



A shelterless family cooks food under the open sky in the cyclone-hit area of Dedye township, some 48km south of Yangon Wednesday. The United States has urged Myanmar's military rulers to accept international disaster relief after the top US diplomat in Yangon warned that more than 100,000 people may have died when a cyclone pounded the country.

Journey from horror to misery in Myanmar

AP, Labutta

Some survivors arrived half-naked, others wore clothes they scavenged from the dead.

Myanmar's rice-trading town of Labutta, the only spit of high ground in a vast watery landscape has become a beacon of hope for tens of thousands who lived through the cyclone's fury, most losing homes and family members.

The survivors made the journey in rickety wooden boats with makeshift sails fashioned out of blankets, dodging the bloated corpses of buffaloes and dead neighbours floating in the murky waters.

It was a journey from horror to misery for most, who described desperate hours clinging to trees and debris, followed by days of waiting for aid to arrive, in video shot for The Associated Press by a Myanmar journalist.

The footage provided a first glimpse of Myanmar's worst-hit

Irrawaddy delta, which has been cut off from the rest of the world since Cyclone Nargis struck Saturday, unleashing 12-foot-high storm surges that flooded the low-lying area of rice paddies and bamboo homes.

"I was hanging from an 18-foot-tall coconut tree for a long time until the weather subsided. I don't know what happened to my wife and young children," said Phan Maung, 55, sobbing as he spoke.

Many survivors were shaking and had trouble telling their tales. Some were angry, others hysterical. Only a few were willing to give their names, fearful of retribution by a government already embarrassed by its failure to bring prompt relief.

"I am the only survivor of a family of 11. The entire village was wiped out," said a man from the village of YayWay.

Nearby, a woman in her 50s stared ahead in shock as she spoke. "The wind came first and the waves

Russian parliament okays Putin as PM

AP, Moscow

Russia's parliament has overwhelmingly voted to make Vladimir Putin the prime minister.

Putin's confirmation in the State Duma comes a day after he handed the presidency to his protege Dmitry Medvedev.

Thursday's 392-56 vote caps months of maneuvering by the popular leader to maintain influence after stepping down from the presidency due to term limits.



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (back) walks back to his seat, after presenting his nominee for prime minister Vladimir Putin (front) to the State Duma, lower chamber of parliament, in Moscow yesterday.

Iraqis asked to quit Sadr City

AP, Baghdad

Iraqi soldiers for the first time warned residents in the embattled Sadr City district to leave their houses Thursday, signaling a new push by the US-backed forces against Shia extremists who have been waging street battles for seven weeks.

Iraqi soldiers, using loudspeakers, told residents in some virtually abandoned areas of southeastern Sadr City to go to nearby soccer stadiums, residents said. Unicef says about 6,000 people have been forced to flee their

homes in Sadr City, most of them from the southeastern section.

US forces have increased air power and armoured patrols in an attempt to cripple Shia militia influence in Sadr City, a slum of 2.5 million people that serves as the Baghdad base for the Mahdi Army led by anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The US military is trying to weaken the militia's grip in the slum and disrupt rocket and mortar attacks that hit downtown Baghdad this week.

The battles started in late March after the Iraqi government opened a crackdown on military and armed gangs in the southern city of Basra, including some groups Washington says have links to Iran.

At least four people were killed and 13 injured in clashes late Wednesday in Sadr City. Iraqi health officials said Thursday it was not clear whether any militants were among them.

দরপত্র সংশোধনী

গত ২৬/০৮/০৮, ২৮/০৮/০৮ ও ২৮/০৮/০৮ইঁ তারিখে যথাক্রমে দৈনিক সংখ্যাম, দৈনিক জনকর্ত ও দি ডেলি স্টার পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত ঢাকা ওয়াসার জন্য ৮০ মিঃমিঃ, ৫০ মিঃমিঃ ব্যাস সি-ক্লাস এবং ১০০ মিঃমিঃ ব্যাস বি-ক্লাস পানির মিটার অ্যাক্ষেস কাজ (টেক্সের নং-৪৭/৮-১-১০৭-০৮, তা-২৩/০৮/০৮ইঁ) এর টেক্সের ডকুমেন্টের পৃষ্ঠা নং-৫৮-এর অনুমতি নং-১০.৮ তে ১০০ মিঃমিঃ ব্যাস বি-ক্লাস পানির মিটারের Engineering Specification নিম্নোক্তভাবে সংশোধন করা হইল -

Qt (M³/h)- 18.00 এর স্থলে Qt (M³/h)- 12.00 পড়িতে হইবে এবং Qmin (M³/h)- 4.80 এর স্থলে Qmin (M³/h)- 1.80 পড়িতে হইবে।

তাহাতাড়া, দরপত্র দলিলের টেক্সের নেটিশের ক্র নং-১১ অনুযায়ী টেক্সের ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ১৮/০৫/০৮ইঁ এর পরিবর্তে ২৫/০৫/০৮ইঁ হইবে এবং টেক্সের ডকুমেন্টের পৃষ্ঠা নং-২২ এ টেক্সের ডাটাসৈটের আইটিটি ক্লজ নং-২৯.২ (বি) তে উল্লেখিত ১৯/০৫/০৮ইঁ তারিখের পরিবর্তে ২৬/০৫/০৮ইঁ তারিখে দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত করা হইবে।

দরপত্রের অন্যান্য বিষয় ও শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

নির্বাহী প্রকোশলী

সংগ্রহ বিভাগ-১

ঢাকা ওয়াসা

Grim fight for survival after Myanmar cyclone

AFP, Yangon

More than one million homeless in Myanmar were battling to stave off disease and hunger Thursday, with the military government still limiting foreign assistance six days after a massive cyclone.

With death toll estimates near 100,000 and the clock ticking for those who survived, Myanmar's junta -- long suspicious of the outside world -- came under new pressure to fully open up to help from abroad.

Aid was only trickling in despite warnings that specialists were needed to deliver food and water through disaster zones strewn with rotting bodies, and it was unclear if the regime was giving visas to foreign aid staff.

The United States, one of the junta's most vocal critics, announced it was not sending an air flight after earlier saying it was, adding to the sense of confusion and frustration over the international relief effort.

Aid groups said the country needs hundreds of planes to cope with Cyclone Nargis, which barrelled into Myanmar overnight Friday, unleashing one of the worst natural disasters in recent memory.

They said help was slowly arriving from Thailand, China and India, but not enough -- and not quickly enough -- for most of those in the stricken southwest Irrawaddy delta who saw their villages ripped apart or washed away.

The United Nations said four

disaster experts received permission to travel to Myanmar, but there was no immediate word for hundreds of others awaiting a green light from the military, which has ruled the former Burma since 1962.

Aid groups said the country of non-interference in its members' affairs, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) pressed the junta to soften its stance, as did China, Myanmar's most powerful ally.

ASEAN secretary general Surin Pitsuwan said the regime needed to work with the international aid community "before it's too late."

"It's very much a matter of urgency," he said.

Authorities in Yangon raised their official death toll to nearly

23,000 late Wednesday, with state media saying more than 42,000 others were missing.

But a military official in the delta township of Labutta estimated 80,000 dead there alone, and many families there told an AFP reporter most of their relatives had been killed.

"The storm came into our village," said one man in his 20s, "and a giant wave washed in, dragging everything into the sea."

"Houses collapsed, buildings collapsed, and people were swept away. I only survived by hanging on to a big tree." His wife and two children died.

"The waves were so strong, they ripped off all my clothes. I was left naked hanging in a tree," said one teenager.

Suu Kyi's home damaged in cyclone

AFP, Yangon

The home of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was lightly damaged in the weekend cyclone, but she was unhurt and remains in good health, her party said yesterday.

"The roof of Daw Suu's house has to be fixed as a small part of it was taken off by the wind," National League for Democracy spokesman Nyan Win told AFP.

"A tree at the front of the compound has fallen over and it hasn't been removed yet."

"As far as I know, she is in good health," he said, adding that her family doctor was able to visit her usual.

A Myanmar official told AFP on Monday that Aung San Suu Kyi's house had been lightly damaged, but she was unharmed.

Nyan Win said he wasn't sure if Aung San Suu Kyi's electricity supply had been reconnected yet at her lake-side home in Yangon, Myanmar's main city.

26 killed in Kashmir bus plunge

AFP, Jammu

At least 26 people died and four were injured after a bus plunged into a river in Indian Kashmir on Thursday, and the death toll was expected to rise, police said.

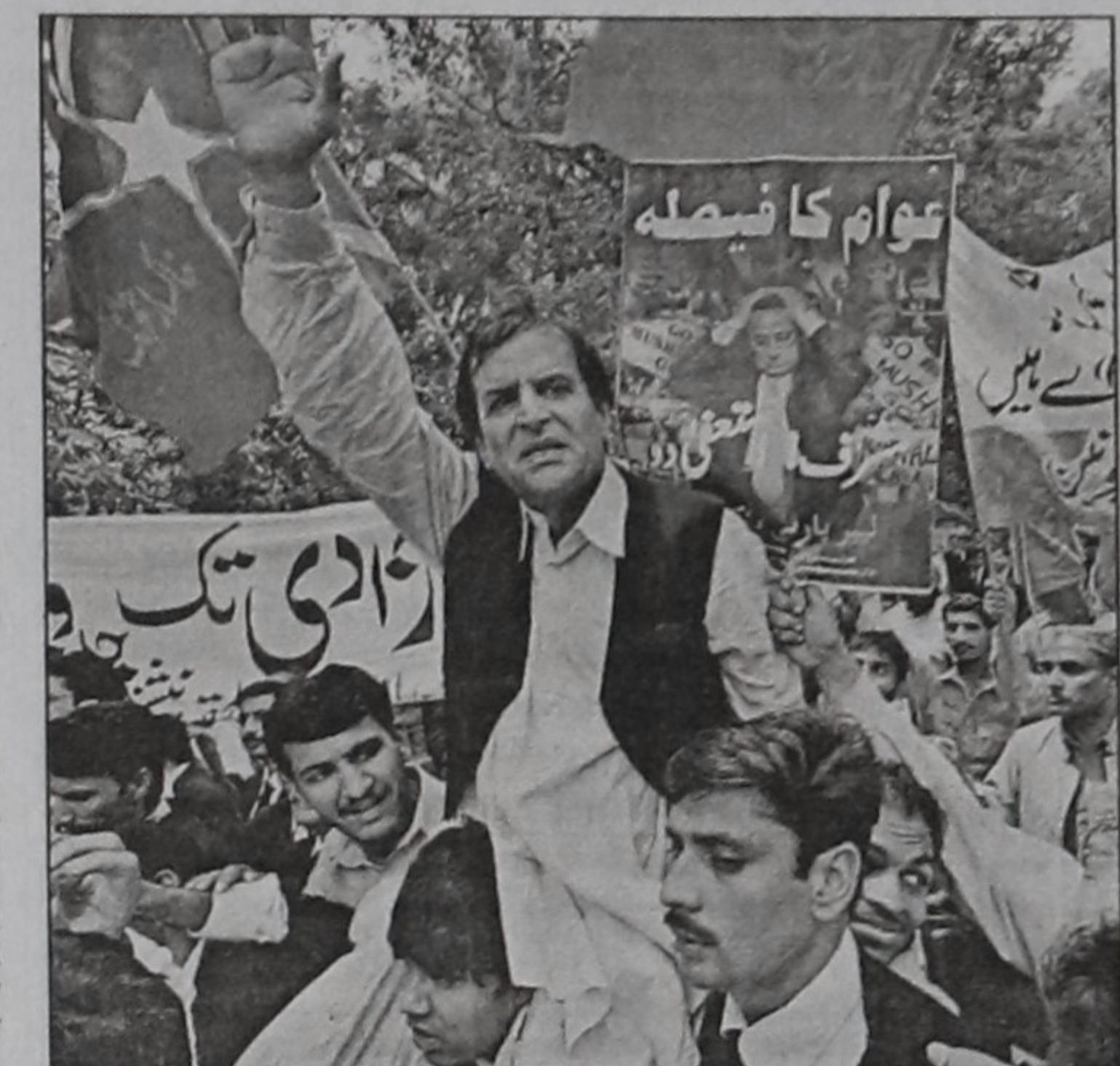
Twenty-five bodies were recovered at the site of the accident and five critically injured passengers were airlifted to Jammu, senior police superintendent Salim Baig told AFP.

"Out of the five, one succumbed to his injuries."

The number of dead was expected to increase as police were still trying to recover bodies from the Chenab River, which flows into Pakistan, Baig said.

The 42-seater bus was heading from Jammu, the state's winter capital, to Kishtwar district, some 240 kilometres (150 miles) to the northeast.

Rescue work was slow since the fast-flowing Chenab is fed by glacial snow melt, police said. Bus accidents are common in India because of a mix of bad roads, overcrowding and poor maintenance of vehicles.



Pakistani ruling coalition leader Javed Hashmi (C) is carried by supporters of deposed judges during a march in Lahore yesterday. Top political leaders in Pakistan ruling coalition Asif Zardari and Nawaz Sharif will meet in London this week for a final decision on how to restore judges sacked by President Pervez Musharraf, party officials said.

Bhutan holds 1st parliament session as democracy

AFP, Guwahati

The tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan yesterday held its first parliament session, marking its shift from absolute monarchy after elections in March, officials said.

Jigme Tshultrim, speaker of the Bhutan National Assembly, or the lower house in parliament, led the joint session in the 72-member parliament.

The lawmakers -- 47 members of the National Assembly and 25 members of the National Council, or the upper house -- met at the renovated parliament in Thimphu, capital of the isolated Buddhist nation.

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