

'Open gruel kitchens for the monga-hit'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11-Party alliance organised a road march in the city yesterday demanding food for monga-affected people in northern region and protesting the price spiral of essentials.

Later at a rally at Mukhtangon, the leaders called on the government to open gruel kitchens to feed the starving people in northern region where monga or near-famine situation has been prevailing.

They also called for arrest of the hoarders and black marketeers.

Party leaders Abdus Samad, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Sayed Abu Jafar Ahmad, Kamrul Islam and Mahub Alam joined the road march.

Revamp cooperatives movement

PM tells 33rd National Cooperatives Day function

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all concerned to come forward in expanding cooperatives movement through successful implementation of government programmes by streamlining management of the cooperatives.

"Building up an honest and skilled administration is necessary in every cooperative to achieve desired results," she said at a function marking the 33rd National Cooperative Day, where National Cooperatives Awards 2003 were distributed.

She said steps had been taken to

revamp the cooperatives movement that has become sluggish.

Employment generation and poverty alleviation need to be focused to build up a self-reliant Bangladesh through the cooperatives movement, she told the function.

Presided over by Acting Secretary for Rural Development and Cooperatives Mohammad Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, the function was also addressed by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and State Minister Ziaul Huq Zia.

President of Bangladesh Cooperatives Union Abdul Ali Mridha, Registrar of the Cooperatives Directorate Khandakar Mizanur Rahman and Director General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board AFM Motiur Rahman also spoke at the function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Fifteen individuals and 16 cooperatives received the National Cooperative Award 2003.

Khaleda in her deliberations assured that the government has taken all necessary steps to accelerate the cooperatives movement that can make the country self-reliant faster.

She termed the theme of the Cooperatives Day 'Cooperative for Building Self-reliant Bangladesh' as well timed and hoped that the slogan would further accelerate the cooperatives movement in Bangladesh.

She said skilled human resources are prerequisite for development, so programmes have been taken to provide training in various trades, including information technology.

Pointing at the importance of agriculture in economy, Khaleda said revolving loans have been provided to members of upazila-based women and farmers' cooperatives to expedite their activities.

Among other steps of her government, she mentioned the waiving of interest on agricultural loans and the formation of Water Management Cooperatives for reducing damage caused by floods, removing water logging, improvement of irrigation system and increasing fish production.

Khaleda handed over medals and certificates to the individuals and representatives selected for the National Cooperatives Award 2003.

Bhuiyan handed a souvenir to the prime minister on the occasion.

Govt to frame Cable TV Network Act

UNB, Dhaka

The government is formulating the Cable TV Network Act 2004 aimed at streamlining the operation of satellite television channels under a stipulated policy.

A cabinet committee meeting yesterday agreed to make the law and frame a policy for guiding a sound growth of what is known as 'sky culture'.

The meeting also decided to form a subcommittee that would submit its report by November 30 after reviewing the cable TV network policy and the draft Cable TV network act.

The meeting held elaborate discussion on the cable TV network policy 2004 and the draft law.

Orientation Ceremony-Fall 2004 Northern University Bangladesh. Northern University, Bangladesh held its Orientation Program for undergraduate students on 30th October-2004 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

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BILLAL MURDER CASE HC cancels govt order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has cancelled a government order to change the public prosecutor (PP) of the Billal Hossain Bepari murder case.

A division bench of Justice Abdul Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman on October 26 also ordered the government to appoint a special PP, who never appeared for either the accused or any witness of the case, to conduct the trial.

The case filed more than 12 years ago for the killing of Billal, an employee of Titas Gas, is still awaiting verdict after 27 hearings at the High Court (HC) Division and 21 at the Supreme Court (SC) Appellate Division.

During the course of trial, six judges felt embarrassed, eight PPs were transferred and nine of the 34 prosecution witnesses declared hostile. The case remained suspended ever since the SC stayed its proceedings on October 22, 1998.

Four months ago, the government transferred special PP Abdul Mannan who was tasked with conducting the case during the tenure of the previous government, and gave an order to appoint PP Abdullah Mahmood Hassan or someone he thinks eligible to conduct the case.

Later, Assistant PP Khorshed Alam, who earlier appeared for a plaintiff and witness of the case since the beginning of the trial, was tasked with conducting the case.

The High Court order came following the filing of a writ by an accused, Latif Hossain, and nine witnesses.

Billal died on July 9, 1992, after falling from the sixth floor of Titas Bhaban at Karwan Bazar. The then general manager (vigilance) of the company filed a first information report (FIR) with Tejgaon Police Station the same day.

The following day, Billal's cousin SM Zillur Rahman went to the police station to file another FIR, but police recorded it as a general diary against 22 people.

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