

Pakistan quake children start to sicken

AFP, Kan Bangla

Veiled mothers huddled with feverish babies in ruined Pakistani villages yesterday as sickness started to bite among earthquake survivors who spent a freezing night beneath open skies.

In crumbled settlements that no aid workers had reached more than a day after the powerful quake that killed at least 215 people, shivering residents begged for shelter, food, medicine -- or just any help at all.

"We had so few blankets to cover ourselves during the night that we only had one between six children," farmer Shah Nawaz Khan told an AFP reporter who reached the remote southwestern village of Kan Bangla.

"The cold was so severe that some of our children have fallen ill," he said, pointing to some wailing infants as their mothers tried to provide them with warmth and comfort.

Khan said some 20 people died when their mud-brick, straw-roofed homes collapsed in the 6.4-magnitude quake, but said they had not had any contact from Pakistani authorities or aid groups.

The village, which lies about 35 kilometres (25 miles) from the historic hill town of Ziarat, is one of a cluster in impoverished Baluchistan province that were worst affected by the quake.

Jaun Baba, an injured elderly man, showed makeshift tents that villagers had constructed with whatever they could scavenge from the shells of their houses. His own house was reduced to a pile of rubble.

"Some of the children do not even have sweaters or shoes and they are very gravely exposed to the weather," he told AFP.

"Many of our villagers slept in the dry riverbed across the road. No one from the government or any rescue agencies have come to help us," Baba said. "We need shelter, blankets, food and medical help as soon as possible."

Most of the inhabitants eke out a living by working at apple farms for which Ziarat and its surrounding villages are famed in Pakistan, but Baba said they would now be busy just trying to survive.

In Kawaz, another badly hit village, survivors huddled around weak campfires.

"It was so cold at night we thought we would freeze," villager Abdul Qadeer told AFP. "We have been waiting for help but we have no tent, no food, no medicine for my children."

Fears of further aftershocks kept many people in the open overnight even when their houses were still standing. A 6.2-magnitude tremor rocked Baluchistan 13 hours after the initial pre-dawn quake.

The mayor of Ziarat district hit out

at the government for failing to help survivors. "I am not satisfied with this operation," Dilawar Kakar told AFP.

"The help we expected from provincial and federal government, we are not getting. It is very slow."

People from the village of Gogi, about 60 kilometres (40 miles) from Ziarat, decided not to wait for help, instead travelling to Quetta to draw attention to their plight.

"The problem is that Gogi is situated some five kilometres off the road. A few volunteers came and left but delivered nothing," villager Mohammad Mateen told reporters.

As with the 2005 earthquake that killed 74,000 people in northern Pakistan, it was hardline Islamist groups, some with militant links, that were among the first on the scene.

One of them, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, has been listed by the US as a "terrorist organisation" because it is the political wing of the outlawed Kashmiri militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Its officials were handing out blankets, food, milk and biscuits in the area as early as Wednesday night.

"We do not believe in politics but to serve the people when they need it the most," Mohammad Qasim, a local Jamaat-ud-Dawa official told AFP.

"We will also send tents to the people soon."



A police man attends to a wounded man after powerful bomb exploded near the District Court in Guwahati, the capital city of India's northeastern Assam state yesterday. At least 61 people were killed and 100 injured in a series of blasts that ripped through the Assam state, police said.

PHOTO: AFP

US vows no let-up in anti-terror efforts

Washington voices 'concern' about Pakistan

AFP, AP, Washington

The United States said Wednesday it was ready to discuss Pakistan's "very serious problem" with extremism anytime authorities there wish to, but vowed no let-up in counter-terrorism efforts.

Declining to comment specifically on suspected US strikes along the border with Afghanistan, White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said "We are committed to working with Pakistan to beat back what is a common enemy in the terrorists."

Pakistan's foreign ministry said earlier it had summoned the US ambassador to Islamabad, Anne Patterson, to register "a strong protest" over a number of missile attacks by US drones inside its territory.

"Our ambassador will certainly go in and see the Pakistanis anytime they want to see her about these issues," said Perino.

Pakistan's government summoned the US ambassador on Wednesday to urge an immediate halt to missile strikes on suspected militant hide-outs near the Afghan border.

Having called in US Ambassador Anne Patterson on Wednesday, "a strong protest was lodged on the continued missile attacks by US drones inside Pakistani territory," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The attacks have led to the loss of "precious lives and property" and "undermine public support for the government's counterterrorism policies," the statement said.

US President George W. Bush believes that "Pakistan has a very serious problem" with extremism and that authorities there "recognise how serious that problem is," said the spokeswoman.

"We remain very concerned but we remain willing to work with them," she said, underlining that Pakistan had "very serious issues when it comes to their economy as well."

But Perino spurned any suggestion that US strikes were fueling resentment against the United States and stoking extremism, denying "that we incited that, that it was our fault that terrorists attack."

Divisive forces are out to break India

Says Manmohan

PTI, Nanded, Maharashtra

In the backdrop of violence against north Indians in Maharashtra, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today warned that "divisive forces" were out to break the country and halt its progress.

Addressing a function here as part of Guru-ta-Gaddi tercentenary celebrations of Sikhs here, he said the unity and integrity of the country needed to be protected in the wake of these attempts.

"There are divisive powers who want to break this country and halt its progress... There were forces who want people to fight with each other," Singh said.

"We have to protect the unity

and integrity of the nation," the Prime Minister said.

Though he did not refer to any particular incident, the comment assumes significance as it comes in the backdrop of attacks against north Indians in Maharashtra, which has triggered angry reactions.

Singh underlined that there was a need to think about how to move the nation ahead.

"Come lets move ahead together shoulder-to-shoulder," he said.

Highlighting the role played by Sikhs in nation building, the Prime Minister appealed to the Khalsa Panth to do its best for the development of the country.

New Maldives' ruler vows smooth democratic transition

AP, Male

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom promised Wednesday to ensure a smooth transition from his three decade rule after a bitter political rival vanquished him in the Maldives' first democratic election.

In a rare show of unity, Gayoom and President-elect Mohamed Nasheed jointly addressed the nation from the presidential office just hours after the results from Tuesday's runoff election were announced and agreed to work together for the good of the people.

"I wish to assure the public and the international community that the transition to democracy in the Maldives will be smooth and uninterrupted in governance," said Nasheed, who smiled, shook hands and joked with his former rival as they addressed the nation.

"A test of our democracy will be

how we treat Maumoon," the 41-year-old former political prisoner said of Gayoom. Amnesty International named Nasheed a prisoner of conscience in 1996.

Nasheed won 54 percent of the votes cast in this Indian Ocean nation. Gayoom, who had won six previous elections as the only name on the ballot, received 46 percent of the vote.

The roots of democracy took hold in the Maldives after violent civil riots in 2003 and fierce international pressure pushed Gayoom to begin a reform campaign. He lifted a ban on opposition parties, supported a new constitution and committed to the nation's first multiparty presidential election.

His reforms eventually led to his ouster.

Defeat hurt, the 71-year-old Gayoom said, but "I have accepted the will of the people and concede the election."

Taliban suicide attack inside ministry kills 5

AFP, Kabul

A Taliban suicide attacker blew himself up inside the information and culture ministry building in the Afghan capital Thursday, killing at least five people and wounding several more, police said.

The bomb exploded in a conference room underneath the office of the minister, Abdul Karim Khoram, but he was not in the building at the time, ministry spokesman Hameed Nasiri Wardak told AFP.

"I can say that the target was the minister," he said. Khoram was badly wounded in a suicide blast in

the southern city of Kandahar in May.

The Islamic Taliban, who were in power in Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001, are waging an insurgency against the Western-backed government that has seen a record number of attacks this year, leaving hundreds dead.

The attacker had first shot dead a guard at the entrance to the compound, deputy Kabul police chief General Alishah Ahmadzai told AFP.

"Apparently the attacker first shot and killed the policeman at the gate as he wanted to search him

and then he walked to the conference hall, which is metres away from the main gate, and detonated his explosives," he said.

"Three people were martyred immediately at the spot. Two others who were critically wounded died of their wounds in hospitals," he said.

The dead were four men and a woman, Ahmadzai said, without being able to say who they all were. "In total 23 wounded were taken to different hospitals in the city," health ministry spokesman Abdullah Fahim told AFP, confirming two had died in hospital.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Embassy of Japan in Dhaka announces vacancies for the following positions :

1. Political Section Officer (1 Position)

Education : Minimum University Bachelor's degree or equivalent in social science, preferably in political science.

Experience : Minimum of two years of relevant experience, preferably in government agencies, mass media, research institutions.

Language requirements : Fluency in spoken and written English is required.

2. Economic & Economic Assistance Section Officer (1 Position)

Education : Minimum University Bachelor's degree or equivalent, preferably in economics or economic development.

Experience : Minimum of two years of relevant experience, preferably in government agencies, research institutions or international organizations.

Language requirements : Fluency in spoken and written English is required.

3. Information & Cultural Section Officer (1 Position)

Education : Minimum University Bachelor's degree or equivalent.

Experience : Minimum of two years of relevant experience, preferably in government agencies, mass media, research institutions or international organizations.

Language requirements : Fluency in spoken and written English & Japanese is required.

The duration of the contract is three months initially and will be renewed on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

Application should be marked "Confidential" and the position applied for should be clearly written on the A4 size envelope. Application including (1) curriculum vitae with contact phone numbers and e-mail address (2) photo copies of all relevant academic records and certificates (3) resume (maximum 1000 words) (4) one recent passport-size photo should be sent to Administration Officer, Embassy of Japan, Plot No. 5 & 7, Dutabash Road, Baridhara, Dhaka by November 15, 2008. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Interstoff Apparels Ltd. UK-Bangladesh joint venture composite textile industry is looking for young dynamic, hardworking professionals to work in the challenging environment for the following positions:

Manager/Asst. Manager, Fabric R&D

- Minimum Graduate. Textile Graduates / Diploma with sufficient work experience will be Preferred.
- Able to handle knit fabric development of reputed European & US Customers
- Sufficient Exposure & Experience in Knitting, Dyeing & finishing to develop new fabrics.
- Minimum 7-8 years work experience in the similar field.
- Good at Communication with Merchandisers & Buying Offices

Asst. Manager/In-Charge, Fabric All-Over-Print (AOP):

- Minimum Textile Diploma/Graduate from any reputed university. Graduates from Textile Institution will be given Preference.
- Able to handle AOP of reputed European & US Customers.
- Sufficient exposure & experience in rotary & flat-bed printing on knit fabrics
- Should have through knowledge on overall printing.
- Minimum 7-8 years experience in reputed rotary & flat-bed printing mill.

Lab-Dip In-Charge

- B. Sc from any reputed university. Graduates from Textile Institution will be given Preference
- Able to handle Lab-Dips of reputed European & US Customers preferably M&S, Tesco, Polo etc.
- Good at Communication with Merchandisers & Buying Offices
- 2 to 3 year(s) work experience in the similar field.

Yarn Store In-Charge

- Having knowledge to lead all functions of a Yarn store
- Good knowledge on Inventory Management System
- Should have sufficient idea about Microsoft Application and E-mailing
- Graduate/Masters in any discipline from any reputed university.
- 2 to 3 year(s) relevant work experience

Merchandiser/ Sr. Merchandiser

- M.B.A. / Masters from any reputed college/university. Overseas education will be an added advantage
- Minimum 4 years working experience with reputed local buying or export oriented industry in the similar position with a good technical background.
- Responsible for product development and price negotiation with buyers. Well acquainted with Fabrics and Garments manufacturing processes preferably Knit.
- Should have the ability to organize the task to meet the deadline. Able to correspondence with the buyers and work with the foreign expertise independently.
- Should have through idea about Microsoft Application and E-mailing.
- Proficient in verbal and written English

Fashion Designer

- M.B.A. / Diploma in Fashion Designing from any reputed college/university. Overseas education will be an added advantage
- Minimum 3 years experience with reputed local fashion or export oriented industry as Designer.
- Well acquainted with Fabrics and Garments Manufacturing processes preferably Knit. Knowledge about CAD is preferable.
- Should have ability to organize the task to meet the deadline. Strong organizational ability to make the things happen effectively
- Proficient in verbal and written English.

Executive/ Sr. Executive, Commercial

- Graduate/Masters in any discipline from any reputed university. 2 to 3 year(s) relevant working experience
- In depth knowledge and practical experience on Export/Import procedure, documentation, Shipment, L/C, Banking, Shipping lines, C&F etc.
- 2 to 3 years practical experience on Utilization Permission of Chemicals, Dyes, Printing Ink etc.
- Be capable of performing Utilization Permission related audit.
- Be capable of making written feedback reports and suggest the management for advancement of the commercial system of the company.
- The candidate must function well in a team environment and have the ability to work well under pressure, work independently and learn regulations and procedures.

We offer competitive salary and other benefits to the right candidate. Potential candidates are requested to submit their application with a complete Resume along with a recent passport size photograph to the following address

Human Resource Department

Interstoff Apparels Limited.

House # 43 (1st Floor), Road # 35(A) New, Gulshan - 2, Dhaka

E-mail: info@icl.bdrmg.com

Application Deadline: 13 November 2008, Thursday

The Asia Foundation

Position Vacancy – Program Coordinator

The Asia Foundation's Bangladesh office seeks qualified applicants for the position of **Dhaka-based Program Coordinator** for a new initiative to enhance sub-national investment climate reforms in Bangladesh, which the Foundation is undertaking in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation's Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund. The successful applicant will be responsible for the development, implementation, monitoring, and documentation of program activities in select districts and for maintaining regular contact and coordination with a variety of local partners and stakeholders. Specific responsibilities will include program design and implementation, development and application of monitoring and evaluation tools, coordination of program activities in several district-level working areas, design and implementation of training workshops and seminars, facilitation of local-level policy dialogue between local enterprises and government officials, planning and implementation of domestic and regional exchange programs, and preparation of program reports and records. The successful applicant will be required to make frequent field trips to program sites in select districts.

Key Qualifications:

- At least ten years of progressively responsible work experience in the design and implementation of programs with a focus on economic growth, enterprise development, with a particular focus on governance dimensions, preferably with an international organization. District-level program experience is an asset.
- Master's degree in economics, business administration, finance, public policy, or other relevant discipline
- Fluency in written and spoken English and Bangla
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel, email, and Internet applications
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Proven organizational and supervisory skills
- Ability to work both in a team environment and independently
- Meticulous attention to detail

The Asia Foundation is committed to a policy of providing equal opportunities in recruiting and selecting employees. The Foundation offers excellent salary and benefits commensurate with experience.

Applicants are requested to send their CV, together with a cover letter (not more than two pages) demonstrating their competencies for the position to:

Program Coordinator
The Asia Foundation
House 3/B, Road 50
Gulshan-2, Dhaka
Bangladesh

The closing date is Sunday, November 9, 2008. Applications that do not meet the minimum requirements will not be considered. No telephone enquiries please. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.