

Public outrage over Jamaat

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Jamaat and its leaders. How did Mojahed make such kind of remarks? Does he think we are stupid?" said a retired government official.

From the documents of our Liberation War and from our parents, we came to know that the war criminals now belong to the Jamaat-e-Islami," said Rezaur Rahman, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared general amnesty for war criminals even though they were involved in many misdeeds during the Liberation War. Now they are denying it, he said.

Abdur Rahim, an official at a private firm, said he is surprised to hear such comments from a person who is a war criminal and it goes against the Liberation War, he said.

If Jamaat can say that anti-liberation forces never even existed then it is not far off when Jamaat leaders will say that they played an important role in achieving the independence of the country," he added.

Many political parties cannot tolerate Jamaat-e-Islami, that is why they encourage propaganda against them," said one of the students of BUET as he was subdued by others screaming out that most political parties and common people cannot tolerate this party since it uses religion to get votes and hide their misdeeds in 1971.

During the last five years, this party ran the country as part of the government and gained strength and publicity. Now they dare to say that there are no war criminals in the country, BUET students told The Daily Star.

"Actually we have given them the power to say such things publicly. The political parties could not be united against the people who opposed the Liberation War even after 36 years. They unite only when time comes for seat-sharing in Parliament," said Biplob, 34, a businessman.

Jayed Shahriar, a student of Dhaka University, said, "We must condemn such comments that there are no war criminals in the country."

The comment is an expression of arrogance, he said adding that it has only been possible due to the failure of successive political governments who could not bring them to justice.

The responsibility for making the Jamaat leaders arrogant primarily goes to the immediate past BNP-led government, which took them into its fold, he said.

"The caretaker government cannot do anything about the issue of war criminals now. An elected government can punish

the war criminals," said another businessman Arefin.

A rickshaw puller said there is no doubt that there are "razakars" (collaborators) in the country who opposed our Liberation War.

A number of teachers of Dhaka University condemned Mojahed's recent comments.

Former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) Prof AAMS Arefin Siddiquee, the Jamaat leader's statement is false and misleading.

He said whether Jamaat worked against the Liberation War in 1971 can be proved by going through old newspapers issues, even the Jamaat mouthpiece Dainik Sangram can be used.

Over seven crore people of the country fought against the Pakistani occupational army then, but a few people joined the Razakar, Al Badr and Al Shams and collaborated with the Pakistani army.

They denied formation of a special tribunal for the trial of Mojahed and Nizami, Jamaat ameer, and a ban on politics based on religion and fundamentalism.

Jatiya Samtantri Dal also condemned the remarks and said the comments are not only false and in violation to the Constitution, they are also arrogant.

In a meeting yesterday, they said through the comment Mojahed proved that Jamaat has not accepted yet the Liberation War and the independence of the country.

They urged the Election Commission not to register those political parties involved with anti-liberation activities.

Sammitio Sanskrity Jote also condemned Mojahed's remarks.

In statement, they said the remarks were arrogant, a humiliation to the 30 lakh martyrs and tantamount to denying the independence of the country.

Projonno Ekator and Chhatra Sangram Parishad also condemned the remarks.

Yaba peddlers

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"If there are no war criminals in the country, then who killed three million people of the country, who disgraced over two lakh women and who killed our intellectuals?" he asked.

Their role is now history, and an attempt to deny their role is not positive for the country's politics. The statement does not bear the prudence of politicians, he said.

Prof Nurul Amin Biplob said there is no doubt that they are war criminals, as there are records of them. Since successive governments did not put them on trial, they gained the courage to say something like this.

Meanwhile, leaders of Ekatorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmit Committee and South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism said the comment is not arrogant it is tantamount to an attack on the spirit of Liberation War, as well as the existence of Bangladesh.

In a joint statement, they said evidence of the anti-liberation role of Jamaat would be found in Jamaat's mouthpiece Dainik Sangram's issues published during the Liberation War.

Apart from helping the occup-

ying Pakistani army carry out genocide and torture, Jamaat formed Razakar, Al Badr and Al Shams forces to collaborate with the enemy and killed many freedom fighters and intellectuals.

"In fact, anti-Liberation forces never even existed," Mojahed told reporters after Jamaat's dialogue with the Election Commission on electoral reforms.

As a response to the Jamaat secretary general's claims, following are selections from the reports published in the daily Sangram and documents of the then West Pakistan government:

"I pray to Allah for the success, courage and sacrifice of the military brothers in facing external and internal attacks," he said.

He blamed the rulers for misleading and misinforming students on Islam and said, "We forgot our identity after achieving Pakistan. When India attacked our country in 1965, we became self-aware but we were confused as soon as the war ended. Allah punished us. Now we have become self-conscious again, but if we make the same mistake again, maybe Allah will not give us another chance."

On August 16, the Sangram reported that Nizami said, "Those who want to secede from Pakistan want to uproot Islam from this country."

On September 4, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On September 8, Sangram reported Nizami as saying, "Every member of the Islami Chhatra Shangha is committed to protect every inch of Pakistan. We are even ready to attack Hindustan to protect Pakistan."

On September 9 Nizami said in a letter, "Allah has punished those who conspired to destroy Pakistan... Those who said Pakistan is a graveyard have not been accepted by the land. The funeral pyres in Calcutta and Agartala are all they got."

"The way we have come forward risking death, the same way the government should build Pakistan in a purely militaristic manner," he said.

On September 13, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On September 17, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On September 19, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On September 21, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On September 23, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On September 25, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On September 27, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On September 29, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On September 30, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On October 1, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On October 3, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On October 5, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On October 7, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On October 9, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On October 11, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On October 13, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On October 15, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

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On October 31, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On November 2, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On November 4, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On November 6, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On November 8, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On November 10, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On November 12, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

On November 14, Nizami in a letter to the Pakistani flight cadet who died in an air fight with Bir Shreshtha Matir Rahman described Matir as an "Indian agent".

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