

Relief workers struggle to reach Indian flood victims

Death toll rises to 880

CALCUTTA, Sept 27: Relief workers struggled Wednesday to reach millions of people cut off by floods in eastern India and Bangladesh, as the death toll topped 880 and one senior official warned of a "national disaster," reports AFP.

In India's West Bengal state, where 555 bodies have been recovered in the past nine days with 201 missing presumed dead, the floodwaters continued to threaten the state capital, Calcutta, with its 10 million population.

"There is waterlogging in Calcutta. Two famous temples, Dakshinewar and Kalighat were partially submerged on Tuesday," said Inspector Diprimoy Mondal at the city's main police station.

"We are pumping out water from the affected areas," Mondal said.

The waters of the Hooghly River which runs through Calcutta were running dangerously high, causing the authorities to evacuate people living in low-lying areas along its banks.

Elsewhere in West Bengal, overstretched relief teams were still trying to reach millions of villagers who have been completely cut off for up to five days.

"This is a national disaster," said state Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, who reiterated a call for help from the central government in New Delhi.

"Our only demand is that the

Centre should send a team before the waters recede in the devastated areas," Basu told reporters.

Fernando Soares, a member of a Red Cross flood response team sent to West Bengal, said that while some relief supplies were getting through, many areas were still inaccessible.

"For those still cut off, this is obviously a very serious situation," Soares told AFP.

"They are very distressed, have lost all their possessions and are completely reliant on air drops for food and other supplies."

Military helicopters and rescue boats continued to drop relief supplies where they could, but the sheer size of the affected area has meant available manpower

has been stretched to the limit.

"The overall situation has improved but waters are receding slowly and there are forecasts of further heavy rain," said relief commissioner P.S. Ingly.

The West Bengal floods have affected more than 10 million people and damaged at least 1.5 million houses.

Reports of looting had earlier come in from all of the state's affected districts, as desperate villagers ransacked relief trucks for foodstuffs.

Eight more deaths were reported Tuesday from the eastern Indian state of Bihar, which adjoins West Bengal, taking the toll in the current flooding there to 116.



An army officer hands over medicine to a dysentery patient at the flood-stricken village of Agradani, some 200 km north of Calcutta Tuesday. The village was unreachable for more than 7 days due to devastating floods that have killed over 500 people in West Bengal. —AFP photo

Albright pledges to fight on for Suu Kyi

WASHINGTON, Sept 27: US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Tuesday pledged she would not admit defeat in her diplomatic campaign in support of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, reports AFP.

Albright said in testimony to Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that she had raised the issue with foreign officials "consistently and systematically."

"I can assure you that I will not let this issue drop. We are trying to make the others move. It's not easy," said Albright.

The United States is one of the most consistent critics of Myanmar's junta and is a strong supporter of Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been locked in a bitter political battle with the ruling generals.

"I think this is one of the saddest cases where, 10 years after she, her party and she, were elected they are not allowed to take their rightful position

40 drown as Greek ferry sinks in Aegean Sea

430 passengers, crew rescued

ATHENS, Sept 27: At least 40 people, including children, were drowned and 40 were missing after a Greek passenger ferry sank in a storm in the Aegean Sea, port authorities at Piraeus, Athens, said today, reports AFP.

The vessel reportedly ran aground and sank within a matter of minutes, according to early reports.

Another 430 passengers and crew were rescued and treated at the small medical centre on Paros island, near the scene of the disaster, the merchant navy ministry announced early Wednesday.

Five seriously injured people were due to be transferred to Athens, but none were in a critical condition.

Early Wednesday two Greek army Super-Puma helicopters joined the coastguard in the search for survivors.

Two British Navy ships, the aircraft carrier Invincible and the frigate Liverpool, also joined the operation. Two helicopters from the Invincible also took part in the search.

But violent winds of up to force nine on the Beaufort scale hampered the operation. The mayor of Paros Constantinos Argoulas said in a radio interview that conditions were not good for finding survivors.

The owners of the boat, Hellas Ferries, a subsidiary of Minoan Lines, said there had been 64 crew members and 447 passengers on board, including about 40 foreigners.

All had been given life jackets and all the life boats had been launched, it added.

The ministry said the number of missing could be lower than at first thought as some passengers could have reached the shore of Paros unaided and not required medical attention.

But some survivors told an Athens radio station they feared the death toll could rise as the Samena Express ferry had taken on board some passengers from another ferry that had not sailed.

Besides those reported dead in the accident, assistant port police chief Dimitris Malamas died of a heart attack during the rescue operation, authorities said.

The accident occurred between 1907 GMT and 1925 GMT Tuesday when the ferry was running its regular daily route between islands — including Paros — of the Cyclades archipelago.

It ran aground on Portes, a rocky islet situated at the entry to Paros port. The islet is lit by a lighthouse.

The 34-year-old boat, was due to be replaced next year.

China-Japan to hold talks on sea border demarcation

BEIJING, Sept 27: China and Japan were to hold discussions in Beijing today on the demarcation of their sea border following new tensions over incursions by Chinese vessels into Japanese waters.

A Japanese embassy official told AFP two days of meetings between Akio Isomata, first secretary at the Japanese embassy in Beijing, and China's foreign ministry officials would start around 4:00 p.m. (14:00 BST).

The meetings were scheduled during Japanese Foreign Minister Yohsei Kono's visit to Beijing in August in which Kono raised concerns about a number of Chinese research vessels and warships seen in Japan's 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Both sides had agreed to establish a framework in which the Chinese would give prior notice when they want to undertake research activities within Japan's EEZ.

UK to provide details of Zardari's assets

LONDON, Sept 27: British Home Secretary Jack Straw has agreed to provide Pakistan with details of the assets held by Asif Ali Zardari, husband of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, The Times reported today, says AFP.

Straw will hand over a dossier on the matter to the military regime of General Pervez Musharraf, the paper said.

The information could be used by investigators in Pakistan to track the capital and assets of former minister Zardari, who is serving a five-year prison term for corruption.

Chinese plane crew foil hijack attempt

One hijacker killed

BEIJING, Sept 27: The crew of a Chinese domestic airliner today foiled a mid-air hijack attempt which left one hijacker dead and the captain of the plane fighting for his life, state media reported, says AFP.

Two passengers attempted to hijack Xinhua Airlines flight LW126, which took off from the city of Baotou in Inner Mongolia at 7:20 a.m. (5:20 BST) bound for Beijing, said CCTV.com, a website run by state television.

The report said members of the crew on board the Boeing 737-300 overpowered the assailants, but that two crew members were injured in the scuffle, including

the captain who was seriously hurt.

The plane, carrying 143 passengers, was forced to divert from its original route and landed in Jinan, capital of eastern Shandong province at 9:36 a.m. (7:36 BST), said CCTV.com.

The website said one of the hijackers was shot dead by police at Jinan airport and the other was arrested, although it gave no further details.

The official Xinhua news agency said there was only one hijacker. It gave no details of any casualties but said all the passengers were safe.

EU envoys hold talks with JKLF chief

27 killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Sept 27: Top diplomats from four European countries yesterday met Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Mohammad Yaseen Malik who sought their intervention in solving the Kashmir problem, reports PTI.

Malik, an executive member of the Hurriyat Conference, told reporters after the meeting that he had sought intervention of European countries in solving the Kashmir problem.

Malik appealed to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to follow the example of late Israeli premier Rabin who tried hard to solve the Palestinian problem.

He (Rabin), took a bold step and tried to solve the Palestinian problem now Vajpayee should step into his shoes and solve the Kashmir problem, he said.

The four-member European delegation, led by French ambas-

sador to India Bernard De Montferrand, also met governor C Saxena and prominent political leaders in the state.

Jammu and Kashmir people's Democratic Party vice president Mehbooba Mufti told the delegation that without Pakistan's involvement, Kashmir problem was unlikely to be resolved.

It is imperative to involve Pakistan in the dialogue so that a solution emerges to the Kashmir issue, she told PTI.

The delegation, on a three-day visit to the valley, had an hour-long meeting with vice-chancellor of the Kashmir Varsity yesterday.

Another report says, twenty militants and five security personnel were among 27 people killed and ten wounded in separate incidents in Jammu and Kashmir where security forces smashed several ultra hideouts since last evening.

32 killed in Christian village in Maluku

JAKARTA, Sept 27: At least 32 Christians were killed in a day-long attack by Muslims on an outlying village in Ambon, the capital of Indonesia's restive Maluku islands, a church worker said today, reports AFP.

The Muslim attackers were aided by government soldiers during the attack on the village of Hattive Besar on Tuesday, said Noya Filepistos of the Christian coordinating post at the Maranatha church in Ambon.

Filepistos said all the victims, many of whom died violently, were Christians.

"Until today, they have been able to evacuate 32 bodies," Filepistos told AFP by telephone from Ambon.

"Most of them, including a 10-month-old infant, were shot and their bodies tossed into fires" of houses torched by the attackers, he said.

He said reports of the deaths were given by "our activists who were in the village during the attack and reported the incidents by two-way radio."

But no new violence had been reported on Wednesday, Filepistos said.

He said the attackers had used mortars and automatic rifles and had come from other parts of the city, and that some of them had travelled by boat across the bay that divides the city.

Heat source of Sun's corona located

WASHINGTON, Sept 27: Astronomers have located the mysterious source that makes the sun's corona 1,000 times hotter than its visible surface, NASA said Tuesday, reports AFP.

"The mysterious energy source that makes the Sun's atmosphere so incredibly hot has been an enigma for more than 70 years, and before we discover what it is we need to learn where it is," said Markus Aschwanden of the Lockheed-Martin Solar and Astrophysics Laboratory in Palo Alto, California.

OSCE contests official Y'slav election results

VIENNA, Sept 27: The European security grouping, OSCE, challenged today official Yugoslav presidential election results showing that incumbent Slobodan Milosevic had avoided a first round defeat and demanded that all polling stations make public their results, reports AFP.

The official Yugoslav Federal Electoral Commission (FEC) announced late Tuesday that opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica had won 48.2 per cent of the vote to 40.2 per cent for Milosevic, sending the election to a second round run-off.

But independent monitors and the opposition said their vote count showed Kostunica winning

an overall majority of some 56 per cent in the first round, a result that would give him outright victory.

Kostunica rejected the election commission's ruling.

The Vienna-based Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe said the official results were announced "in a highly suspicious manner."

"If the FEC wants to convince the voters of Yugoslavia that the announced results are not fabricated, they must publish the full details of the results for all polling stations, for any intermediate levels, and for the federal level," the OSCE said.

Earlier, the battle for Yugosla-

via's presidency turned into a showdown late Tuesday when electoral officials said Slobodan Milosevic lost weekend elections but would get a second chance in a run-off -- a move immediately rejected by opposition challenger Vojislav Kostunica.

Minutes earlier, the country's federal election commission broke two days of silence after the Sunday vote to announce the first official results showing that Kostunica had won 48.2 per cent of the vote to Milosevic's 40.2 per cent.

A candidate requires 50 per cent to be declared the outright winner, failing which a run-off has to be called.

Ministry of Defence

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

198, Dhaka Cantonment
Dhaka-1206

Employment Notice

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladeshi male citizens for appointment of candidates to the undermentioned civil vacant posts in the Armed Forces Headquarters and inter-services organisations under the office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

| Sl No | Name of post and pay scale | Number of post | Educational qualification and experience | The districts of which candidate can apply |
|-------|---|----------------|---|---|
| a) | Civilian Staff Officer-3 (Library) 4300-7740/- (Female candidates also can apply) | 01 | a) First class Masters degree in Library Science from any recognised university, or b) Second class Masters degree with at least two years of experience in library work or Second class Masters degree with diploma in Library Science | All districts |
| b) | Assistant Director 4300-7740/- | 03 | First class Masters degree or second class Masters degree with second class honours from any recognised university. | Do |
| c) | Deputy Assistant Director 3400-6625/- | 02 | Second class honours degree or second class Masters degree from any recognised university. | Do |
| d) | Security Sub-Inspector 2375-5130/- | 03 | Bachelor degree passed from any recognised university | Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Shariatpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Feni, Laxmipur, Naogaon, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Joypurhat, Pabna, Khulna, Jessore, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Sylhet, Hobiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj. |
| e) | Security Supervisor 1875-3605/- | 02 | HSC or equivalent examination passed from any recognised board | Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Shariatpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Feni, Laxmipur, Naogaon, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Joypurhat, Khulna, Jessore, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Sylhet, Hobiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj. |
| f) | Office Clerk 1875-3605/- | 05 | HSC or equivalent examination passed from any recognised board. Should have the speed of at least 20 and 30 words in Bangla and English type. | Dhaka, Narayanganj, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Tangail, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Nawabganj, Natore, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Joypurhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Jessore, Jhenidah, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Bharguna, Sylhet, Hobiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj. |
| g) | Cook 1500-2400/- | 01 | Class VIII passed (Should have professional experience) | Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Tangail, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Nawabganj, Natore, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Joypurhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Jessore, Jhenidah, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Sylhet, Hobiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj. |

- The age of the candidates for all posts should be from 18 to 30 years as on 25-10-2000 and the age of offspring of freedom fighter or martyred freedom fighters should be from 18 to 32 years. The age limit is relaxable for the departmental candidates.
- Applications for candidates already in service should be sent through proper channel within the stipulated date. No application will be acceptable after the expiry of stipulated date.
- Applications in plain paper stating the name, father's name, permanent and present addresses, name of native district, date of birth, age on 25-10-2000, educational qualification and experience (if any) and with the undermentioned papers should reach the office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Ministry of Defence, 198, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206 by 25-10-2000.
- a) Photocopy of original certificates of all educational qualification along with other qualifications and experience (with the testimonial of SSC), without any sort of rubbing, attested by first class gazetted officers.
- b) Photocopy of citizenship certificate from the concerned union/charman of pourashava/commissioner attested by first class gazetted officer.
- c) In case of issue of freedom fighter/martyred freedom fighter, the photocopy of certificate signed by the chairman of MuktiJodha Sangsad and countersigned by the Chief Advisor attested by first class gazetted officer.
- d) Three copies of recent passport size photograph attested by first class gazetted officer.
- e) Character certificates given by two first class gazetted officers.
- f) For the posts mentioned in para 1 (a), (b), and (c) postal order for Taka 50 (fifty), for the posts mentioned in para 1 (d), (e) and (f) postal order for Taka 30 (thirty) and for the posts mentioned in 1 (g) postal order for Taka 15 (fifteen) in favour of the Chief Administrative Officer, Ministry of Defence.
- The authority can increase/decrease the number of posts if necessary.
- The name of the post applied for must be mentioned on the envelope containing application.
- An envelope, with the present address of the candidate written by the candidate, of the size 9" x 4" affixing a postal stamp of Taka two must be attached with the application. Otherwise applications will be regarded as rejected.

ISPR/Miscellaneous/2000/781
DFP-23122-24/9
G-1689

M Khalilur Rahman
Chief Administrative Officer

Directorate General Medical Services

Ministry of Defence
Dhaka Cantonment

Re-Tender Notice – For Purchase of Spectacles Financial Year 2000-2001

1. Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Director General Medical Services from manufacturers/suppliers for purchase of spectacles as per following specifications during the year 2000-2001 for Armed Forces personnel. The tenders will be dropped into the tender box at the office of undersigned up to 1000 hours on 05th October 2000 and opened at 1100 hours in presence of the participants on the same day:

- S/No** **Nomenclature**
- Complete spectacle with 1st quality English single vision spherical lenses in frame No 2060 and 2112 with a case.
 - Complete spectacle with 1st quality English single vision cylindrical lenses in frame No 2060 and 2112 with a case.
 - Complete spectacle with 1st quality English single vision compound lenses in frame No 2060 and 2112 with a case.
 - Complete spectacle with 1st quality English Kryptok Bifocal Spherical lenses in frame No 2060 and 2112 with a case.
 - Complete spectacle with 1st quality English Kryptok Bifocal Compound lenses in frame No 2060 and 2112 with a case.
 - Complete spectacle with 1st quality English Cataract Single Vision Spherical lenses in frame No 2060 and 2112 with a case.
 - Complete spectacle with 1st quality English Cataract Single Vision Compound lenses in frame No 2060 and 2112 with a case.
 - Complete spectacle with 1st quality English Cataract Bifocal Spherical lenses in frame No 2060 and 2112 with a case.
 - Complete spectacle with 1st quality English Cataract Bifocal Compound lenses in frame No 2060 and 2112 with a case.

2. In view of the above bidders may submit quotation for the same showing breakdown rates of frames/lenses and country of origin. When the rate quoted are acceptable, a contract deed will be signed under the arrangement of which the supplier will supply spectacles to personnel of different unit of Armed Forces as per requirement during the year 2000-2001.

3. **Earnest money:** An amount of Taka 5,000.00 (five thousand only) in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Director General Medical Services, Ministry of Defence, Dhaka Cantonment will have to be deposited along with the tender schedule as earnest money and the same is refundable.

4. The Director General Medical Services reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tender with or without assigning any reason.

Dated: 19 September 2000

ISPR/Army/2000/785

DFP-23126-24/9

G-1685

Lieutenant Colonel

For Director General Medical Services

Ministry of Defence

Dhaka Cantonment



Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

Head Office

TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

Re-Notice for Rent of Office

Tenders are invited from interested tenderers for rent of space for office about 17,122 square feet area with high quality mosaic, surrounded by Thai frame glass on the 5th floor of TCB Bhaban in front of Hotel Sonargaon at Kawran Bazar in Dhaka. Facilities will be given to keep 4/5 cars on the basement floor of office bhaban and there is a good arrangement for lift for ascent and descent and separate meter for consumption of water and electricity for use of the 5th floor. With detailed mentioned as per schedule including the monthly rent per square feet. Tenders can be dropped on 16-10-2000 by 12-00 noon in the tender box kept at the Administration Section at TCB Office and tenders will be opened the same day at 12-30 pm in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present). Government/semi-government/ autonomous/semi-autonomous/ bank/insurance/nationalised enterprises/established local/foreign multinational company and these types of establishments will be preferred.

Tender schedule can be purchased on payment of Tk 200.00 (two hundred taka) only (non-refundable) from Sonali Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch till 15-10-2000. 2% of the quoted rate of total monthly rent as the security money (refundable) in the forms of Pay-Order/Bank Draft from any schedule bank in favour of TCB will have to be submitted with the tender. Any sort of penning through or over-writing in tender will not be acceptable.

The TCB authority reserves the power to reject or accept any tender without assigning any reason.

SMA Karim

Deputy Secretary (Administration)

Phone: 9113544 (Direct)

PBX No-8111516, 8111517

DFP-23190-24/9

G-1690