

Solve power,
water crises
LDF urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Left Democratic Front (LDF) yesterday urged the government to take initiatives to solve the power and water problems across the country including the capital, says a press release.

Power and water problem in the country is not only making people's life miserable but also hampering industrial and agricultural production, said a statement of the organisation.

They also urged the government to take effective steps against misuse of electricity in offices and shops.



Relatives, friends and admirers offer munajat at a milad mahfil for salvation of the departed soul of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman. The milad was organised on the occasion of the 10th death anniversary of Shazneen at the residence of her father Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

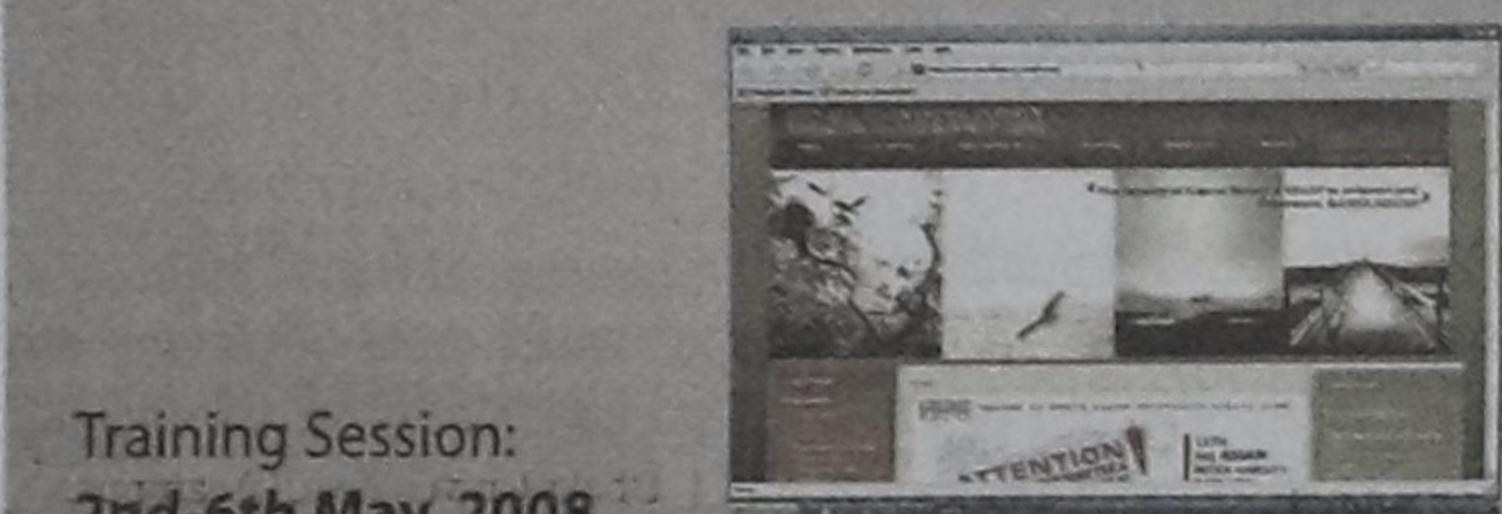
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We are proud to be her fellow fighters. She was our friend, sister and well-wisher; we reaffirm our commitment to continue with her mission.

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Southern Zone Power Distribution Co okayed

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Advisers yesterday approved a proposal for forming Southern Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd under the Power Development Board for distribution of electricity in Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Noakhali and Comilla districts.

It also approved the National Identity Registration Authority Ordinance 2008 with few amendments to ensure some service-oriented facilities to national ID

card-holders, such as during applying for new passport and its renewal, TIN and opening bank account.

Earlier on March 30, the council approved the Ordinance in principle.

The meeting also gave approval to recommendation of a committee for the sale of unused movable property of Government Flour and Livestock Feed Mill in Postogola.

under Food Directorate according to the existing government rules and regulations.

A nine-member committee

fixed the value of movable property of the mill at Tk 1,61,73,160.

Established in 1952, the mill did not have any big BMRE and turned into a loss-incurring concern as production had gone down to the lowest level.

In 2002, decision for closure of the mill was taken in principle in a meeting on progress in implementation of development projects. In 2003, the mill was closed down.

The council of advisers approved another recommendation of a committee to give com-

pensation cost for three items of construction materials - MS rod/steel, brick and bitumen—for proper implementation of government's development projects in the wake of abnormal rise in prices of construction materials.

The compensation will be given after completion of the projects by the contractors. Those who submitted tenders before December 31, 2007 and got notification award or made agreement by April 15, 2008 will be considered for getting compensation.

Price of coarse rice on rise in city markets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Price of coarse rice in the wholesale markets of the city has been registering an upward trend for the last five days.

Meanwhile, food directorate yesterday took the decision to reduce rice supply to 1,020 kg from 1,500 kg to a dealer for open market sale (OMS) outlets across the country.

The mobile outlets (direct sell centres) run by the directorate in the city has been decreased to 40 outlets from 60 ones.

Director General of Food Directorate Pias Costa told The Daily Star yesterday that the quantity of the rice has been reduced following a fall in demand.

He said the food ministry took the decision yesterday to be executed from today.

Visiting different large rice wholesale markets in the city

including Babubazar, Badamtuli, Mohammadpur Krishi Market, short supply of coarse was found yesterday.

Coarse rice was selling yesterday at Tk 1,220 to Tk 1,260 per mound (37.32kg), while it was Tk 1,185 to Tk 1,230 previously.

Rice traders said the price of the grain at different rural markets across the country, including the northern districts, has been rising slightly for the last six days following a decision by the government last week to procure grains from the local markets at a price of Tk 28 per kg.

The coarse rice is not available both in the rural and the city wholesale markets, said wholesale traders at Babubazar, adding that the fine rice is available.

But the rice was seen available at retail shops in the city.

Shopkeepers at different city markets said the sale of coarse rice has been plummeted recently due to the government's safety net programmes, under which per kg coarse rice is being sold at Tk 25 instead of minimum Tk 34 at common markets.

The recent rise in wholesale price of the coarse rice has not made any impact on retail markets, they said.

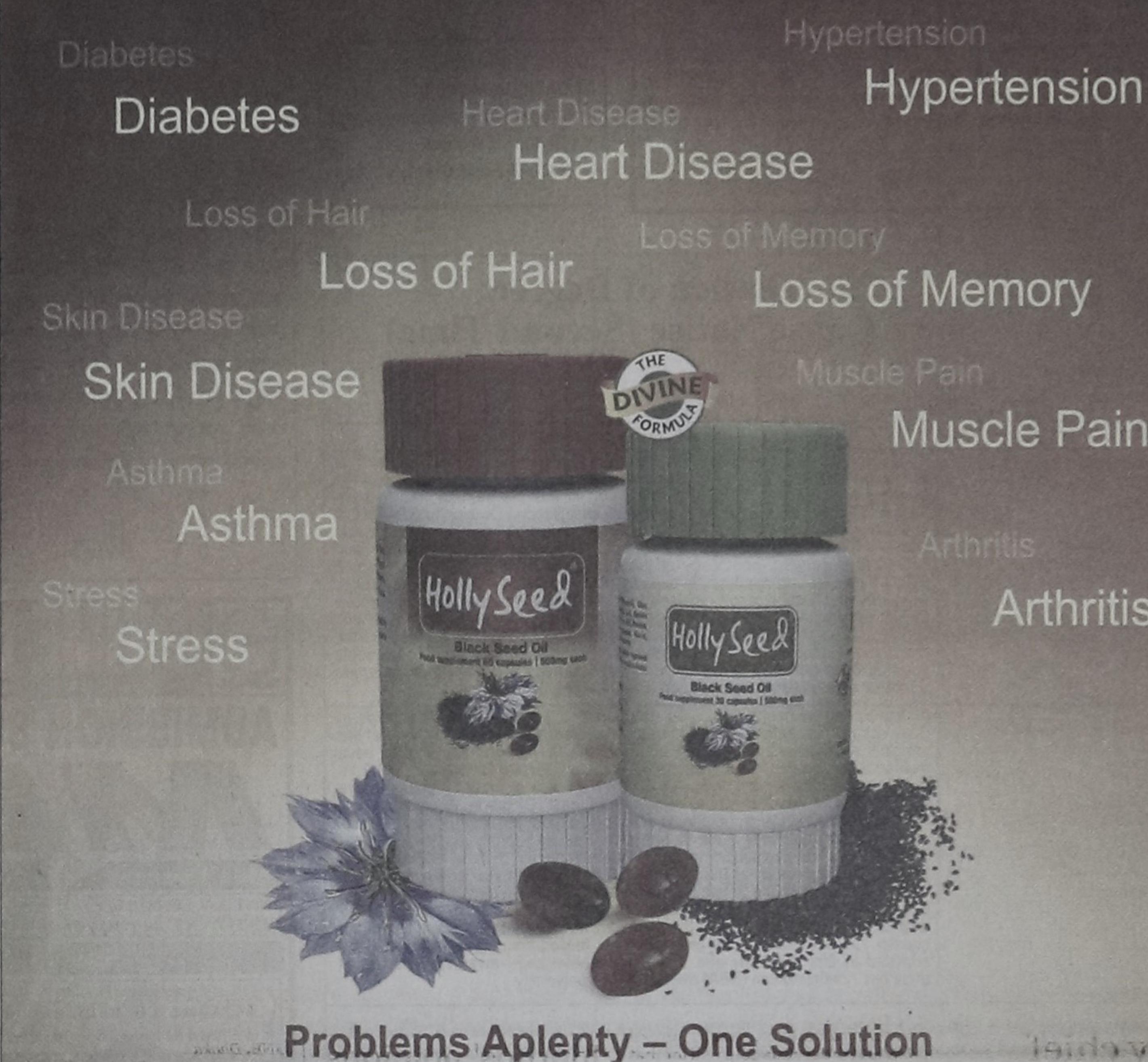
'Take steps to hand over power to elected govt'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WPB) President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday urged the government to take steps to hand over power to an elected government quickly, says a press release.

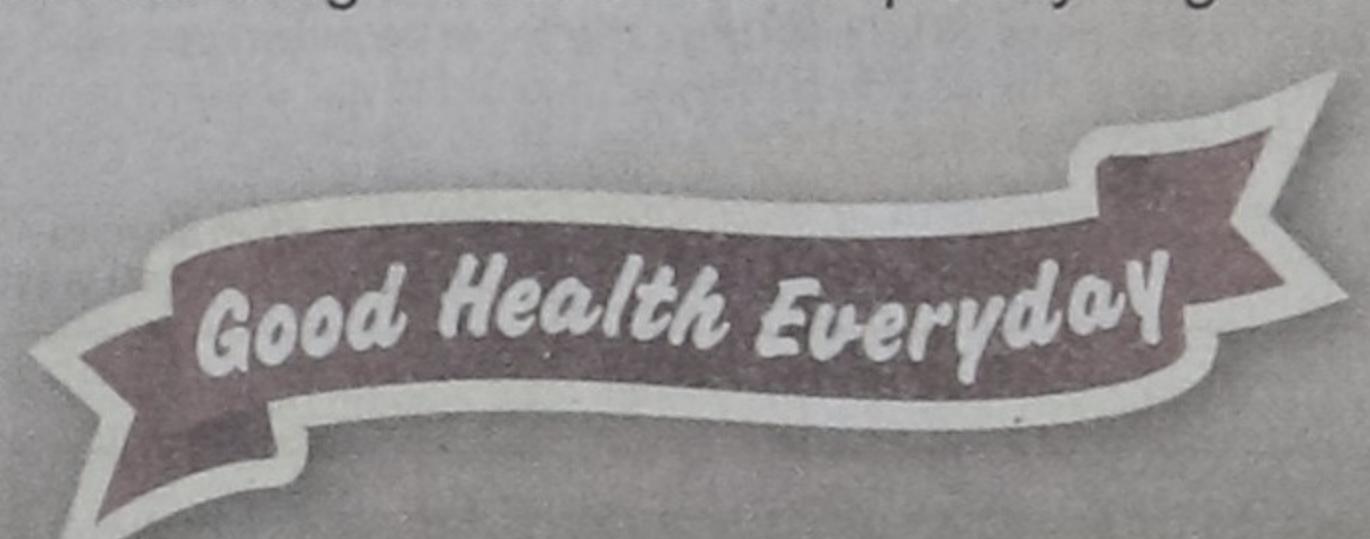
"The people of the country are in dire crisis with the price hike of essential commodities. The government should hand over power to an elected government immediately to ensure people's fundamental rights," he said this at the airport yesterday after returning from the conference of World Peace Council in Venezuela.

Menon said, "The politics of Bangladesh is passing through a critical phase. We have always been vocal against politics criminalisation, but the imperialistic forces are trying to place the people of their likings in power in the name of good governance."



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