

Govt has no right to stay in power: Badruddoza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said Khaleda-Nizami alliance government has no right to stay in power even for a moment as it has failed to ensure security of the countrymen.

"How will the ruling alliance curb the militancy as a number of ministers and leaders within the government has direct links with the militants," he said while inaugurating the first council session of the Bikalpa Sramik Dhara, Dhaka metropolitan committee, at the National Press Club in the city.

The BDB chief also called on the party activists to be united against the alliance government to safeguard independence and the nation from the clutches of militancy.

"The militants have targeted not only the progressive forces but also general people, turning the country into a valley of death," said Badruddoza, also a former president.

He urged the government to implement the electoral reforms proposed by the BDB before stepping down.

"The nation now needs honest, patriotic and competent leaders," the former president said, adding that only a national government comprising honest and patriotic leaders can save



PHOTO: STAR
Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaks at the first council session of the Bikalpa Sramik Dhara, Dhaka metropolitan committee, at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

the country and its people from the 'tyrant' rule of the BNP-Jamaat alliance.

Seeking divine blessings, Badruddoza said, "O Allah, please save our country and countrymen from the misrule of the 'tyrant' alliance government and give us ability to oust it from power and make the country free from all kinds of torture, repression and discrimination."

Dhaka Metropolitan Sramik Dhara Convenor Ainul Huq presided over the

daylong programme where BDB Secretary General Major (Retd.) Abdul Mannan, Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury, BDB leaders Dr Nurul Amin Bepari, MA Halim, ATM Kamal, Sheikh Shahidul Ahmed, Sheikh Nadir Ahmed, Asaduzzamn Bachchu, Jahangir Alam Biblab and Azizur Rahman Akanda also spoke.

Ainjibi Forum splits over leadership: Huda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister and leader of a faction of the BNP-led Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum Nazmul Huda said the forum was divided due to conflict over leadership.

"It is known to all that such type of organisation always divides because of conflict over leadership," he said while he was addressing a press conference at Jatiya Pres Club yesterday.

He called upon the lawyers to attend the forum's national conference on January 19 instead of a conference called by his opponent group on January 7.

"There might be some differences of opinion in a democratic organisation but we should not divide our forum," he said, adding that the main objective of the national conference is to bring dynamism and give the forum a democratic shape.

Referring to the leader of his opponent group T H Khan, Huda ruled out any basic difference with him as he was the chief advisor of the convening committee led by me.

"The forum was divided because I wanted to change a 15-year-old committee to bring dynamism and democracy," he said. The national convention will unite the conflicting groups and elect a new leadership, he added.

In reply to a question, Huda said the party high command supports both the groups and will recognise whichever group will be successful in the

election.

He said both the groups can contest the election in two panels. "We will accept as our leader whichever panel wins the election," he said.

Huda said his group has formed an election commission comprising five senior lawyers and also ready to accept five other members from opponent group for holding fair election.

The ruling party backed lawyers have been divided into two groups few months back and Telecommunication Minister Aminul Haque is backing the opponent group.

British HC closed on Dec 25, 26, Jan 1

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed to the public on December 25 and 26 for Christmas and Boxing Day.

The High Commission and its Sylhet office will also remain closed on January 1 for New Year's Day, says a British High Commission release.



PHOTO: STAR
Participants observe one minute's silence at a discussion on Victory Day at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Bangladesh-Bharat Maitree Samity organised the discussion. From left are Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, Tofail Ahmed and Prof AK Azad Chowdhury.

250 houses gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A devastating fire gutted some 250 houses damaging property worth around Tk 30 lakh in the port city yesterday.

Witnesses said the fire broke out at a slum Nawab Khan

Colony near Noya Bridge at Chaktai under Bakolia thana at around 11:00am.

The fire soon engulfed the entire area including three other neighbouring slums Aziz Khan Colony, Yusuf Khan Colony and Jamaier Colony.

The roaring blaze reduced the

thatched houses and one large semi-pucca thread shop to ashes before eight fire fighting vehicles extinguished it at around 3: 10 pm, said fire service sources.

The fire originated from an earth oven, they added.