

UN, EU ready to help flood victims

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has expressed deep sorrow at the loss of hundreds of lives and sufferings of tens of millions by floods in South Asia, including Bangladesh, and reaffirmed the readiness of the United Nations to assist the victims.

Ban "extends his condolences to the families of those who perished," according to a statement issued by his spokesman.

The UN chief also expressed concern at the economic devastation faced by the survivors.

Moon commended the "prompt and effective response" to the flooding by the affected countries -- India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal -- said a press release issued by UN News Centre in New York yesterday.

The UN Children's Fund (Unicef) and the World Health Organization

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FLOOD IMPACT

## Donors fear food price hike, GDP fall

Their assistance to depend on magnitude of loss

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

likely to depend on the magnitude of the ongoing flood the development partners are still monitoring.

"The government will not ask for foreign assistance, but will welcome any voluntary donation by another country," said ERD Secretary Aminul Islam Bhuiyan to reporters after he had co-chaired the meeting.

"We will monitor the situation closely. At this point, the focus is on the immediate relief, but eventually will move to the next stage depending on the evolving situation," said the World Bank (WB) Country Director and LCG Chair Zhu Xian.

"As in the past, flood in Bangladesh is a multi-year phenomenon, so we have to prepare

for the worst even though we hope the situation will improve," he added.

While Bhuiyan said they will hold further meetings to coordinate the relief effort and the international donors are still monitoring the flood damage, but added that all donors "indicated" they will be contributing to flood relief.

A number of countries, including Britain, the United States, Australia, Canada and Germany, have already pledged money for flood relief through their own development agencies or non-governmental organisations (NGO).

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CA pledges to tackle waterlogging in DND area

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the government will take necessary steps to tackle flood and solve waterlogging problem in the eastern part of the capital, including the DND embankment area, in the next dry season.

The CA disclosed the plan while talking to reporters after distributing relief materials among the flood victims at Kazlarpur in the DND embankment area.

He said the drainage system will be improved and damaged embankments repaired.

Expressing gratitude to the people of all sections and professions for their spontaneous response to his call to the nation to help out the flood victims, the CA said the government along with people will be able to successfully tackle the natural calamity.

Replying to a question, he said the government will cordially accept any help from the development partners for the flood

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their shutdown.

The sections rife with rampant corruption include raw jute purchase, machinery and equipment purchase, billing, and recruitment of labours, employees and officers. The leaders taking wages without others on the verge of closure.

Against this backdrop, different government policies taken or implemented to revitalise the jute sector have yielded little success; the policies have rather left some negative impacts on the sector.

If the present trend continues, workers and experts fear the three other state-owned jute mills, which are on partial operation now, will be closed in near future. They said the government must take effective measures to address the problems in policies and check corruption through regular monitoring to avoid

The SAP objectives include privatisation of the government organisations, while the JSAC was aimed only at the jute industries and was supposed to boost the sector through privatisation, decreasing labours, reducing looms, restructuring debt and upgrading technologies. The WB has so far gave Bangladesh Tk 1,500 crore in loan under the JSAC.

"Only corruption is responsible for the closure of the mill, which once was profit-making and we even got a share of the profit. Not a single high official can be found who was not involved in corruption," said Shahadat Hossain Khan,

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## ACC files graft cases against 10 top govt officials

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday sued ten bureaucrats, including former power ministry secretary ANH Akhter Hossain, on graft charges.

ACC Deputy Director Mahbulul Alam filed the case against the bureaucrats with Shahbagh Police Station at 6:05pm under sections 409 and 109 of Bangladesh Penal Code and the Corruption Resistance Act 1974.

The nine other accused in the case are Joint Secretary of the Power Ministry Mezbaur Islam, Deputy Secretary of the Employment Bureau Nazma Begum, Deputy Secretary of

## Flood victims cry for food, medicine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly woman approached this correspondent from behind and grabbed him by his wrist as he was finishing off talking with a family in a flood shelter at Razbarbagh Adarsha Binodini High School.

"Put down my name [on the list] -- its Shamsunnahar," she insisted, thinking that she would be able to receive relief materials if her name is printed in newspapers.

"We have been staying here for the last one week and we are about to die, but no one came here to give away anything to us," said Shamsunnahar, who, along with her two daughters and grand children, took shelter at the school under Sabujbagh thana.

Another elderly woman, Armena Bewa, accused this correspondent

in a resentful tone, "We are dying here and you came to see us now?"

After slums and houses in the low-lying areas in the vicinity went under water about ten days ago, the Razbarbagh Adarsha Binodini High School authorities allowed an estimated of 1,000 flood-affected people on the school premises as an act of social obligation, but they are yet to receive any government relief materials.

Rahela, a young widow with a nine-month-old boy, said she is not able to breastfeed her child. "I do not have anything to eat, how will my baby get milk?" she questioned, adding, "I am feeding him powdered puffed rice and ground rice mixed in water."

Rahela, a manual brick chips labourer at building construction

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A rickshaw-van carries passengers on an inundated road at Kadamtala of Basabo yesterday as floods submerged low-lying areas of the capital.

Khaleda wants to visit flood-hit areas, but govt won't allow Adviser cites "lack of security"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has decided to visit the flood-affected areas in Tangail and Sirajganj on Saturday but Food and Disaster Management Adviser Tapan Chowdhury yesterday said she will not be allowed visit there due to "lack of security."

Adviser to the BNP Chairperson Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shan yesterday sent a letter to the home secretary asking for necessary measures to ensure security of the former prime minister during her scheduled visit, a press release said yesterday.

Khaleda will distribute relief materials among the flood victims at six places in Sirajganj and two places in Tangail, said the press

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HASINA'S APPEALS  
HC adjourns hearings in all 3 graft cases till Aug 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday adjourned till August 21 hearing of three appeals by detained former prime minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina for quashing three graft cases against her in connection with the purchase of a frigate and eight MiG-29 fighter aircraft, and setting up Meghnaghat power plant.

All the three appeals were on the case list for hearing by an HC bench yesterday.

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Property of Abbas' wife to be attached

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an order to attach moveable and immovable properties of Afroza Abbas, wife of detained former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas.

The same court cancelled bails of wife and two sons of detained former BNP lawmaker Salauddin Ahmed and issued arrest warrants against them.

Besides, Mirza Abbas expressed 'no-confidence' in a Dhaka judge

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Tarique, Koko pay Tk 44 lakh taxes to legalise Tk 1.7cr income

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former premier Khaleda Zia's sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko have paid about Tk 44 lakh in taxes and fine to legalise around Tk 1.7 crore undeclared money.

Sources said the tax office concerned did not accept the income tax returns of Tarique and Koko as they sent the Bangladesh Bank

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