

100 hurt in Thai subway crash

AGENCIES, Bangkok

Around 100 people were injured when two trains on Bangkok's five-month-old subway system crashed during the morning rush hour, officials and witnesses said.

The accident prompted authorities to suspend train services for the day and officials said they will announce resumption of services later.

The accident happened around 9:30 am (0230 GMT) when the train headed for Hua Lam Pong.

left Thailand's cultural center station was hit from behind by another train that was empty, police Maj. Gen. Dusitsan Teraphat, Bangkok's deputy police commissioner, told Thai television.

"Initial reports said almost 100 people were injured. Police and authorities rescued all passengers from the train," Dusitsan said.

Prapat Chongsanguan, governor of the Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authority, said the empty train had just left a maintenance station where it received repairs when it slammed into the crowded rush-hour train carrying some 700 people.

He said officials were still investigating the cause of the accident, but an initial probe indicated that it was caused by computer failure.

Prapat told reporters at the scene that the driver of the empty train had been hospitalized with serious injuries.

Thanyashan Srithongkam, a 38-

year-old lawyer, told AFP he was waiting on the platform with the crash happened.

The passenger train had just closed its doors and was still stopped at the platform, he said, adding that the empty train seemed to be going in reverse when they collided.

Passengers reportedly attempted to get out of the train, but there was no emergency exit and it took about 10 minutes for the guards to find keys to open the doors.

Television footage show people being carried from the station, some of them visibly bleeding.

MRTA was opened late last year and had an initial daily traffic of about 120,000 people. (The Nation/AFP/Asia News Network)

Politics, bureaucracy and fatigue hit tsunami aid effort

AFP, Meulaboh

Three weeks after one of the worst natural disasters in global memory, survivors of the Asian tsunamis grappled with bureaucracy and politicking Monday as the world's attention turned elsewhere.

Thousands more bloated corpses pulled from the rubble took the death toll from the December 26 catastrophe to more than 168,000, while the upcoming Iraqi elections and President George W. Bush's inauguration inexorably took over the top spots in world news.

Indonesia backtracked on a demand that foreign soldiers involved in humanitarian work get out of the country within three months and in Thailand the leaders of Canada, Sweden, Norway and Finland were discussing reconstruc-

tion and efforts to identify the dead.

But survivors battled new difficulties, such as the impenetrable Indonesian bureaucracy that bars access to a huge outpouring of aid from a world shocked by the suffering of families around the Indian Ocean.

"We are like persons who do not exist. We have been hit hard by the disaster, lost everything and are famished," said Busriadi, a fisherman from the Tenggiri hamlet in what was the village of Ule Lhee near Aceh's capital, Banda Aceh, on Indonesia's Sumatra island.

"Where is the food, the clothes and other relief we can see on television flowing into Aceh?"

Busriadi, like thousands of others, lost his identity cards and other official documents to the sea, making his quest for aid a Kafkaesque nightmare.

Second terms often marked by scandal

AFP, Washington

Every two-term presidency since World War II has been tainted by scandal.

Worst of all was Republican Richard Nixon, forced to quit after his administration was behind a burglary at Democratic offices in Washington's Watergate hotel before his re-election in 1972. The facts were not revealed until the following year.

In August 1974, Nixon resigned to avoid impeachment, only after his vice president, Spiro Agnew, resigned in the face of income tax evasion charges.

Democrat Bill Clinton, easily re-elected in 1996, was impeached but stayed in office. He was accused of perjury in trying to cover up his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.



Indonesian tsunami disaster survivors wait in queue to get some food at a refugee camp in Banda Aceh yesterday.

Abbas asks forces to prevent attacks

2 Palestinians shot dead, Hamas rejects PLO call

REUTERS, AFP, Ramallah

New Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas ordered security forces yesterday to prevent all attacks on Israel by militants who have defied his calls for calm, a cabinet minister said.

Israel described the measure as a "small step," but not enough to resume ties with Abbas, which it cut the day before he was sworn in to succeed Yasser Arafat Saturday. The Israeli move followed an attack in Gaza that killed six Israelis.

Israel has made a halt to violence a condition for talks and the bloodshed in Gaza has weighed on optimism for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after Arafat's death.

"Abu Mazen (Abbas) and the cabinet gave clear instructions to the security chiefs to prevent all kinds of violence, including attacks against Israel," cabinet minister

Qadoura Fares told Reuters.

Fares did not say exactly what action would be taken by the security forces, which have been sapped by four years of violence and some of whom lack weapons. Close ties often exist with militants, seen as heroes by many Palestinians.

Abbas is due to visit Gaza this week for a new attempt to win over militants to a truce that could strengthen prospects for talks on Palestinian statehood on land captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel has little faith the militants can be won over and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the army Sunday it could take any action needed "to stop terror."

Reacting to Abbas's order, a senior Israel official said: "There is no doubt this is a small step in the right direction. The real test will be in implementation."

SECOND TERM

Domestic, foreign policy challenges to haunt Bush

REUTERS, Washington

President Bush will be confronted by strong domestic and foreign policy challenges as he begins a second term this week that will go a long way toward determining his place in the pantheon of American presidents.

His flag-waving inauguration on Thursday will begin the countdown for an intense period of activity as he attempts to stare down critics and gain congressional approval for changing Social Security, the tax code and the legal system before his chances for action narrow with the mid-term elections in 2006.

"These are big goals," he told USA

Today. "But I'm the kind of person that believes in trying to solve big problems before they become acute."

Fierce partisan politics could complicate Bush's plans for domestic policy changes.

And foreign crises have a way of disrupting the best laid plans of a president.

The insurgency in Iraq threatens to make it more difficult to get an elected government in place in Iraq that will allow the ultimate departure of US troops, starting this year. He is trying to launch a new Middle East peace initiative, while keeping North Korea and Iran from becoming nuclear powers.



Palestinian women hold pictures of prisoners held in Israeli jails during a demonstration in the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday. Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas dedicated his landslide election victory last week to all Palestinian "martyrs, those who have been wounded as well as the 11,000 prisoners behind bars" in Israeli jails.

US pulls back aid supply ships from Lanka

AFP, Colombo

The US yesterday pulled back two military supply ships deployed for tsunami-relief operations in Sri Lanka even as Canada vowed a long-term commitment of its troops to help the island get back on its feet.

Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said the United States would maintain the 700-strong marine force to help with the tsunami clean up, but the supply ships were moving to neighbouring Maldives which was also devastated.

Following an inspection of US marine operations in the southern port town of Galle, 112km south of

the capital, Wolfowitz told reporters here they would not stay longer than needed.

"We don't want to stay any longer than we are wanted. Most certainly not longer than we are needed," he said noting that the marines were deployed because they had the capability to respond quickly to the December 26 disaster.

The scale of the catastrophe was much larger in Indonesia and the need for helicopters was far less in Sri Lanka because most affected areas could now be accessed by road, he said.

Sri Lankan officials meanwhile gave conflicting figures for the

tsunami fatalities.

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin travelled to the eastern district of Ampara which had the highest official death toll of 10,436 killed and promised long-term aid.

"I will also raise the question of rumours of child recruitment (by the Tigers) and want to pass on a message unequivocally that it is not acceptable to Canada," he said here.

As Martin travelled to the east Wolfowitz had a similar tour of the island's south.

"Sri Lanka has very rapidly passed the emergency phase," Wolfowitz said.

Rice hearing to lay out US foreign policy

REUTERS, Washington

The Bush administration begins to lay out its second term foreign policy agenda this week when Condoleezza Rice undergoes two days of hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

There is little doubt that Rice, for four years President Bush's national security adviser and now the first African-American woman nominated to be secretary of state, will be confirmed. This is expected as soon as Wednesday.

But she must first answer questions from senators on topics ranging from her role in shaping America's response to al-Qaeda before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to the Iraq war and its chaotic aftermath, Iran, North Korea, China,

Russia and the US response to the Asian tsunami, Senate sources say.

Although Rice, 50, has spent years in government - including as an adviser to Bush's father - this will be her first Senate confirmation, a ritual that could be grueling.

As secretary of state, Rice would be fourth in line to succeed Bush and "the committee will do due diligence no matter how positively inclined they are about her," one senior Democratic Senate aide said.

Rice last year testified publicly before the commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks. Generally, national security advisers provide counsel privately to the president.

"There's a pent-up curiosity about her, a lot of questions about how she thinks about the world," the Democratic aide said.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE NETWORK
(An enterprise of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh)
Head Office: 65 Lake Circus, Kalabagan, Dhaka-1205
Tel: 8158502-3. E-mail: nhn@ctechco.net

Tender Notice
No. NHN/45-043/TD-06
FOR SECURITY & CLEANING SERVICES

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from bonafide and reputed security firms for providing SECURITY AND CLEANING services to the 18 (eighteen) different diagnostic centres of NHN in & around Dhaka city.

Tender schedules will be available at the Account Section of NHN Head Office on all working days from 18/01/05 to 31/01/05 between 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on cash payment of Tk. 1000/- (one thousand) per set (non-refundable).

Offers will be received through the tender box in front of room no. 609 of the NHN Head Office, up to 12.00 p.m. on 01/02/05 and opened on the same date at 12.15 p.m. in the presence of the bidders.

The NHN authority is not bound to accept the lowest offer and it reserves the right to accept any or reject all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Dr. Abul Quasem
Project Director

NHN for Diabetic, Nondiabetic & Diagnostic Services

India to appoint body on Kashmir autonomy
AFP, New Delhi

India said yesterday it would appoint a committee to examine the issue of granting disputed Indian Kashmir more regional autonomy, the United News of India agency reported.

"We decided to have a three or more member committee that will discuss autonomy," the agency quoted Indian home minister Shivraj Patil as telling reporters.

The committee will come up with certain proposals which will be given to the home ministry. I will discuss them with the prime minister (Manmohan Singh). We will then examine the whole issue of autonomy," Patil said.

The Kashmir state legislative assembly in 2000 passed a resolution favouring autonomy for the region except in defence, finance and communication - an arrangement that was in place before 1952.

Nepalese students shout slogans as they stand behind a burning barricade while taking part in rally protesting petroleum price hike at Patan near Kathmandu during the day-long general strike yesterday. Four main political parties of Nepal slapped the strike in the Kathmandu Valley.
PHOTO: AFP

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

An organization involved in developing infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, invites applications for the following positions.

- Post Title: Project Management Executive**

Duties and responsibilities: Obtain, review, award and manage the inputs from expatriate and local consultants, set up appropriate project management structures for managing time, costs, deliverables and other monitoring mechanisms, prepare management reports and identify critical constraints, prepare action plan, project schedules, monitor and evaluate overall progress, provide monthly reports to management.

Qualifications: At least an MBA or MCom or a Bachelor's engineering degree with a strong emphasis in project management. Demonstrated experience of at least 5 years in a senior or managerial role in project management activities preferably involving consultancy. Excellent communication (oral and written) skills in Bangla and English. Computer skills including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Project for Windows. Demonstrated ability to work under pressure and meet dead lines. Age limit 45 years.
- Post Title: Technical Executive (Civil)**

Duties and responsibilities: Assist in all matters related to contracts and procurement of private sector infrastructure projects during the preparation of bidding documents; prepare the technical scope of work; evaluation of risks and mitigation; working with a team of legal, financial and technical experts to develop the documents; act as the project manager for delivering the services, liaison with the line ministries and its agencies, manage the inputs from expatriate and local consultants; respond to technical queries during bids; assist in the evaluation of bids; prepare cost estimates; prepare project schedules; assist in negotiations of infrastructure projects.

Qualifications: At least a Bachelor degree or equivalent in civil engineering from a reputable university. Demonstrated experience of at least 5 years in a senior or managerial role in the contracts and procurement section/division or a large public or private sector organization/company engaged in one or more areas of infrastructure projects. Experience in project management and administration. Excellent communication and presentation (oral and written) skill in Bangla and English. Computer skills including Word Excel, Power Point and Project for Windows. Excellent interpersonal relationship building and team work skill. Age limit 45 years.
- Post Title: Secretary for CEO**

Duties and responsibilities: Carry out all typing, secretarial work, appointments etc., coordinate and arrange meetings, maintain filing system for business development, monthly reports, contracts etc., maintain a database of client contacts, carry out all email supporting work. etc.

Qualifications: At least a Bachelor's degree with a secretarial course. Demonstrated experience of at least 3 years in a similar position in a large private or public sector concern, out of a total experience of at least 5 years. Excellent communication (oral and written) skills in Bangla and English with good interpersonal skills. Fast and accurate typing. Computer skills including Word, Excel, Power Point and e-mail. Female candidates only. Age limit 45 years.
- Post Title: Computer Operator**

Duties and responsibilities: Carry out all typing, drafting of correspondence, secretarial work, making appointments, maintaining filing systems, organizing training/workshops, responding to phone calls, taking notes, and performing other duties as required.

Qualifications: Minimum Bachelors degree, with at least 3-5 years of relevant practical experience in typing and secretarial work. Must have accurate and fast typing skills and excellent computer skills in MSOffice. Must have good command of written and spoken English. Age limit 45 years.

Submission of Application: Please submit applications with curriculum vitae, two copies of photographs and expected salary (gross), addressed to **The Advertiser, GPO Box 2348 Dhaka by 10 February 2005.** Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Attractive remuneration package will be offered for all positions. Any direct or indirect solicitation will disqualify candidature.

WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice (Re-Tender)

1. Sealed tenders in foreign/local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Armed Forces:

Ser No	Nomenclature	From	Date of selling	To	Date of opening	Currency	Tender No
a.	Full Cream Milk Powder 100 metric tons	19.1.2005	01.2.2005	02.2.2005	02.2.2005	Foreign	775/P-8
b.	Full Cream Milk Powder 100 metric tons	19.1.2005	01.2.2005	02.2.2005	02.2.2005	Foreign	776/P-8
c.	Skimmed Milk Powder 45 metric tons	19.1.2005	01.2.2005	02.2.2005	02.2.2005	Local	778/P-8

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (not refundable), between 0800 hours to 1200 hours at DGDP office on all working days. Sealed tenders shall have to be dropped in the tender box placed at DGDP tender room latest by 1000 hours and will be opened at 1005 hours on the day specified in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Major
For Director General

C-141

US not rushing to leave Iraq: Bush
AFP, Washington

President Bush says the US military will pull out of Iraq "as quickly as possible," but he is not endorsing Secretary of State Colin Powell's statement that troops could begin returning home this year.

"The way I would put it is, American troops will be leaving as quickly as possible, but they won't be leaving until we have completed our mission," Bush said in a Washington Post interview published Sunday.

"And part of the mission is to train Iraqis so they can fight the terrorists. And the sooner the Iraqis are prepared better prepared, better equipped to fight the sooner our troops will start coming home," Bush said.

Powell told National Public Radio last week that he believes Americans could begin leaving Iraq this year as the Iraqis take on a larger security role. Powell, in his final days as the government's chief diplomat, said he could not give a timeline when all the troops will be home.

Bush said the US military is "constantly assessing" if Iraqi security forces are up to the job, allowing the United States to begin pulling out. The president would not commit to significantly reduce troops by the end of his second term in 2009.