export income was USD 10.53 billion in 2005-06 which was tripled to USD 30.19 in 2014-15. When we left office in 2001, the electricity production was 4,500 megawatt. During BNP's regime the production capacity reduced to 3,200 megawatt. At present, electricity production capacity surged to 13,283 megawatt.

In the communication sector, we implemented huge development programmes. Hatirjheel project, Kuril-Bishwaroad flyover, Mirpur-Airport flyover, Banani overpass, Mayor Hanif flyover, Ahsanullah flyover in Tongi, Bahaddarhat flyover in Chittagong have been opened for traffic during the last 6 years.

The work on Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover is progressing and that of and Dhaka elevated expressway and metro-rail will start soon. We are constructing Padma bridge with our own resources.

We distributed books at free of cost to our students on the first day of the year. But they could not go to school owing to the mindless programme of BNP-Jamaat. Nealy 1.5 million SSC examinees are not able to sit for their final examinations in time. The BNP-Jamaat alliance is calling hartal on the day of their exams. They want to materialise their petty interest making the students hostage.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We the politicians do politics for the welfare of the general masses. If the people are killed then for whom the politics is?

What BNP-Jamaat is doing can no way be called politics. They are committing violence and militancy. People of Bangladesh and the state can not be defeated to militancy and violence. They are taking revenge against people failing to garner people's support.

The BNP chief is living at her office keeping her self-confined. Her objective has become clear to the nation. The petrol bomb and cocktail attacks are being made at her directives.

There is no tenet in any religion to kill innocent people. However, the BNP-Jamaat goons are randomly killing people.

I think there are still some people in BNP who do have conscience. I like to ask them: Would you be a part of such inhuman acts for a party post or title? Would you sell your conscience for petty interests? How would you stand before the people? If you believe in Allah or creature, what would you say to Him?

The BNP-Jamaat alliance called demonstration on Saturday last. But none was seen in the street. It means, the lower tier of BNP showed their no-confidence to the militant activities.

Our so-called civil society is calling for dialogue with BNP. But I yet to heard a single word to ask Begum Zia to stop this mindless violence. I even did not see their minimum sympathy to the burnt people? They had not done this because, the deceased are poor. There is no value of the poor to the so-called civil soceity people. All their sympathies go to the BNP chief.

I would like to urge the countrymen to build resistance at their own localities. Help the law enforcers to catch the law-breakers. There is no room of militancy in Bangladesh. Those who are killing people by petrol bombs are not human being. They are monsters. We would bring peace in the country eleminating the monsters, Inshaallah.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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