

Floodwaters receding

Death toll rises to 819 in West Bengal

CALCUTTA, Sept 28 : The estimated death toll in devastating monsoon floods in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal climbed to 819 today as waters receded in several badly hit areas, facilitating relief work.

Haricharan Bhattacharjee from the flood relief control room in the state capital Calcutta told AFP that a total of 596 bodies had been recovered across the state, where at least 10 million people have been affected by the inundation.

"There are reports that 223 people are missing and it is highly likely that they are dead," he said. Bhattacharjee said 228 deaths had been reported from West Bengal's Birbhum district, adding that 10 others were missing.

In Murshidabad, another badly hit district, 200 people were feared dead and 256 corpses recovered, he said.

"But waters have been going down and have opened up new areas which were previously inaccessible," he said.

Large parts of Calcutta were inundated, with serious

waterlogging at landmark sites such as the famed Dakshineswar and Kalighat temples as well as several upmarket residential quarters.

Indian Railways Minister Mamata Banerjee, whose Calcutta home is near the flood-affected Kalighat temple, addressed reporters from her partially submerged home where she had stacked beds on top of each other to avoid getting wet.

Banerjee, whose party is in the opposition in the Marxist-ruled state, said in comments published Thursday that the state's ruling communists were to blame for the deluge.

She claimed the government had indiscriminately released water from swollen dams and reservoirs. The provincial government has defended the decision arguing the dams would have overflowed if this was not done.

"There is a water management policy for releasing water from reservoirs and dams," the railways minister said.

"Violating all norms, and in the dead of night, huge volumes were

released simultaneously without alerting people sleeping in their homes. They were not even given an opportunity to shift to safer places," she added.

Fernando Soares, a member of a Red Cross flood response team sent to West Bengal, said the relief effort was improving.

"Relief supplies are moving through to some isolated areas where the flood waters are receding. Some of these people have been without proper food and water supplies for five days," Soares told AFP.

Soares, however, said most areas of Nadia district, which houses the headquarters of the Hare Krishna sect, were still inaccessible.

West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu late Wednesday termed the floods a "national disaster" and appealed for federal help and aid.

"Our only demand is that the centre should send a team before the waters recede in the devastated areas," Basu told reporters.

Relief workers were especially concerned that marooned villages

were being forced to drink contaminated floodwater, thus exacerbating the risk of water-borne disease, especially among children and the elderly.

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

West Bengal Agriculture Minister Naren De said at least 1.05 million hectares (2.6 million acres) of farmland had been damaged by the floods.

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

In the eastern Indian state of Bihar, which adjoins West Bengal, at least 116 people have died in the ongoing floods.

In Bangladesh, which began to receive overspill from the Indian floods at the weekend, the official toll stood at 10 dead, with nearly two million people in eight border districts next to West Bengal affected.

Suharto's son to be arrested

JAKARTA, Sept 28 : Officials have ordered the arrest of the youngest son of former Indonesian president Suharto sentenced to an 18-month jail term for corruption, the justice minister said today, reports AFP.

Almost a week after the Supreme Court made its ruling behind closed doors last Friday, Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra was still at liberty on Thursday.

"He has to immediately serve his sentence ... It (his arrest) should be executed within the next one or two days," Justice Minister Yusril Ilha Mahendra said, before attending a cabinet meeting.

Volcano erupts anew in Japan

TOKYO, Sept 28 : A volcano on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido spewed ash today in its second eruption this month, but the danger to residents was slight, officials said, reports AFP.

The 1,133-meter (3,740-feet) Mount Komagatake blew its top again, following a minor eruption on September 5.

Judges dismiss Suharto case

Doctors pronounce him unfit for trial

JAKARTA, Sept 28 : In a shock ruling, Indonesian judges on Thursday dismissed the multi-million-dollar corruption case against former strongman Suharto after doctors pronounced him permanently unfit for trial, reports AFP.

The judges also released Suharto from house arrest.

The panel of judges ruled that the case of HM Suharto cannot be accepted and freed defendant HM Suharto from his city arrest and returns the dossier of the case in the name of defendant HM Suharto to the prosecutors," judge Lalu Maryun said.

As the court was deliberating its monumental verdict, police clashed with stone-throwing anti-Suharto students outside the trial firing tear gas and rubber bullets.

Suharto, 79, who stood down in May 1998 amid a wave of angry protests at his iron-fisted 32-year rule, has failed to attend all three sessions of his trial since it opened on August 31.

Each time his lawyers produced certificates of ill health from his private team of doctors.



The former army general was accused of stealing 571 million dollars from the state by allegedly funneling money from huge tax-free charity foundations he ran into the businesses of family and friends.

Mariyun, who heads the panel of judges, took the decision to dismiss the case after an independent team of doctors pronounced Suharto "permanently" unfit to face trial.

The head of the state prosecu-

tors' team, Muchtar Arifin, immediately appealed the verdict, which was greeted by shouts of "God is Great" and "Long Live Suharto," from a Suharto supporter inside the court.

Defence lawyer Muhammad Assegaf said Suharto's team had argued from the start that the former dictator had been too sick to stand trial.

"We are not saying that we are happy or unhappy," he said.

"From the start we have been convinced that our client is sick and we have repeatedly expressed this, and now it is proven that the judges, after hearing the explanation of the medical team, is of the same opinion as us."

Outside the trial held in a sprawling complex of the agriculture ministry in South Jakarta, pro- and anti-Suharto groups clashed with security personnel leaving at least five seriously injured and 20 arrested. Two pro-Suharto supporters were beaten up by a mob of hundreds which attacked their convoy of buses as they attempted to near the complex. One bus was set on fire.

Jerusalem, Al-Quds to be twin capitals: Barak

JERUSALEM, Sept 28 : Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak has acknowledged publicly for the first time that Jerusalem and Al-Quds, the Arabic name for the Holy City, will be twin capitals of Israel and a future Palestinian state, the Jerusalem Post said today, reports AFP.

But at the same time Barak again rejected a transfer of sovereignty over the disputed Temple Mount religious site to the Palestinians or to an Islamic body.

"It will be Jerusalem and Al-Quds, one next to the other, as two capitals," he was quoted as

saying in an interview with the paper to be published in full Friday.

"I do not know if there will be an agreement," Barak said.

"But if there is an agreement it will include an end to the conflict, permanent borders for Israel recognised by the world, 80 per cent of the settlers (in the West Bank and Gaza Strip) under Israeli sovereignty in permanent blocks, security arrangements, principally along the eastern border, and Jerusalem bigger than ever since King David."

And Barak added: "It was no

coincidence that I said that no Jewish prime minister will sign on a paper, document or agreement that transfers the sovereignty of the Temple Mount to the Palestinians or to an Islamic body."

Asked whether he would agree to transfer the mount, sacred to Jews as the site of their destroyed temples and to Muslims, who built the Al-Aqsa mosque there, to an international body like the UN, Barak said he did not want to discuss the issue at this point, the Post said.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie attend a party held in honour of Baroness Barbara Castle on Wednesday in Brighton. The function was held on Brighton's Palace Pier on the fourth day of the Labour Party's Annual conference in the town.

-AFP photo

29 hurt as Israeli cops fire on Palestinians

'Sharon's visit to Al Aqsa mosque dangerous'

JERUSALEM, Sept 28 : At least 29 people were hurt today when Israeli police fired on stone-throwing Palestinians protesting the visit of Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City, witnesses said, reports AFP.

At least four Palestinians were hit by rubber bullets fired by the police, while 25 policemen were hurt by stones, one of whom was hospitalised, according to police.

The Palestinians had denounced Sharon's visit as provocative, amid deadlock over which side would have sovereignty over the site in a future Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

"We came with a message of peace," Sharon said as he left the compound, known to Jews as

Temple Mount, claiming that four Arab members of the Israeli parliament had orchestrated the disturbances.

Israeli police chief Yehuda Wilk also said that the presence of the Arab MPs "made the atmosphere more tense and our job more difficult."

Meanwhile, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat branded as "a dangerous step" Thursday's visit by Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, which sparked violent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police.

"It was a dangerous step which caused harm to the Islamic holy places," Arafat told AFP. "The Arab and Islamic world must mobilise against such actions."

Greek ferry disaster survivor tells harrowing tale

LONDON, Sept 28 : A British woman, struggling to survive, watched her husband disappear in the waves as passengers in the sinking Greek ferry Express Samera were tossed overboard into the roaring Aegean sea, British newspapers reported today, reports AFP.

The tale of Marianne Richards and her husband Stephen, both 47, on a honeymoon trip in Greece, was given prominent coverage by several papers whose headlines suggested the ferry had struck rocks because its crew was busy watching a televised football match.

Both Marianne and Stephen,

who cannot swim, survived, scores of other passengers were killed.

Rescue operations were continuing late into Wednesday night to recover survivors and bodies from the passenger. The official death toll stood at 63, with hundreds more injured.

Foreign Office officials, quoted by The Sun newspaper, said 13 Britons survived the shipwreck.

Marianne Richards said she and her husband were awakened in their cabin by the crash and rushed onto the deck. She was able to get a lifejacket. He was not.

BRIEFLY

Sudanese polls set for Dec: Sudan will hold presidential and legislative elections in December, the electoral commission announced Wednesday, AFP reports from Khartoum.

Voting will take place from December 11-20 in the country's 26 regions, commission president Abdel Monem al-Zain al-Nahha told AFP. Election results will be published on December 24.

Child killer executed in Texas: Convicted murderer Ricky Nolen McGinn, who Texas Governor George W. Bush initially granted a stay of execution in June, was executed by lethal injection Wednesday in Huntsville prison near Houston, AFP reports from Houston.

McGinn, a 43-year-old mechanic and carpenter, was pronounced dead at 6:23 p.m. (4:23 BST), prison spokesman Larry Fitzgerald said.

Y'slav authorities announce run-off vote on Oct 8

Opposition threatens mass strike to clinch victory

BELGRADE, Sept 28 : Yugoslav authorities announced today that a second round of the presidential election would be held on October 8, a move swiftly rejected as "a joke" by the opposition, reports AFP.

The Yugoslav federal electoral commission (SEK) said "final results" of Sunday's polls showed opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica had won 48.96 per cent of the vote, while incumbent president Slobodan Milosevic won 38.62 per cent, the state agency Tanjug reported.

Therefore "in accordance with the law," the run-off between Kostunica and Milosevic will be held on Sunday October 8, it added.

The decision was immediately dismissed as a "joke" by the Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS), which insisted its candidate Kostunica won an outright victory in the first round of voting.

Western leaders, sensing an opportunity for peace and stability in the Balkans after a decade of bloodshed, weighed in to back the opposition Wednesday, stepping up demands for Milosevic to accept defeat and quit.

US President Bill Clinton intimated that Milosevic may be seeking to steal victory from the opposition and cautioned him to respect the will of the people.

"It certainly appears from a distance that they got a free election and somebody is trying to

steal it away from them," Clinton said, pledging US support for the opposition in its standoff with Milosevic.

Meanwhile, Yugoslavia's swelling opposition threw down the gauntlet today and called for a massive general strike and street protests to clinch the victory of Vojislav Kostunica over President Slobodan Milosevic.

After gathering together an immense crowd of 200,000 jubilant supporters in the capital for a victory rally Wednesday night, a strengthened opposition denounced the electoral commission's overnight demand for a second run-off round as "a joke" and said time was up for Milosevic.

Tigers hit back: 80 killed

COLOMBO, Sept 28 : Thousands of troops backed by aircraft and artillery pounded Tamil rebel positions in northern Sri Lanka today after intense ground battles that killed over 80 on both sides, officials said, reports AFP.

Security forces deployed ground attack aircraft and artillery to target separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels who staged diversionary attacks in the Jaffna peninsula, defence officials here said.

Defence ministry spokesman Sanath Karunaratne said ground troops had begun launching fresh attacks against the Tigers who attacked army "screen positions" in the Kilali sector of the peninsula on Tuesday evening.

He said 29 soldiers were killed while another 132 were wounded in the fighting in the Kilali sector and placed rebel losses at over 50 killed.

The latest offensive came five days after the military announced

it had retaken the town of Chavakachcheri from the Tamil Tigers following an offensive which began on September 3 and was conducted in three stages.

The military has said it lost 180 men and killed more than 600 rebels in nearly three weeks of fighting that resulted in the capture of Chavakachcheri.

The ruling People's Alliance has promised that troops will regain lost territory by October 10 when the country will go to the polls to elect a new parliament.

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 8914771-9, 8914730-4. CABLE: AIRBANGLA. TLX: 642649 DAGG BJ. Ref: DACPL26/2000-2001/CORRIGENDUM/159 Date: 26.09.2000

Corrigendum of Tender Notice

No 06/2000-2001

This refer to our Tender Notice No 06/2000-2001 dated 7.9.2000 published in the daily newspaper for procurement of various items. All participants are requested to please note the following amendments:

"Unavoidable circumstance the tender will be dropped on 4.10.2000 instead of 02.10.2000 & schedule will be available up to 3.10.2000.

All other terms and conditions of the tender notice/schedule will remain unchanged.

Dy General Manager (Purchase)
Stores & Purchase Directorate

GD-897

Iraqi abandons bid to hijack Jordanian plane

AMMAN, Sept 28 : An Iraqi armed with primitive bombs and claiming to be under the orders of "foreign enemies" gave up a bid to hijack a Jordanian airliner flying from Sanaa to Amman today, Jordan's civil aviation authority said, reports AFP.

The man, identified as Mohammad Yassin Hameidi, told the captain of the Royal Jordanian Airbus A310 he was not going ahead with his project and surrendered to police when the plane landed at Amman.

"During the flight one of the passengers sent a note to the captain via an air hostess saying he had been ordered to hijack the plane by foreign enemies."

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Bangladesh Railway

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Tel: 9882441, 9884902 Fax No. 880-2-8822635

No: PD/JBRLP/RU-6/99-1999 Dated: 26.09.2000

Sub: **Tender for Implementation of Balance Work of Resettlement Program under Jamuna Bridge Railway Link Project.**

The NGOs/Agencies having valid registration with the NGO Affairs Bureau, Social Welfare Department or any other Government Department of Bangladesh are invited to submit "Technical and Financial Proposal" in two separate sealed envelopes as per the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the subject mentioned work. The TOR may be purchased from the office of the General Manager/Project Director during office hours of all working days upto October 29, 2000.

TOR may be purchased at a cost of non-refundable cash Tk 1000.00 (one thousand) on production of the following documents:

- Valid registration documents.
- Completion certificate of worth 10 million in one project (related to involuntary resettlement) issued by the Project Director/head of the institution of any GOB funded project.

GD-899 **Chief Engineer**

Miss India Gayatri Anilkumar Joshi smiles for photographers during the Miss International Beauty Pageant press preview at a Tokyo hotel on Wednesday. Joshi is one of 56 contestants to compete for Miss International crown.

-AFP photo

BRIEFLY

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ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ

প্রধান কার্যালয়
৮, রাজউক এ্যাভিনিউ, ঢাকা

তারিখঃ ২৪.০৯.২০০০ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ কর্পোরেশনে প্রিন্টার সরবরাহের দরপত্র আহ্বান প্রসংগে

ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ এর জন্য নিম্নোক্ত স্পেসিফিকেশনের প্রিন্টার সরবরাহের জন্য নিম্নোক্ত শর্তাবলীসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্র তফসিলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী পালন সাপেক্ষে যাদের প্রয়োজনীয় বিজ্ঞপ্তির সেবা ও মেরামত কাজের সুবিধা রয়েছে এরূপ অগ্রাহ্য এজেন্ট/ডিলার/ডিস্ট্রিবিউটার এর নিকট হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব লেটার হেড প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

০১। দরপত্র আগামী ০৫ অক্টোবর, ২০০০ তারিখ বেলা ১১-৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে কর্পোরেশনের সংস্থাপন বিভাগে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব দাখিল করতে হবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১১.৪৫ মিনিটে দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে;

০২। দরপত্রের সাথে উক্ত দরপত্রের ৫% পরিমাণ অর্থ আনক্সিমান হিসাবে ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংকের পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে;

০৩। অফিস চলাকালে কর্পোরেশনের প্রধান কার্যালয়ের সংস্থাপন বিভাগ হতে ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা নগদ পরিশোধপূর্বক (অফিসেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্র তফসিলি ক্রয় করতে হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন দরপত্র তফসিলি ক্রয় করা হবে না;

০৪। কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

কফিল উদ্দিন আহমাদ চৌধুরী
সহকারী মহাবাহাণীক
সংস্থাপন বিভাগ

জিডি-৮৯৮

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

আবশ্যিক

ডি-৬৬২(২)

তাঃ-২৭-৯-০০

টাঃ ৪০০০-৭৭৪০/- বেতন স্কেলে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন পরিদপ্তরের প্রকিউরমেন্ট অফিসারের ১ (একটি) স্থায়ী পদ পূরণের নিমিত্ত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

নির্ধারিত যোগ্যতাঃ

২nd class BSc. Engg Degree with good academic records. Candidates having experience in Procurement (both Local and Foreign Purchase) and Computer records (database) works will be preferred.

OR,

At least 2nd class Master's Degree or a 4 years 2nd class Bachelor's Degree with good academic records. Candidates having experience in Procurement works (both Local and Foreign Purchase) and Computer records (database) will be preferred.

OR

2nd class Graduate with at least 7 years experience in Procurement works (both Local and Foreign Purchase) and Computer records (database) in a responsible position.

* In case of Internal Candidate, Qualification may be relaxed.

বিদেশী ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীগণকে বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা হইতে তাহাদের বিদেশী ডিগ্রি ইকুইভ্যালেন্স সম্পর্কে প্রত্যাশনপত্র গ্রহণপূর্বক উহা অবশ্যই দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের কম্পিউটার এর অনুকূলে প্রদেয় টাঃ ২৫/- টাকার ক্রসড পোষ্টাল অর্ডার/পে-অর্ডার (যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের ঢাকা মহানগর শাখা কর্তৃক জারীকৃত)/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ঢাকা মহানগরস্থ যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের শাখার উপর জারীকৃত) সমেত পূর্ণাঙ্গ ১০ (দশ) সেট দরপত্র (পূর্ণাঙ্গ বায়োডাটা উল্লেখ এবং অতীত ও বর্তমান চাকরির পদমর্যাদা, বেতন স্কেল ও তারিখ উল্লেখপূর্বক) সকল সাটিফিকেট, টেনিসিডোমেনিয়েল, ট্রান্সক্রিপ্ট ও মার্কশীট এর সত্যায়িত কপি সহ রেজিস্ট্রার এর বরাবরে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

চাকরিতে প্রার্থীগণকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে।

দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখঃ ২৫-১০-২০০০ইং

জিডি-৮৯৬ **রেজিস্ট্রার**