



***AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE JAMAAT-E ISLAMI
BANGLADESH***

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1. Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a small country with an area of 1,42,776 square kilometers only. The country is densely populated. It has a population of about one hundred and twenty million according to census 1995.

Bangladesh is geographically detached from the rest of the Muslim World. It is almost surrounded by India. A small part of its eastern border is close to Myanmar.

Overwhelming majority of the population of Bangladesh are Muslims. They are intensely religious. But some times they are misled by nationalist, secularist and socialist leaders. Constitutionally Bangladesh is neither Islamic nor socialist. It is secular in the sense that the Quran and the Sunnah have not been declared principal sources of law of the country.

Politically Bangladesh is a playground for all. There are pro-India, Pro-Russia, Pro America and Pro-China political parties in Bangladesh. There are some nationalist and some Islamic parties. The Jamaat-e Islami is the vanguard of the Islamic Movement in Bangladesh.

2. Islam and the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh

Man is a wonderful combination of both body and soul. His progress towards perfection demands that attention should be paid to both these aspects of his existence.

Islam is the only code of life revealed by Allah, The Lord of the Universe. This code of life encompasses the whole

gamut of human life. It does not only prescribe beliefs but also the norms of behavior. Its guidance covers all spheres of human activities, both spiritual and material. The Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh upholds Islam in its entirety. It aims at bringing about changes in all phases and spheres of human activities on the basis of the guidance revealed by Allah and exemplified by His Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. Thus the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh is at the same time a religious, political, social and cultural movement.

3. The Aims and Objects

The aims and objects of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh is to achieve the pleasure of Allah and salvation in the life hereafter by making ceaseless efforts for establishing the Islamic social order in Bangladesh.

4. The Call

The Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh urges upon all human beings in general and the Muslims in particular to respond to the following calls :

- i) Accept Allah, the Lord of the Universe as the only sovereign and His last Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, as the leader in all spheres of your life in the light of Kalimah Taiyibah, "There is no Ilah except Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger."
- ii) If you claim to have accepted this call shun all thoughts, actions and habits that run counter to your faith and try to lead a life befitting a true Muslim.

- iii) Make collective efforts to establish the law of Allah and the rule of the pious with a view to eradicating all forms of oppression and exploitation aiming at providing full justice to people at large.

5. The Programme

The Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh aims at bringing about a revolution. But it is opposed to all forms of violence. It aims at channeling the thoughts of the people to the right direction first. Then people of similar thinking have to be organized and trained up as able leaders and efficient workers of the Islamic movement. They are to be fully acquainted with social problems and equipped with abilities to solve those problems. If Allah, the Lord of the universe grants opportunity, the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh, backed by the people's support, shall form government and mould the whole society and the state in accordance with the dictates of the Quran and the Sunnah. With this end in view, the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh has chalked out a four-point programme :

i) Tabligh and Dawah (Propagation and call) ;

To propagate the real message of Islam to the people at large, to purify and reconstruct their thoughts in the light of the teachings of Islam and to awaken in them an urge to follow and implement Islam in all walks of their life.

ii) Tanzeem and Tarbiah (Organization and Training) :

To organize those people who are eager to see Islam established in all spheres of life and to train them up as efficient workers equipped with abilities to face the challenges of Jahiliah and prove the superiority of Islam.

iii) Islah al-Ijtimayee (Social Reforms) :

To try to bring about a change in the social and cultural conditions of society, to effect a normal reconstruction on the basis of Islamic values and to render selfless services to the suffering humanity.

iv) Islah al Hukumah (to reform the Government & Administration) :

To strive, through constitutional means, to change the Government and to establish the leadership of the honest and God-fearing people at all levels, with a view to ensuring rectification in all state-affairs paving the way for the total implementation of Islam.

6. The Membership

i) The Member :

Any sane and adult person can become a Member of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh if he or she accepts the basic creed of the Jamaat-e Islami as his or her own creed, accepts the aims and objects of the Jamaat-e Islami as his or her own aims and objects, pledges to fulfil the demands of the constitution of the Jamaat-e Islami, performs the obligatory duties ordained by Islam, refrains from major sins, refrains from adopting any means of livelihood forbidden by Islam and does not encroach upon the rights of others and does not associate himself or herself with any other parties or associations the creed, aims and objects and principles of which clash with those of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh.

ii) The Associate Member :

Any sane and adult person who is at one with the creed, aims and objects, programme, etc. of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh but has not yet fulfilled the pre-conditions for its membership, may become its Associate member and can take part in its activities.

7. The Ameer

The Ameer of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh is elected by the direct votes of the Members for a period of three years. The Ameer is the Chief Executive of this organization.

8. The Central Majlise Shoorā :

The Central Mojliše Shoorā (The Central consultative (Committee) of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh is elected by the Members for a period of three years. The Central Majlise Shoorā formulates the policies, prepares the annual plan, adopts the budget and takes all necessary steps for promoting the cause of the Islamic movement in Bangladesh.

9. The Central Executive Committee:

The Central Executive Committee of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh is, in fact, its steering Committee. The members of the central Executive Committee shoulder the responsibilities of the different Departments of work of the Organization.

10. The Central Departments of work :

The Central Organization of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh has a variety of Departments of work such as;

Department of Organization

Department of Planning

Department of Tarbiah

Department of Publication

Department of Publicity

Department of Finance

Department of Political Affairs

Department of Foreign Affairs

Department of Education

Department of Women Affairs

Department of Non Muslim Affairs

Department of Labor

Department of Agriculture

Department of Social Welfare

Department of Relief & Rehabilitation

Department of Legal Aid and Jail

Department of Economics

Department of Commerce and Industries

Department of Ifta.

11. Process of Work :

The Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh strictly follows the process of work shown by Prophet Muhammad, Peace be upon him. The Prophet tried to illuminate the mind and intellect of the people with the ideology of Islam. He organized and trained those people who embraced Islam to become its torchbearers. He tried to ameliorate sufferings of the people in all possible manners. When he got the support of the people at Madinah, he set up a government and gradually established the Islamic system in all spheres of life.

(i) Keeping this process of the prophet in view, the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh has produced a variety of Islamic literature to convince the modern mind. The approach of this literature is rational and appealing to human intellect. Many Islamic books have been translated from Arabic, Urdu and English into Bangla.

The workers of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh hold public meetings in cities, at townships and rural areas in order to impart the message of Islam to the people at large. Regular Darse Quran and Darse Hadith at mosques presented by a good number of workers of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh and illuminating speeches made by them on the occasion of Juma prayers, go a long way in widening the Islamic knowledge of the people. Daily newspapers, weekly newspapers, monthly journals and magazines run by the workers and the supporters of the Jamaat-e Islami have been promoting the cause of the Islamic Dawah.

The workers of the Jamaat-e Islami regularly meet the people belonging to all walks of life, Explain to them different aspects of the ideology of Islam and urge them to study Islamic literature.

(ii) Those who respond to the call of the Jamaat-e Islami, are enrolled as the Associate Members and trained through a regular process of activities. For their personal development, they are advised to study the Quran with its meaning, the Hadith and other Islamic books. They are required to offer their daily prayers in congregation. They are asked to practice self-criticism everyday. They are required to submit a report of their activities every week.

For the collective tarbiah of its workers, the Jamaat-e Islami holds regular weekly meetings, occasional training sessions, study circles, 3 to 5 day training camps, quarterly Members conferences at the District level and the Central Members conference every three years. Women are organized and trained separately.

The Jamaat-e Islami urges upon its workers to reach the non-Muslims too and try to make them realize the importance and effectiveness of the Islamic ideology for ensuring peace, happiness, welfare and prosperity for each and every member of society irrespective of caste and creed. The non-Muslims who become convinced that the Islamic State means justice even to the non-Muslims, gladly join the Jamaat-e Islami as Associate Members.

(iii) The Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh tries to bring internecine feuds of various religious groups to an end with a view to forging a sense of unity. It tries to organize the mosques as centers of learning and arranges for the teaching of the Holy Quran. It tries to Islamise the general system of Education. It has prepared a model syllabus, published model text books in the light of Islam and set up a number of new educational institutions.

Relief and Rehabilitation is one of the major social activities of the Jamaat-e Islami. Whenever any natural calamity befalls the people, the Jamaat-e Islami organizes relief operations. The Jamaat-e Islami tries, in general, to ameliorate the sufferings of the poor and the destitute by extending help and assistance to them both in cash and kind.

The question of health and sanitation is one of the handicaps of our society. The Jamaat-e Islami tries to educate the people in this regard. It tries to develop groups of village doctors for extending medical services to the villagers. It tries to extend vocational trainings to the unemployed youth in the field of various trades. The Jamaat-e Islami extends Qardh Hasana to the non-solvent agriculturists for purchasing shallow tube wells, high quality seeds and agricultural tools and for running fishery projects and poultry farms etc. It runs a good number of orphanages at different places of the country.

(iv) The Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh inspires the people to strengthen the spirit of independence badly needed for safeguarding the political sovereignty of the country. In the form of statements and political resolutions, the Jamaat-e Islami advises the Government on every national issue and problem. It constructively criticizes the wrong steps taken and wrong policies adopted by the Government and suggests a step it deems proper. It ceaselessly tries to motivate the politically conscious section of the people to come forward for the establishment of an Islamic Government in the country.

It organizes political public meetings and processions in constitutional and non-violent form so that vandalism and terrorism do not get upper hand in the realm of politics. It tries to create an atmosphere of mutual toleration and co-existence amongst political forces for the growth and promotion of healthy politics.

As the Jamaat-e Islami believes in popular revolution, it takes part in elections with a view to motivating the Parliament to introduce Islamic law in the country.

The Jammat-e Islami believes that a time will come when the people shall elect Islamic leaders to the Parliament in a majority paving the way for the formation of an Islamic Government.

12. The Fund :

As the Jamaat-e Islami conducts multifarious activities for the actualization of its program, it needs a good amount of money to defray its expenses every month. The Jamaat-e Islami, therefore, inculcates a spirit of sacrifice in the minds of its members and workers in line with the teachings of the Quran and the Sunnah. Responding to the call of the Jamaat-e Islami, they sacrifice not only their time and energy, but also a good portion of their monthly income. Generally, the members and the workers of the Jamaat-e Islami sacrifice 5% of their monthly income as contribution to its fund. On special occasions, they contribute additional amounts.

Monthly contributions of the members, workers and well-wishers, donations and sale proceeds of its books are the main sources of its income. Zakat and hides and goat-skins during Eidul Adha are collected for the expenses of social welfare activities.

13. Characteristics of the Jamaat-e Islami

- 0 The ultimate objective of the Jamaat-e Islami is the establishment of the Islami system in all spheres of life.
- 0 The Jamaat-e Islami is of the opinion that Islam can be established only by those who know and practice Islam.
- 0 The membership of the Jamaat-e Islami can be obtained only by committed Muslims.
- 0 The Jamaat-e Islami does not recruit anybody as ready made leader. None can rise to leadership at any stage without obtaining its membership.

- 0 Rivalry and aspiration for leadership is totally absent in the Jamaat-e Islami. There is no candidature in any election of office bearers of the Jamaat-e Islami. Members vote freely and secretly. So, there is no scope for canvassing in favour of anybody.
- 0 Mere academic degree, wealth and political influence do not determine its leadership. Leadership of the Jamaat-e Islami is determined only by the standard of Islamic character, sincerity, devotion and integrity.

14. The Motto of the Jamaat-e Islami :

- 0 Allah is our Lord.
- 0 Muhammad is our Leader.
- 0 The Quran and the Sunnah is our ideal.
- 0 Jihad is our means.
- 0 Salvation is our end.

15. The Concept of Islam as understood by the Jamaat-e Islami :

- 0 Islam is not merely a religion.
- 0 Islam is not merely a mission.
- 0 Islam is a complete and balanced code of life.
- 0 Islam is a comprehensive and systematic ideology.
- 0 Islam is a scientific revolutionary movement.

And the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh is a faithful and rational exposition of a scientific revolutionary Islamic movement.

16. To Decide your Role

- 0 Please acquire direct knowledge about the ideology, organization, program and process of work of the Jamaat-e Islami Bangladesh.
- 0 Please don't depend upon hearsay and propaganda conducted against the Jamaat-e Islami.
- 0 Please neither accept it blindly nor oppose it unknowingly.

17. Your Role

(i) As a conscious citizen:

- 0 You must not remain indifferent to what is happening in your country.
- 0 You must take notice of the people who have organized themselves to rule over your country upholding secularism, socialism, etc. instead of Islam.
- 0 You must not fail to foresee the consequences if these forces succeed.

(ii) As a Muslim :

- 0 You must work for establishing Islamic social order in your country.
- 0 You must join an organization to accomplish this gigantic task.

Do you find any organization better than the Jamaat-e Islami for this noble purpose?



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