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## Abar 71: United they stand and campaign

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They were invigorated by the spirit of liberation that spurred them into action. It spurred their sense of responsibility in the matter. The result was an 11-point demand which they thought, if fulfilled, would best serve the country.

Students of different universities and institutions under the banner Abar 71 raised their 11 points of demand at a national youth seminar at the Engineers' Institute Auditorium, Dhaka on Thursday.

It was initiated by Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Shongshod, Central Command Council, and organised by the Moot Court Society of BRAC University with support from the ministry of liberation war affairs. Nearly 1200 students from 66 educational institutions from all over Bangladesh participated in the grand event.

The seminar was styled “Abar 71: Torun Muktishena Jatio Shommelon 2012” and attended by Captain (rtd) AB Tajul Islam, state minister for liberation war affairs, as chief guest. It was chaired by Major General (rtd) Helal Morshed Khan (Bir Bikram), Chairman, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Shongshod.

The major demands that the students put to paper and campaigned for were proper history of liberation war, proper list of freedom fighters, war museums in every district, recognition of Biranganas as Freedom Fighters, establishment of a secular state and trial of the war criminals.

The chief guest highly praised the arguments and reasonings presented in favour of the demands by the students. He assured them of taking proper initiatives to fulfil them.

While addressing the youth participants on the occasion, Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice-chancellor of BRAC University, emphasised the importance of safeguarding the real history of liberation war. He also expressed his university's commitment to support the Abar 71 movement in all its future endeavours.

Professor Muntasir Mamun of Dhaka University commended the pro-liberation spirit of the new generation. Theatre personality Ramendu Majumder declared his full support in favour of the 11-point demand.

Ziauddin Tarek Ali, Trustee, Muktiyudhho Jadughar, encouraged the students to be more liberal, democratic, patriotic and secular. Ferdousi Priyobhashini expressed her best wishes for the Abar 71 movement.

Film Maker Shamim Akhter, Vice-president of the Ekattorer Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee, advised the students to be more logical in their efforts to build an educated society.

Barrister Dr Tureen Afroz, Associate Professor of the School of Law, BRACU, who designed and coordinated the entire programme, conducted the Abar 71 oath taking by the students representing their institutions from all over the country.

The event was followed by a cultural programme in commemoration of the liberation war.

Abar 71, a youth network, has been campaigning since 2010 to uphold the spirit of liberation war among the young generation of Bangladesh. In 2011 it conducted youth camps in every division of Bangladesh. It has also successfully organised a signature campaign all over the country to raise support in favour of its 11-point demand.