

# **Holding elections except reforms will be tantamount to betrayal with people: Dr Sayed Abdullah Muhammad Taher**

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami's nayeb-e-Ameer Dr Sayed Abdullah Muhammad Taher stated, "Except for some people and identified political parties, everyone in the country is July freedom fighter; therefore, there is no room for division in this issue."

He made these remarks while speaking a pre-demonstration rally before the Cholera Hospital, Mohakhali, Dhaka, on August 5 today morning.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Dhaka City North unit arranged the march on the occasion of the first anniversary of the historic July mass uprising in 2024.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami central executive council member and Dhaka city north unit's Ameer Mohammed Selim Uddin presided over the mass procession while secretary Dr Muhammad Rezaul Karim conducted it.

Jamaat central Mojlish-e-shura member and Dhaka city north unit's assistant secretary Mahfuzur Rahman, Nazim Uddin Molla, Dr Fakharuddin Manik, Yeasin Arafat, central Mojlish-e-shura member Ziaul Hasan, Jamal Uddin, city publicity and media secretary Muhammad Ataur Rahman Sarker among others were present.

Awami-BaKSHALs had conducted a misrule in the country during their 16 years rule. But student-people mass movement ousted them from power with disgrace. They are now making plots to come back. But the brave people will never allow their plots

to succeed. People will never accept those who are trying to become a new autocrat, Dr Taher asserted.

Jamaat will continue its movement for the establishment of truth and justice. Jamaat will never compromise with anyone on the issue of protecting independence and sovereignty of the country but will do everything to establish and protect sustainable democracy in the country, Jamaat's naye-e-Ameer added.

He urged to all to take the upcoming elections as a challenge to turn the country into a welfare state.

Traditional form of electoral system cannot bring any kind of benefits to the nation and the country. In the 54 years of Independence, almost all elections were controversial. Especially, elections under fascist Hasina including election in 1973 were not elections but a farce. Votes were rigged in massive scale in the elections, Abdullah Muhammad Taher alleged.

Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system should be run for a free, fair and credible election. If this system is implemented, election-time crimes like vote rigging will reduce. Those who have no supporters are opposing the PR system. But people will not allow traditional electoral system except PR, he further added.

Necessary reforms should be done for holding a free, fair and credible elections. Holding elections except reforms will be tantamount to betrayal with people, this Jamaat leader also added.

If you give us an opportunity to govern the country and trust us, we will change the history of 54 years irregularities. Corrupt people will either have to give up corruption or go to jail. Our ministers and MPs will not but duty-free cars or accept government plots, he assured.

Dr Muhammad Rezaul Karim demanded electoral system using PR.

Selim Uddin called on the government to implement the July Proclamation. He demanded the trial of July perpetrators.

The mass procession started from Mohakhali Railgate and concluded at Moghbazar intersection with a speech of city Ameer Mohammed Selim Uddin.