

## **From miracle to debacle: political obduracy and current crisis of Bangladesh**

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While the unprecedented rejoice and elations over the Nobel Peace Prize by Dr. Yunus was still mounting everywhere, the whole world suddenly became stunned and terribly shocked to see the gruesome political violence erupted in Bangladesh in recent days. The joyful celebration and enormous hope for future peace and tranquility in Bangladesh was abruptly turned into horrible scenes of bloods and violence. As all gruesome pictures and video clips of political violence, especially beating innocent people to death with lath and rudder and dancing on the corpses with joy, are constantly castigated in the global electronic and print media, the glorious and hopeful images of Bangladesh, just created by a Noble Peace Prize, began to submerge in great anxiety and despair.

The second shock- deeper than ever- appears when instead of eschewing these violence and gruesome murders, further violent strategies are adopted and an attempt is made by some so called intellectuals along with their political masters to justify the former violence with a view to blaming the victims and sanctifying the oppressors.

One can evidently comprehend how stubbornness, tenaciousness, obduracy, and obstinacy are dictating our political climate and subsequently lead to one crisis to another. Too much stubbornness and obstinacy always emasculates clear vision, subverts possibilities of peaceful political resolution and opens gates for violence and murder. The first round of political obstinacy was found when 14-party alliance dismissed to solve their issues of concerns in the parliament and take their demands to the streets, but again their street-politics denied to sit with all parties of the ruling alliance especially with Jamat-e-Islami Bangladesh (JIB). Though Awami League (AL) and other leaders of 14-party alliance sat with JIB leaders in many occasions, and their constant rebuff of sitting with JIB goes against their own basic principle of political pluralism, this political stubbornness and obduracy was allowed to prevail. The ruling alliance responded almost with same magnitude of obduracy. This created further crises.

Apart from making the parliament dysfunctional and assaulting on the principle of democratic pluralism, this political obduracy killed much of their time to have a fruitful political dialogue with ruling alliance. The one-to-one dialogue eventually took place, but there was a very little time left to discuss all the issues of concern, and with the absence of representatives from other parties, the dialogue failed to generate any fruitful results. Though this contested dialogue failed, it was again the political obduracy that was again given chance to succeed. Though former Chief Justice Hasan's departure from the upcoming caretaker government was presented a "huge success" of the 14-party alliance's street politics, it eventually backfired as President Iajuddin Ahmed had to take the lead of the caretaker government.

Bangladesh constitution gives no power to the caretaker government to dismiss and/or employ any chief election commissioner (CEC), and a further constitutional crisis is bound to emerge if the current CEC steps down. Nevertheless, the 14-party alliance,

driven by obduracy, is launching its violent campaign to remove the current CEC without taking into consideration as to what might happen. Apart from voter lists and associated issues in which the Supreme Court provided clear directions, the CEC does not have any role in influencing election results in the remote areas of Bangladesh where elections are held with the vigilant presence of polling agents of all parties. Yet, the 14-party alliance wants CEC to step down. Analysts can clearly apprehend that this political obduracy will again generate more political crises to Bangladesh. Having no way out from this quagmire, the final resort will be the military rule for Bangladesh, the culmination of all crises.

Analysis shows, one crisis leads to another if it is addressed in an obdurate manner without taking probable consequences into account. The recently achieved Nobel Peace Prize is a miracle for Bangladesh that brightens the face of Bangladesh to the world, but the current political moves, driven largely by obduracy and stubbornness, are the greatest debacle for Bangladesh and are turning the bright face to a pale one to the world audience. Unprecedented day-to-day human sufferings are the obvious legacies of the current political obduracy.

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