



BCL founding anniversary observed

Varsity Correspondent

Blaming the government for imposing an undeclared civil war in the country, Acting President of Awami League Abdus Samad Azad on Friday called upon the countrymen to make the January 9 nationwide half-day hartal a success.

The former Foreign Minister said those who voted for Awami League including the minority community fell victim to the government's 'white terrorism'. "If the elections were held impartially why the country is in the grip of terrorism?" the elderly AL leader questioned.

He was addressing a rally organised by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to mark its 54th founding anniversary at Muktangan on Friday afternoon.

"Another general election is a must for restoring democracy in the country," the acting AL President said and criticised the former President, the Caretaker Government, and the Election Commission for what he said manipulating the October 1 elections.

The expectation, on which the Caretaker Government was formed, was ruined because of the betrayal with the people by the last Caretaker Government, Samad Azad said.

Referring to the talks between British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the AL leader, Samad Azad said they gave him the documents on terrorism and killing of the AL supporters. The British Prime Minister was also apprised of the violation of human rights by the government after the October 1 elections, he added.

He condemned the arrest of AL leader Kamal Ahmed Majumder in connection with a "false case" and demanded immediate withdrawal of the case.

Former Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak, AL leader Abdul Mannan, former BCL leaders, Iqbalur Rahim, Enamul Huq Hamim and Ishaq Ali Khan Anna were present at the function. BCL President Bahadur Hossain presided over the programme.

Later, Samad Azad inaugurated the founding anniversary procession releasing colourful balloons and hoisting the national and party flags.

The procession paraded different city thoroughfares and terminated at the Central Shaheed Minar. The BCL leaders and supporters took oath at the Shaheed Minar to restore democracy in the country.

Earlier in the morning, the BCL leaders and supporters placed floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban. Milad mahfil was also held at Dhaka University Central