

Army saved country from anarchy on 1/11
Says president

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said army saved the country from an anarchic situation on January 11 this year and now they appeared as the driving force in the ongoing anti-graft campaign earning global appreciation.

"The strong and neutral role of army saved the country from an anarchic situation during a transition moment on January 11," said the president while addressing an army headquarters selection board meeting at Dhaka Cantonment.

President Iajuddin, also the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, said the pioneering and dynamic role of the military made successful the current government's campaign against corruption and severe crimes, earning it appreciation of the world community.

Moreover, the president said, the pioneering role of the army in preparing voter list with photographs and national identity cards also pleased the nation.

Iajuddin asked the army to find the competent people in the force

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CA welcomes donors' help to fight flood

Urges businesses to help keep essentials prices tolerable

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the government will cordially accept spontaneous cooperation from development partners at home and abroad in dealing with the exigencies caused by the raging floods across the country.

In his address to the nation last night, he also made an appeal to all sections of the people, irrespective of class and profession, to come forward and join in relief and rehabilitation operation for helping out the flood-stricken people.

The chief advisers' appeal came in his address to the nation, which was broadcast by state-run radio and television as well as private TV channels.

"Any natural disaster like floods brings an opportunity for the nation to stand united, and now has come such a scope. People of various classes and professions had extended their helping hands to distressed

people during disaster in the past," Fakhruddin said, expressing his firm belief that all will come up with helping hands this time also.



Fakhruddin Ahmed

The chief adviser called for facing the disaster unitedly equipped with whatever one has. "Let us stand beside the helpless flood-affected people hand in hand, imbued with the

sprit of human welfare and patriotism."

Fakhruddin struck a note of optimism that, like in the past, the country would be able to successfully face the calamity through combined efforts.

The CA urged the business community to show their social obligation keeping the prices of commodities at tolerable levels at this hour of disaster.

He said a tendency of increasing prices of some essential items is being noticed alongside rising floodwaters. So the government has strengthened the system of monitoring prices of commodities at various levels, he added.

Fakhruddin further said overall responsibility was allocated to the members of the Advisory Council to monitor the relief operation in every flood-hit district. The advisers will also inspire the people to take part in the relief activities.

Leaders ask party men to help flood-hit people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political parties yesterday urged the party men as well as the solvent people to stand beside the flood-affected people.

Expressing grave concern at the loss of life and property in floods, they said everybody should come

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3 tax evasion cases against Abbas, wife

Mirza Khokon's properties to be attached

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against detained former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas and his wife Afroza Abbas in three tax evasion

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BB 'corrupt' list includes Tofail, Khoka

Asks banks to report accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has sent a list of 198 corruption suspects to commercial banks directing the financial institutions to submit the account details of those persons.

The list newly includes the names of Awami League (AL) leader Tofail Ahmed, former foreign minister Morshed Khan, Dhaka City Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka, former lawmaker Kader Siddiqui, and Manjural Islam of Eastern Housing.

The central bank sent the list titled 'List of Corrupt People' with the directive to commercial banks on Thursday, after a demand from law enforcing agencies, while another BB directive has asked for the bank account details of eminent lawyer and former Supreme Court Bar Association president Barrister Rukanuddin Mahmud. The banks have been asked to submit the account details of the people on the list by August 8.

Many of the people on the list are currently in jail and their bank account

details were sought earlier also.

The central bank directive asked the banks to submit detailed information on transactions made through personal accounts, joint accounts, current accounts, foreign currency accounts, savings accounts, credit accounts, and credit cards.

The BB's latest directive also asked the banks to submit the account details of Sajib Wazed Joy, son of detained AL President Sheikh Hasina, and of former AL lawmaker Altaf Hossain Golondaz. Joy, who has been living in the US, in a recent media interview, said he has no bank account in Bangladesh while Altaf Hossain Golondaz died on February 17 this year.

The list also newly includes the names of BNP leader Barkat Ullah Bulu, former state minister and BNP leader Ehsanul Haq Milon, Khulna City Mayor and BNP leader Sheikh Taiyabur Rahman, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, former BNP lawmaker M Ilias Ali, BNP leader Mofiqul Hasan Tripti, Nazmul Huda's wife Sigma Huda, former BNP law-

makers AKM Anwarul Islam, Dewan Mohammad Salauddin, Giasuddin Ahmed, Habibul Islam Habib, Moshir Rahman, Shahidul Islam Master, Masud Arun, Shahidul Haq Jamal, Nurul Islam Moni, Monirul Haq Chowdhury, Alamgir Mohammad Mahfuzul Farid, Reza Ahmed Bachchu Mollah, Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi, Prof Shahidul Islam, and Hemayet Ullah Awranga, BNP leader Syed Emran Saleh Prince, Hawa Bhaban staff Joy, Ashok and Apu, former finance minister Salfur Rahmn's personal secretary Quiyum, BNP's student wing leader Habibunnabi Khan Sohel, Khaleda Zia's brother Shamim Iskander, and her nephew Shahriar Islam Tuhin, former minister Mirza Abbas's brother Mirza Khokon, and former foreign minister Morshed Khan's son Faisal Morshed Khan.

The list also includes the names of AL leaders Rashed Mosharraf, Talukder Abdul Khaleq, Toudih Jang Murad, Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, Ali Reza Razu, Abdul Latif Mirza, Dhirendra Debnath

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Hasina challenges ACC notice, Noor Ali case

Files 2 writ petitions with HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday filed two writ petitions with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the Anti-corruption Commission's (ACC) notice served on her, asking to submit wealth statement, and the government move to charge her with extortion under Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

Three days before the time the ACC stipulated for Hasina to submit her wealth statement expires, the Awami League (AL) president challenged the ACC's notice. The commission on July 17 sent the notice to prison authorities

for serving Hasina at a sub-jail on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex.

A week ago, Hasina filed another writ petition challenging the government move to bring a Tk 3 crore extortion case filed against her under the EPR. She obtained an ad-interim bail from the HC, which also ordered the government not to hold the trial under EPR. The Supreme Court (SC) on August 2, however, stayed the HC order till August 14.

Barrister Rafique-ul Haq filed the petitions on her behalf with a HC bench yesterday afternoon and those are likely to be heard today (Monday). More than 100 lawyers

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Hasina's wealth might be worth around Tk 2cr
Says her lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina's personal wealth is estimated at around Tk 2 crore including Tk 1.19 crore interests from savings, her counsel disclosed yesterday.

The former prime minister, who was arrested on July 16 and is facing two extortion cases of Tk 8 crore, however, did not sign the draft wealth statement yesterday, which will have to be submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) by Wednesday.

"She [Hasina] asked me to come back tomorrow [today] after correcting some information in the

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50,000 tonnes of rice to be imported

Price to be higher than

on local market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisers' committee on purchase yesterday approved import of 50,000 metric tons of rice from India at a price higher than local market price.

A meeting of the committee chaired by Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam gave the approval for rice import to supplement the government's rice stock.

LMJ International Ltd, an Indian company, has been selected as the

lowest bidder to supply rice worth Tk128.58 crore. The company offered \$349.90 per metric ton, while two other Indian bidders offered \$368.11 and \$372 for the same quantity of rice.

Following the decision, the government will have to pay Tk 24 for per kilogram of coarse rice, whereas the price is Tk 22 in the local market.

The government has decided to import rice at this time to meet its

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Govt may relax freeze on Hasina's accounts if family needs withdrawal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The military backed caretaker government's strict regime regarding the freeze on the bank accounts of Sheikh Hasina and her family members might be relaxed in case of an emergency need, said Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam.

When asked about former finance minister M Saifur Rahman's legalising of undisclosed money, the adviser however refused to make any comment on the minister's 'personal affairs'.

Talking to The Daily Star about recent issues, he said if any

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RANGS BUILDING

Govt invites bids from demolishers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has floated a tender for demolishing the top 16 floors of Rangs Bhaban at Bijoy Sarani in the capital yesterday while three floors of the 22-storied building was partially demolished and all that remains in those floors are columns and ceilings.

Meanwhile, the dispute over how much of the building should remain standing, 60 feet or the bottom six floors, was settled yesterday. The authorities decided to demolish the top 16 floors only.

"We have invited tenders today and the work would be awarded through competitive bidding at the earliest possible time," said a high official of the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday preferring anonymity.

The Rajuk official told The Daily Star that a private agency, that wins the tender, and Rajuk would work together to speed up the demolition work of the 16 floors.

An evaluation meeting on the demolition of Rangs Bhaban,

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FLOODWATERS RECEDING IN NORTH 39 killed overnight

STAR REPORT

Thirty-nine people across the country died in the last 24 hours ended at 11:00am yesterday raising the death toll to 120, according to the central flood control room statistics.

Meanwhile, various intestinal diseases including diarrhoea, cholera and skin diseases are spreading fast among the food-affected people.

Floodwater started receding from the north and northeastern regions of the country while swelling in the central part including the capital.

The control room reported that over 80 lakh people were affected, and crops on more than 12 lakh acres of land have been damaged due to flood so far.

Until yesterday, the government opened 1,175 shelter centres that housed 2.82 lakh people and allocated 14,200 metric tonnes of GR (gracious relief) rice, Tk 2.80 crore GR cash, Tk 2.25 crore as housing grants, Tk 1 crore for dry food and Tk 70 lakh for rescue and relief operations.

Reports from different districts however show that thousands of flood-affected victims are yet to get

any relief due to inadequate quantity of relief materials. They are also facing severe crises of drinking water and drugs.

Our staff correspondent from Bogra reported that miscreants looted 650 packets of relief when officials of Sariakandi upazila complex were preparing to distribute relief among the char people at Pakuria in the Jamuna basin by a boat.

Police arrested Abdul Mannan and a case was filed with Sariakandi Police Station in this connection.

Meghna at Bhairab Bazar continued to rise yesterday and is likely to rise slightly further and inundate more low-lying areas in Narsingdi, Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj, Gazipur and Narayanganj.

Padma continued rising at all points and was flowing 145cm and 110cm above danger levels at Goalundo and Bhagyakul.

Flood situation in Manikganj, Munshiganj, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Dhaka's Dohar and Nawabganj upazilas is likely to remain unchanged.

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Floods should not be used for political benefit

Says Mainul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hosen yesterday said floods should not be used for political benefit, but welcomed BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's statement to provide relief to the flood-affected areas without a political banner.

No one should create unnecessary panic that would only harm the relief efforts, and the government is not willing to ask for foreign assistance at this stage as there are adequate resources to tackle the flood situation, he told a press briefing at the Chief Adviser's Office.

"Some people are trying to use the floods as an opportunity to do politics, but this is not right. They should come forward to help people for the sake of humanity," Mainul said.

He was replying to a question on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's comments that political parties are not being able to provide relief to

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Floodwaters creep into the capital inundating several areas inside the city perimeters. The photo was taken from South Badda yesterday.



PHOTO: SHAFIQ ALAM