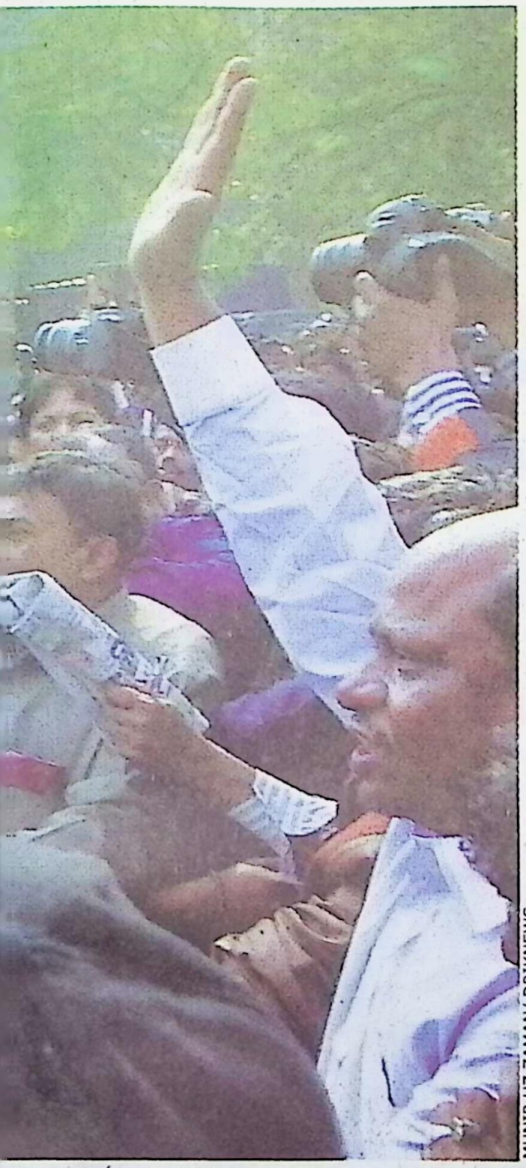


MUNIR UZ ZAMAN/ DRIKNEWS

The country is passing through an economic condition of price hikes of all commodities including the essentials. This has hit the lower income group very hard, a group which comprises a major section of the population. High food prices, especially of rice, has led to the risk of partial or full starvation in the vulnerable ultra-poor population, people who are unable to work due to different disabilities, and also people who cannot manage full-time employment.

The ultra-poor group of the population who are not capable of working would be registered from wards, unions, upazilas, towns, and cities. They would be provided with rice, lentils, edible oils, etc free of cost. The existing 100 days guaranteed work scheme for the jobless workforce would be enhanced to 120 days.

The number of beneficiaries would also be enhanced to cover as much landless farm workers as possible, especially in the monga hit northern districts where landless labourers go out of employment seasonally at a definite period of the year. The price of rice would be kept within the purchasing power of poor by open market sale (OMS) at a subsidised price as and when necessary. Lower middle class people would be provided with a package of basic necessities at a subsidised rate through a rationing system.

Very high population density and a high rate of population growth is posing a real threat to social order, economic development, and overall good governance by creating an ever-increasing pressure on the scarce resources of the country.

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All sorts of birth control materials would be distributed free of cost. Couples with one or two issues would be encouraged to go for permanent method of birth control by providing cash incentives. They would also get especial priority in case of employment, other government facilities and even for getting of loan facilities.

The unemployment rate is high and rising due to the lack of sufficient job creation compared to the number of fresh youths entering the job market every year. Agriculture, the major job provider, has become saturated and has become the cause for under-employment for a good number of farm labourers. Industrial and economic policies congenial to increased production and creation of new employment opportunities are essential.

Establishment of poultry, fisheries and different types of agro-based industries would be encouraged by providing loans at easy terms and cheaper rates. Tax holidays for up to 10 years will be provided if these are installed at underdeveloped areas like monga prone northern districts.

Special economic zones or industrial parks would be established at district levels with all sorts of infrastructural facilities like electricity, gas, water, road and communications etc. Industries installed at those parks would be allowed special priorities. The above parks would be extended to the upazila level in course of time.

All efforts will be provided for the development of the tourism industries which has tremendous potential in the country and due governmental support would be ensured. This sector would be able to provide sufficient job opportunity.

Growth of the country is being hampered due to scarcity of energy and also due to inefficient and unreliable supply situation.

Coal-based power generation