



A female refugee washes her clothes in their makeshift accommodation at Meulaboh College yesterday after the city was flattened by an earthquake and tsunami on December 26, 2004. The Indonesian death toll from the earthquake and tsunami disaster has climbed nearly 6,000 to 107,039, the social affairs ministry's relief coordination center said.

**Manmohan reassures tsunami survivors**

AFP, Port Blair

India's premier visited the tsunami-wrecked Andaman and Nicobar islands yesterday to view first-hand relief operations and reassure traumatised inhabitants life will return to normal.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told reporters he came to tell "people that normalcy will be completely restored in these beautiful islands" which was hit hard by the killer tsunami.

About 1,205 people are confirmed dead and 5,531 still missing and feared dead on the Andamans which lay close to the epicentre of the underground earthquake off Indonesia that triggered the giant waves on December 26.

Nationwide the death toll stood at least 10,012 people and 5,624 missing, most feared dead, with the hardest-hit state Tamil Nadu recording 7,941 dead.

**Americans urged to open wallet for tsunami victims**

**UN chief tours tsunami-ravaged Lanka**

AFP, Washington

President George W. Bush yesterday urged Americans to contribute to charities responding to the tsunami disaster, saying he had extended a tax benefit for Americans who support such groups.

The world is "seeing the good heart of America in an outpouring of generosity here at home," Bush said in his weekly radio address. "Private citizens are showing their compassion in creative and inspiring ways."

He noted that he had recruited two former presidents, his father, George Bush, and Bill Clinton, "to encourage contributions both large and small, directly to the organizations with recovery efforts underway in the disaster area."

"To encourage support for these groups, I have signed legislation allowing Americans to deduct from their 2004 federal income tax cash contributions made to tsunami relief efforts this month. I urge all Americans to contribute as they are able."

Americans who contribute a certain portion of their income to charity can avoid paying taxes on that amount. Under the new law donations made to tsunami relief this

January can still be deducted on tax returns filed for calendar year 2004.

Private US donations to aid tsunami victims reportedly passed 337 million dollars and could soon dwarf the 350 million dollars pledged by the federal government, while European governments Saturday marshaled additional resources to bolster relief operations.

The Washington Post said many US charities are raising money faster than they can spend it and are holding some back for long-term reconstruction in response to the December 26 tsunami disaster, which killed around 156,000 people in 11 countries in south Asia and east Africa.

Meanwhile, UN chief Kofi Annan Saturday toured tsunami-ravaged areas of Sri Lanka as fresh tension flared between the government and Tamil Tiger rebels and the WHO declared the health situation of thousands displaced on the island to be under control.

Tension between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government had already been ratcheted up after the rebels Wednesday accused the security forces of preventing private donations from getting to temporary shelters holding tsunami survivors in their zones -- claims the government denied.

**70-year-old man found alive in tsunami rubble in Aceh**

AFP, Jakarta

A 70-year-old Indonesian man has been found alive after surviving for 11 days under the rubble of his home that was demolished in the tsunami disaster, a report said yesterday.

Rescue workers uncovered Muhammad Zaini in a very weak condition as they ploughed through wreckage in Banda Aceh, the nearly flattened capital of Aceh province.

"The ground shook, the house's walls collapsed. It seems that I was floating as the water carried me away before a wall collapsed on me," Kompas daily newspaper quoted Zaini as saying.

"I no longer remember how I survived. I only drank water around me because I could not move my body."

**Shias guarantee presence of Sunnis in next govt**

AFP, Baghdad

Politicians from Iraq's Shia majority, wary of the threat of civil war, are eager for Sunni Muslims to join the next government even if the once powerful minority community skips the elections.

Two preeminent leaders heading a coalition of Shia parties considered the favourite in the January 30 polls told AFP they want Sunnis to have posts in the government regardless of the vote outcome.

The attitude points to a realisation among the country's 15-million Shias, poised to rule Iraq for the first time in their history, that they have to find accommodation with Sunni Muslims who have lost political influence with the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Iraq's Shia political frontrunner Abdel Aziz Hakim, from the Supreme Council for the Shia Revolution in Iraq

(SCIRI), and Jawad Maliky, the number two in the powerful Dawa party, reached out to Sunni Muslims Friday, saying the minority would be guaranteed posts in the next government.

"Whether the Sunnis have many or few seats in the next parliament, we need the real participation of all," said Hakim, the top candidate on the Unified Iraqi Alliance, a 228-member list of Shia parties running for parliament.

"All must participate in the governmental authority and we will insist that they (Sunnis) be represented in the government, that they have posts and they should also have a voice in drafting the constitution and responsibilities in the government. This is what we are seeking to achieve," Hakim said.

It was the bluntest comment to date from Hakim, a man judged with suspicion by many Sunnis for his two-decade sojourn in Iran, where he

conducted a cross-border war against Saddam and bonded with leaders of the country's theocratic regime.

Maliky, the second in command in the fundamentalist Dawa party, one of Iraq's oldest Shia movements founded in the 1950s, also stretched out his hand in the spirit of political compromise.

Maliky said he would be open to even guaranteeing seats for Sunnis in the new 275-seat assembly.

"We are open to an accord between all parties involved including the United Nations that can provide temporary representation on the national assembly for some parts of the country that for some reason does not take part in the vote," said Hakim.

He said he believed such a proposal could solve the impasse in the Sunni Muslim areas like Fallujah and Mosul, where the volatile insurgency has turned communities into war zones.

**ASIAN TSUNAMI DISASTER Japan orders biggest military deployment**

AFP, Tokyo

Japan will send some 1,000 military personnel to Indonesia in the country's biggest overseas deployment since World War II to help victims of the Asian tsunami disaster, an official said yesterday.

Japanese defence chief Yoshinori Ono issued the dispatch order Friday following talks with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi who has called on the country's military, known as the Self-Defence Forces, to do their utmost to help survivors.

The troops will mainly provide medical and transport support, a defence agency spokesman said. The contingent includes some 640 marines, 220 ground forces and 100 air force personnel, according to the Mainichi Shimbun daily.

Massive tsunami waves caused by a powerful earthquake off the coast of the northern Indonesian island of Sumatra on December 26 killed almost 160,000 people in 11 countries.

**Militants attack Kashmir tax office: 7 killed**

AFP, Srinagar

Seven people died in a two-day battle between militants and security forces at a federal tax office in revolt-hit Indian Kashmir that ended yesterday, police officials said.

"The operation is over," senior police official Javed Maqdoomi told reporters in Srinagar, capital of Indian Kashmir where an insurgency against New Delhi's rule has raged since 1989.

In all, two militants, four security force personnel and a tax official had died in the fighting, he said.

The attack began when two grenade-hurling rebels stormed the high-security federal income tax compound late Friday afternoon. A dozen security force personnel and income tax officials were injured during the clash, police said.

Police had originally believed they had killed both militants Friday but

one remained alive, Maqdoomi said. The guerrilla began hurling grenades and firing at security forces when they approached the building Saturday.

Friday's attack led to a massive blaze in which some 60 people were rescued from the three-storey building after flames believed sparked by the firing engulfed the top floor. Huge numbers of documents were lost.

A lesser-known pro-Pakistan

rebel group al Mansoorain claimed responsibility for the attack in telephone calls to local media.

The revolt has left more than 40,000 people dead by official count. Separatists put the toll between 80,000 and 100,000.

Violence has continued in the scenic Himalayan state despite a tentative peace process between nuclear rivals India and Pakistan which have fought three wars, two over Kashmir.

**Italian trains collide in heavy fog: 14 killed**

AFP, Rome

Fourteen people died Friday in northern Italy when a passenger train collided with a freight train in heavy fog, turning the leading coaches into a jagged concertina of torn blue and white metal.

Four or five passengers were reported gravely injured and more than 50 suffered less serious injuries, Italian Transport Minister Pietro Lunardi said. The four engineers were among the 14 dead.

**Aid offers soar, so does death toll**

THE ISLAND/ ANN, Colombo

As world leaders responded with unprecedented generous aid to rebuild and rehabilitate hundreds of tsunami disaster-hit localities and districts across 14 countries in Asia, the death toll rose to unexpected limits.

The latest reports from the affected regions said Sri Lanka's death toll has reached 30,500 with another 3,884 missing but Indonesia, the worst hit country's death toll was 113,306 with 10,000 missing.

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Japan, China, USA, France, Britain and many more nations have already come forward with material, financial, medical and other specialist assistance to Sri Lanka. The US government, while increasing its assistance, has also given tax relief to US citizens who contribute towards

the disaster-hit regions.

At the one-day summit in Indonesia Thursday (7) World leaders agreed to increase aid to the tsunami hit nations, where at least 159,000 people died, with Australia leading with 810 million dollar in aid. Germany, Japan and the United States were the other nations contributing major assistance funds but US State Secretary Collin Powell was reported saying after the summit that the US would watch the situation and pledge more aid.

Japanese Foreign Minister Machimura said Japan had already pledged 500 million dollars. Meanwhile, the WHO Secretary General warned that around 150,000 persons living in temporary shelters in the affected countries were at risk in the event of disease breaking out in these shelters.

**UN probe finds serious abuse in DR Congo**

AFP, United Nations

Allegations that UN staff sexually abused Congolese girls as young as 13 reflects a grave, long-term problem among Blue Helmet peacekeepers and a civilian, said a UN report released Friday.

"The investigation ... found that the problem was serious and ongoing," said the internal affairs report, on 72 cases of alleged abuse.

The report said 20 cases were sufficiently detailed to move forward. One of those involved a civilian UN employee and the other 19 were UN peacekeepers.



US former president Jimmy Carter (L) shakes hands with presidential candidate Mahmud Abbas after a meeting in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday. Carter is in the region as part of an international delegation to monitor today's Palestinian presidential elections.

**And the fattest city is...**

REUTERS, Houston

Houston tops a US magazine's annual fattest cities list for the fourth time in five years, with four other Texas cities waddling into the top 25.

Fast food restaurants -- Houston has twice the national per capita average -- are partly to blame for the dishonor, Men's Fitness editor-in-chief Neal Boulton said.

"Americans ... work long hours, don't take vacations, and when you're faced with the worst nutritional choices, you indulge in those," he said.

High humidity, poor air quality and some of the nation's longest commute times also helped Texas' most populous city unseat Detroit, the 2004 heavyweight champion, the magazine said.

**Julia Roberts buys land from Rumsfeld**

AP, New York

With newly born twins, it looks like Julia Roberts needs some extra space. The actress has bought 32 acres of Taos, New Mexico, real estate from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, People magazine reports.

According to the magazine, since taking up part-time residence in New Mexico in 1995, Roberts has bought other pieces of property adjacent to hers. The plot purchased from Rumsfeld is in an area of Taos known as Des Montes neighbors the 80 acres Roberts already owns.

**US General warns of 'spectacular' attacks**

**Bush expresses optimism about Iraqi polls**

AP, Baghdad

A US general warned Friday that insurgents may be planning "spectacular" attacks to scare voters in the three weeks before Iraq's landmark elections, and Shia and Sunni religious leaders voiced sharply divergent views on whether the vote should be held at all.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Erv Lessel, who is deputy chief of staff for strategic communications in Iraq, said the United States has no intelligence indicating specific plots, but he said American leaders expected a rise in attacks.

He said the insurgents' biggest weapon was their ability to instill fear.

"I think a worst case is where they have a series of horrific attacks that cause mass casualties in some spectacular fashion in the days leading up to the elections," Lessel said.

"If you look over the last six months, they have steadily escalated the barbaric nature of the

attacks they have been committing. A year ago, you didn't see these kinds of horrific things," he said.

In Washington, President Bush expressed optimism about the Jan. 30 elections, saying they will be "an incredibly hopeful experience," despite rising violence and doubts that the vote will bring stability and democracy.

"I know it's hard but it's hard for a reason," Bush said, adding that the insurgents are trying to impede the elections because they fear freedom. He acknowledged security problems in four of Iraq's 18 provinces.

The comments came amid an escalating insurgency ahead of the parliamentary vote believed to be led by minority Sunnis whose dominated the country during Saddam Hussein's regime. In the election the first democratic vote in Iraq since the country was formed in 1932 the Sunnis are certain to lose their dominance to the Shias, who comprise 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million population.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Civil Surgeon, Sirajganj

Memo No-CS/Siraj/Account/2004-2005/3707 Dated: 19-12-2004

**Tender Notice**

Tenders under sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders/suppliers/contractors/stationery shop owners for diet supply, linen washing & stationery & miscellaneous items supply of 100-bed Sirajganj General Hospital, Khokshabari 10-bed Rural Health Centre under Sirajganj Sadar thana, Ullapara 20-bed Hospital and stationery & miscellaneous items supply for Sirajganj Civil Surgeon's Office, Sirajganj Seba Institute, Cardiovascular Diseases Clinic & Sadar Upazila Health Complex and diet, linen washing & stationery & miscellaneous supply of Shahjadpur, Ullapara, Tarash, Raiganj, Kazipur, Chowhali, Belkuchi & Kamarkhand 31-bed Upazila Health Complex.

Tender schedule for all works consisting rules & regulations and terms & conditions can be purchased from Civil Surgeon's Office, Sirajganj & Sirajganj Police Super's Office by depositing the money stated in the undermentioned schedule (non-refundable) under Accounts Code No 1-2711-0000-2366 in Govt Treasury Sonali Bank Sirajganj Branch & submitting the original copy of challan as well as applying in contractor's own pad. Besides, tender schedule will be available from Sirajganj General Hospital, Shahjadpur, Ullapara, Tarash, Raiganj, Kazipur, Chowhali, Belkuchi, Kamarkhand Upazila Health Complex & Health Institute concerned at Ullapara 20-bed Hospital. In case of purchasing tender schedule from Upazila Health Complex, the money can be deposited at Sonali Bank situated at respective thana.

Tender schedule shall be available on the undermentioned date during office hours and tenders will be received in tender box kept at respective health institutions & Civil Surgeon's Office on the said date & time. The tender boxes taken together shall be opened on the said date & time by the tender committee in presence (if any) at Sirajganj Civil Surgeon's Office.

2. Price of tender schedule, amount of earnest money, date of selling & receiving schedule and date & time of opening tender etc are given below.

Sl No	Name of health institution	Description of tender schedule	Price of schedule (non-refundable)	Amount of earnest money	Date of selling schedule	Tender receiving date & time	Opening of tender box date & time
1	Sirajganj Civil Surgeon's Office, Sirajganj & Sirajganj Police Super's Office	Supply of stationery & miscellaneous items	400/-	6,000/-	15-1-05 to 16-1-05 (during office hours)	17-1-05 up to 2:00 PM (at Noon)	17-01-05 at 2:00pm (at Sirajganj Civil Surgeon's Office)
2	Sirajganj General Hospital	Diet supply	750/-	48,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
3	-do-	Linen washing	400/-	10,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
4	Khokshabari 10-bed Rural Health Centre	Diet supply	400/-	5,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
5	-do-	Linen washing	400/-	1,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
6	Ullapara 20-bed Hospital	Diet supply	400/-	10,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
7	-do-	Supply of stationery & miscellaneous items	400/-	2,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
8	-do-	Linen washing	400/-	2,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
9	Upazila Health Complex, Shahjadpur, Ullapara, Belkuchi, Kamarkhand	Diet supply	400/-	15,000/-	24-1-05 to 25-1-05 during office hours	26-1-05 up to 12:30pm	26-01-05 at 2:00pm at the office of Civil Surgeon
10	-do-	Supply of stationery & miscellaneous items	400/-	3,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
11	-do-	Linen washing	400/-	2,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
12	Upazila Health Complex, Tarash, Raiganj, Kazipur	Diet supply	400/-	15,000/-	26-01-05 to 27-1-05 during office hours	29-1-05 up to 12:30pm	29-01-05 at 2:00pm at the office of Civil Surgeon
13	-do-	Supply of stationery & miscellaneous items	400/-	3,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
14	-do-	Linen washing	400/-	2,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
15	Upazila Health Complex, Chowhali	Diet supply	400/-	15,000/-	29-1-05 to 30-1-05 during office hours	31-1-05 up to 12:30pm	1-2-05 at 11:00am at the office of Civil Surgeon
16	-do-	Supply of stationery & miscellaneous items	400/-	3,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
17	-do-	Linen washing	400/-	2,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-

3. All tenders should be addressed to Civil Surgeon, Sirajganj. With tenders for Sirajganj Civil Surgeon's Office, General Hospital, Cardiovascular Diseases Clinic, Seba Institute, Sadar Health Complex, Khokshabari Rural Health Centre & Ullapara 20-bed Hospital, the earnest money CD/BD should be submitted in favour of Civil Surgeon, Sirajganj and with tenders for other 31-bed Upazila Health Complex, the earnest money CD/BD should be submitted in favour of respective Upazila Health & FP Officer.

4. The undermentioned papers should be submitted with the tender:

- Attested photocopy of 2004-2005 financial year trade licence (photocopy of trade licence should be attested by respective municipality chairman/union council chairman or officer in charge).
- Attested photocopy of financial solvency certificate from any scheduled bank.
- Attested photocopy of 2003-04 financial year income tax clearance certificate (such certificate as in case income tax case in process, tax assessment completed, income tax case settled shall not be acceptable).
- With the tender for linen washing & stationery items supply deposit of only trade licence will do.
- In case of attestation of the papers to be submitted with tender, name & designation seal of attesting officer should be used.

5. Tender must be submitted Health Institute & group of work based separate envelopes superscribing name of health institute & name of group of work there upon. More than one schedule in the same envelope shall not be accepted.

6. Tender committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason. Decision of the tender committee shall be treated as final.

7. Other terms & conditions are given in the tender schedule.

DFP-30972-22/12  
G-36

Dr Md Mizanur Rahman  
Civil Surgeon, Sirajganj

**Bangladesh Handloom Board**  
BTMC Bhaban (4th floor)  
7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

**Tender Notice for Sale of Transport**

Sealed auction tenders are invited from interested persons/firms for sale of Bangladesh Handloom Board's condemned declared Jeep Dhaka Metro-Bha-7276 Mitsubishi, diesel driven 80 PM, Model 1987 & Dhaka Metro-Ka-02-2052 Toyota Land Cruiser diesel driven 3431 cc, Model 1988. Detailed description is given in tender schedule. Tender schedule can be purchased at Tk. 400/= (four hundred) only per set in cash (non-refundable) from Accounts Department of Bangladesh Handloom Board during office hours up to 15-01-2005.

Tenders should be deposited in tender box kept at Administration Department of Head Office of Bangladesh Handloom Board by 12-00 noon of 18-01-2004. Tenders shall be opened on the same day at 12-30 hours. Earnest money at the rate 10% of quoted amount should be deposited with tender. Interested tenderers can inspect the transports on the spot at the Board's garage during office hours.

Bangladesh Handloom Board authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-31761-11  
G-37

**Sitangshu Sen**  
Secretary