



Members of Nagorik Sanghati, wearing black attires, form a human chain near Shahbag intersection in the city yesterday demanding a stop to the sale of adulterated fertilisers, seeds and pesticides and punishment to those involved in this offence.

PHOTO: STAR

No step yet to stop adulterated fertiliser

Say two civic bodies demanding strict law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two civic bodies yesterday demanded the government to frame a stringent law to stop the sale of adulterated fertilisers, seeds and pesticides as those would threaten the country's food security.

"Adulterated fertilisers, seeds and pesticides are not only harming the farmers but also the entire food production and agriculture system of the country," said general secretary of one of the bodies, Nagorik Sanghati, Sharifuzzaman Sharif.

Nagorik Sanghati and Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods organised a sit-in before National Museum in the city's Shahbagh.

Recent newspaper reports, citing a survey of Bangladesh Soil Resource Development Institute, mentioned that almost 50 percent of the fertilisers being used in the country were adulterated.

The figure was 42 last year, said Sharif.

"But the government had not taken any steps in this regard," he said, demanding immediate remedial actions to protect farmers and the agricultural sector.

Former general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, Mahidul Haque Khan, said despite the presence of a numbers of government organisations to monitor the food and agriculture sector, there are no measures to ensure food safety, excluding those being exported.

"Then, what are those organisations doing?" he questioned.

Other demands include cancellation of some sections and sub-sections of the national seed policy which put pressure on the country's food security and agriculture sector, providing compensation to affected farmers and taking action against those responsible for adulterating fertilisers, seeds and insecticides.

Plan-based economy stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A well-planned economic system will have to be built through a gradual economic and cultural revolution by integrating market and planning, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

The market-based economy created by bourgeoisies is against the interests of labourers, and as an alternative, a planned economy is not fully flawless, they said.

Banglar Pathshala organised the two-day seminar at RC Majumdar Auditorium of Dhaka University.

Economist MM Akash said the communists should put emphasis on high production. He also pointed out that the capitalist attitude of China has had communism at bay.

Prof Anu Huhammad presided over the programme where Binayok Sen, Mustofa Manwar, Sadia Arman, and Sapan Adnan, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Check city air pollution: Bapa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must make it a priority to take immediate measures to control air pollution to save Dhaka residents from serious health risks, said speakers at a human chain yesterday.

The human chain was organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) before Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University.

Addressing the programme, Bapa General Secretary Mohammad Abdul Matin said 70 percent of citizen's were suffering from different diseases related

to environmental pollution, the main cause behind most deaths.

Bapa Executive Member Abul Maksud Ahmed said a committee comprising authorities concerned, experts and representatives of different social organisations must be formed to find the reasons behind air pollution and take remedial measures.

A total 30 percent of air pollution results from smoke emitted from some 10,000 brick kilns in the country, most of which are situated around Dhaka. Another source of pollution is carbon dioxide emitted from the exhaust of

motor vehicles stuck in traffic congestion, said the speakers.

They demanded the government to shut brick fields running on old technologies and introduction of modern ones, a stop to import of substandard coal and removal of buses, minibuses and trucks aged 20 years or above.

Former Bapa general secretary Mohidul Haque, joint secretaries Mihir Biswas, Sharif Jamil and Alamgir Kabir and Tushar Rehman of Citizen Rights Movement also addressed the programme.



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