



Options for the grand alliance

Would the grand alliance not have been better advised to reject the January 22 elections not by violence but by a peaceful nationwide non-violent, non-cooperation movement? The international community explicitly rejected the one-sided election that was being engineered, and without acceptance by the international community a new government coming into power by a farcical election would have no standing and would not be able to function.

By resorting to violent means for resist-

ing the January 22 elections the grand alliance was only proving that its own aim is also to rule the country at any cost for the benefit of its own members without any concern for welfare of the nation. To peace loving citizens wishing healthy development of the nation, the ongoing and frightening fight for power looks like a leopard trying to snatch a human body from a wolf. Indeed, the past conducts of both the major parties that have had their turns to rule the nation do point to this as the basic

character of the "democracy" that the nation has been experiencing, "family" and "godfather"-based as it has been.

This culture of "democracy" cannot continue indefinitely in the country.

Md. Anisur Rahman

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and ex-Professor of Economics
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New talents

The closeup-1 came to a successful end. The nation is happy to find musical talents like Salma, Muhiin and Nishita and others. This kind of talent hunt, which is mainly conducted by multinational companies is really praiseworthy. Similar kinds of talent hunt competitions are going on in the field of acting, dancing etc. The prize money and the prestige that the shows bear for the winners can easily change one's lot.

However, I want to propose introduction of scholarship on the basis of merit for students of different fields.

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Election pledges

We all know that basically parliament members are supposed to concentrate on the magnitude of the current national problems and issues of common public interest, foresee the need of the future and formulate short-term and long-term policies to cater to the needs of the present and future for achieving the welfare of the people. In real life, generally, our politicians are less involved in fulfillment of their constitutional obligations and election pledges, rather they are more involved in addressing the issues of personal benefit.

Serious inconsistency we notice if we analyse the demand of our political parties and their activities. It happens all the way that the party in opposition put tremendous pressure for getting something done by the party in power; whereas, after having the power in hand that party, in most cases, does not fulfill commitments or take any initiative regarding those issues. Does it imply that what the politicians say they don't mean?

Let us look at some specific issues:

Elections pledges:

Establishing democratic institutions based on the spirit of democracy.

Ensuring the rule of law through separation of the judiciary from the administration.

Corruption free society through functioning of a free ACC.

Controlling price hike of essentials.

Disallowing the war criminals to do politics in the independent

country.

Reforming the CG, EC etc. to ensure fair polls etc.

Corresponding activities after coming to power:

Destruction of democratic institutions.

Destroying the rule of law by influencing the judiciary to protect vested interests.

Establishment of a corrupt society by delaying the functioning of the ACC.

Destroying the country's economy by declaring hartal, blockade etc.

We must get out of this vicious cycle. Now, the most crucial question is "where to start?" Inviting valuable suggestions in structured form from the honourable readers.

Shams Chowdhury

On e-mail

The constitution says election must be held within 90 days. No one denies it. The AL says the constitution does not say election must be held even with a forged voter list. There are 1.2 crore fake voters as proved by NDI. The BNP says election must be held in time, regardless of the acceptability of the voter list.

Can't you cover the issue in a more detailed manner?

Mahmood, On e-mail

An election promise is a promise made to the public by a politician who is trying to win an election. Election promises are part of an election platform. They are an essential element in getting people to vote for a candidate. They have long been a central

element of elections and remain so today, except for Bangladesh. It seems like our so-called politicians don't even bother to incorporate any sort of election promises in their election manifesto. These politicians expect to get vote without having any agenda, which will improve people's lives.

its citizens. It should not be the other way around. We need to save our beloved country from corruption.

SF, On e-mail

Your and politicians' claim that police is wrong to punish hartal violators is fundamentally flawed,



Our politicians are taking advantage of our massive misinformed poor population. This needs to be stopped.

It should be a moral duty of our local media outlets to ask the toughest questions to our politicians regarding election promises. The Daily Star reports should become a trailblazer by informing general populace about every political party's election manifesto. We need to encourage our general population to think about asking the necessary questions to our politicians. Politicians are elected to serve the country and

and sends a wrong message to the public.

Boycotting the election and walking on the streets peacefully are human rights, no laws are broken. Just as one has the right to vote so he has the right to boycott the elections.

But the problem occurs whenever business, transport and public services are disrupted, creating public suffering, business loss and anarchy. The government's duty is to provide normal, undisrupted free-flowing public services.

K. Gazi, USA

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