

Staff Reporter

BNP hits back at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for calling BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia and senior vice president Tarique Rahman as killers, BNP on Sunday branded Sheikh Hasina as a killer, saying her hands are stained with the blood of several hundred youths.

“Awami League is a killer party and its president Sheikh Hasina is a killer, too. Her hands are stained with the blood of several hundred innocent youths of the country,” said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

The BNP spokesman made the allegation at a press conference at the party’s Nayapaltan central office. The press meet was arranged to give the party’s formal reaction to the PM’s recent remarks against Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman.

Fakhrul further alleged that the government, being isolated from people, has established an undeclared one-party Baksal rule by enacting various anti-people laws and policies one after another, snatching press freedom, stifling the judiciary and politicizing the administration.

He said the Prime Minister’s comments involving Khaleda and Tarique in the August 21 grenade attack are not only influencing the trial process, but also creating confusion.

Earlier on Thursday, Sheikh Hasina, addressing a discussion at Bangabandhu Avenue, said, “While Zia (Ziaur Rahman) was involved in the August 15, 1975 assassination, the then Prime Minister and BNP chairperson, Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman and her cabinet members were directly involved in the August 21, 2004 incident.”

Sharply reacting to the PM’s comments, Fakhrul said: “Her remarks are totally false, fabricated and politically motivated... the remarks of the ‘illegal’ Prime Minister about an under-trial case are also tantamount to contempt of court.”

Describing the August 21 grenade attack as a heinous and despicable incident, Fakhrul said they also want that the offenders are being identified through a fair investigation and given exemplary punishment. “But we can’t support anyone if he or she tries to give the incident a political colour to derive narrow political gains,” he said.

He said they after the incident of the 21 August had strongly condemned it and the then authorities concerned tried to identify the real culprits through investigation and even taken the help of Scotland Yard and FBI.

The BNP leader alleged that Sheikh Hasina did not cooperate with the foreign investigating agencies and the judicial probe body hampering the investigation.

He said the Prime Minister now making baseless remarks against Khaleda and Tarique out of her political vengeance to malign them. “They also want to remove their big hurdle by making our leader (Khaleda) and Tarique ineligible for election through punishing them in false cases.”

Fakhrul also came down hard on the Prime Minister for her reported comments that BNP is a terrorist party, Khaleda and Tarique killers, and January-5 election boycott agitation was nothing but a blood-taking movement.

“The whole nation and the democratic world know how Sheikh Hasina using the police, Rab and BGB forces killed over 500 agitating opposition leaders and activists and made disappeared 65 others. They also turned the country’s streets into death valleys,” he alleged.

Accusing the government of trying to hang onto power by force, the BNP acting secretary general claimed that there is no difference between the Pakistani occupation forces and Awami League as they in the same style resorted to killings, enforce disappearances, abduction, killings and repressive acts to grab the state power.

Fakhrul questioned why the ruling party instead of holding a fair election under a non-party administration is trying to keep BNP out of polls and make the party leaderless if its leaders think it a so popular party.

He urged the government to scrap the broadcast police, not to pass the bill on empowering parliament to impeach judges, stop politicizing the administration and stop filing 'false' cases against opposition leaders and activists.

"Take steps immediately for arranging a fresh election under a non-party administration. Or else, people will come up with due action," the BNP spokesman added.

BNP standing committee members Rafiqul Islam Miah, Mirza Abbas, chairperson's adviser Advocate Mahbub Hossain, joint secretary generals Barkatullah Bulu, Mahbubuddin Khokan and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi were also present.