

Tributes paid to Nusrat Bhutto

By Ayesha Shahid

ISLAMABAD, Oct 27: The Aurat Foundation organised an event to pay homage to the struggles and sacrifices of Begum Nusrat Bhutto on Thursday evening.

The recurring theme in each speaker's comments was highlighting the guidance, courage and humility Nusrat Bhutto showed as she achieved that for Pakistan which many of us can only aspire to. She raised a family of leaders, contributed to women empowerment and was herself a wall of courage that stood up to all injustices.

Speaking on the occasion, Tahira Abdullah pointed out that Nusrat Bhutto played a great role both as Bhutto's partner against Ayub Khan and as a leader of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy against Ziaul Haq.

As a true leader, she had the ability to inspire people to be productive and help the government. Nasreen Azhar, member NCSW, recalled that when there were problems of electricity shortages, Begum Bhutto would

come on television and ask people to conserve energy. Similarly, when vegetable prices shot up, she asked people to grow their own vegetables and contribute. In this way, she included the people in the governance of the country rather than alienating them.

Senator Syeda Iqbal highlighted that Begum Bhutto "was an example for all those who bear grievances for democracy and humanity" as someone who lost many loved ones and suffered innumerable hardships for the betterment of her fellow people.

The speakers also highlighted that her most courageous step was taking up the role of collecting the various political parties under one platform against General Ziaul Haq and proved to be the guiding light for the recently orphaned Pakistan People's Party.

One of the key speakers at the event was PPP leader Babar Awan. He praised Nusrat Bhutto's role both as a leader of MRD and as pioneer in the sense that she was one of the first women to take leadership positions in Pakistan.