

DAW

Mujib congratulates people for stirring response to his call *Directive to banks, offices to disburse salaries*

DACCA, March 4: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, chief of Awami League has asked the Government and non-Government offices where employees have not yet been paid their salaries, to function between 2-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. for the purposes of disbursing salaries during the next two days of Hartal.

In a statement issued tonight, he said that the banks should also function during these hours (2-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.) for the purpose of cash transaction within "Bangla Desh" only including payment of salary cheques.

The Sheikh congratulated the heroic masses of "Bangla Desh" for the stirring response to the call to protest against the conspiracy to perpetuate exploitation and colonial rule. He said people must remember that no people have attained freedom without extreme sacrifice and therefore asked them to remain prepared to continue their struggle for emancipation at any cost.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said: "I congratulate our heroic masses for the stirring response made by every man, woman and child of Bangla Desh to our call to protest against the conspiracy to perpetuate exploitation and colonial rule. The people of the world should know of the courage and determination with which the unarmed civilians of Bangla Desh — workers, peasants and students — have demonstrated against the denial of their rights — even in the face of bullets.

"I also congratulate our resolute people for having withstood

the hardships and sacrifices which the continuing hartal imposes on them. They must, however, remember that no people have attained freedom without extreme sacrifice. The people therefore must remain prepared to continue their struggle for emancipation at any cost.

EXEMPTIONS

"While the hartal is to continue on the 5th and 6th March from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., it is necessary to extend the following exemptions:

(1) Government and non-Government offices where employees have not as yet been paid their salaries should function between 2-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. for the purpose only of disbursing salaries.

Banks should function within these hours (2-30 to 4-30 p.m.) for the purpose of cash transactions within Bangla Desh only in respect of salary cheques not exceeding Rs 1500. No remittances should be effected outside Bangla Desh through the State Bank or otherwise. The State Bank should take necessary action in this connection.

Ration shops and food suppliers should utilise this opportunity for their transactions.

2. The following essential services are exempted:

- (a) Hospitals and medicine shops.
- (b) Ambulance cars.
- (c) doctors cars
- (d) Press
- (e) Press cars
- (f) Water supply
- (g) Gas supply
- (h) Electric supply
- (i) Local telephones and trunk telephones with other districts of Bangla Desh
- (j) Fire service
- (k) Sweepers and scavenger trucks.—APP/PPI.