

China monitors flood threat from blocked rivers

AP, Pengzhou

Earthquake survivors living downstream from lakes formed by blocked rivers were being evacuated for fears that aftershocks could unleash flooding, and the death toll from the disaster rose Friday to more than 55,000.

Hardest-hit Sichuan province also announced plans to rebuild within three years, as it copes with the aftermath of the May 12 tremor that left some 5 million homeless.

Nearly three dozen new lakes were formed after the quake threw down debris that formed barriers across rivers, with water pooling behind them. Those barriers could collapse, unleashing flooding, so they are being monitored by experts, including some dropped in by parachute, said Zhu Bing, deputy director of the Sichuan

water resources bureau.

"In the short-term, we don't think there's any danger," he told reporters in Beijing. "But after all, it's in the disaster area, with aftershocks. If there is a strong aftershock or a strong thunderstorm, there is the danger of collapse."

The death toll rose to 55,740, said the State Council, China's Cabinet. Another 24,949 people are missing in Sichuan, Vice Governor Li Chengyun said.

The province aims to rebuild roads and cities within three years, Li said in Beijing.

In the tiny town of Bailu, about a two-hour drive from the Sichuan provincial capital of Chengdu, the air was filled Friday with smoke from makeshift brick wood-burning stoves heating large black woks filled with string beans or rice porridge for lunch.

Red banners across the main

street in the quake-flattened town nestled between two mountains said, "There is no difficulty that the heroic Chinese people cannot defeat." One long stretch of road was lined with wooden furniture moved out of collapsed homes, and tents were in great demand.

Most of the town's banners urged residents to maintain proper hygiene and prevent diseases.

"It's been a big disaster but the government has been doing a good job and I think the rebuilding work can be done in three years," said Zhang Min, 36, who works for a brick-making company.

Liu Qiang, a teacher at a medical college in Hubei province who came to aid quake victims, said the lack of clean water was causing health problems.

"People are developing rashes and wounds are becoming infected because they're using dirty water,"

Liu said. "Colds and fevers are also common."

As many as 9,000 injured will be transported to other provinces, Vice Governor Li said, as the large casualty toll has overwhelmed local hospitals in Sichuan. He said more psychologists were also needed to help survivors cope with the tragedy, especially children orphaned by the quake along with students who saw many classmates killed in collapsed schools.

No survivors have been found buried in rubble since Wednesday, but Li said rescuers have not abandoned the search.

"We will not give up on trying to save people," Li said.

Six pandas were moved Friday from the damaged panda-breeding base in Wolong near the epicentre because of food shortages, the official Xinhua News Agency said.



An aerial view of the roofs of houses, built next to a reservoir, that were uprooted and floated downriver after water levels started to rise in earthquake-hit Beichuan, southwest China's Sichuan province on May 20. Experts warily monitored dozens of lakes formed during the upheaval of China's earthquake to see if aftershocks could unleash flooding, as the death toll from the quake rose to more than 55,000.

Mahathir warns of unrest amid political turmoil

AFP, Tokyo

Former Malaysian premier Mahathir Mohamad warned Friday of possible unrest in the multi-racial country, accusing his successor, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, of failing to assert his authority.

"Now we are seeing the different races making demands on the government, which they perceive as a weak government," he told reporters in Tokyo.

He said "extremists" among different communities had begun to voice their opposition and make unfair demands on the government, trying to "divide rather than unite."

Recently there have been growing fears over "Islamisation" of Malaysia and the increasing polarisation of the three main ethnic communities.

About 60 percent of Malaysia's 27 million people are ethnic Malay Muslims. The country's minority Chinese and Indians are mostly Buddhists, Hindus or Christians.



Palestinians walk on the rubble of destroyed houses following an Israeli military incursion near Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Five Palestinians were killed Friday in an air strike called in support of Israeli ground operations following an exchange of fire between Israeli troops and Palestinian fighters near the city of Rafah.

Five Palestinian fighters killed in Gaza: Hamas

AFP, Gaza City

Five Palestinian fighters were killed during an Israeli military incursion in the Gaza Strip on Friday, Islamist armed groups said.

One soldier was also wounded in the clashes in southern Gaza, the Israeli army said.

Three Palestinians were killed in an air strike called in support of Israeli ground operations near the city of Rafah, Palestinian emergency services said.

All three were members of the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the Islamist Hamas

that rules the territory said in a statement, identifying them as Ibrahim Madi, 20, Mohammed Abu Rezik, 23, and Mohammed Abu Awad, 23.

The gunmen were involved in an exchange of fire with Israeli troops who penetrated 1.5 kilometres (one mile) inside the Gaza Strip, witnesses said. At least three more Palestinians were wounded, medics said.

In addition, two fighters of the Al Quds Brigade were killed near El Bureij in central Gaza, where an Israeli military operation continued for a second day, the Islamic

Jihad's armed wing said.

An Israeli military spokesman said the soldier was wounded after gunned fired a rocket-propelled grenade at an armoured bulldozer in southern Gaza.

Violence between Israeli forces and Palestinian groups has continued in the impoverished sliver of land despite attempts by Egypt to mediate a truce.

The latest deaths brought to at least 483 the number of people killed since Israel and the Palestinian leadership relaunched peace talks at a US-hosted conference in November.

US to keep up Iran sanctions: Rice

AFP, Palo Alto

The United States will keep up its sanctions on Iran until it renounces its programme of enriching uranium, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Thursday.

"We will continue to designate entities as we find them trying to use the international financial system for their ill-gotten gains," she said during a plane ride to California with British counterpart David Miliband.

"And yes, we are going to continue to do it and we are going to continue to do it aggressively."

Rice said it is ready to enter "serious and targeted" negotiations with world powers on a wide

range of issues, including nuclear energy.

In a package, attached to a May 13 letter from Iran's foreign minister to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the Islamic republic offered talks on nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of atomic technology, according to the translation posted on the website of the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS).

But Iran's proposal to six world powers -- the United States, France, Britain, Russia, Germany and China -- does not include any promise to halt uranium enrichment work, which it has continued in defiance of UN sanctions.

China eyes 3 years to rebuild quake zone

AFP, Duijiangyan

China said yesterday it would take up to three years to rebuild its earthquake zone as the death toll from the nation's worst disaster in a generation surpassed 55,000.

The government also warned that millions of survivors were at a growing risk of disease, but there was positive news with another dramatic survival story, this time an elderly couple who had been stranded for 11 days.

The May 12 earthquake, which measured 8.0 on the Richter scale, destroyed entire towns across an area the size of South Korea, and the death toll has climbed daily as authorities have gained a clearer picture of the devastation.

A total of 55,740 have been confirmed dead, a rise of 4,500 from the day before, the government said, but

that number was likely to soar much higher with another 24,960 people still missing.

More than 5.47 million people were left homeless in southwestern Sichuan province -- or around one in five in the affected area -- with most now crammed into overflowing tents or stuck under tarpaulins.

"Now is the peak season for disease outbreaks and the situation is extremely grim," Sichuan Vice Governor Li Chengyun told a news conference in Beijing.

He said that people badly needed tents and medical supplies, especially antibiotics, although he noted no outbreaks of disease had yet been reported.

China has made a global appeal for 3.3 million tents and ordered the construction within three months of

one million simple homes made of light materials.

But Li warned it would take much longer to rebuild communities, not to mention addressing the lasting psychological scars inflicted by an earthquake so powerful it was felt in Bangkok.

"We aim to improve roads and infrastructure and build new villages, towns and cities within three years," the vice governor said.

The mountains were basically shaken loose by the earthquake, causing mud flows and landslides, making reconstruction much more difficult than the work before the earthquake.

In the hills above Duijiangyan, about 50 kilometres (32 miles) from the quake's epicentre, people were working overtime to build pre-fabricated homes.

China, Russia condemn US missile defence

AP, Beijing

The presidents of China and Russia have condemned a US plan for a global missile defence system.

Chinese President Hu Jintao and new Russian President Dmitry Medvedev say in a joint statement that the plan "does not help to maintain strategic balance and stability or strengthen international efforts to control nonproliferation."

Medvedev arrived Friday in Beijing on his first overseas trip since his inauguration this month. Moscow and Beijing have formed closer ties in recent years as part of their efforts to counterbalance Washington's global dominance.

Chinese President Hu Jintao thanked Russia's new president for offering speedy aid after last week's

powerful earthquake, as the two began meetings Friday to bolster their partnership with expanded nuclear cooperation.

The trip is Dmitry Medvedev's first since his inauguration earlier this month as the hand-picked successor to Vladimir Putin, underscoring the importance the two countries place on a relationship that both see as a counterbalance to US dominance. But continued friction between the neighbouring giants remains especially over oil and gas in Central Asia.

At the start of their talks, Hu thanked both Medvedev and Putin now prime minister for assistance offered after the May 12 quake that struck central China. Russia sent rescue crews and a mobile hospital to the disaster area in central Sichuan province.



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (R) shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao in Beijing yesterday. Russia's avowed friendship with China is threatened by differences, including energy and arms cooperation, a Russian daily said on Friday as Medvedev visited Beijing.

World Court gives lighthouse island to Singapore

AP, The Hague

The International Court of Justice yesterday awarded Singapore sovereignty over a disputed island at the eastern entrance of the Singapore Straits.

The two-acre island hosts a strategic lighthouse that has been a landmark for 150 years and a beacon of safety for hundreds of ships passing daily.

The UN's highest court, however, gave Malaysia ownership of a smaller uninhabited outcropping. Sovereignty over a third disputed cluster of rocks was left to be determined later between the countries when they sort out their territorial waters, the ruling said.

বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন
চিনিশিল্প ভবন, ৩নং দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০
সূত্র নং এডিএম/এসএফ/নিয়োগ-০৮/০৮০২ তারিখ: ১৫/৫/২০০৮খ্রিঃ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশনের অধীনস্থ শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের জন্য নিম্নোক্ত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিম্নে সাদা কাগজে স্বহস্তে লিখিত দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:-

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল	বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১।	সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক (যন্ত্র কৌশল) বেতন স্কেল: ৬৮০০-৩২৫৫৭-৯০৭৫-ইবি-৩৬৫ X ১১-১৩০৯০/-	সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর	বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিগ্রি (মেকানিক্যাল/আইপিই)।

শর্তাবলী:

- আবেদনকারীকে দরখাস্ত ও জীবন বৃত্তান্ত অবশ্যই বাংলায় লিখতে হবে।
- শিক্ষা জীবনের সকল ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী থাকতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রে আবেদনকারীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, ধর্ম, জাতীয়তা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা উল্লেখসহ, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক দেয় চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র, ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র ও ৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি (সত্যায়িত) এবং ত্বরিত যোগাযোগের জন্য মোবাইল/টেলিফোন নম্বর আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে (যদি থাকে)।
- বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী দরখাস্ত পৌঁছানোর শেষ তারিখে আবেদনকারীর বয়স প্রার্থিত পদের বিপরীতে উল্লিখিত বয়সসীমার মধ্যে থাকতে হবে। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এক্সেসেপ্টিভ গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য। সেক্ষেত্রে দরখাস্তের সাথে যথাযথ সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
- উল্লিখিত পদসমূহে নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে বিদ্যমান সরকারি নিয়োগ বিধি অনুযায়ী কোটা পদ্ধতি যথাযথ সংরক্ষণ করা হবে।
- সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত ইত্যাদি প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরীর প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে দরখাস্ত প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে "বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন" এর অনুকূলে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্র আগামী ৩০/৬/২০০৮ তারিখের মধ্যে চীফ অব পার্সোনেল, বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন, "চিনিশিল্প ভবন" (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৩নং দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ এর বরাবরে পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- উপরোক্ত শর্তাবলীর যে কোন একটির ব্যত্যয় ঘটলে বা আবেদনপত্র অসম্পূর্ণ থাকলে আবেদন সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- প্রার্থীদের যোগ্যতা যাচাই এর লক্ষ্যে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় ৬০% বা তদুপরী পর্যন্ত প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের অনুমতি দেয়া হবে।
- লিখিত পরীক্ষা ও সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

মোঃ মাহবুবুল হক
চীফ অব পার্সোনেল

NEWS ANALYSIS Bush bid to isolate ME hardliners backfires

AFP, Washington

The Bush administration's campaign to isolate Iran and Syria has backfired as the two Middle East hardliners ended this week sidelining the United States, analysts said.

Supported by Iran and Syria, Hezbollah bolstered recent military gains in a deal with Lebanon's pro-western government while Syria emerged from the shadows with the announcement of indirect talks with Israel, they contend.

For Brookings Institution analyst Ammar Abdulhamid, a Syrian scholar and dissident, both events flow from a broader plan orchestrated by "puppet master" Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader.

"You end up realizing there is a strategy being worked out between Hezbollah, Syria and Iran, and they have actually managed to make quite strong headway in the last few days," Abdulhamid told AFP.

"The Iranians are running the showrightnow," he added.

Though President George W. Bush's administration may disagree with that, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice late last month mentioned Iran as a threat to Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Iraq and even in Afghanistan.

Few would dispute that Iran's regional influence has risen since 2003 when US-led forces invaded Iraq, overthrew Sunni leader Saddam Hussein and empowered once down-trodden Shia Muslims to power.

Some analysts disagreed with Abdulhamid and argued that Iran might ultimately find itself isolated over Syria's talks with Israel, but they insisted that President George W.

Bush's policies have backfired.

"The president spoke in Jerusalem a week ago about standing up to dictators and not appeasing those who used force," said Bruce Riedel, a former National Security Council staff quoted by The Washington Post.

"He isn't home a week, and the dictators and the forces of violence have triumphed," Riedel was quoted as saying.

And despite Rice's contention that Hezbollah was dealt a "setback" in Lebanon, the analysts insist it is the other way around: the US-backed government of Fuad Siniora suffered the reversal.

Under Arab League auspices, rival Lebanese leaders clinched a deal on Wednesday to end an 18-month political feud that exploded into deadly sectarian fighting two weeks ago and nearly drove the country into a new civil war.

The agreement will see the election of a president for Lebanon within days and the creation of a unity government in which the Hezbollah-led opposition will have the power of veto.

"What we have is not a complete win or loss, but a new accommodation, certainly with more influence for Hezbollah. So it's a nuanced outcome, but still it is a setback for the government," said Paul Salem, an analyst with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In accepting a mixed picture, Salem, Abdulhamid and others give some credence to administration arguments that Hezbollah has lost popular support by turning its guns on fellow Lebanese rather than its traditional enemy Israel.

Canadian High Commission, Dhaka
Employment Opportunity

The Canadian High Commission in Dhaka has a vacancy for a full-time **Migration Integrity Assistant - LES 05**

Eligibility: Open to internal and external candidates.
Employment starting date: July 2008 (date to be determined)

Main duties

- Receiving phone calls and visitors and using specialized knowledge and experience to explain the services and procedures of the immigration program.
- Preparing reports, letters, e-mails, memoranda, charts and tables, using suitable software.
- Interpreting between the local language and one or both official languages of Canada at interviews, official meetings or seminars.
- Translating texts between the local language and one or both official languages of Canada.
- Examining for authenticity of various documents e.g. birth/death certificates, educational certificates, employment letter, bank certificates.

Basic requirements:

Experience
Demonstrated experience working in a general office environment. Demonstrated experience working on a PC in a network environment. Experience in dealing with the general public.

Language
Ability to read, write and speak local language(s) fluently. Ability to read, write and speak English fluently. Ability to communicate orally in other official Canadian language (French) is desirable.

Availability
able to travel on short notice outside Dhaka.

Rated Requirements

Knowledge

- Some knowledge of Canadian Immigration processing and procedures.
- Knowledge of general office procedures and practices.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- Knowledge of society and customs of Bangladesh.

Abilities

- Ability to analyze and evaluate information relevant to immigrant and non immigrant authorization/eligibility and make sound recommendations.
- Ability to provide administrative support services to the immigration officers.
- Ability to adapt quickly to procedural and technological changes.
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing.
- Ability to establish effective interpersonal relationships within team and supervisory relationships.
- Ability to communicate orally in other official Canadian language is desirable.

Personal Suitability
Professional integrity, tact, dependability, judgement, initiative, adaptability, flexibility and effective performance under pressure. Capacity to establish and maintain effective and professional working relationships with clients, colleagues and supervisors.

NOTE: An enhanced reliability check is required for this position.

How to apply?
Interested persons must submit their application by **June 1, 2008**. To apply, send your curriculum vitae AND a covering letter to the Canadian High Commission, Human Resources division, House 16/A, Road-48, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

Selection procedures:
Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.
If there is a need this competition may be used to fill other similar positions in the future.