

Students urged to protect democracy

President Abdus Sattar on Friday made a fervent call to the members of the student and youth fronts of his party to protect and preserve the democracy initiated by the late President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

Speaking at the third founding anniversary function of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at the Ramna Green in city, President Sattar said that the student front of the party should be developed into an idealistic and well organised group to carry forward the ideals of the late President Zia.

Presided over by Mr. Golam Sarwar Milan, President of the JCD, the function was also addressed by the BNP Secretary General Prof. A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Youth Development Minister and chief of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal Mr. Abul Kashem, Public Works and Urban Development Minister Mr. Abul Hasnat, BNP Students Affairs Secretary Dr. Musharaf Hossain and Mr. Kashem Chowdhury, General Secretary of JCD.

President Sattar also urged the students and the youths to become the vanguards in the materialisation of the 19-point programme launched by the late President Zia to emancipate the people from economic hardship. He pointed out that the implementations of the programme had slowed down following the assassination of

President Zia and said that he had already directed the concerned people to speed up the implementation of the programme.

The President, who is also acting Chairman of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal (BNP), said I shall not hesitate to take punitive measures against those who will fail to discharge their responsibilities vested on them to implement the programme.

He reminded the audience of his repeated promise to the nation during his election campaigns to carry forward the 19-point programme and maintained that he and his party members were still pledge-bound to continue the efforts to materialise the programme in letter and spirit to improve the lot of the common people.

President Sattar emotional by the slogans raised at the meeting expressing its solidarity with him to implement the ideals of the late leader, to preserve democracy and to uphold the spirit of the independence war, said "In my old age, I contested the presidential election not to get anything, but to give something to the country".

He called upon the students and youths to strengthen his hands and said "you will see how tough I can be in punishing the culprits". He described the students and youths as the future leaders of the country and urged them to go ahead with their youthful vigour imbued with the spirit infused in them by the late leader. I shall be with you in your struggle to reach the cherished goal of building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh" he added.

President Sattar eulogised the democratic spirit of the members of the Chhatra Dal in electing their new leaders and said "you have set an example of democratic tolerance for others to follow". The other front organisations of BNP should pursue the democratic spirit set up by the student

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wing, he observed. The President said, the people knew the activities of "some organisations" which were formed earlier in the wake of the liberation war and urged the members of the Chhatra Dal to build them up as organised and idealistic cadres of the ideals of the late President Zia.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury recalled the memory of the founder of the party President Ziaur Rahman who was an exponent of the politics based on ensuring equitable distribution, establishment of an exploitation-free society, functioning on multi-party democracy imbued with the spirit of Bangladeshi nationalism and liberation war. He said, the students of today were the future leaders of the party and country and that they should be understood better, otherwise, the future of BNP would be bleak.

Prof. Chowdhury said President Sattar had got the mandate of the people through the presidential poll to materialise the ideals of the late leader Zia and added, the whole population including students and youth were with him (Sattar) in this regard.

Prof. Chowdhury referred to the demands of the Chhatra Dal and said that the President should disown any leader who would try to deviate himself from the path set by late Zia. He said, the people of the country were deprived of their rights for a long time and added the late President Zia had tried to establish an exploitation-free society through his peaceful revolutionary programmes upholding the causes of the liberation war. He said "if there are any deviation or mistakes on the part of the leadership, they should immediately mend their ways to the course enunciated by the late leader otherwise the people will not excuse us".

The BNP Secretary-General also called for speeding up the implementation of the 19-point programme of the late Zia and observed that the leaders in government and party alike should go nearer to the people as shown by the late leader to complete the programmes instead of sitting in the city.

He also demanded immediate publication of the judicial enquiry commission report on the killing of President Zia and said the culprits should be punished.

Prof. Chowdhury alleged that "conspirators" were active both inside and outside the party to weaken it and called for an immediate purging of such elements. In this regard he also alleged that certain quarters within the party had tried to tarnish the image of the Secretary-General during his assignment to the United Nations with ulterior motives and said, the students wanted enquiry into the matters and find out those "hated persons" who tried to weaken the party.

He said the BNP is united and will remain so upholding the ideals of late Zia.

The BNP Secretary-General said that there was a tendency with some to divide the nation referring to the divisions as freedom fighters and non-freedom fighters and said in fact everybody was a freedom fighter excluding a handful of people who opposed the liberation actively. He said that the students wanted that the go-

vernment was free of elements responsible for the killings in the liberation war.

Prof. Chowdhury called for stringent measures to check price spiral and said that the BNP was the party of the people and it would continue to uphold and preserve the spirit of the people including that of the spirit of the liberation. He said, no body has any right to remain in the government who cast aspersions on the liberation war.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Abul Hasnat said we could take pride that our student front was united and working as the vanguard of late President Zia's ideals. He said, the people gave mandate to President Sattar to preserve democracy and implement the 19 point programme and added these objectives of late Zia were to be materialised by forging unity at all levels in the party and the nation.

In his address, Mr. Abul Kashem expressed the hope that the students community under the banner of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal would continue to strive to implement the ideals of the late President Zia. He said the history of students of the country is the history of self sacrifice and movement and that they would continue to uphold their past tradition to halt conspiracy against Zia's ideals and the BNP.

He said, "No force could halt our march towards the path of Zia to establish an exploitation-free society."

Mr. Kashem called upon the students to remain watchful against conspirators inside and outside the BNP and give them befitting reply to their plan to weaken the party.