

## TACKLING FUEL CRISIS

## Nepal seeks help from Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Nepal yesterday sought support from Bangladesh in tackling its crisis over fuel and meeting the need for other essentials, including rice and lifesaving drugs.

The request came when Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh Hari Kumar Shrestha met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence the Gono Bhaban.

After the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters.

Expressing gratitude to Hasina for Bangladesh's assistance after a powerful earthquake hit the Nepalese people recently, the envoy said Nepal is now facing a serious petroleum crisis, mak-

ing it hard to operate its industries.

In reply, the prime minister assured him of providing the Himalayan country with all possible assistance to get over its crises.

Hasina said the people of Nepal have been suffering a lot since the earthquake and Bangladesh would extend its all possible help to the affected people by sending rice and medicines.

About transportation of goods, she said, the Indian government has not made any objection to carry goods from Bangladesh to Nepal through India.

PM's International Affairs Advisor Gowher Rizvi and Principal Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present.



Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh Hari Kumar Shrestha calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## INDIAN TRANSIT CARGO Dhaka to forego bank guarantee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh has decided to do away with the practice of insistence on bank guarantee on each consignment of transit cargo from India to Ashuganj river port in Bangladesh.

India has welcomed this decision as this would reduce the transportation cost and encourage cargo movement on the route from northeastern India to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh extended the gesture after India had accepted the former's proposal for the transit fees on goods from northeastern India to Ashuganj port during a meeting of shipping secretaries of the two countries here [New Delhi] on Monday, an official statement said here yesterday.

The two countries also agreed to help

each other, seeking the World Bank's assistance for dredging rivers under the Bangladesh-India inland water protocol routes to ensure adequate depth in upper reaches of common rivers.

It was agreed that Bangladesh will submit a proposal for dredging of rivers in its territory, including the ones under the inland water protocol routes, to the WB and inform India of its plea for financial help.

It was also suggested by the Indian side that as the submission of proposal to the WB and its eventual execution may take some time, the existing Joint Technical Committee (JTC), as an interim measure, may identify and prioritise the route requiring dredging to achieve the depth needed throughout the year and propose a suitable funding option within three months.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION Bangladesh needs \$40bn in next 15 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs \$40 billion from 2015 to 2030 to address the adverse impacts of climate change, says a new report released by ActionAid.

The report titled "Mind the Adaptation Gap" points out that developed countries should increase their contribution. It also calculates the actual amount that rich countries should pay.

In a press release, ActionAid said that in total, developing countries need at least \$50 billion per year until 2020, and at least \$150 billion per year until 2025 from rich countries in public financing to climate adaptation.

Bangladesh and other vulnerable countries are now getting much lower than what is needed for adaptation purpose.

Currently, Bangladesh is spending around 5.3 percent to 7 percent of its total gross domestic product (GDP) for climate adaptation purpose, a recent report of the finance division said. More than 80 percent of it is financed by domestic resources.

Developed countries so far have contributed \$188.2 million to the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF), as per the 2012 annual report.

The ActionAid report, released yesterday, also cites the Bangladesh government's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) report, which mentioned that Bangladesh needs \$40 billion from 2015 to 2030 to address adverse impacts of climate change. That report was published in

September.

The impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities in Bangladesh and other developing countries are already massive.

Approaching COP21 in Paris we need to see a roadmap that shows the scaling-up of public finance to at least \$50 billion per year by 2020, and at least \$150 billion per year by 2025, so that developing countries like

Bangladesh can start implementing the adaptation work that is so urgently required," said Farah Kabir, country director, ActionAid Bangladesh, in the press release.

The release said the report, based on investigation in six countries, is the first to calculate the actual amount that rich countries should give based on estimates for future global adaptation need, and to compare this to their adaptation finance contributions so far.

The calculations in the report show that rich countries are falling well short of providing adequate money to help people in poor countries already suffering the harsh impacts of climate change.

According to the report, the USA needs to increase its contributions by more than 154 times.

France, the host of December's landmark climate conference COP21, needs to increase its contributions by more than 75 times to meet its fair share.

European Union members collectively need to increase contributions by more than 11 times to meet their fair share.

Australia needs to increase its contributions by 20 times to meet its fair share.

## France steps up efforts

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Meanwhile, France has mobilised 115,000 security personnel in the wake of the attacks, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve has said, reports BBC Online.

Cazeneuve said 128 more raids on suspected militants were carried out.

A huge manhunt is under way for one of the suspects, Salah Abdeslam. He is believed to have fled across the border to his native Belgium.

Police probing the Friday's attacks have been searching premises they believe were used by the attackers. Salah Abdeslam, the suspected eighth gunman who is now the subject of an international manhunt, rented out an apartment and two hotel rooms.

German police said they arrested two more people yesterday near the western city of Aachen, on the Belgian border, in an operation linked to the attacks, after arresting two women and one man earlier in the day, according to Reuters.

### 'BIG TRANSITION'

In a grieving Paris, US Secretary of State John Kerry said a "big transition" in Syria was probably only weeks away as he expressed solidarity with the French nation after IS gunmen and suicide bombers massacred 129 people in the capital on Friday night.

Kerry said an agreement between deeply divided countries such as Iran, Russia and Saudi Arabia on a path to elections in Syria at talks held in Vienna Saturday was a "gigantic step", and he expected rapid progress.

"We are weeks away conceivably from the possibility of a big transition for Syria," he said.

The quickening political process came as Hollande vowed to pursue IS mercilessly for their "acts of war" and Russia sought vengeance after finally confirming it believed a bomb attack did bring down a Russian passenger jet over Egypt last month that killed 224 people.

The IS group which operates out of Iraq and Syria claimed responsibility for downing the airliner as well as a bombing in Beirut last week.

A French jihadist named Fabien Clain made an audio recording of the terror group statement claiming the Paris attacks that was published online, a source close to the investigation told AFP.

The 35-year-old is a veteran of radical Islamist networks in the southern French city of Toulouse and was close to Mohamed Merah who shot dead seven people, including three Jewish children, in 2012.

Clain was convicted in 2009 of recruiting jihadists and sentenced to five years in prison, after which he

left for Syria.

"My sense is that everybody understands that... we have to step up our efforts to hit them (IS) at the core where they're planning these things," said Kerry.

"We've agreed to exchange more information, and I'm convinced that over the course of the next weeks, Daesh will feel even greater pressure," he added, using another term for IS.

Hollande will visit Washington next week to meet President Barack Obama, and is also planning a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the coming days.

And as the probe into the horror intensified, French police carried out more than 100 raids for a second night running, as a manhunt continued for 26-year-old Salah Abdeslam, one of two Belgium-based brothers implicated.

### PARIS GRIEVES

In Paris, stunned residents continued to flock to shrines of candles and flowers, while photographs of smiling young victims have been pasted at attack sites or outside their places of work.

The city is palpably more shaken than after the January attacks which killed 17 people at Charlie Hebdo magazine and a Jewish supermarket, but many have defiantly returned to sidewalk terrace cafes where they can be heard poring over the details of the assault.

But a shadow still hangs over the City of Light four days after IS suicide bombers and gunmen struck as Parisians watched a France-Germany football match, a concert by Californian group Eagles of Death Metal, or enjoyed a night out at restaurants and sidewalk cafes.

### RUSSIA STRIKES

Russia yesterday also staged a "significant number" of air strikes on Syria.

Russia struck the Islamic State stronghold of Raqa in Syria yesterday with a "significant number" of strikes that included long-range bombers and sea-launched cruise missiles, US defense officials said.

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said that powerful long-range bombs had been used to strike targets around the jihadist strongholds of Raqa and Deir Ezzor, and to fire cruise missiles at Idlib and Aleppo regions.

Russia will also send an extra 25 long-range planes to conduct Syria strikes, Reuters reports citing the chief of Russian general staff.

The focus of the investigation was Salah Abdeslam, whose sibling Brahim blew himself up outside a bar in Paris, seriously injuring one person.

Police found a second car rented by Salah, while his brother was found to have rented an apartment

in the gritty Parisian suburb of Bobigny a few days before the attack.

Investigators believe Belgian jihadist Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who is based in Syria and knew Salah Abdeslam, may be the mastermind of the attacks.

Five of the Paris assailants have already been identified, but it is not known how many fled.

### FAKE PASSPORT?

A passport found near the body of one of the Stade de France suicide bombers may have belonged to a Syrian regime soldier killed several months ago, a source close to the investigation told AFP.

The passport is in the name of Ahmad al-Mohammad, born September 10, 1990 in the Syrian city of Idlib.

French investigators say all indications point towards the fact he was a soldier loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity to AFP, said the passport was either taken or fabricated based on a real identity.

It was registered on the Greek island of Leros on October 3, and was seen again in Serbia and Croatia in the following days.

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere also said it appeared to be a red herring planted by IS.

"There are indications it is a false trail," he said, adding that "it still cannot be ruled out that a terrorist headed for Europe and to France, probably via Germany."

"It therefore remains to be determined whether it was a refugee sent by IS to Europe to carry out an attack, or whether it is a cunning chess move by the IS, which laid this trail in order to scare people," the minister said.

### GERMAN-DUTCH FRIENDLY CALLED OFF

Germany's friendly with the Netherlands on Tuesday has been called off because of a "concrete security threat" against the city of Hannover.

Evacuation of the Hannover Stadium, which was hosting the match, began less than two hours before kick-off.

The city's president of police Volker Kluwe told the BBC "there were plans for some kind of explosion".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was set to attend the match at the 49,000-capacity HDI Arena.

Belgium's friendly with Spain on Tuesday in Brussels was called off on Monday because of security fears in the wake of last week's attacks in Paris.

England's match against France at Wembley on Tuesday night is going ahead, with tributes to be paid to the 129 people killed in Paris on Friday.

## Primary terminal exam begins Nov 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and ebtedai terminal examinations for class-V students of primary schools and madrasas will begin across the country on November 22 with over 32 lakh examinees taking part in the tests.

The tests, dubbed as the largest public examination in the country, will end on November 29, said primary and mass education ministry officials yesterday.

Of the total examinees, over 29.49 lakh students of primary schools will take the primary terminal test, while around 3 lakh students of madrasas will sit for the ebtedai exam, they said.

The number of examinees has increased by around 1.59 lakh. Last year, around 30.95 lakh students took the test.

The candidates will take examinations of six subjects in six days with English on the first day at 11:00am.

The officials said they had divided 64 districts into eight regions and prepared eight sets of question papers before sending those to the districts to rein in question paper leak.

There has been an allegation of question paper leak in the examinations for the last several years. Parents are also complaining of leaked questions being circulated on the social networking sites.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman will brief reporters about the exams at 11:30am today at his ministry in the secretariat.

The primary terminal examination was introduced in 2009. The test for the students of ebtedai madrasas began the following year. The result was published in division system in the first two years, but later it was in grading system.

The students must pass the exams for enrolment in class VI. On the basis of the results, scholarships will be distributed under talent pool and general categories.

## More diseases

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"The country profile should be used to base policies and practices to protect human health from climate change," he added.

The UN report said, "Under a high emissions scenario, mean annual temperature is projected to rise by about 4.8 degrees Celsius on average from 1990 to 2100."

This rise in temperature has a direct link to sea-level rise and extreme events such as prolonged and heavy rainfall and dry spell that subsequently affect human health and agriculture.

The number of days of warm spell is projected to go up to almost 300 days on average in 2100, which was about 60 days in 1990.

Also, the longest dry spell could rise to 85 days on average in 2100 from about 70 days in 1990, the report said.

The elderly, children, the chronically ill and socially isolated people are particularly vulnerable to heat-related conditions.

Diseases like malaria transmitted by insects will also rise in Bangladesh, though there is no country-specific projection on it.

Globally, over 147 million people may be at risk of malaria by 2070 with the rise in temperature, according to the report.

It said on average 7.2 million people in Bangladesh could be affected by flooding due to sea level rise between 2070 and 2100 if there were no large investments in adaptation.

However, if emissions decrease rapidly and there is a major scale-up in protection activities like continued construction and raising the height of dikes, the number of people affected annually could be as low as 14,100.

In addition to deaths from drowning, flooding affects food production, water provision, ecosystem disruption and outbreak of infectious diseases.

"Longer-term effects of flooding may include post-traumatic stress and population displacement."

It also anticipates 20.3 million people in Bangladesh will be living in areas at high risk of cyclone by 2050, compared to 8.3 million at present.

An additional 7.6 million people could be exposed to very high salinity by 2050.

Highlighting the impact of outdoor air pollution, the report said it has severe consequences for health and could increase mortality from respiratory infections, lung cancer, and cardiovascular disease, especially among women and children.