

The Fake Photo Debate & The Tragedy of Ruwaibidah Rulers: Seeking Validation From Western Masters

News:

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and his wife Dr. Zubaida Rahman attended a high-profile dinner hosted by US President Donald Trump for world leaders during the 81st UN General Assembly. Following the release of their official photo with Trump, political critics launched a disinformation campaign on social media claiming the image was fake. In response, the Prime Minister's Office issued a statement clarifying that the genuine White House photograph was being maliciously conflated with an unrelated, AI-generated satirical image.

Comment:

Recent social media frenzy erupted around a photograph of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and his wife Dr. Zubaida Rahman with US President Donald Trump at the UN General Assembly have exposed a bitter and recurring reality of our times. While political opponents engaged in petty social media bickering — falsely claiming the Prime Minister was never invited and branding the snapshot as fake or manipulated — the Prime Minister's Office felt compelled to issue serious statements to prove its authenticity.

This entire episode highlights a profound tragedy. Our political ecosystem is trapped in a shallow cycle where leaders and their opponents measure self-worth by proximity to Western powers. Rulers act as though validation from a foreign capital is the ultimate certificate of success. Entire political machinery wastes time defending or attacking a dinner photo, ignoring the real sufferings of the masses. Political legitimacy is continually sought from Western masters rather than from the dignity and strength of the Ummah.

When rulers are consumed by a desire to please external powers, they fit the description of the ruwaibidah foretold by the Prophet Muhammad (saw) — insignificant, small-minded individuals who hold authority over public affairs but cannot see beyond the wishes of their foreign masters. They are kept busy and entertained by trivial controversies, completely detached from true autonomy and self-reliance.

History offers a stark parallel. When the Mongols invaded Muslim lands centuries ago, many compromised rulers surrendered completely and became submissive to the mighty invading force, unable to envision a future free from their shadow. Yet, those lands were eventually rescued by leaders of unbreakable resolve like Salahuddin Ayubi and Saifuddin Qutuz, who refused to bow to foreign dominance. Until the Muslim world shakes off this deep-seated mental colonization and replaces submissive politicians with principled, independent leaders under the shadow of the promised Khilafah Rashidah (rightly guided Caliphate) on the method of the Prophethood, true freedom will remain out of reach.

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Irtiza Chowdhury

Member of the Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir in Wilayah Bangladesh