

14-party rally vows to fight

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villages, upazilas, district headquarters and cities to free the people.

They reiterated the demand for bringing reforms to the system of caretaker government and the Election Commission for the sake of a free and fair election.

Starting from Muktangon at about 4:15pm, the demonstrators marched through Noor Hossain Square, Golap Shah Shrine, Nagar Bhaban, Bangabazar, High Court intersection, and Doel Chattar before reaching the Central Shaheed Minar premises.

Addressing a rally at Muktangon, Awami League Presidium Member Abdur Razzak said, "Those who are using religion for their political ends are damaging the image of Islam, a religion of peace. Jamaat has created militancy to destroy the democracy and the spirit of the Liberation War."

Urging the people to be united to

uproot the militancy to build a peaceful nation,

Razzak said the alliance government has completely failed to rein in militancy, price hike, terrorism and corruption.

The alliance government is not willing to curb militancy, Rashed Khan Menon said.

He urged the countrymen to resist the ministers and MPs who are sheltering the militants.

The militants are destroying the spirit of the Liberation War, democracy and the culture of the country with the patronisation of the alliance government, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik said.

The militants with support from the alliance government are claiming lives through suicide attacks on the courts and cultural organisations, said Matia Chowdhury.

She called upon the prime minister to seek apology to the countrymen at the Paltan Maidan before speaking for dialogue over militancy.

Tofail Ahmed urged the people to be united once again as they were united before the country's Liberation War to fight against the militancy and its patrons BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

Dilip Barua, Obaidul Quader, Mohammad Hanif, Sharif Nurul Ambia, MA Gani, among others, spoke at the rally.

Addressing a separate protest rally at the Paltan Intersection organised by the Communist Party of Bangladesh, the party President

Waz mahfil

The annual Waz mahfil and Isal-e-Swab of Madinar Kafilat Furfura will begin tomorrow (Tuesday) at Markaje Ishayate Islam, Darussalam, Mirpur in the city, says a press release.

The Pir Shaheb of Furfura Abul Anser Abdul Quahliar Siddique Ali Quraishi will conduct the mahfil.

Manjurul Ahsan Khan demanded immediate expulsion of the militants patrons from the government, their arrest and punishment.

A meeting of the 11-party chaired by its convenor eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hosain also urged the pro-democratic, progressive forces to resist militancy.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal Convenor Comrade Khalequzzaman demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the militants' godfathers.

Sammiita Nari Samaj and Narigrantha Prabantana in separate press releases urged all to build resistance committees to resist militancy.

Urging for a united resistance against militancy, Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Maulana Mohammad Ishaque said the militants are the enemy of the state and the religion.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front demanded ban on fundamentalist politics in the country.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Left Democratic Front, Bangladesh Muktiyuddho Projanmo and Bangladesh Juba Union will stage separate demonstrations in the city today protesting militancy.

Blood donation programme

Management Net, an organisation of the former students of Management Department of Dhaka University, arranged its fourth voluntary blood donation programme in association with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society on December 9 at the Business Studies Bhaban at Dhaka University, says a press release. Members of Management Net donated blood.

Militant kingpin under watch

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watch of the intelligence agencies," Nizami told a briefing with members of the Overseas Correspondents Association Bangladesh (OCAB) at his party office.

In reply to a question, he said since the banned JMB and its associates have struck on the existence of Bangladesh and the national security, they would be tried on sedition charges.

"They are enemies of nation, democracy and Islam... Soon the government will be able to eliminate JMB and other conspiratorial cliques if it gets support from all."

About the objectives of bomb terrorism, he said the militants want to brand Bangladesh as fanatic and terrorist state, create grounds for intervention by foreign aggressors by proving Bangladesh as a dysfunctional state, damage the country's economic prospects by wrecking democratic and constitutional process, and split the alliance of Islamic and nationalist forces.

On JMB's campaign for establishment of Islamic rule in Bangladesh, the Jamaat chief said although they are using Islamic terminology like Allah's law, Islamic rule, the agenda of these extremist suicide squads is not to establish Islam.

"They are using the name of Islam to destroy Islam and Islamic movement and misleading the people," he said, adding that Islamic parties, scholars and Imams are strongly opposed to their activities in the name of Jihad.

Repeatedly denying Jamaat links with the militant outfits, who are now engaged in recurrent bomb strikes, Nizami said his party does not believe in the policy of imposing Islamic social system by applying force.

Asked about the comments by some BNP lawmakers and ministers about dropping Jamaat from the alliance on the allegation of its links with militancy, he said these are their personal remarks, but such remarks would affect the unity of the alliance. "These are not responsible remarks,

which may help our opponents and may split the alliance."

"Those who are desperate to prove Jamaat attachment with militants by citing some one's past identity and student life, their lame excuse will be rejected by the people. I like to pronounce firmly that their crooked scheme will fail."

Asked which country could intervene, Nizami said, "I don't feel it necessary to name any country as you know it well. If some one says the situation in Bangladesh is worse than that of Afghanistan and Iraq where military intervention was made, what does it mean? In that case this apprehension comes for obvious reasons."

Asked about opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's demand seeking UN special inquiry into all these bombs and grenade attacks in Bangladesh, he said, "It's better to solve our problems ourselves... There had not been international inquiry after the Twin Tower blasts."