

Millions hit by floods in India

REUTERS, New Delhi

Surging flood waters in northern and eastern India have affected millions of people, forcing many from their homes as swollen rivers wash away roads and make rescue work difficult, government and aid officials said yesterday.

Aid workers said 5.2 million people are now affected, double the figure from 10 days ago, as tail-end seasonal monsoon rains sweep the heavily-populated states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam where 158 people have died in flooding incidents in the past three months.

"The number of people affected by the floods has more than doubled in the last ten days. We have sent teams to do more accurate assessments of the situation, but we do feel it's going to get worse," said John Roche, country representative for the International Federation of Red Cross in India.

In the most severely affected state of Uttar Pradesh in north central India, 125 people have died and around 2 million have been affected, said a state government official.

"Of the 29 districts which have been affected by floods, 10 are in a critical state," said the state's relief commissioner K.K. Sinha, adding that about 70,000 people were homeless and around 300,500 hectares of mainly rice paddy had been destroyed.

The major Brahmaputra River which runs through eastern Assam state before heading into Bangladesh remains at dangerous flow levels, officials said.

In Bihar, between Uttar Pradesh and Assam, where about 2.6 million people have been displaced, local authorities said they have launched "relief and rehabilitation work on a war-footing."

But hundreds of angry villagers on Friday protested a lack of aid.

"We've been left to starve. There is just no one to take care of us," Nitu Devi, a local village elder, told reporters during a demonstration outside the office of the district magistrate in Bihar's flood-hit Bhojpur area.

West Bengal becomes PaschimBanga

AFP, Kolkata

The Indian state of West Bengal will now be known as "Paschim Banga" after state lawmakers voted unanimously in favour of the name change yesterday, despite some high-profile opposition.

The state becomes the latest in a long list of Indian places to have their anglicised titles dropped and replaced by a name drawn from the local or regional language.

"Paschim Banga" is a literal Bengali-language translation of West Bengal. Other prominent name changes in recent years include Bombay (now Mumbai), Madras (Chennai) and the West Bengal state capital Calcutta (Kolkata).

While local nationalist sentiment has often been the driving force behind these changes, in the case of West Bengal there were also more pragmatic considerations at work.

As state parliamentary affairs minister Partha Chatterjee explained, the state was tired of its position at the bottom of the official alphabetical lists of India's 29 states.

Jan Lokpal Bill is dangerous

Says Arundhati Roy

PTI, New Delhi

Writer Arundhati Roy on Tuesday cast doubts over Anna Hazare's anti-graft campaign saying the civil society's Jan Lokpal Bill is a "dangerous piece of legislation". "I am skeptical about the legislation (Jan Lokpal Bill) itself for a good number of reasons. I think the legislation is a dangerous piece of work," Roy told CNN-IBN in an interview.

Alleging that the civil society used public anger in their favour, the Booker Prize winner novelist said "You (civil society) used the real and legitimate anger of the people against corruption to push through this specific piece of legislation which is very regressive. It could have turned from something inclusive to destructive and dangerous."

Calling the Hazare-led movement a "copy book World Bank agenda", Roy said "It was an NGO-driven movement by Kiran Bedi, (Arvind) Kejriwal and (Manish) Sisodia."

"Three of them run NGOs and all the three core team members are Magsaysay Award winners... World Bank and Ford Foundation fund the anti-corruption campaigns. This is copy book World Bank agenda though they might have not meant it."

The writers said "Anna Hazare was picked up and propped up as the saint for the masses."

She also said the Hazare-led movement was not the same thing as a people's movement and accused the media of engineering it.

"Obviously people joined in but all of them were not middle class and many came for a sort of reality show well orchestrated by media campaigns," she said.



Argentine soccer team due

FROM PAGE 1

and as such would not be able to attend the open practice session that was supposed to be held at the Fatullah Stadium on September 4.

But the BFF are confident that they have still managed to salvage an occasion that is rapidly going downhill, by convincing Argentina to keep their prior appointments of an open practice session and an official dinner.

Argentina will now hold the open practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on the evening of September 5 and follow it up with the official dinner on the same date at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

This was the outcome of BFF president Kazi Salahuddin's whistle-stop tour of Kolkata and he admitted that he had failed to convince the Argentine authorities to hold the practice session on September 4 as scheduled, because they were seemingly concerned with the distance of Fatullah from Ruposhi Bangla and just how much time it would require to travel to the destination, given the

traffic situation that the inspection team had experienced.

But, he assured that he had at least made sure that the official practice session would be open to the public and that they would attend an official dinner.

"Well, what could we have done?" said Salahuddin.

"Of course the delay and shortening of the schedule will affect our masterplan. But it's a matter of reputation and image. We don't want to smear that image by going into a dispute with the Argentine authority or with the event management company."

Salahuddin, who arrived yesterday morning after meeting the CMG officials and Argentine officials, said he would be happy as long as they could achieve the two big targets.

"This match will serve two purposes. Firstly, it will showcase Bangladesh as an attractive neutral sports venue and secondly it will bring an enthusiasm among the young generation to play football."

There were also some whispers that the change

in the Argentina schedule came about due to some issues regarding unpaid payment of the last instalment for the game to the Celebrity Management Group. The amount of 600,000 dollars was reportedly hastily raised by Salahuddin prior to his departure for Kolkata with help from the Beximco Group. But although the money was cleared, Argentina still revised their schedule.

Meanwhile, the tickets for the match day have been half sold-out, according to BFF officials. The rest of the tickets will be sold as the game approaches, they expected.

The designated branches of IFIC Bank will remain open from today to facilitate the ticket sale while tickets will also be available at outlets of KFC, Nandos, Helvetia, Ruposhi Bangla, Meena Bazaar. Dhaka-based Independent Television hold the sole rights for the television broadcast of the game and they will be beaming live coverage of the game for the local audience from the venue on the day.

Long-pending issues must

FROM PAGE 1 environment for the transformation of ties.

Recommending unilateral concessions on trade including abrogation of negative list, the 98-page report titled "India and Bangladesh: Moving Towards Convergence", also calls for an early conclusion of an agreement on sharing water of the Teesta and four other rivers.

The legacy issues--demarcation of border, exchange of enclaves and adverse possessions, Teen Bigha corridor flyover, etc--should be settled as a package, it said.

It has also proposed joint exploration of hydrocarbon resources in the Bay of Bengal and offered technical assistance to Petrobangla. It recommended that the two sides explore new areas of cooperation on climate

change, science and technology, IT and communications, space, medicine and health, disaster management, food and energy security etc.

Written by IDSA scholars Arvind Gupta, Anand Kumar, Smruti Pattanaik, Sreeratha Datta and Ashok Behuria, the report takes note of the strategic importance of India and Bangladesh to each other.

The report argues that the Indian premier's visit provides an opportunity to take the India-Bangladesh relations to a higher trajectory and move towards a strategic partnership.

The IDSA, which put forward 20 recommendations, endorsed PM Sheikh Hasina's proposal for South Asia Task Force on terrorism. The report added that a counter-terrorism centre, based in Dhaka, can be set up to help the taskforce

and India could offer it funds.

On security cooperation, it commended Bangladesh as it has taken steps to address India's security concerns, but the cooperation needs to be institutionalised, so that it is not limited to any particular government.

The report emphasised resolution of maritime dispute and said both the sides should wait for the decision of the tribunal and propose joint exploration of hydrocarbon resources in the Bay of Bengal. Indian companies can offer technical assistance to Petrobangla.

It said the significance of strong India-Bangladesh ties goes beyond the bilateral context. Good relations between India and Bangladesh will have positive influence on the region and countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Thailand will

benefit from the trade and transit connectivity between the two countries.

The report cautions against complacency. It said the positive momentum in bilateral relations generated during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit must continue. The two sides must ensure that implementation of the 2010 joint communiqué is accelerated.

It said connectivity should be a top priority and both the countries should work to make it operational as soon as possible. Increased connectivity will need to be supplemented by a liberal visa regime to facilitate tourism, student exchanges, cultural contacts etc. However, given security concerns, liberalisation will have to be undertaken gradually.

Noda takes over as new Japanese PM

FROM PAGE 20

unite a divided party and safeguard a fragile post-quake recovery.

Japan's sixth new leader in five years gave the key posts of foreign and finance ministers to two allies in their 40s, considered young in Japanese politics for such roles.

In his inaugural press conference as prime minister after his cabinet was sworn in by Emperor Akihito, Noda pledged to speed up efforts in post-quake reconstruction and resolving the Fukushima nuclear crisis.

"Without the rebirth of Fukushima, there will not be a rebirth of Japan," Noda said. He added that it would be "difficult" to build new reactors in the aftermath of the disaster but offline units

should restart if deemed safe.

The position of finance minister went to relative unknown Jun Azumi, 49, against expectations Noda would pick a veteran from his ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) to wrestle with the world's biggest debt burden.

Koichiro Gomba, 47, becomes foreign minister.

Some party bosses, including former foreign minister Katsuya Okada, reportedly rejected Noda's offer of key posts, while analysts said his choices were aimed at appeasing factions rather than building on individual experience.

Noda has pledged to be a peacemaker in the ruling centre-left DPJ, which is deeply split between supporters and foes of veteran powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa,

indicted in a political funding scandal.

In doing so he is hoping to regain momentum lost since the DPJ ended half a century of conservative rule with their 2009 poll win, and help drive recovery from the March disasters that left more than 20,000 dead or missing.

He inherits daunting challenges of disaster recovery, a nuclear crisis, a soaring yen and huge public debt. Analysts question his chances of overcoming a revolving door of political leadership.

Gomba, the new foreign minister, was state minister for national strategy in the outgoing cabinet. He will be tasked with handling protracted discussions over the relocation of a US military base on the southern island

of Okinawa.

Japanese diplomacy was heavily tested last year by territorial disputes with China and Russia.

In his press conference Noda vowed to deepen ties with both countries, as well as South Korea and key ally the United States.

He also said he would not visit the controversial Yasukuni war shrine, which honours Japan's war dead, despite past remarks that were seen to support Japan's war criminals.

Yoshio Hachiro, 63, was named Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. Motohisa Furukawa, 45, takes on the post of national strategy minister and minister for economic and fiscal policy.

Goshi Hosono, 40, will

continue overseeing the resolution of the Fukushima crisis as environment minister in charge of the nuclear power plant disaster.

The cabinet features two women -- Renho, 43, who goes by one name, and health minister Yoko Komiya, a 62-year-old former NHK anchorwoman.

Noda's predecessor Kan resigned after 14 months in office under fierce criticism of his administration's handling of the earthquake aftermath.

Noda aims to pass a third budget, expected to amount to more than 10 trillion yen (\$130 billion), to pay for post-March 11 reconstruction as he looks to revive an economy that has contracted for three straight quarters.

Road crashes kill 38 during Eid holidays

FROM PAGE 20

Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound bus smashed the bike around 6:15pm, leaving them dead on the spot.

In another accident, Abu Taher Mia, officer-in-charge of Manikganj Sadar Police Station, was critically injured after a three-wheeler hit him early on Tuesday. He was admitted to Apollo Hospital in the capital.

GAZIPUR A man was killed and six others were injured in a head-on collision between a private car and a pickup van at Bhabanipur on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on Friday.

The dead could not be immediately identified. On Tuesday, garment workers Rozina Akhter, 20, and Kawser, 22, died and 15 others were injured when a bus carrying them fell into a roadside ditch at Nalchata in Kaliganj.

SAVAR One person died on the spot when a three-wheeler hit him at Bishalmi bus stand on Dhaka-Aricha highway

yesterday, reports BSS. The dead is Habib, 22.

COMILLA A truck overturned at Raipur in Daudkandi upazila on Tuesday killing four people on the spot. Truck driver Hasan was also hurt.

Three deceased were identified as Shubho, 12, and Sajib, 18, sons of the truck driver, and Sumon Ahmed, 25, of Shariatpur. The other victim was yet to be identified.

On Friday, three bike riders died in two accidents in the district's Mainamati Tutbagana and Kagurjhuli areas, reports UNB. MYMENSINGH A biker was killed and his fellow rider injured as the bike fell into a roadside ditch on Friday, reports UNB.

The dead is Anwar Hossain Bachchu, 22, a garment worker, and the injured is Al Amin, 20, also a garment worker. MUNSHIGANJ Two people were killed in two accidents at Srinagar on Thursday.

The dead are Russel Mia,

19, of Bhedarganj in Shariatpur, and Monir Hossain, 25, of Shyamsiddi village in Srinagar.

Monir died on the spot.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Srinagar Police Station, said Russel and three others were seriously injured when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus collided with a Mawa-bound CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Kamarkhula around 10:50am.

Russel succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

On Friday afternoon, 10-year-old Mahua Akhter died on the spot when a private car hit her on Dhaka-Dohar road.

MADARIPUR A youth died after he fell from a speeding pickup van, locally known as nosimon, on Friday. Critically hurt Al Amin, 25, was taken to Faridpur Medical Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

SYLHET Four people were killed in separate accidents, includ-

ing a motorcyclist on the Eid day, in the district.

Biker Shakir Ahmed, 25, died after dashing against the road divider at Kuchai on Sylhet-Zakiganj road.

On Thursday, three persons were killed and 10 others injured in a crash on Sylhet-Tamabil road.

The dead are Shahid Mia, 45, of Sylhet sadar upazila, Chini Karmaker, 65, of Jaintapur and Foyez Miah, 12, of Gowainghat.

The accident happened when a cab collided head-on with a truck near Jaintapur College around 3:00pm.

CHITTAGONG A boy was killed and two others were wounded when a Chittagong-bound bus collided with an auto-rickshaw at Kumira on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Thursday.

Jony, five, son of Shahabuddin of Shitalpur village in Boro Aulia area, died on the spot. LALMONIRHAT A man was killed and 15 others were injured as a passenger bus fell into a

roadside ditch at Mondolharhat in Lalmonirhat on Friday.

The dead is Monsur Ali, 56, of Gabtoli upazila in Bogra. BOGRA Two bike riders were crushed under a bus at Chotobalua on Bogra-Shonatola road on Thursday morning.

Shanto, 20, and his friend Shimul, 17, were on their way to Bogra from Shonatola. NAOGAON Two bike riders were killed here when a bus hit their bike at Balubazar on their way to Potnitola around 8:30am on Thursday.

The dead are Tasir Uddin, 26, and Saidur Rahman, 28.

According to UNB, two people died in Sathkira and Bhola on Friday. In the Sathkira incident, at least 30 people were injured when the bus carrying them overturned at Khalilnagar Bazar in Tala. The Bhola accident left 10 people injured.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Gazipur PWD Division, Gazipur
Phone: 02-9252468, Fax: 02-9263623

Date: 24/8/2011

Invitation for Re-Tender

Sealed tenders are invited for the undermentioned work as per brief terms and conditions stated below.

1.	Name of project	Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Memorial Specialized Hospital and Nursing College (1st Phase).
2.	Agency	Public Works Department.
3.	Procuring entity	Executive Engineer, Gazipur PWD Division, Gazipur.
4.	Name of work/tender	Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Memorial Specialized Hospital & Nursing College (1st Phase) [Sub-Head:- Construction of 2-Storeyed Guest Dormitory with 4-Storeyed Foundation & 3-Storeyed Mosque and Essential shops with 3-Storeyed Foundation at Kashimpur, Gazipur.]
5.	Tender package No.	01/2011-2012
6.	Tender invitation reference & date	Memo No. 2708 Date: 24/8/11
7.	Procuring method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
8.	Source of fund	Government of Bangladesh (GOB).
9.	Time for completion of the work	06 (six) months from the date of issue of work order.
10.	Brief description of works and incidental services	Earth work, mass concrete, brick works, RCC works, interior & exterior decorative works, site development, etc.
11.	Eligibility of tenderers/firms	This invitation for tenders is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below.
a)		Reputed contractors/construction firms who have minimum 10 (ten) years of general experience in construction works.
b)		Having experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) No. of similar construction work amounting to Tk. 100.00 (one hundred) lac under govt./semi-govt./autonomous organization within last 5 (five) years.
c)		Certificate of authentication in respect of the work should have to be furnished by the tenderer along with tender documents in the following manner as applicable. i) In case of the work done under PWD, the certifying and authenticating authority shall be the concerned Executive Engineer, under whom the work has been executed. ii) In case of the work done under any government/semi-government/autonomous bodies/ organization other than PWD the certifying authority shall be an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer and the same should be duly verified by the concerned Executive Engineer of PWD of that area under whose jurisdiction the work has been done. Prescribed work order (original or duly attested by competent authority) for the work should be enclosed along with tender documents. Payment certificate and certificate of deposit duly is to be obtained from the banker and is to be enclosed along with tender document.
d)		Liquid asset or cash flow: 130.00 (one hundred thirty) lac.
e)		Average annual construction turnover: 600.00 (six hundred) lac (annual construction turnover certificate must be collected from concern office or may be from concern office for last 5 (five) years and should be submitted along with the tender.
f)		Tendering capacity: Must be satisfied by the tenderer as per his/her quoted tender price: (Not less than tender amount).
12.	Price of tender document	Tk. 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred) only.
13.	Amount of tender security	Tk. 5.00 (five) lac only.
14.	Name and address of the offices selling tender document	a. Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka. b. Office of the Executive Engineer, Gazipur PWD Division, Gazipur as well as all the Executive Engineers under Dhaka Zone, Dhaka. c. Office of the Project Director, "Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Memorial Specialized Hospital and Nursing College Project (1st Phase), House # 2, Road # 32, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. d. Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Maintenance Division, Dhaka, Chittagong PWD Division 3, Chittagong, Khulna PWD Division 1, Khulna, Rajshahi PWD Division 1, Rajshahi, Barisal PWD Division, Barisal, Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet respectively and Office of the Chief Arboriculturist, PWD Arboriculture Division, Dhaka.
15.	Name and address of the offices receiving tenders	Office of the Executive Engineer, Gazipur PWD Division, Gazipur.
16.	Name and address of the office opening tenders	Office of the Executive Engineer, Gazipur PWD Division, Gazipur.
17.	Last date and time for selling tender document	During office hours up to 03/10/2011
18.	Last date and time for submission of tender	Up to 12.00 noon of 04/10/2011
19.	Date and time for opening of tenders	04/10/2011 at 12:30pm Inviting tenderers or their authorized representatives may remain present during opening of tenders.
20.	Special instructions	a) The experience certificate for successful completion of similar work shall have to be issued by the officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer of concerned department/organization duly verified by the concerned Executive Engineer of PWD of that district/area under whose jurisdiction the work has been done format (Form W-9) for this purpose provided with the tender document. b) Rate must be quoted both in figures & in words for each item of works in the bill of quantities. c) If the quoted rate of any item is found nil or abnormally less than the correspondent rate of current PWD schedule of rates, an amount equivalent to complete that item of work as per PWD schedule of rates may be retained from the first running bill till that item of work is completed by the contractor. d) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders or all without assigning any reason whatsoever. This tender notice is brief and the details of the tender can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. e) The tenderers shall duly fill in the Form W-1 as per format given in Tender Submission Sheet (TSS) and Form W-2 as per format given in Tender Information Sheet (TIS). f) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Rule-127 of PPR-2008. g) All photocopies submitted with tender documents must be duly attested by a class-I gazetted Govt. official.

Md. Bahauddin
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GD-3636