

AL in dilemma over flood relief

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any coordinated plans for flood relief.
Besides, in addition to taking permission from the deputy commissioner (DC) for distributing relief materials, the party leaders have to submit a list of relief materials and the names of those who would join the relief work, said several AL leaders.
Many central and grassroots level leaders are in fear that the authorities may ask them to give

details of the sources of the materials if relief is given to the flood victims on personal initiative.
Detained AL President Sheikh Hasina has asked her party leaders across the country to come forward to help the flood victims as per their capacity.
The party's acting president Zillur Rahman has also urged the AL leaders and well off people to help the flood victims.
"We will sit in a day or two to discuss how we can help the flood

victims," AL's acting general secretary Mukul Bose said yesterday.
Presidium Member Abdur Razzak, who recently distributed relief materials among flood victims in Shariatpur, yesterday demanded that the caretaker government relax the ban on indoor politics so that his party could contribute a lot in helping the flood victims.
"The party could not be involved with the relief work -- with or without banner. How will we unite the party leaders and workers when there is a ban on indoor politics?" said AL Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna.
Manna who talked over the ongoing flood with four party colleagues including Abdul Mannan and Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed on Tuesday told The Daily Star that they had discussed what they could do in the present context when the country is witnessing devastating floods.
Sultan Mansur said the party leaders would not spontaneously go for helping the flood victims until the ban on indoor politics is lifted, as they have to collect relief materials and money to help the flood victims.
It is the government's responsibility to help the flood victims and they would assist the government in distributing relief materials, he said.

Fresh case filed

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on charge of violating ban on political activities under emergency rule while they were attending a party on invitation of Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, joint secretary of AL UK unit, at a house in city's Bateshwar area. A case was filed against them on the same day.
Of them, nine AL leaders of its UK unit are on bail while the rest are behind bars.
The accused in the fresh case are Joint Secretary of AL UK unit Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, Sylhet city AL activist Prince Sadruzzaman, city Juba League Convener Syed Shamim Ahmed and Joint Convener Asaduzzaman, MC college Chhatra League General secretary Saiful Alam Tipu, Yousuf Ali, Juba League leader Ajoy Dev, Osmani Nagar Chhatra League chief Selim Reza and Shamsul Islam Milon.



Grameenphone CEO Erik Aas hands over three cheques for Tk 4.31 crore to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the chief adviser's office yesterday.

The cheques included Tk 2 crore from Grameenphone, Tk 2 crore from Telenor, the majority shareholder of Grameenphone and Tk 31 lakh as contribution from the Grameenphone employees as part of their one day's salary.
Fakhruddin appreciated the contributions made by Grameenphone, Telenor and the employees of Grameenphone for the flood-affected people.
In a letter to the chief Adviser, Telenor President and CEO Jon Fredrik Baksaas said: "We are very much grieved by the sufferings of the people affected by the ongoing floods in Bangladesh. While expressing our heartfelt sympathy for the victims, we laud the remarkable efforts taken by your government to provide emergency relief to those affected. Feeling an urge to stand by the flood-affected people, we at Telenor have decided to donate BDT two crore to your Relief Fund."
Grameenphone CEO Erik Aas said: "As a responsible corporate citizen, we feel an urge to stand by the flood affected people at this time of their urgent need. Thus, we are humbly making a contribution of BDT two crore to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund.
Grameenphone has also joined the relief distribution efforts in cooperation with various government agencies and NGOs in different flood-affected districts.
Food and other essential items worth over Tk one crore are being distributed in the flood-hit areas of Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions. Grameenphone employees have also volunteered to participate in the relief distribution efforts.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club yesterday organised by TIB. On his left is TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

Property of Abbas' wife

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in conducting a money laundering case against him.
The doctor, who treated Sabina Yasmin, wife of detained former deputy minister for land Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, was asked to appear before the court in person on August 14.
CASE AGAINST ABBAS' WIFE
Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court ordered attachment of all moveable and immovable properties of Afroza Abbas in connection with two tax evasion cases.
Earlier on August 5, the same court had issued arrest warrant against Afroza after National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the cases.
Following the court order, Motijheel police raided her residence to arrest but did not find her at home.
In the case statement, Nurul Amin, deputy tax commissioner of Tax Payers' Service Wing, mentioned that Afroza had evaded Tk 11,58,746 income tax as one of the directors of Dhaka Bank between 1997 and 2002.
She also evaded tax upon her income of Tk 4,67,95,634 for the years from 2002 to 2007.
ABBAS' NO CONFIDENCE
Abbas' lawyers submitted a petition bringing no confidence against Judge Abu Mohsin of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-6 saying that Abbas would not get justice from the court.
In the petition, the lawyers mentioned that they had appealed twice to the court to ask the authorities concerned to produce five passports seized earlier from their client's residence.
But the court rejected their petition, said the lawyers adding that it is clear that their client will not get justice from the court. So, they prayed for adjournment of the hearing on charge framing against their client.
On the hearing, the court adjourned the proceedings until August 16.
On July 16, Motijheel police submit-

ted the charge sheet against Mirza Abbas to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka showing 14 people as prosecution witnesses.
The case was filed against him under the Special Powers Act, Money Laundering Act and Excoise Act on February 24.
The joint forces seized a huge sum in local and foreign currencies and other items from Abbas' South Shahjahanpur residence in the capital on February 4. Complainant of the case Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam alleged that Abbas had kept those in his possession evading a huge amount of taxes.
KKHOKON CASE
The same court yesterday asked the authorities concerned to publish an advertisement in two national Bangla dailies asking Dhaka City Corporation Ward Commissioner Mirza Khokon to appear before the court within three days in a tax evasion case.
Earlier on July 30, NBR had filed a case against Khokon for evading Tk 12,96,863 for the years from 2005 to 2006. On that day, the court issued arrest warrant against him after Assistant Tax Commissioner Rahima Kahtun filed the case.
SALAHUDDIN CASE
The same court yesterday cancelled bails of his wife Shamsunnahar and two sons Shahriar Ahmed and Tanvir Ahmed and issued arrest warrants against them in connection with a graft case. The order came, as the three accused did not comply with the court order to appear before it on four consecutive dates.
Shamsunnahar and her sons earlier obtained ad interim bail from the High Court (HC) till submission of the charge sheet. The case was filed on April 11, as they concealed Tk 6,45,28,342 in their wealth statements.
DULU CASE
The same court asked Hafizur Rahman, a consultant and gynaecologist of Renaissance Hospital and Research Institute in the city's Dhanmondi area, to appear before the court in person on

Discussions

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officials at the ministry.
"August 15 will be observed in the same manner the death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman was observed on May 30," a senior home ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday on condition of anonymity.
On May 30, the government barred BNP from holding any discussion to mark the death anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman. Similar restrictions will be imposed on the Awami League (AL) -- which sought permission to hold a discussion on August 16, sources said.
The home ministry official said they have already discussed with intelligence and law enforcement agencies to devise a plan for August 15.
On this day in 1975, a splinter group of the army brutally killed Bangabandhu along with his family members except his two daughters -- Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana -- who were out of the country at the time.
Various political parties including the AL, student organisations and socio-cultural bodies always take up elaborated programmes including discussion meetings to mourn the killings.
Mukul Bose, acting general secretary of the AL, told The Daily Star last night that the Inspector General of Police had requested him to meet with him today over AL's plans to mark the death anniversary Bangabandhu.

Bangabandhu murder

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The leave to appeal petitions were filed by convicts Lt Col (ret'd) Bazul Huda, Lt Col (ret'd) Syed Faruk Rahman, Maj (ret'd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Lt Col (ret'd) Mohiuddin Ahmed after six years of the HC judgment. Another condemned prisoner, Maj (ret'd) AKM Mohiuddin, also filed an appeal through the jail authorities in June this year following his extradition from the US.
In the absence of Lt Col (ret'd) Bazul Huda's counsel, advocate-on-record of his leave to appeal petition, Nurul Islam Bhuiya, on
Tuesday started to read out the HC judgment pronounced by Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin.
Nurul Islam read out 113 pages of the judgment on the first day of the resumed hearing. He read out another 119 pages from the paper book (history of the case) yesterday.
The counsels of the convicts will read out the whole 757-page judgment. They will also read out the 743-page judgment of Justice ABM Khairul Haque after completing Ruhul Amin's judgment.
The three-member SC bench headed by Justice Tafazzul Islam with Justice Joydul Abedin and Justice Hassan Ameen began the hearing at

9:35am yesterday.
Nurul Islam continued reading out the judgment until the court time ended at 1:00pm.
During the reading out of the judgment, the bench judges pointed at some typos in the HC judgment on paper book and asked the counsels to have those corrected.
Before ending yesterday's hearing, the judges said they will continue the hearing today.
The HC awarded death penalty to 12 former army personnel including the five on April 30, 2001.
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975. A case was filed on October 2, 1996.
A trial court on November 8, 1998, handed down death penalty to 15 retired and dismissed army personnel for the murders. The HC upheld the death sentence of 12 of the condemned.
Apart from the five convicts, one died and the rest are still at large.
Leave petitions of the four convicts had been pending due to shortage of judges in the SC Appellate Division since August 2001.

Bidder questions

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rejected the allegation and claimed that transparency has been maintained in the process for evaluating the bids.
In its complaint letter the Thakral Brothers, based in Singapore, claimed that their offer met 100 per cent of the tender specification. As the lowest responsive bidder and with a price lower by Tk 7.80 crore from the next responsive bidder, it certainly can claim that the contract should be awarded to it, the letter said.
"We have adequate reasons to be concerned about the technical evaluation process of the tender. It seems to us that the technical evaluation committee is evaluating our bid outside the mandated provisions of Bangladesh Public Procurement Act," it added.
"Certain questions by the TEC made us concerned and we understood the TEC is recommending that our offer should be made non-responsive," stated the compliant letter referring to the meeting with the TEC.
The consortium requested the TEC to investigate its complaint and respond to its concerns within five working days from the date of receiving this complaint letter, complying with the provision of Public Procurement Rules 2003.
The TEC has evaluated only two bids submitted by consortium of Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) and Leads Corporation Bangladesh with a quoted price of \$6,644,728 and Thakral consortium of \$5,529,800 for the laptops. The TEC rejected six other bids at the initial stage.
When contacted, Rafiqul Islam, chief of the TEC and also joint secretary to the EC Secretariat, told The Daily Star yesterday that he received the complaint and would respond in accordance with the law.
"We have not taken any decision. We have just placed our recommendation to the Election Commission and now the commission will take the decision," Rafiqul said. He brushed aside any allegation of lack of transparency in the process of evaluating the bids.
The EC would decide who would be awarded the contract, the TEC chief said, adding, "We have just evaluated the bids, nothing more."
The EC Secretariat floated the tender on June 7 inviting bids for supplying the laptops with web cam, fingerprint scanner, Bangla keyboard and button mouse.
A total of eight companies participated in the tender. Apart from TCIL and Thakral, consortium of Flora Telecom Ltd and HPD system SBNDBHO Malaysia quoted Tk 38,59,47,400, consortium of Data Edge Ltd and Senzen Foundation Information Ltd Tk 42,48,00,436, BD Associates Tk 47,97,73,720, Singer Bangladesh Tk 55,16, 00,000, Singapore Technologies \$6,799,428 and consortium of Pawa Brothers and

Rangs IT quoted a price of \$10,720,000.
In its letter, the Thakral consortium also claimed that the TCIL is being currently investigated by the United States government on charge of corruption in the procurement process of United Nations.
The Thakral also submitted some documents and reports published in different international newspapers about the corruption charge against a TCIL agent who reportedly bribed a UN official to secure several valuable contracts for TCIL, including contracts for radio communications equipment, desktop computers and computer monitors, laptop computers and information technology staffing support, worth a total of over \$50 million.
"We are concerned because we came to know that Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd (TCIL), the prime bidder of the competitive consortium is currently being investigated by the United States government for corruption in the procurement process of the United Nations," it added.
Asked whether the TEC considered the allegation of corruption against the TCIL, the TEC chief said they have worked in line with the terms of reference and there was no scope to review any such allegation against any bidder.