

CROSSROAD FOR BANGLADESH

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TO THE OPPOSITION PARTIES

Please give the new government a chance to show their worth and how much they are honouring their commitments to the nation. One year's moratorium is a good period of time. This will not be a disadvantage to the opposition party since this will also apply in their case if they come to power in the future.

Khondakar M Mostafa
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Why, they did not give BNP a chance to show their worth. In a democratic society the moratorium is 5 years until the next elections. AL did not show respect to that. BNP cannot be condemned if they do not do the same. What comes around goes around.

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You are right about what AL did. And a lot of people, including myself, condemned the AL tactics. We should condemn BNP if they do the same. "What comes around goes around" is something AL may deserve. But the country deserves better.

Ahmed S. Islam, USA:
Opposition parties should remember what they repeatedly had said when they were in power, namely, all settlements should be done within the parliament and not in the streets through destruction of properties or observing "hartsals" in a row.

Khondakar M Mostafa, USA:
Again the above argument holds. "What comes around goes around"

M. Harunuzzaman, USA: I think BDShis deserve better than the above argument.

Ahmed S. Islam, USA: If they set this example, it will go down in the history as a unique opposition party. Since from now on elections will be held under a caretaker government, good chances are that they will take over the government at

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Views on the Election

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Following is a reaction to the recent election. It will not be suitable for those who are looking for news.

Definitions:

Four Corners: Dinajpur, Sylhet division, CHT, Khulna, Jessor, Faridpur
Center: Dhaka Division except Faridpur
East: Barisal Division, Chittagong Division, except CHT
West: Kushtia, Rajshahi Division except Dinajpur and Rangpur

Remark 1:

AL has strong and stable (91 and 96) support in the four corners.

BNP won over AL with wide margin in the center, east, and west in 91. They still have majority in the east and west. However, they lost miserably in the center. Geographically, their defeat in 96 can be attributed to the loss of support in the center.

[Aside: I think in almost all the elections the winning side also won in the center. Looks reasonable to assume that (i) the center represents Bangladesh more closely and establishes good parliamentary practices, then that change of attitude could be the starting point of a SPECTACULAR HEALTHY CYCLE in place of the previous BAD ONE of "What goes round, comes round". I am very hopeful, once a good beginning is made, it will continue happily hereafter bringing unprecedented prosperity to the country, a country where common man is so honest and fearless as to reject the stalwarts when they found them guilty of corruption. Bangladeshi voters are showing increasing awareness against corruption.

JP has strong and stable support in Rangpur (land only in Rangpur and few other constituencies). JI had no geographic pattern in 91 (no mention 96).

Remark 2:

Most people who are perceived corrupt have lost. This was observed in 91 as well, although not as clearly as it is in 96. Many people with name and fame are actually well known for their corruption. Bangladeshi voters are showing increasing awareness against corruption.

Remark 3:

Ref. remarks 1 and 2. BNP has lost a number of seats (which they won in 91) mostly due to perceived corruption. However, party image of BNP is, in general, good. People have (i) thanked BNP for their good performance, (ii) condemned BNP candidates perceived corrupt, and (iii) blamed AL for their strategies.

Remark 4:

Ref. remarks 1 and 2. New seats of AL are not only won against BNP candidates (ministers) perceived corrupt. This includes many other constituents. A general trend is to (i) condemn using religion in politics and (ii) welcome pro-liberation forces in power.

One minor factor may be (iii) sympathy to AL for various reasons including their remaining out of power for 21 years, apology, etc.

Remark 5:

Ref. remark 1. By result, JP is only a regional party. Not to mention this is not so by ideology. This is a nice opportunity for them to turn their party into a regional one.

Remark 6:

Ref. remark 4. From the national perspective, one important factor behind win of AL is their appeal for pro-liberation government. In fact, choices made in 47, 54, 70, 73, 78, 91, and 96 suggest that the most important factor from the national perspective is the desire for greater freedom and prestige - not the basic needs (if you question validity of 78, do it. But tell me which side people should choose at that time from the same perspective).

Conclusion:

Performance of BNP in government has been appreciated. Success of honesty and failure of corruption should be crystal clear by now. Hope, next time they will try not to nominate people perceived corrupt. It's now an excellent opportunity for them to perform well in the opposition. They can't go back to the past and lead the war of liberation. This is reality. Only way they can make a comeback is to prove that they are better.

I have no idea how AL is going to make much difference in the performance in govt. Poverty and illiteracy are two barriers that will come in the way of doing something truly remarkable.

Maybe we can hope for minimization of mistrust and hatred, better law and order, and less corruption. Also, people will find a different taste in the revival of 71'er chetona. They are matured now. Hope, they will be able to avoid excessive use of it.

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