



remotely prepared for the impact it will have, Thoraya Obaid, executive director of the UN Population Fund, says. "In 2008, half of the world's population will be in urban areas. The shift from rural to urban changes a balance that has lasted for millennia. Within one generation, five billion people, or 60% of humanity, will live in cities. The urban population of Africa and Asia is set to double in this time." She adds that each week the numbers living in cities grew by nearly a million commenting that today, one billion people live in slums, 90% of whom are in developing countries. Ms Obaid said: "It concerns everyone, not just developing countries. If we plan ahead we will create conditions for a stable world. If we do not, and do not find education, jobs, and houses for people in cities, then these populations will become destructive, to themselves and others."



MIndful no doubt of the difficulties the world faces today, the billionaire retail entrepreneur Sir Tom Hunter has pledged to give away more than £1bn to good causes in one of the UK's biggest ever charitable donations.

Sir Tom, a self-made billionaire who began his business life selling trainers out of a garage in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, is Scotland's richest man and intends to give the money away during his lifetime. He has a track record of supporting projects ranging from supporting young Scottish entrepreneurs to backing development projects in Africa.

He and his wife Marion set up the Hunter foundation in 1998 to support educational and entrepreneurial projects. Sir Tom plans to donate at least £100m through the foundation. He gave £1m to the BBC's Children in Need appeal in 2006 and a further £1m to Comic Relief in 2007. His largesse has also extended to Bob Geldof's Band Aid 20 single, which received £7m of his fortune.

Talking about 'fortunes' of course brings us to the latest in the line up of disaster stories and that is the flooding experienced in the UK recently. According to the TimesonLine on 20 July, the Association of British Insurers has already estimated that over £1.5 billion will have to be paid out on weather related claims after the floods three weeks previous. Over 7,500 businesses and 27,000 households had already made claims and should the bad weather continue, as it is

apparently forecast to do, that could top £2 billion in the not too distant future.

Searching desparately for the link to the next top-totty story, we turn to water for our salvation.

Kate Midleton is apparently the secret weapon in a team called 'The Sisterhood' who are bidding to become the first all-female crew to cross the channel in a traditional chinese dragon boat.



The team, which includes models, a former ballerina, professional adventurers and international athletes, will be racing against a male team, the Brotherhood, to raise money for charity.

Crew member Emma Sayle, 29, said: "Kate's perfect material for our team. She's stunning and very feminine but is incredibly sporty. "She's the kind of girl who can take part in a triathlon, get covered in mud and an hour later emerge in a ball dress looking flawless."

England's other royal family have of course been pushing it up on the other side of the pond this week. - and don't tell me I've lost you already...

Whether you like it or not this is going to be the Posh & Becks summer. Shoved down our throats on every newscast, the pace is sure to hot up with their first big date being billed as dinner with Tom Cruise & Katie Holmes on Sunday the 22 July. No press allowed I'm told but you can be sure with 600 celebrities scheduled to attend, there's certain to be a few pics in the press next week!

Anyway, why knock it - the boy done good!

