

End violence, cut Jamaat link for understanding

Speakers stress at roundtable organised by Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Professor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

I became very upset to listen to many civil-society members saying that elections cannot be held without consensus among political parties.

But they did not focus on the core issue that violence should be stopped first to reach any consensus. Even many newspapers are not focusing on the issue.

I don't want to be any part of the 'so called' civil society that did not take the side of the Liberation War. I only use one filter to assess any patriot person and that is that the Liberation War.

The young generation should take the lead to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War. For any solution, Jamaat must be left out.

Dr Ahmed Al-Kabir, Chairman, Rupali Bank

I would like to say Bangladesh is not in any crisis now, but facing some challenges.

Most important of those challenges is the failure of motivating the young generation with the spirit of the Liberation War. The trial of the war criminals must get top priority.

The financial sources of Jamaat must be locked into and their financing should not be allowed to work uninterrupted. Financial backbone of Jamaat-e-Islami must be destroyed.

At the same time, the government has to devise plans how to counter Jamaat-Shibir atrocity professionally.

There should be a consensus among progressive people and electoral dialogue must focus on election commission; not the government.

Bangladesh economy is resilient. If the country succeeds in addressing those challenges, none can prevent it from achieving economic progress.

Prof Dr Syed Anwar Husain, Noted Historian

The ongoing violence is "terrorist politics."

Forty-two years of politics has deviated and been oblivious of Liberation War, which has helped terrorist politics become monster of Frankenstein.

Such politics has emerged with the direct support of the patrons of pro-Pakistani politics. Pro-Bangladesh force can be partly blamed for the current situation.

Only banning Jamaat will not pay off—all sorts of religion-based politics should be banned. Doing so needs courage, farsightedness and prudence.

State religion is against the spirit of Islam as well as the ideology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We've to decide where we want to stand.

The very character of the state must be changed to stop terrorist politics. But that will not happen if the cheap politics for mere votes continues.

Prof Salimullah Khan, social analyst and former professor of Rajshahi University

BNP has to admit that they failed to achieve their target. BNP claim that Bangladesh is now in a civil war is not correct. The ongoing political violence is in no way a part of civil war.

The violence cannot be stopped only depending on police or colonial bureaucracy when some foreign powers and so called civil society are engaged in hatching conspiracy.

The basic failure of the government is that they could not bring the opposition into the elections.

Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, former BB governor

The 10th parliamentary election scheduled for Sunday is very necessary to maintain the constitutional procedure as a constitutional vacuum would appear in the country if the election is not held.

Many eminent citizens compared the 10th election with the sixth national election but there are some differences between the two elections. The differences that some 60 percent voters will cast their vote this time while the sixth parliamentary election did not experienced presence of such voters.

An effort initiated by evil clique is on to make the country a failed one, but the attempt will be failed as the country is standing on a strengthened economy, he voiced.

The demand for caretaker government is nothing but farce. Rather, the intention of saving the war criminals is active behind that demand.

Maj Gen (rtd) Mohammad Ali Sikder

The politics should be returned to the original spirit of 1972.

Those who are trying to be impartial are telling the half truth. They are creating confusions about some core issues in the name of impartiality.

We want democracy, but the spirit of the Liberation War should be upheld first. Jamaat should be banned.

The present crisis will no longer remain if people unite with the spirit of the Liberation War.

Country's eminent citizens have urged people of all walks to unite under the original spirit of the Liberation War for the nation's progress and prosperity through tiding over the longstanding crisis. They suggested putting an end to violence as prerequisite to reaching understanding with the opposition BNP which also must sever its ties with anti-liberation Jamaat. A total of 28 citizens took part in the roundtable styled 'Violent Politics, the Country in Crisis, Way Forward.'



Prof Zinat Huda, professor of Dhaka University

The opposition's movement failed to engage people because people saw how democracy was choked in the hands of BNP.

With this violence, the veil of the Liberation War on BNP's face has been removed. So, people did not feel attached to the movement.

The only solution to the deadlock is reaching a consensus on the main spirit of the Liberation War.

Prof Abul Barakat, chairman of Janata Bank

Nobel laureate Dr Amartya Sen mentioned that Bangladesh has done very well in many economic indicators, and even done better than India in many social indicators.

But when we want to reach a better position a vested quarter is active to hold us back.

The economic loss of the last one month's political violence would be not less than Taka one lakh crore.

As per another estimate, the net profit of Jamaat's economy was Tk 2,000 crore last year.

With removing rail tracks, felling huge number of trees and arson attacks, a war against the state has been waged. In any legal yardstick it is an act of treason.

For the violence, no good time is waiting for the next government.

We have to prevent the evil force along with establishing rule of law and a corruption-free society.

Dr. Quazi Kholiquzzaman, Chairman of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

Trial of war criminals is the main cause of the current political turmoil that is hampering the country's economy.

Besides putting the economy into a risk, the ongoing turmoil has also tarnished the identity of the nation before the globe.

There must have an understanding between the opposition parties for rooting out militancy from the country.

The government and civil society did not pay heed to the surge of militancy. The defeated force of the Liberation War has strengthened its root economically beyond the sight of the government.

The government should form the next cabinet comprising the members having clean images.

A unity among the civil society should be established for uprooting the militancy, continuing the trial of war criminals, upholding the national identity and removing corruption from the country.

The effect of the turmoil though we cannot realize now will appear immediately. Foreign investment will be decreased, the goal of economic growth would be hampered.

Sayed Shamsul Haque, Eminent Littérateur

The ongoing political turmoil will not be ended only by holding election as the turmoil ensued by anti-liberation force.

The mass people now should rise in the way they aroused voices in 1971. The country people is well enough to protest such evil force.

The current political condition is not suitable for the nation as it would never bring any bliss in the future.

The four pillars of the constitution including democracy, socialism, and the national spirit has become questioned.

The main goal of holding the election should not be winning or defeating but for ensuring happy life to the common people. The current crisis is not only a political

one rather to head towards a stable life.

An anti-militancy force should be formed in each and every corner of the country to resist the evil-force.

Khondker Ibrahim Khaleed, former BB deputy governor

The dialogue between the two major parties will bear no fruit as the targets of the parties are different.

Jamaat-Shibir are international terrorists. There is no compromise on the Liberation War.

We have to prevent evil force, and create committees in this regard at the root levels. We should voice against corruptions.

Professor Abdul Mannan, former Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University

The evil-force has been conspiring to identify the country as a failed one.

The force which was defeated during the Liberation War has carrying out misdeeds in the name of democracy only to save the war criminals.

The country has achieved many things since its independence in 1971. The farmers are the architect of the development of the country. But they are conducting ram-

pages across the country during last two months which has been destroying all the achievements as they cannot tolerate country's developments.

The country had also witnessed instability in 1971, but in terms of manner it was different from the ongoing instability as people irrespective of creed and religious belief came down to the street to remove Pakistani occupation forces. The evil force that was defeated in 1971 is once again trying to raise its head.

The mass people should wage movement from a single platform to foil such heinous forces.

AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University

The trial of the war criminals must be continued no matter which party is in the power.

Jamaat-Shibir are trying to foil the trial of war criminals. The people got an independent Bangladesh through sacrificing lives of 30 lakh martyrs and the holy blood would never go in vain.

The people are the owners of the country constitutionally and politicians should pay heed to the appeal of the masses.

Killing people by hurling petrol bombs and cocktails is not politics.

To ensure sustainable development for the nation, ensuring transparency and credibility is a must in governing the country.

Opposition parties are killing people in the name of ensuring voting rights of the people. Would the voting mandate be ensured by killing voters?

The government should run the state after being imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War.

Dr. Sadeka Halim, Commissioner, Information Commission

Political criminalization is going on in the country in the name of democracy.

The Jamaat men are trying to turn the country into Pakistan. They have established 'another country' in a total of 42 spots in 19 districts. While visiting Sathkira, one of the violence-prone districts it was realized that the anti-liberation evil force are torturing the common people, especially on the people of minor

communities.

Many media outlets are publishing survey reports which are not realistic.

Those who say there is no space for political understanding is not true. Keeping the Jamaat men afar, the political parties can sit for dialogue for the greater interest of the nation.

We have to be tactful while conducting the war criminal trials. No corrupted people should be chosen as in the next cabinet.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)

The political violence that has been killing innocent people should be stopped.

If the opposition parties want to stop the national election they can try but they have no right to stop it calling blockade and hartal that kills common people.

The parliamentary election scheduled on January 5 is legal as per the constitution but it is unacceptable ethically as it cannot ensure participation of all parties.

The stance of TIB on war criminal trial issue is clear as it wants the trial of the convicted. When TIB says it wants election participated by all parties it does not mean it suggests for participation of Jamaat.

The proposal of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on holding the 11th parliamentary election should go for all party's participation but it would happen under a time-bound frame.

Helal Uddin, Vice-President of FBCCI

The country's trade and commerce had faced the burnt of political programmes severely. Some 2 crore chickens are being killed every day as it was not possible to provide food due to disrupted transportation.

When our neighboring country India experienced 30 percent growth in garment sector, Bangladesh faced a negative growth last year due to the political instability.

The small and medium entrepreneurs faced the burnt of the hartal and violence. The political leaders should shun such destructive politics.

Three ways we can overcome the standstill. They are, reaching an understanding over the recognition of the father of the nation, rooting out political syndication and removing corruption to enjoy a healthy politics.

Naem Nizam, Editor of Bangladesh Protidin

The country is going through a deep crisis as the ongoing political turmoil has disrupted the normalcy across the country.

The supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami carried out vandalism leaving many people killed after the verdict of Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedi.

The government could take stern measures at that time. If strict measures

against such acts were taken, then it would have been possible to resist the evil-force.

In line with the law-enforcing agencies, the party members could come out to stop such subversive act that occurred centering the verdict of Sayeedi.

The misdeeds of the evil forces can not be stopped only depending on the law enforcing agencies. The mass people should come forward with the spirit of the Liberation War.

Abed Khan, noted journalist

There is only word now that the anti-liberation force should not exist any more.

Religion based politics destroyed the actual nature of politics.

Election is a constitutional procedure. If the anti-liberation evil force exists any further, the nation will be tainted.

The political leaders should do the politics with the spirit of the Liberation War. The politics for vote only cannot ensure welfare of the nation.

A national and international clique is engineering to topple the government led by Sheikh Hasina as the existing government was trying to try the war criminals.

It will be a disaster if the anti-liberation force emerges once again. Every body should wage movement against that force. If any portion cannot stand against the anti-liberation force it means that it was backing them.

Prof Ziaur Rahman, professor of Dhaka University

Some quarter of the civil society members are misleading the people. They are engaged in isolating people instead of uniting.

I am against the words of civil society. The people of this society should be termed as something else.

Jamaat-e-Islami has been maintaining a network with the international militant groups. Though the religion based politics were to ban in the country since long but it is yet to be implemented which has helped the militant to grow in the country.

Nobody has the right to destroy resources of the country in the name of politics.

Those who were not willing to recognise Bangladesh should not now interfere in its internal affairs.