

## Donors to take stock of Dhaka's deeds

Crucial BDF meet opens in city today

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A two-day Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) meeting opens in Dhaka today to initiate a process in which the development community will evaluate the government's actions and chart out their lending programmes.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the meeting likely to be attended by delegations from 16 countries and representatives of the development partners will evaluate the progress of implementation

of the pledges made by the government in the previous BDF meeting held in Paris in May 2002, sources said.

They will also assess the government's future reform programmes to be presented at the meeting, but make no commitment to extending development assistance immediately, sources said.

Criticising the success in reforms and other relevant issues, the development partners will work out their extent of support to Bangladesh, they added.

The government will present a brief, listing the implementation of reforms and future course of action and strategies.

Bangladesh pledged to implement 57 commitments in different sectors, including governance and public administration, fiscal management, privatisation, banking, energy, education, health, environment, information technology and poverty reduction at the last meeting.

The government delivered the pledges on the banking, fiscal management and environment fronts, but reneged on governance and public administration, education and technology.

On governance and public administration, the government committed to setting up a national human rights commission, appointing an ombudsman, establishing an independent anti-corruption commission and recommending actions to cut corruption.

Besides, separation of the judiciary from the executive, separation of audit and accounting functions, creation of a central procurement policy unit at the planning commission and holding elections to various tiers of local government figured high on the list of promises.

The government has so far been able to create a central procurement policy unit and issue an office order to separate audit and accounting, sources said.

On education, it could not fulfil the pledges of establishing teaching service commission, reforming the SSC and HSC examinations, **SEE PAGE 11 COL 7**

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