

Staff reporter

Accusing the government of trying to cement its 'illegal and unethical power' by making various laws and policies, leaders of the BNP-led 20-party opposition alliance on Tuesday said there is no alternative to unseat the present 'anti-people' and undemocratic government through a fierce and united movement.

Addressing a rally at the city's Suhrawardy Udyan, they also demand the government immediately annul the National Broadcast Policy, 2014 as they said it has been framed to restore one-party Baksal rule to gag the media as done in 1975.

"The current usurper illegal and unethical government wants to bolster its power by resorting to repressive acts and various laws and policies. This regime won't bow out with any soft line of action as ghee doesn't come out with the straight finger. It has to be overthrown through a strong and united movement," said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir. He also alleged that the government using Rab and police and the ruling party 'cadres' are killing and repressing people. "The government has established a reign of terror across the country to perpetuate its rule."

The BNP spokesman said the 20-party's movement is not for going to power or making Khaleda Zia Prime Minister rather it is for protecting people's rights, democracy, the country and its independence and sovereignty.

About the broadcast policy, Fakhru said Awami League which does not believe in democracy has framed the policy so that no one can criticize their misdeeds, and control the media and TV talk-shows.

Slamming the government for its move to restore parliament's power to remove Supreme Court judges through the 16th amendment to the constitution, he said the decision of parliament which has no representation of people and which was not formed with the votes of even five percent vote will be considered as the decision of Awami League.

The 20-party alliance arranged the rally as part of its countrywide program protesting the National Broadcast Policy.

The rally began at Suhrawardy Udyan around 2:50pm with recitation from the holy Quran by Ulema Dal president Moulana Abdul Malek. Dhaka city unit BNP convener Mirza Abbas presided.

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, who was scheduled to address the rally as the chief guest, did not turn up it due to 'illnesses', said Abbas.

He also, on behalf of Khaleda, regretted for the absence of the party high command.

Huge law enforcers were deployed in and around the rally venue as a large number of leaders and activists of the alliance gathered at the rally venue in small processions from different parts of the city braving drizzles.

It was the first street program of the 20-party after the January-5 election boycotted by the BNP-led opposition alliance.

BNP standing committee members Moudud Ahmed, Tariqul Islam, MK Anwar, Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Rafiqul Islam Miah, Jamiruddin Sircar, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Liberal Democratic Party-LDP chairmen Oli Ahmed, Jamaat-e-Islami nayebe ameer Mujibur Rahman, Islami Oikya Jote chairmen Abdul Latif Nezami, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) chairman Andaleev Rahman and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party-JAGPA president Safiul Alam Pradhan, among others, addressed the rally.

