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JAMA'AT-E ISLAMI BANGLADESH AND THEIR
PUBLICATIONS

PART 1

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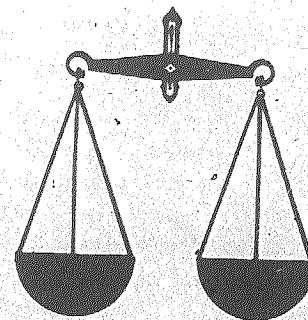
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Bangladesh Elections 1991 -6



Election Manifesto 1991

(Abridged Version)



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"We verily sent our Messengers with clear proofs and revealed with them the scripture and the Balance that mankind may stand forth in Justice"

— Sura Hadid: 25.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

1. Introduction

- * Islam is a gift of God to humanity. It is not merely a religion as the term is understood in the west. It is a complete way of life. Islam has its own political, economic and social system, and it presupposes a state. The aim of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh is, therefore, to establish an Islamic State and there by seek the pleasure of Allah.
- * Jamaat-e-Islami is not a political or religious organisation in the narrow sense of these terms. It is an ideological movement and it wants to establish Islam in all spheres of human life. According to the Jamaat, the real problem of the modern world lies in its Godlessness and the Jamaat believes that unless and until a society is moulded on the principle of fear of God and unless the principles of leadership set by the last Prophet (peace be upon him) are followed, it is not possible to achieve peace and stability in the world. Without this, any attempt on the basis of any philosophy to achieve social justice is not possible. The model of the Islamic state established by the Prophet in Arabia 1400 years ago remains a model for all time to come.
- * In today's society, the state controls all spheres of life. It is, therefore, not possible to mould individual life in accordance with Islam without changing the state machinery. This is why Jamaat-e-Islami wants to bring about a total change in government through the democratic process. The Jamaat wants to transform Bangladesh into a modern welfare state, where:
 - Islamic principles as enunciated by the Prophet and the four Caliphs after him will prevail.
 - The state will encourage all that is good ('Ma'ruf') and stop all that is forbidden ('Munkar')

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- The state will eradicate all injustice, oppression and immorality.
- The state will establish social justice and social order.
- The state will guarantee employment, education, shelter, food and medicare to all citizens.
- The state will guarantee the rights of all citizens irrespective of race, colour or religion.

Jamaat-e-Islami, as a matter of fact, wants to establish a government which will not only be responsible to the people for all its deeds and actions but will be imbued with a high sense of responsibility so that it can ensure the welfare of the people without any demand being made by them.

2. Basic Principles of the State

The Jamaat believes that it is the national and religious obligation of every citizen to preserve the independence and integrity of Bangladesh.

- * Islam shall be the state ideology in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the people.
- * It is the duty of people's representatives to run the government. The duty of government servants is to serve the government of the day.
- * Every individual and political party has the right to express and mobilise opinion in accordance with the principle of democracy and law. No one has the right to curtail this basic freedom.
- * Radio, Television, Newspapers and News Agencies will be independent within the framework of law.
- * No one will be allowed to indulge in any activity which is prejudicial to the independence, integrity and security of Bangladesh.

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- * No allegation shall be made against anyone without evidence.
- * The right to the franchise shall not be taken away from anybody by coercion, allurements or by any other means whatsoever.

3. Principles upon which Islamic Laws will be Enforced

An Islamic society is a pre-condition, even for a good Muslim, to abide by the principles of Islam in all aspects of his life. But Islam cannot be imposed from without. Therefore, people should be educated first. An environment should be created in which people readily accept and obey the laws of God and His injunctions. It is not at all correct that soon after an Islamic government comes into power, it will chop off the hands of the thieves and have the adulterers stoned to death. This is an unjustified and wild allegation without any basis. The first and foremost duty of an Islamic state would be to provide food, shelter, medicare and other basic necessities of life to its citizens and without providing these no Islamic government has the right to chop off the hands of the thieves. Similarly, a government which cannot make arrangements for the education of its male and female citizens separately, and cannot provide separate job opportunities to its males and females has no right to punish the adulterers. Hence, if voted to power the Jamaat will follow the following principles for enforcing Islamic laws:

- a) The education system and the mass-media will be fully utilised to mould and purify the ideas, thoughts and deeds of the people in accordance with Islamic principles.
- b) It will ensure shelter, food, medicare and education to every citizen so that no one is compelled to earn his livelihood in forbidden ('haram') ways.

- c) Separate educational institutions will be established for males and females and also sufficient arrangement will be made so that in the place of their work, males and females do not mix indiscriminately. The idea is to prevent the mixing of the sexes otherwise than by marriage.
- d) All hurdles will be removed so that everybody can easily obey and follow the principles of Islam in his life.

4. Establishment of Honest Leadership

Without honest leadership, laws, however good they may be, cannot be enforced fully. Good laws may become an instrument of oppression in the hands of bad people. The Jamaat believes that people can be relieved of their miseries only by the establishment of honest and God-fearing leadership. To achieve this, the Jamaat will organise the honest and God-fearing people of the society with a view to providing an alternative leadership. It will encourage the growth of honest and efficient leadership in all walks of life so that they may replace the corrupt leadership.

5. Constitutional Reforms

The Constitution of Bangladesh will be amended on the basis of the following principles:

- * Bangladesh will be declared an Islamic state on the principles of the Sovereignty of Allah.
- * The Quran and Sunnah (Traditions of Prophet) shall be the source of all laws.
- * Un-Islamic articles of the Constitution will be amended.
- * All laws contrary to the fundamental rights popularly known as 'Black Laws' will be repealed.
- * The judiciary will be separated from the Executive and the

former will be made fully independent.

- * The Executive shall not be given power to suspend fundamental rights in time of emergency.

6. Law Reforms

In this regard the following reforms will be made:

- * The Code of Civil and Criminal procedure will be amended to ensure speedier justice.
- * Laws will be enacted to stop rape, gambling, drunkenness, prostitution, drug trafficking, unlawful trafficking in women, pornography, obscene publications, etc.
- * Special laws relating to marriage, divorce and inheritance will be enacted to protect the rights of women guaranteed in the Quran and the Sunnah.

7. Judiciary

- * All arrangements will be made to ensure the independence of the Judiciary from the lowest to the highest level.
- * The Supreme Court will be given the authority of appointing Magistrates and Assistant Judges in the District Courts.
- * The Executive will be separated completely from the Judiciary.

8. Administrative Reforms

- * Bribery, nepotism and favouritism shall be eradicated from all government and semi-government offices and autonomous bodies.
- * Accounts of the wealth and assets of all the employees of all government, semi-government and autonomous bodies will be maintained and quick legal action will be taken against

those who are found to earn money by unfair means.

- * Bengali will be introduced fully in all government offices.
- * The public Exchequer will be protected from all kinds of waste and overspending.
- * A high-power Committee will be set up to hear and determine allegations against the high-handedness of the government servants.
- * The investigating branch of the police will be separated from the prosecuting branch.
- * All obnoxious laws and bye-laws relating to prison introduced by the colonial rulers will be changed. The prison will be made a centre for moral and spiritual development in accordance with the principles of Islam.
- * Able and efficient people will be employed in the foreign missions of Bangladesh who can truly represent the country.
- * Steps will be taken to prevent the migration of brilliant people from the country purely for economic reasons. Efforts will be made to provide them with suitable employment.

9. Defence

To safeguard the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh and in the interest of national security, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force will be equipped with modern weapons and equipments. Because of the peculiar geographical position of Bangladesh, in addition to having an efficient armed force, the following measures will be taken:

- * The spirit of 'Jihad' will be instilled into the people and the armed forces so that they remain prepared to sacrifice their lives to preserve the sovereignty and independence of Bangladesh.

- * Civil-defence training will be given to all men between the ages of 18-40 and all women between the ages of 18-30.

10. Law and Order

- * People will be inspired to be God-fearing, law-abiding and worthy citizens.
- * All law-enforcing agencies will be imbued with the noble spirit of enforcing the law strictly and punishing offenders and protecting the innocent.
- * The minimum requirements of all citizens will be met so that they do not resort to crime.

11. Eradication of Corruption

- * The Anti-corruption Department will be reorganised so that the Department as a whole becomes a God-fearing one and functions with a high sense of responsibility.
- * Laws relating to anti-corruption will be reviewed so that no one however high he may be, remains outside the purview of law.
- * People found guilty of corruption will be given exemplary punishment so that it serves as a deterrent.

12. Educational Reforms

To reform and inject new blood into society, basic changes will be brought in the field of education.

- * To create worthy and efficient manpower for running the affairs of the state, moral education will be imparted side by side with academic education.
- * From the primary up to the post-graduate level, Islamic moral principles will be taught side by side with science.

technology, art, literature, etc.

- * Non-Muslim students will be given adequate facilities for their religious education.
- * Separate schools, colleges, madrasas, universities and medical colleges will be established for women.
- * Handsome salaries will be paid to the members of the teaching profession so that meritorious people are attracted towards this noble profession.
- * Civil Defence training will be given to teachers and students alike in educational institutions.
- * While Bengali will be introduced as the medium of education at all levels, steps will be taken to enrich the Bengali language and every effort will be made to check the decline in the country's academic standard.
- * 'Hafezia' (memorising the Quran) and 'Forqania' (reading the Quran) madrasas will be given the same status as primary educational institutions.

13. Cultural Development

- * The Jamaat will pave the way for the fullest development of those fine Arts which are not contrary to the ideology of Islam and proper facilities will be provided so that the artists can establish themselves in the society with honour and dignity.
- * Radio, Television and Cinematography will be used for the purpose of character-building and raising the moral standard of the people and also as a medium of mass education in the field of agriculture, public health, science, technology, etc.
- * Literature will be used as a means of disseminating Islamic moral values and high thinking in society. All sorts of arts and architecture with sublime moral values will be

encouraged.

- * The growth of healthy journalism will be encouraged and the dignity of the journalists will be uplifted.

14. Religious Life

- * A proper environment will be created so that people can perform prayer and hajj and observe fasting in the month of 'Ramadhan' without difficulties.
- * Mosques will be upgraded as centres of moral uplift and character-building and other activities. The 'Imams' and the 'Khatibs' will be given their due status.
- * Society will be cleansed from prostitution, free mixing of the sexes and all kinds of immorality. The root causes of these social evils will be eradicated.
- * All non-Muslims will be given the liberty to perform their religious rituals freely and without any interference from outside.

15. Economic Programmes

To implement an economy based on the principles of justice and equity the following programmes will be pursued:

- * Poverty will be gradually eradicated and steps will be taken to attain full employment.
- * The state will take responsibility to meet the basic needs of the citizens.
- * Land, labour, capital, natural resources and other rawmaterials and means of production will be fully utilised to achieve steady growth of the economy.
- * Much-needed land reforms will be carried out in such a way that real peasants are not rendered, landless and zamindars

and capitalists do not get the opportunity to exploit the poor and the needy.

- * Equitable distribution of wealth will be ensured so that it is not concentrated in a few hands and every citizen gets an equal opportunity to improve his economic condition.
- * Adequate measures will be taken to stop inflation and hoarding and to keep the price level stable. Taxation will be revised, waste of national resources will be stopped, economic self-reliance will be given priority and reliance on foreign loan will be drastically reduced.
- * Workers will get their due share in industrial profits and thereby good relations between management and labour will be ensured.
- * All avenues of earning from forbidden ('haram') sources will be stopped and all the avenues of earning by permitted ('halal') means will be made easier.
- * Banks, investments and other financial institutions will be made interest-free and the economy will be reorganised on the basis of Islamic principles. Steps will be taken for the proper investment of the wage earners' money.

16. Land Reforms

In this regard the following steps will be taken:

- * Vacant and barren land will be leased out to the landless peasants.
- * Co-operative farming without abolishing individual ownership will be encouraged.
- * Laws will be enacted for equitable distribution of 'char' land on easy terms.
- * Shelter will be provided to the landless rural population.

17. Agriculture

- * Adequate steps will be taken to provide fair prices to the farmers for their produce. All injustices done to the growers of jute, cotton, tobacco, sugarcane and potato will be done away with.
- * Interest on all agricultural and rural credits will be abolished and arrangements will be made so that the poor cultivators can obtain credit on easy terms.
- * Cultivators will be provided with modern training with a view to increasing production.
- * Measures will be taken to arrest the fall in the price of agricultural produce and to achieve this objective, a price support system will be introduced, if necessary.
- * To ensure adequate supply of foodstuffs, food grain reserves will be developed. This may be done in co-operation with other countries.

18. Industrial Policy

- * The shares of public limited companies will be sold to the large number of people and the maximum limit of share-holding by a particular person or family will be fixed.
- * Adequate measures will be taken to encourage small investments.
- * To achieve rapid industrialisation, heavy industries will be established on priority basis.
- * All steps will be taken to achieve self-sufficiency in the defence industry.
- * Priority will be given to the establishment of labour-intensive industry vis-a-vis capital-intensive industry.
- * Due importance will be given to import substitution and to

the growth of export-oriented industry.

- * Due care will be taken so that industrial development is evenly spread to all parts of the country.

19. Policies on Trade and Commerce

- * All efforts will be made to find markets for our exportable commodities.
- * Steps will be taken to make the process of export and import free from complicity, bureaucracy and corruption.
- * The volume of trade will be increased both with the Muslim countries and the countries of the region.

20. Banking and Insurance

By introducing interest-free banking and insurance the economy will be revitalised and people will be given ample opportunity to earn their livelihood by 'halal' (permitted) means.

21. Transport and Communication

To attain balanced development, the following measures will be taken to improve the transport and communication system:

- * All regions of the country will be brought under a central network of transport and communication.
- * The Railway services will be improved to provide maximum benefit to the people. And efforts will be made to make the Railway commercially viable.
- * Railway communication will be extended as far as practicable to all parts of the country and modern facilities will be provided in this field of communication.

- * Steps will be taken to modernise the inland river and water transport system by using modern technology.
- * Telecommunication will be extended to the Upazilla levels and inter-district telecommunications will be provided and improved as necessary.

22. Labourers and Low-paid Employees

A labour policy based on Islamic principles will be introduced for the benefit of day-labourers and low-paid employees. These are as follows:

- * Minimum wages will be fixed by law.
- * In the interest of social justice, the difference between the earnings of employees at different levels will be gradually minimised.
- * Low-paid employees will be provided with accommodation, medical facilities and education for their children.
- * Employees will be paid a cash bonus from the profits of industries.

23. Water Resources and Flood Control

- * To develop water resources and control floods short, medium and long-term programmes will be implemented.
- * Adequate supply of water will be ensured for agriculture in the dry season by excavating canals and rivers.
- * All measures will be taken to ensure the quick outflow of flood water.

24. Natural Resources

- * Steps will be taken to explore and exploit natural resources like gas, lime-stone, glass-sand, coal, mineral-sand, petroleum, etc.

- * Measures will be taken to protect, preserve and exploit fish and other resources of rivers and the Bay of Bengal.

25. Human Resources

For developing an economy, human resources are very crucial. Allah has given us these resources in abundance. The population is not a liability: it is an asset and it will be developed to achieve economic growth.

26. Social Security

To attain balanced growth of the economy and to obtain equitable distribution of wealth, 'Zakat' 'Sadaqua' (alms giving), 'Ushar' (Zakat from agricultural produce) will be collected by the state and will be utilised for the following social security purposes:

- * Benefits will be given to the old, the disabled and the infirm.
 - * Poor and orphan children will be provided with education and steps will be taken for their rehabilitation.
 - * Medicare will be provided to the poor.
 - * People having small income and with business expertise will be given cash incentives.
 - * In suitable cases, the poor will be helped to repay their loans.
 - * Financial assistance will be given to travellers if they are in genuine need of money at the time of their journey.
 - * Expenditure will also be made from this fund for the propagation and establishment of Islam.
- ## 27. Rural Development

Ninety per cent of our population live in rural areas. To increase the quality of life of this vast population, the

following measures will be taken on priority basis:

- * Transport and communication system will be improved. Roads, culverts, small bridges, etc. will be constructed under special schemes.
- * To improve the overall standard of education in the rural areas, handsome salaries will be paid to teachers. Schools will be set up by the government, where necessary.

28. Public Health

- * Medical facilities will be provided to all citizens.
- * Medicine will be provided at fair prices and doctors, nurses and other people who are employed in health services will be trained in such a way that they can be ready to serve the people

29. Safeguarding the Rights of Women

To guarantee the women the status granted by Islam and stop the exploitation of women, the following steps will be taken:

- * Appropriate steps will be taken to educate women so that they can make their proper contribution towards building a happy and prosperous society.
- * Full opportunities will be given to women to earn their livelihood within the bounds set by Islam and to contribute to nation-building activities.
- * All steps will be taken so that women are neither exploited nor oppressed by men.
- * Steps will be taken to eradicate the evil of dowries.
- * To stop the oppression on women, all matters relating to divorce will be fully controlled by the Shariah.

- * Inheritance of properties by women under Islamic law will be guaranteed.
- * Laws will be enacted and proper family courts will be set up to protect the life and liberty of women.

30. Protecting the Rights of Non-Muslim Citizens

The following steps will be taken to protect the rights and interests of non-Muslim citizens:

The life, liberty, property and religious freedom of non-Muslims will be protected.

- * Special care will be given to the overall development of the scheduled castes.
- * The ethnic identity of the tribal people will be respected. They will be given proper facilities in the field of education and employment.

31. Running the Government and Role in the Parliament

The Jamaat's parliamentary party will act on the following principles:

- * Parliamentary Rules and Procedures will be made on the basis of democracy, Islamic etiquette and morality.
- * If Jamaat-e-Islami secures the majority of seats in parliament, it will form its own cabinet and will implement its commitment to the people.
- * People will be given the right to criticise the Ministers and the Members of the Parliament within the bounds of law.
- * The Ministers and the Members of the Parliament will lead a simple life.

- * Their allowances will be fixed on the basis of social justice.
- * The government machinery and public funds will not be used for the benefit of any particular person, party or group.
- * If in opposition, the parliamentary party of the Jamaat will be guided by the ideas of national interest and party policy.
- * They will play the role of healthy opposition and will not simply oppose the government of the day for the sake of opposition only.

32. Foreign Policy

- * Good relations will be maintained with all neighbouring countries on the basis of mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and non-interference in internal affairs.
- * All regional and bi-lateral problems and disputes will be solved on the basis of justice and fair-play.
- * The following steps will be taken to improve fraternal relationship with the Muslim countries.
- * All efforts will be made to revive the glorious days of Islamic civilisation and efforts will be made to free the Muslim world from the clutches of un-Islamic culture and civilisation.
- * To attain self-sufficiency in defence, joint efforts will be made in collaboration with the Muslim states.
- * To resolve disputes between Muslim countries efforts will be made to set up an International Islamic Court.
- * To ensure the supply of correct information, an Islamic News Agency will be established.
- * The volume of trade and commerce will be increased with Muslim countries.

- * Moral and material assistance will be given to the struggle for independence of the Muslim people.
 - * Steps will be taken to protect the interests of Muslim minorities in various non-Muslim countries.
 - * To attain unity among the Muslims steps will be taken for the establishment of an International Islamic Commonwealth.
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