

Salahuddin: Attempts to Paint BNP Against July Uprising Will Fail

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BNP Standing Committee member **Salahuddin Ahmed** has dismissed attempts to portray the party as being opposed to the July uprising, urging all not to misinterpret his remarks.

“Our young generation who took part in the July movement sacrificed their lives and faced bullets. They may have made some minor mistakes — but they are like our children,” Salahuddin said at a briefing at the BNP chairperson’s office in Gulshan, Dhaka.

He clarified his earlier comments after NCP chief Nahid Islam demanded an apology for allegedly calling the July fighters “fascist followers of Awami League.”

“In this context, even the Jamaat ameer urged not to label the July fighters as allies of fascism. I fully agree with that,” Salahuddin said.

Responding to questions, he claimed parts of his earlier speech had been selectively quoted. “Due to their age, some may have spoken emotionally. I don’t want to criticize that,” he added.

Salahuddin praised the youth involved in the July uprising, calling them “the future leaders who will guide Bangladesh on a democratic path.”

He emphasized that the uprising was the outcome of a **16-year-long struggle** against fascism, not a sudden development. “So far, we have listed 422 BNP leaders and activists who were martyred during the movement, and the number is likely higher,” he said.

Salahuddin stressed that all political parties contributed to the fight for democracy, not just one.

Regarding upcoming elections, he said, “Every political party has agreed the election should be held in the first half of February. So, there’s no reason for doubt.”

On ongoing protests demanding proportional representation, he remarked, “This is part of democratic practice. People will continue their struggle and express opinions on the streets — that’s the essence of democracy.”

Speaking about recent fire incidents across the country, Salahuddin said investigations are underway. “Some of these may be linked to attempts to create unrest, possibly by fallen fascist forces or their allies,” he added.