

Govt fails to run country, says BDB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government has failed to run the country.

Speaking at a function, he said Jamaat has assumed the role of a driver by holding the steering while BNP is performing the role of a conductor in running the country's administration.

The function was organised to mark the joining of Advocate Amjad Hossain, a former district BNP leader of Naogaon, to BDB at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

Prof Chowdhury said people now want an honest and competent government to run the state affairs.

He said the politics of BNP is being controlled by the relatives of prime minister.

About the arrest of JMB Chief Abdur Rahman, Prof Chowdhury said the benefit of the arrest would be clear after his trial.

Amjad Hossain said as BNP has become a party of a particular family, he along with other leaders and workers has left the party.

BDB Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury MP, Joint Secretary General Dr Nurul Amin Bapari, Vice-president Dr Mozaffar Ahmed and Convenor of its youth front ATM Kamal also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Save the Environment Movement and Jono Udyog form a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding an end to water crisis and frequent power outages, which is hampering the normal study of the children at night.

Form ministerial body to ensure workers' security: Bapa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists at a rally yesterday demanded of the government to form a joint committee comprising the ministries of industries, health and environment to take measures for ensuring health and security of the workers.

They also called for immediate identification of unapproved, risky and old factory buildings to shift those to safer places to avoid any further mishaps.

The rally was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa).

in front of the National Museum in the city demanding healthy environment in industries and factories.

Dr SK Roy, convenor of environment and health programme of Bapa, said internal environment of most industries, factories and workshops is not satisfactory at all.

"Except a few, most owners are running their enterprises in smaller spaces for more profit," he said, adding that lack of fresh air and sunlight inside most of the factories is the key reason to illness of workers.

Architect Iqbal Habib said fire in industries, especially in garment factories, has become a permanent cause of death of workers for last two decades.

No significant measure has yet been taken despite hundreds of workers died due to lack of emergency

exits, narrow stairs and closed gates, he noted.

Bapa leader Dr Abdul Matin stressed the need for trained workers in emergency management, access to hospitals and clinics, and availability of oxygen to minimise the casualties in the event of any accident.

He also demanded implementation of international labour laws on security and proper disposal of factory waste.

Expressing their solidarity with Bapa demands, representatives of different organisations including Green Voice, Seba, Peace, Old Dhaka Environment Development Forum, Dhaka Jagorani, Citizens Rights Movement, Sundar Jiban, and WACC attended the rally.

Govt decides to stop printing Tk 1, 2, 5 notes

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The government has decided to stop printing currency notes of Tk 1, Tk 2 and Tk 5 denominations because of their shorter durability and high production cost associated with continuous printing of the notes.

"We will rather continue minting coins equivalent to these notes," a senior official of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) told the news agency.

He said the government has earlier decided to stop printing these notes and circulate coinage in the local market. A currency note like Tk 1, Tk 2 and Tk 5 wears out within one year while a coin can be used up to 20 years, he said.

Besides, it requires Tk 0.52 to Tk 0.60 to print each of the notes while the production cost of minting a coin is Tk 0.80 to Tk 0.90, he said. Considering all the factors, the government has taken the decision, he added.