

## Thousands killed in 1950 by US Korean ally

AP, Daejeon

Grave by mass grave, South Korea is unearthing the skeletons and buried truths of a cold-blooded slaughter from early in the Korean War, when this nation's US-backed regime killed untold thousands of leftists and hapless peasants in a summer of terror in 1950.

With US military officers sometimes present, and as North Korean invaders pushed down the peninsula, the southern army and police emptied South Korean prisons, lined up detainees and shot them in the head, dumping the bodies into hastily dug trenches. Others were thrown into abandoned mines or into the sea. Women and children were among those killed. Many victims never faced charges or trial.

The mass executions intended to keep possible southern leftists from reinforcing the northerners were carried out over mere weeks and were largely hidden from history for a half-century. They were "the most tragic and brutal chapter of the Korean War," said historian Kim Dong-choon, a member of a 2-year-old government commission investigating the killings.



PHOTO: AFP

A family gathers round a photo of a high school student yesterday who died when the four-storey Juyuan Middle School (behind) was destroyed in the devastating earthquake, as the country marks a week since the temblor struck.

## 12 die in South Africa anti-foreigner violence

AP, Johannesburg

Emmerson Ziso fled hunger and repression in neighbouring Zimbabwe, but now he wants to go back. Even his violent, chaotic homeland seems a haven compared to Johannesburg, where weekend attacks on foreigners left at least 12 dead.

"Most of the Zimbabweans want to leave. It is better at home than here," said the former teacher who was chased out of his home by a mob early Sunday.

"It's spreading like wildfire and the police and the army can't control it," Ziso said, as he tried to help register about 500 people who sought refuge at the police station in Johannesburg's Cleveland area.

It was a scene repeated in other poor suburbs around the city. Angry residents accused foreigners of taking scarce jobs and housing, many of them Zimbabweans who

had fled their own country's economic collapse.

President Thabo Mbeki said Sunday that he would set up a panel of experts to investigate. African National Congress President Jacob Zuma, who is likely to succeed Mbeki next year, condemned the attacks.

"We cannot allow South Africa to be famous for xenophobia," Zuma told a conference in Pretoria.

The weekend attacks come as the government tries to change South Africa's violent image ahead of the 2010 World Cup. South Africa has one of the highest crime rates in the world, recording an average of 50 murders each day.

Many in the ANC government took refuge in neighbouring countries during apartheid and are deeply embarrassed by the current violence, which has targeted immigrants who came to South Africa from other nations in the region.

## 500 juveniles detained in Iraq, says US

10 others in Afghanistan

AP, New York

The US military is holding about 500 juveniles suspected of being "unlawful enemy combatants" in detention centres in Iraq and has about 10 detained in Afghanistan, the United States has told the United Nations.

A total of 2,500 youths under the age of 18 have been detained, almost all in Iraq, for periods up to a year or more in President Bush's anti-terrorism campaign since 2002, the United States reported last week to the UN's Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Civil liberties groups such as the International Justice Network and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) denounced the detentions as abhorrent, and a violation of US treaty obligations.

In the periodic report to the

United Nations on US compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United States confirmed that "as of April 2008, the United States held about 500 juveniles in Iraq."

"The juveniles that the United States has detained have been captured engaging in anti-coalition activity, such as planting Improvised Explosive Devices, operating as lookouts for insurgents, or actively engaged in fighting against US and Coalition forces," the US report said.

The majority are believed to be 16 or 17 years old. In the United States a 17-year-old can enlist in the US Army, with parental consent.

The report said that of the total of 2,500 juveniles jailed since 2002, all but 100 had been picked up in Iraq. Of the remainder, most were swept up in Afghanistan.

# China stands still to mourn quake victims

AP, Wenchuan

China stood still and sirens wailed Monday to mourn the country's tens of thousands of earthquake victims, as the search for survivors increasingly became a search for bodies.

Construction workers, shopkeepers and bureaucrats across the bustling nation of 1.3 billion people paused for three minutes at 2:28 p.m. exactly one week after the magnitude 7.9 quake hit central China. Air-raid sirens and the horns of cars and buses sounded in memory of the estimated 50,000 dead.

The confirmed death toll from the May 12 quake rose to 34,073, the State Council, China's Cabinet, said Monday. Quake-related losses to companies totalled \$9.5 billion, Deputy Industry Minister Xi

Guohua said Monday.

The military was still struggling to reach areas cut off by the earthquake, with more than 10,000 discovered stranded in Yinxiu valley near the epicentre, China National Radio said Monday. There was no information on casualties there, and 600 soldiers were hiking into the area.

In an indication of the challenge in dealing with millions of homeless and injured survivors, China said it would accept foreign medical teams and issued an international appeal for tents.

"China requests the international community donate tents as a priority when they donate materials because many houses were toppled in the quake and because it is the rainy season," ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in a

statement, also thanking the international community for its help so far.

In the disaster area, more than 200 relief workers were reported buried over the past three days by mudslides while working to repair roads in Sichuan, Xinhua reported.

An official confirmed mudslides had caused some deaths but gave no details. "The total death toll is still being counted," said the official at the Sichuan provincial Communications Department who only gave his last name, Shi.

Fourteen Taiwanese escaped a massive landslide in Sichuan. They were located by authorities using satellite positioning data from the group's tour bus on Friday, Chinese authorities said, and were set to head home Monday.

During three days of national

mourning ordered by the government, flags were to fly at half-staff and public entertainment was cancelled. An unprecedented outpouring of state sympathy on a level normally reserved for dead leaders.

Rescuers also briefly halted work in the disaster zone, where the hunt for survivors turned glum despite remarkable survival tales among thousands buried. Two women were rescued Monday after being trapped in the rubble of a collapsed building at a coal mine in Sichuan, Xinhua reported.

A convoy of police cars, ambulances and other rescue vehicles let off a long blast from their horns as the workers in orange jumpsuits stood quietly with eyes downcast, some removing their white hardhats.



Mahathir Mohamad

## Fresh jolt for Abdullah as Mahathir quits ruling party

PTI, Kuala Lumpur

In a major setback for Malaysia's embattled Premier Abdullah Badawi, his mentor and influential predecessor Mahathir Mohammad today sprang a surprise by quitting the ruling party to press for leadership change following the party's recent electoral losses.

"I am quitting UMNO today. I will only come back when there is change in leadership," Mahathir, 82, who was Prime Minister for 22 years before he handpicked Abdullah for the job, told cheering supporters in Kedah.

He urged other members of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party to quit too as a way of pressuring Abdullah to step down but advised them not to join the opposition.

## 'Zimbabwe military plotting Tsvangirai assassination'

AFP, Nairobi

A top official of Zimbabwe's opposition party on Monday accused the government's military intelligence of plotting to assassinate its leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

"President Robert Mugabe and his cronies are natural killers," Tendai Biti, secretary general of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) told AFP during a visit to Nairobi.

"They have been killing our

people since 1980 and now Mugabe's military intelligence has compiled a list of 36 to 40 people to be assassinated. Top of the list are our leader Morgan Tsvangirai, myself and our spokesman Nelson Chamisa," he said.

After more than a month out of the country due to fears for his safety, Tsvangirai had been expected back in Harare on Saturday to begin campaigning ahead of a run-off presidential election in June.



PHOTO: AFP

This undated handout photo released yesterday shows a unique colony of tens of millions of starfish-like creatures which has been discovered on a mountain peak lying below the ocean in sub-Antarctic waters south of New Zealand.

## 'Brittlestar City' discovered on underwater mountain

AFP, Wellington

A unique colony of tens of millions of starfish-like creatures has been discovered on a mountain peak lying below the ocean in sub-Antarctic waters south of New Zealand, scientists said Monday.

Tens of millions of brittlestars are estimated to inhabit the vast, flat-topped marine mountain colony, dubbed Brittlestar City by scientists, New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) said.

Scientists from New Zealand and Australia also collected some

species never before recorded from the underwater peak -- known as a seamount -- on the Macquarie Ridge, which stretches 1,400 kilometres (870 miles) underwater from south of New Zealand to near the Antarctic Circle.

They photographed hundreds of brown-black brittlestars on every square metre (yard), and estimate tens of millions of them populate the 100-square-kilometre (39-square-mile) flat top of the seamount.

The brittlestars live arm-tip to arm-tip on the summit, 750 metres above the sea floor and 90 metres below the sea surface.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# McCain, Obama woo party zealots

AFP, Washington

Republican White House hopeful John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama both face a balancing act to placate their parties' bases while also courting the floating voters of the political centre.

McCain carries a lot of baggage into the campaign for November's presidential election, having alienated hard-core conservatives by staking out maverick stands on several hot-button issues.

"We have to re-energize our base," the Arizona senator said Wednesday after the Republicans lost a third rock-solid congressional seat to the resurgent Democrats.

"I'm confident at the end of the day that my vision and plan for action for this nation will gain a majority of the votes," he said. "But

I have no illusions about this campaign, it will be a very difficult challenge."

Obama meanwhile has struggled with the older women and blue-collar voters who have rallied so ardently to his Democratic primary opponent, Hillary Clinton, and who form the opposition party's bedrock support.

Even as the Illinois senator homes in on the Democratic nomination, he is fending off questions about whether he can enlist enough of the party's base to carry him to the White House.

This week, Obama is tipped to win Tuesday's primary in liberal Oregon but Kentucky's demographic mirrors those of other pro-Clinton states such as West Virginia and Ohio.

Exit polls from West Virginia and other recent primaries have sug-

gested that more than a quarter of Clinton's supporters might stay at home or defect to McCain in November if Obama is the Democrats' standard-bearer.

But both the probable nominees for this autumn's election campaign are also appealing to independent voters, who are not registered supporters of either party and tend to be more moderate than the true zealots.

McCain is running as a tough-minded man of principle unafraid to take on his own party on such issues as illegal immigration and campaign finance reform.

While pledging to appoint conservative judges and protect gun owners, the Republican is also wooing independents with promises to take on global warming and to drain the swamp of Washington politics.

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Vacancy Notice No. BAN / SO-8 / SSA

Date of issue : 18 May 2008

Closing date : 15 June 2008

## Vacancy Announcement

World Health Organization, Country Office for Bangladesh invites application for the eligible candidates for the following positions.

Title	Contract type	Duration	Annual Salary (Taka)
National Consultant (Water and Sanitation)	Special Services Agreement (level 07)	Up to 31 December, 2008 (may be extended)	674,300
National Consultant (Program Monitoring and Implementation)	Special Service Agreement (level 08)		927,168
Field Coordinator (Environmental Health)	Special Service Agreement (level 06)		509,939

For details of the above vacancy announcement, please visit our Web Site at: [www.whoban.org](http://www.whoban.org) or collect information sheet from the Reception Desk of The World Health Organization, House No # 12, Road NO # 7, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka - 1205.

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

## 1st Death Anniversary



We pray for **Marhum A.B.M. Kamal Uddin Khan** on his 1<sup>st</sup> death anniversary today the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Marhum A.B.M. Kamal Uddin Khan was the Founder Life Member of **NSU Foundation**, which

established NSU.

He was also the Member of Parichalona Porshod, NSU and Board of Governors, NSU Foundation.

He was a successful industrialist, promising banker and enthusiastic philanthropist who breathed his last on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

May Allah bless his departed soul and give the members of his family the strength to keep on bearing the loss.



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