

Marooned people cry

FROM PAGE 1
mothers cannot breastfeed their children.

Syeda Begum, 20, one of over 12,000 people who took shelter on Ranigram embankment in Sirajganj, said she could not breastfeed her three-month-old boy, as she had nothing to eat for a day.

"We have no food left for tomorrow and we are drinking impure water as all the tube wells went under water," said Josna Begum, 60, of Khokshabari in Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

There are around 2,000 children, along with their mothers, on the Ranigram embankment where there are no toilets. "We are in real trouble here, there is nobody to help us," said Ankhi, 24, mother of a six-year-old.

Carpenter Jahurul Islam, 30 of Khokshabari upazila, said he has been borrowing rice to feed his seven-member family, as he could not find work for the last 12 days. "We require rice worth Tk 66 a day. I do not know how I will repay the debt," he said.

Lakshmi Bewa, 45, of Kawakhola char said the flood washed away her house, furniture and paddy on the field. "We took shelter on the western embankment of Jamuna. We managed to keep our children half-fed but the grownups are passing days without food."

The Sirajganj flood control room said it has asked the Department of Public Health and Engineering to provide water treatment systems in the flood-affected areas. Apart from one such treatment facility belonging to Unicef at Ranigram embankment, no such facilities were found in the district. Neck-deep floodwater forced almost all shops, kitchen markets, clinics in Sirajganj Sadar to close, leaving the marooned people helpless. "I have never seen such devastating flood. The flood in 1988 was not so devastating," 65-year-old Hazrat Ali told The Daily Star.

Inundated by floodwater, communication between Kazipur and Sirajganj and Sirajganj and Bogra snapped. Power outage has also worsened as several electric poles were uprooted.

According to Water Development Board (WDB), at least four lakh people in nine upazilas of Sirajganj are marooned.

Roads and Highways Department officials said at least 120 roads in the district went under water and most of these were completely or partially damaged. District administration said it set up 200 shelter centres in different places where over 60,000 people are staying.

At least 173 tonnes of rice and Tk 4 lakh in cash have been allocated for relief.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday reported that water level of the Jamuna has started to fall upstream at Noonkhawa and Chilmari points while it continues to rise downstream at Bahadurabad, Sirajganj and Aricha.

The Jamuna was flowing 56cm, 75cm, 88cm, 112cm and 100cm above danger levels at Noonkhawa, Chilmari, Bahadurabad, Sirajganj and Aricha. The water levels of the Dharla and the Teesta are falling but still flowing over the danger levels at Kurigram.

The flood situations in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Netrakona, Sunamganj, Sylhet and Bogra are unlikely to aggravate and may even start improving within the next 24 hours. The situations in Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Pabna and Tangail are still deteriorating and expected to start improving within the next two days.

The water level of the Padma continued to rise at all points and was flowing 122cm and 78cm above danger levels at Goalundo and Bhagyakul. The river is likely to swell further in the next 24 hours.

More areas of Manikganj, Munshiganj, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Dohar and Nawabganj upazilas of Dhaka are likely to be inundated soon.

Small rivers surrounding Dhaka and Narayanganj continued to swell and are likely to approach danger levels in the next day or two. The Buriganga was flowing 82cm below danger level yesterday.

Rebels want

FROM PAGE 1
improve the overall political situation," he said after meeting party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his Gulshan residence.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has urged the government to take all steps to mitigate sufferings of the flood affected people in different areas of the country.

She has expressed her grief that in the present situation she cannot get any chance to help the flood-hit, Hannan Shah said.

On the BNP council, Hannan said it is hoped that good sense would prevail on those who want to hold the council keeping Khaleda away. Otherwise, they will lose support in the party. Any misgivings among party men would be removed through discussion and the council would take place under Khaleda Zia's leadership, he hoped.

Hannan went on, "Party leaders and workers will not remain with them (reformists) if they continue their bid to go beyond the party constitution." In the past, many leaders such as Shamsul Huda, Dr MA Matin, Shah Aziz, KM Obaidur Rahman and Moudud Ahmed had left the BNP but it came to power as the people loved the party, he mentioned.

The Meghna at Bhairab Bazar continued to swell and was flowing 25cm above danger level yesterday. The Meghna is likely to rise even further inundating more low-lying areas of Narsingdi, Brahmanbaria and Narayanganj.

The flood situation in four upazilas of Gaibandha remained unchanged yesterday, but the Ghagot breached the 500-metre stretch of Gaibandha Town Protection Embankment at Konarpara, our Gaibandha correspondent reports.

A 12-year-old boy Jubayer of Purbopara was washed away by the raging floodwater at Falia.

Acute crisis of drinking water, food and fodder plagues the affected areas. Army personnel from the 17-Artillery Field Regiment are supplying drinking water to flood victims using their own water treatment equipment. Their equipment, however, is not designed to meet such high demand.

Road communication between Gaibandha and Balashighat remained snapped while one kilometre of railway line between Trimohoni and Balashighat went under water suspending rail communication.

At least 159 government primary schools were closed while cropland of 20 villages went under water. Flooding in the district has so far affected over 39,243 families.

Floods have disrupted road communication between Netrakona Sadar and Kalmakanda, Durgapur and Kendua upazilas, our correspondent in Netrakona reports.

Twenty-seven flood shelters were opened in the affected areas. Many of the marooned people who took shelters on higher lands and flood shelters are suffering from food and drinking water shortages.

The Someshwary, Kongsra and Dhanu devoured around 70 more dwellings and are threatening to breach the Dampara Embankment in Purbadhala upazila.

Fish in 10,000 ponds in the district worth around Tk 20 crore were washed away, Netrakona fishery office sources said.

The district administration distributed 18 tonnes of rice and dry food in Durgapur, Kalmakanda and Khaliajuri upazilas, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Netrakona Mizanur Rahman said.

Nagarbari-Patulia ferry service is still out of commission as the Nagarbari ferry terminal went under floodwater several days ago, our correspondent in Manikganj reports.

The diversion road of the previously damaged Dotor Bridge at Ghior went under water yesterday snapping road communications between Manikganj, Dhaka and Ghior, Daulapur upazilas.

According to district Agriculture Extension Department, paddy on 10,700 hectares and vegetables on 1,600 hectares went under water.

A part of the 200-foot Baruria Bridge on Tangail-Balla Road collapsed due to raging floodwater last evening snapping road link between Tangail and Kalihati, our correspondent in Tangail reports.

At least 10 villages of Tangail Sadar were flooded when a breach developed on a flood control embankment at Bir Nahali. Many new areas went under water when another embankment at Hatia was overpowered by floodwater Monday night.

A total of 61,675 families of Sadar upazila are marooned while crops on 26,591 acres of land were completely damaged, district administration sources said.

Ferry service at Elasin has stopped for the last two days as roads to pontoons went under water. Road communication between Tangail and Nagarpur remains snapped.

Our correspondent in Benapole reports: Floodwater inundated 15 villages, leaving the low-lying areas under two feet of water, as overflowing Damodar river of India flooded Bangladesh territory.

A correspondent from Munshiganj reports Srinagar-Mawa-Bhagyakul flood protection embankment developed a 20-foot breach yesterday inundating more areas. The local administration and the joint forces were working to repair it yesterday.

Govt appeals

FROM PAGE 1
her tried under the emergency power rules.

Azam J Chowdhury, managing director of Eastcoast Trading Pvt Ltd, lodged the case with Gulshan Police Station on June 13 this year. He accused Hasina and AL presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of extorting from him Tk 2.99 crore in 2000 in connection with the contract for Siddhirganj power plant.

The joint forces arrested Hasina on July 16 and the same day a magistrate's court sent her to a house designated as a sub-jail on the Jatia Sangsad Bhaban complex.

On July 24, Gulshan police indicted her together with her sister Sheikh Rehana and cousin Sheikh Selim.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station Obaidul Haque submitted the charge sheet under sections 385 (extortion)/109 (abetment)/34 (criminal liability) of the penal code.

He did not include in the charge sheet Section 191 (1) of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007 but the home ministry on July 16 notified that the emergency rules shall apply to the charges considering "public importance" of the case. The HC order on Monday stayed the government decision.

Meanwhile, Awami League yesterday collected the power of attorney from Hasina to fight the second 'extortion' case against her and the government's appeal in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The jail authorities handed over four separate copies of Hasina's power of attorney to one of the staff of Sudha Sadan in the morning, said Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh, one of the lawyers of the AL chief.

US for polls

FROM PAGE 1
and Cooperation--tomorrow.

Meeting Iftekhar, the US deputy secretary also noted that the caretaker government enjoys "popular support" and appreciated the country's 'voice of moderation' in the Muslim world, according to a foreign ministry press release from the Philippines capital.

He said the US administration has been following the events in Bangladesh very closely and expressed the hope that elections take place as stipulated in the (Election Commission) roadmap, said the press release.

Iftekhar said, "We in Bangladesh see the US as a close partner, and wish to work with them across a range of issues including development, anti-terrorism, non-proliferation and human rights and dignity."

He added, "I also explained to him the plans and programmes of the caretaker government and the 'roadmap' leading to the elections by December 2008."

"Bangladesh is a mainstream voice of moderation and is a responsible international actor, which the US appreciates very much. Mr Negroponte has wished us success in our endeavours," added the foreign adviser.

Bilateral relations and international situations were among the issues discussed at the meeting.

UGC reform

FROM PAGE 1
Islam yesterday.

Education Secretary M Momtazul Islam made phone calls on July 30 to UGC members Faisal Islam Farruqi, M Mahubul Ullah, Sultan Hossain and Tareque Shamsur Rahman, appointed during BNP-Jamaat coalition regime, and asked them to resign.

Later, Farruqi, UGC member and former vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University (RU), who was allegedly involved in corruption regarding the controversial appointment of 544 RU employees, resigned willingly.

Farruqi said that he resigned as UGC member on personal ground.

However, the three other UGC members said that they would not resign until they are informed about the reason.

"I shall not resign without knowing my fault. I request the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to investigate the allegations against us. I think I have the right to know about my faults," said Prof Tareque Shamsur Rahman.

"Why did the caretaker government request me to resign without informing me my faults?" he questioned.

Another UGC member Prof Mahubul Ullah termed the verbal orders a conspiracy against them.

"I shall resign from both the posts of UGC and Chittagong University (CU) if corruption charges against me are proved," he said requesting the caretaker government to reconsider its decision.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam, who joined the commission on May 7, said a UGC member is appointed for four years but the education ministry has the right to remove any member at any time as per the decision of the government.

"UGC members M Mahubul Ullah, Sultan Hossain and Tareque Shamsur Rahman will be removed very soon if they do not resign willingly," a high official of the education ministry said.

Another UGC member, Ehsanul Hoque, who was also appointed by the BNP-Jamaat coalition government, has not been asked to resign.

EC puts the cart

FROM PAGE 16
Justice Naimuddin Ahmed also echoed the same view.

"Anybody can file writ petition with the High Court challenging the Election Commission's unlawful activity of preparing the voter list. If the issue is challenged, the commission will have to face difficulties in preparing the voter list and the parliamentary election will be delayed," he observed.

Asked about the opinion of legal experts, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain said that the government has approved in principle the draft for amending the ordinance.

"Before launching the task officially, Electoral Rolls Ordinance, 1982 will be amended," he said.

Contacted, another Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain told The Daily Star that Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed would formally inaugurate the task for preparing the voter list with photographs in RCC area on August 5.

Asked how come the enumerators started doing their job without the amendment of the existing laws, he said that the enumerators are only distributing voter registration forms in line with the existing laws, but they are not collecting any particulars at present.

"The law will be amended before the task of taking their [voters'] photographs begins," he asserted.

On July 21, the Council of Advisers approved in principle the draft to amend the Electoral Rolls Ordinance 1982 for preparing the voter list with photographs, but it is not made a law yet by promulgating an ordinance.

Meanwhile, the EC did not issue any written order to begin the task in RCC area. A senior official in the EC Secretariat during his visit to RCC area verbally ordered the local election office to kick off the task in advance so that the chief adviser can witness the preparation of the voter list with photographs, sources said.

The previous EC led by Justice MA Aziz gave rise to widespread controversy as it did not properly follow the electoral laws and Supreme Court directives for preparing the voter roll by updating the existing list.

The Supreme Court ultimately declared the voter list prepared for the stalled ninth parliamentary elections null and void.

To avoid controversy, legal experts suggested that the EC keep a provision in its proposal to give a retrospective effect to the amended electoral rolls ordinance to justify its action before amending the law.

"If the Election Commission does not give any retrospective effect to justify the task, question will be raised over its legality," Justice Rabbani observed.

NEW VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS
Under section 4 of the Electoral Rolls Rules 1982, the EC has already approved a new form to collect at least 28 particulars of each prospective voter.

However, the immediate past form, which was also prepared under the same section of the electoral rolls rules, sought only nine particulars of a prospective voter and the enumerators collected those particulars by visiting door-to-door.

This time, the enumerators are collecting particulars of prospective voters with new forms and are asking them to visit nearby voter registration centres to have his or her photographs taken.

New jute policy

FROM PAGE 1
dues by tomorrow [today] and after that we'll start paying the workers within a day or two."

The rest 18 state-owned mills will also be brought under reforms measure soon, Abdur Rashid added.

The two mills have already gone under public-private partnership, the secretary said adding that two more mills would also go under such partnership.

Around 8,000 workers and officials of the 14 jute mills will be terminated within this year under golden handshake programme, ministry sources said.

Terminated workers however will be allowed to work on daily basis and the government will arrange training programmes to enhance the workers' skills, sources added.

Undeclared money

FROM PAGE 16
Badiur Rahman, chairman of NBR, said the decision was taken following a huge response and deadline extension request from the general public.

Earlier on June 4, the government through an SRO, granted a two-month amnesty to the eligible taxpayers who had not been paying taxes against their legal income.

The taxpayers having Tax Identification Numbers (TIN) were allowed to pay their unpaid taxes of last six years including fiscal 2006-07 to NBR with 5 percent penalty. Eligible taxpayers without TIN would have to obtain the number to take advantage of the amnesty.

The NBR chairman had even gave assurance that the taxpayers would not be harassed while paying back taxes.

and fingerprints taken for simultaneously preparing the voter list with photographs and national identity cards.

Apart from a set of basic particulars about a prospective voter, the new form also seeks some extra particulars like -- identification mark, blood group and optional information like -- Tax Identification Number, driving licence, IRIS scan/DNA reports, passport number and telephone number.

VOTER LISTING TASK IN RAJSHAH

A total of 908 enumerators, 182 supervisors, 30 assistant registration officer and a registration officer was appointed to prepare the voter list with photographs for the RCC area, which has nearly 3 lakh voters.

Some 101 voter registration centres are being set up to take photographs and fingerprints of the prospective voters.

Our correspondent from Rajshahi reports that the task has begun in full swing with the enumerators visiting door-to-door.

Hasna Banu, an enumerator, told this correspondent yesterday that she has been making door-to-door visits at Ramchandrapur and Ahmedpur under ward 23 since Sunday.

"I am helping voters filling in the forms and I have collected 117 completed voter forms so far," she said.

She had also been informing the prospective voters of the time for visiting voter registration centres to have his or her photographs and fingerprints taken, she added.

Another enumerator Golam Mostafa, who has been working at Ramchandrapur along with his 11 others colleagues, said that he had collected 38 filled up voter forms. "Voters of my area were interested (to enrol) and at times, they took us to their homes," he added.

Jute mill

FROM PAGE 1
894 looms and it employed 3,011 labourers, 325 employees and 55 officers. Almost all of the labourers were laid off on July 11 through a notice.

The factory owes near about Tk 63.41 crore to its labourers and employees while Tk 77.63 lakh to its officers in arrears. It also owes Tk 34 crore to retired employees. Its unpaid gratuity is Tk 28 lakh while unpaid provident fund is Tk 56 crore.

Deputy general manager of PJML, Mahbub Alam, was not available in his office yesterday afternoon and he could not be reached over telephone for comments either.

On April 19, workers were laid off at three other jute mills. These are Crescent Jute Mills Ltd, Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills Ltd and Star Jute Mills Ltd.

The three mills resumed operations partially in early July. Since then, around two thousand more labourers were laid off from these mills.

With the closing of PJML, the number of jute mills closed in the area will be two. Earlier on December 7, 2002, Daulatpur Jute Mills in Khalishpur was closed.

15 militants killed

FROM PAGE 16
been arrested," he said, adding that two soldiers were also wounded.

Meanwhile the four soldiers were abducted at gunpoint while on the way from the garrison town of Bannu to the militant hotbed of Mir Ali in North Waziristan, a senior security official said on condition of anonymity.

"Efforts are underway to recover them," he said.

Earlier a roadside bomb wounded six paramilitary troops, two seriously, as they delivered food to colleagues on the perimeter of the neighbouring tribal district of South Waziristan, security officials said.

Troops also traded gunfire overnight with militants in North Waziristan after rebels launched rockets at government and army buildings, officials said. There were no immediate reports of casualties from that engagement.

One rocket damaged a government-run student hostel in Miranshah, the main town in North Waziristan, while two landed on the lawns of the town's main military base, local security officials said.

Seven people, including three soldiers, were killed in violence in North Waziristan on Monday. Pakistan has been battling Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked insurgents in its rugged tribal belt since hundreds of the rebels fled Afghanistan after the fall of the hardline Taliban regime in late 2001.

US-led forces toppled the Taliban over accusations that it had harboured Osama bin Laden, blamed for the 9/11 suicide airliner attacks on New York and Washington.

The United States, Islamabad's key ally, has branded Pakistan's tribal belt the new hideout of bin Laden's al-Qaeda movement, a charge that Pakistani officials deny.

City roads

FROM PAGE 1
The Daily Star published a photograph of Abdullahpur crossing on Sunday, which showed craters filled with water occupying almost a half of the road while buses were staying on a narrow lane towards the other side of the road in an effort to avoid falling in those craters.

When asked, a number of engineers, preferring anonymity, said substandard construction of roads is responsible to some extent for the dire situation of the roads in the capital.

They however added that the construction contractors should not always be blamed, rather it is the system that should be blamed. The price of bitumen is Tk 5,000 a drum now, but they are instructed to estimate the price at only Tk 3,100. As a result, the contractors have to make do with less than required amounts of materials.

The wearing surface of the roads inside the city is designed to be nine inches thick with the capacity to bear only a limited load of up to 5 tons, but in the absence of a monitoring system, heavily loaded trucks with even up to 20 tons of load are plying through the city roads, and that is one of the reasons for quick deterioration of the roads, said the engineers. The DCC engineers urged for immediate installation of four weighing stations at Aminabazar, Jatrabari, Tongi and Pagla for restricting movements of heavily loaded vehicles through the city.

Dr Shamimuzzaman Basunia, professor of the civil engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), told The Daily Star, "For proper construction of roads you must ensure the quality of work at all levels including the wearing surface, base, sub-base and sub-grade levels. As the constructions are not done properly, the roads fail to survive heavy rainfalls."

Huji boss Hannan

FROM PAGE 16
Judge of Sylhet Abdul Gafur ordered sending the two cases (one under arms and explosives act and the other for killing) to the Additional District and Sessions Judge, also the court for dealing with cases under arms and explosives acts.

The judge also deputed a lawyer as defence counsel following Mufti Hannan's appeal for providing legal assistance.

On July 12, the district judge acquitted 20 of the case, as their names were dropped from the chargesheet.

The Sylhet Sadar magistrate on June 26 sent the case records and charge sheets in connection with the grenade attack to the District and Sessions Judge's court for trial.

Senior ASP of CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman earlier submitted charge sheets against the four to the court.

Three people were killed and the Bangladesh-born British high commissioner and 70 others were injured in the grenade attack after the Juma prayers on 21 May in 2004 on the premises of the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA).

The Sylhet Kotwali police filed a case on the same day and arrested nine leaders of Awami League (AL) students' wing-Bangladesh Chhatra League for their suspected involvement in the attack. However, their involvement could not be established.

Officials from the Scotland Yard, UK also visited the spot in Sylhet.

The cases, lodged with the Sylhet Kotwali Police Station, were transferred to the CID later.

Ex-BCL secretary

FROM PAGE 16
members arrested Rahim soon after he came out of the Anti-Corruption Commission office at Shegunbagicha after submitting his wealth statement, family members said.

He was handed over to Shahbagh Police Station at around 1:45pm.

In the case statement, the complainant mentioned that the accused forced him to provide them Tk 75 lakh in return for a Tk 4.51 crore tender they were win for him for supplying metres and other equipment to DESA in 2001.

Oazullah, director of the power generation equipment supply company, mentioned in the FIR (first information report) that he gave the amount in cash and cheques on different dates.

He also alleged that the accused threatened him of dire consequence and compelled him to give the money.

Hasina's letter

FROM PAGE 1
Mokhles ur Rahman told reporters at his office.

He said the ACC letter containing the commission's decision was sent to detained Hasina through jail authorities yesterday noon.

In the letter to the ACC chairman, the AL chief stated how she would submit the statement since she is in jail now, Bangladesh Bank is not providing her account details and documents have been seized from her residence.

Meanwhile, ACC Commissioner Habibur Rahman said ex-prime ministers Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia must submit their wealth statements within the stipulated time despite difficulties in having details of their bank accounts from the Bangladesh Bank.

Awami League chief Hasina has till August 8 to submit her wealth statement while BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will have to come up with the accounts by August 7.

The ACC on July 17 issued notices to Hasina and Khaleda directing them to submit their wealth statements within seven working days. The deadlines were extended later.

Sanjay Dutt jailed

FROM PAGE 16
The "Black Friday" bombings were allegedly staged by Mumbai's Muslim-dominated mafia in retaliation for deadly Hindu-Muslim clashes and the demolition of a mosque by Hindu extremists.

"Sanjay was not a minor at that time. Acquiring a weapon of this nature suggests the character of the person, and is contrary to the law," anti-terror judge Pramod Kode said as he read out the sentence to a packed courtroom.

The hugely popular Dutt, known for his tough guy roles in Indian cinema, faced a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. He has already served 18 months on remand in the mid-1990s, and had requested that he be allowed to stay free on probation.

In a further blow to the actor, the court refused to allow him to remain free on bail pending his appeal to the Supreme Court. He was also fined 25,000 rupees (620 dollars). He was taken into custody in Mumbai's dingy Arthur Road jail.

"I made a mistake 14 years ago... Pray for me," said Dutt, 48, who was trembling after hearing his sentence.

Dutt was the highest-profile figure connected to the 1993 bombings case, and Tuesday's hearing wrapped up more than a decade of legal proceedings that have resulted in 100 convictions.

Of those convicted, 12 were given death sentences and 20 others got life sentences.

The alleged masterminds of the blasts, Dawood Ibrahim and Tiger Memon, have been on the run since 1993. Indian investigators say they were aided by Pakistan's intelligence service but Islamabad has denied any link.

Dutt has always maintained his innocence, arguing that he had bought a Kalashnikov assault rifle to protect his family from sectarian violence.

But chief prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam told reporters that this was "not good enough an excuse."

"Dutt is a good actor and a celebrity, but this does not give him a licence for illegal action," he added, saying the superstar had been given a "fair trial."

In recent months, the burly Dutt has been filming non-stop to close out his existing filming contracts.

Dutt, son of a politically prominent Hindu father and a Muslim mother honoured for her acting, has long been tagged Bollywood's original "bad boy" by taking on roles as gangsters and anti-heroes, and an off-screen life wracked by drug abuse and two failed marriages.

In recent years his star has risen with the hugely popular "Munnabhai" films, in which he plays a wisecracking mobster trying to turn over a new leaf.

In the second of the series -- "Carry on Munnabhai" -- the ghost of Indian independence icon Mahatma Gandhi steers Dutt's character onto the path of righteousness and true love, all the while dispensing old-fashioned lessons about honesty.

Bollywood was meanwhile in shock over the verdict.

Actress Kirron Kher said she was "shocked and saddened," arguing Dutt "has suffered enough for 14 years