

Flu-hit Mexico awaits return to business as usual

AFP, Mexico City

Mexico eagerly awaited the resumption of normal business at the end of a five-day swine flu nationwide shutdown yesterday and launched an operation to airlift home nationals quarantined in China.

As President Felipe Calderon said Mexico's response to the epidemic had saved "thousands of lives," the UN's top world health official said the number of people to have contracted the virus in 21 countries had topped 1,000.

And the third case of infection in Asia was confirmed when a nun tested positive in South Korea despite having not been to Mexico.

Mexico, the epicentre of the outbreak, has been eerily quiet since Friday after Calderon urged everyone to stay at home over a five-day holiday weekend.

However the president, in a televised address on Monday night, said it was coming to the point where the country could start returning to normal.

Mexico "has taken the lead in the global battles against the virus... thousands of lives have been saved not only in Mexico but in the world" as a result of his government's containment measures, he said.

Starting Wednesday, Mexico would progressively return to normal activities by reopening its businesses, schools, museums and other venues closed for a week or more in its clampdown on the A(H1N1) outbreak, Calderon explained.

"At last," said Ana Maria Rodriguez, a teacher from Mexico City. "We live in the capital, we're not used to being cooped up at home."

Calderon warned against complacency as "this virus is still circulating",

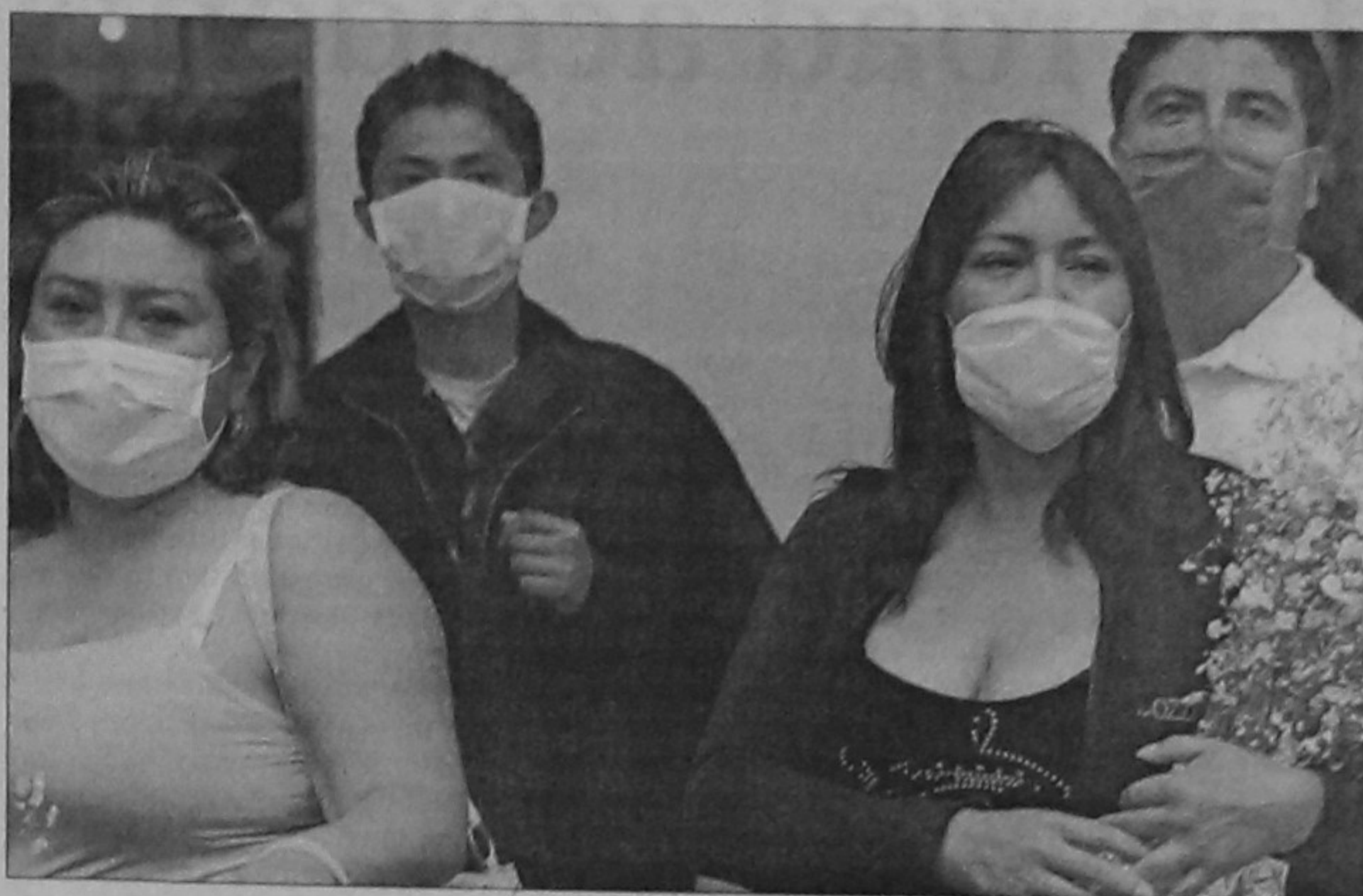
and urged people to take precautions such as regular hand-washing.

And in a sign of the continued wariness, Mexico's football federation said the last nine matches of the championship would be played behind closed doors.

The UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported a total of 1,085 cases worldwide and 26 deaths -- 25 of them in Mexico and one in the United States. Mexico puts its death toll at 26.

"In this situation, it's critical that we continue to maintain and strengthen our alert and surveillance," said Keiji Fukuda, the WHO's acting director-general.

The WHO raised its alert level to level five last Wednesday, which indicates a pandemic is imminent, and the organisation's chief Margaret Chan again raised the prospect of it being increased to the maximum of six.



People wearing surgical masks wait for their relatives at "Benito Juarez" International Airport in Mexico City on Monday. Mexico was preparing to reopen many businesses and tourist sites closed by its swine flu epidemic after officials said the H1N1 virus which has killed 26 people in the country looked to be under control.

Karzai chooses warlord as running mate

AP, Kabul

President Hamid Karzai chose a powerful warlord accused of rights abuses as one of his vice presidential running mates on Monday, hours before leaving for meetings in Washington with President Barack Obama and Pakistan's president.

The selection of Mohammad Qasim Fahim, a top commander in the militant group Jamiat-e-Islami during Afghanistan's 1990s civil war, drew immediate criticism from human rights groups.

A 2005 Human Rights Watch report, "Blood-Stained Hands," found "credible and consistent evidence of widespread and systematic human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law" were committed by Jamiat commanders, including Fahim.

Georgia troops stage mutiny Govt blames Russia

AFP, Tbilisi

Georgian troops on Tuesday staged a mutiny on the eve of Nato exercises in the ex-Soviet republic, which the government said it ended without violence but accused Russia of backing the rebels.

A tank battalion at the Mukhrovani base just outside Tbilisi staged the uprising, officials said. The mutineers had plotted the assassination of

President Mikheil Saakashvili, according to interior ministry spokesman Shota Utashvili.

"It's over. Most of the people have surrendered, including the commander of the battalion. A few people have escaped," Utashvili told AFP. "There was no violence whatsoever."

Several dozen armoured vehicles reportedly went to the Mukhrovani base, about 25 kilometres (15 miles) from Tbilisi, Georgian television

reported.

Saakashvili called it a "large-scale mutiny" but Rustavi-2 television reported that the president had gone personally to the base to negotiate with the mutineers.

Accusations of Russian involvement, angrily denied in Moscow, reignited diplomatic tensions which have remained high since a five day war between the neighbours last August.



Georgian tanks move at a road outside Tbilisi yesterday after troops staged a mutiny on the eve of Nato exercises in the ex-Soviet republic, which the government said it ended without violence but accused Russia of backing the rebels.

44 killed in attack in Turkey engagement ceremony 8 gunmen arrested

AP, Mardin

Turkish security forces yesterday detained eight gunmen suspected of fatally shooting 44 people, many of whom were praying, at an engagement ceremony in the rural southeast of the country.

Masked assailants with automatic weapons attacked the celebration Monday night in the village of Bilge, near the city of Mardin, in what appeared to be the result of a family feud, Interior Minister Besir Atalay said.

Blood feuds occasionally happen among families in the region, where tribal ties and rivalries can eclipse the power of the state.

On Tuesday morning, four large earth-movers were seen digging graves for the victims in the village. Police allowed friends and relatives to enter Bilge, but journalists were kept out. Authorities also cut telephone communication with the village.

The dead included the engaged couple, and six other people were wounded. Two

girls survived after the bodies of slain friends fell on top of them. Reports said the gunmen opened fire as men and women prayed in separate rooms in line with tradition in parts of Turkey.

Turkish media initially described the gathering as "dugun," a term for a wedding celebration. However, Atalay and media outlets later used the term "nisan," which refers to an engagement ceremony.

Atalay said eight suspects were in custody, and that some of their family names were the same as those of the victims.

"They were caught with their weapons," he said. "The first indications are that it was the result of disputes, of animosity among relatives, within a family in the village."

Citing unidentified authorities, CNN-Turk television said the attack may have occurred because one of the gunmen wanted to marry the engaged woman himself and he opposed the marriage. It said there was a family tie between the assailants and the couple who were killed.

'Dozens of Afghan civilians killed in US-led air raids' 30 militants killed in fresh fighting

AP, AFP, Kabul, Herat

Afghan officials alleged yesterday that dozens of civilians had died in bombing runs by US-led coalition aircraft during fighting in a Taliban-controlled region of western Afghanistan.

Heavy fighting between Taliban and security forces in Afghanistan is believed to have left about 30 militants and several civilians dead, some killed in airstrikes, a governor said yesterday.

Clashes erupted in the western province of Farah early Monday and continued into the night, with international forces called in to carry out airstrikes, provincial governor Rohul Amin told AFP.

Two Afghan officials, one of whom said he was in the village and had seen many bodies, said children, women and elderly men had gathered in an Afghan home for safety after fighting broke out between militants and Afghan forces and US coalition troops. The officials said aircraft later bombed the village in western Farah province, hitting one or more homes where civilians had gathered.

The top US spokesman in Afghanistan, Col. Greg Julian, confirmed coalition forces participated in the battle. Julian said several wounded Afghans sought medical treatment at a military base in Farah, but officials were still investigating the reports of civilian deaths.

Farah's provincial police chief said 25

Taliban fighters and three Afghan policemen were killed in the fighting, which began Monday in Bala Buluk district.

"Afghan and foreign forces conducted an operation between 1 pm and 8 pm (Monday). They have killed more than 25 Taliban. Most of the dead bodies are there," Abdul Ghafar said. Ghafar could not confirm reports of civilian casualties.

Provincial council member Belqis Roshan said dozens of Taliban gathered in Bala Buluk on Monday, and fighting broke out soon after.

She said airstrikes later hit civilian homes. She estimated the number of civilian deaths at between 70 and 83, based on information from villagers. Roshan said she told villagers to take photos and video of the destruction and bodies.

Bala Buluk's former top government official, Mohammad Naeem Qaderdard, who no longer holds a government position, said he visited the village of Gerani and saw dozens of bodies.

"These houses that were full of children and women and elders were bombed by planes. It is very difficult to say how many were killed because nobody can count the number, it is too early," he told The Associated Press by telephone. "People are digging through rubble with shovels and hands."

Qaderdard said there "are more than 100 civilians dead" and about 10 houses had been destroyed.



THE WORLD BANK

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Bangladesh
Trust Fund #: TF093446

Consulting Services
Designing an Integrated Package of Private Public Partnership Options for Industrial Wastewater Treatment and Reuse in greater Dhaka

The Government of Bangladesh has requested World Bank financing for a \$70 million project to reduce industrial water pollution in the greater Dhaka watershed, through demonstration pilots in 2/3 informal industrial clusters. The Dhaka Integrated Environment and Water Resources Management Project (DIEWRMP) is seeking to finance the construction of a Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) along with technical assistance for the promotion of pollution prevention and control in the selected industrial clusters, including technology packages and compliance incentives for local industries (as well as broader environmental capacity building measures). The World Bank intends to finance the assignment/services described below under a Trust Fund managed by the Bank. The duration of the contract is expected to be 8 months.

Proposed activity will support the World Bank team design the package of TA and compliance incentives for the project by undertaking the following tasks:

- Extensive consultations with industries in short-listed industrial clusters to identify acceptable mechanisms for voluntary compliance, public-private partnerships and possible champions (at the pourashava, industrial sector and unit level)
- Development of an action plan outlining public private partnership (PPP) models for the sustainable operation and maintenance of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP).
- Review and identification of feasible wastewater collection and pretreatment options for Industries' pilot project.
- Analysis for potential of surrogate water markets for industrial reuse of treated wastewater.

All studies will need to draw on international best practice and adapt options to local context.

The World Bank Office Dhaka now invites eligible consulting firms to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for the above services. Interested consultants (firms) are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff). The EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following:

- Age of business of consultant (firm)
- Availability of key professional staff (list of management, key personnel)
- Turnover of the consultant (firm)
- Experience of the consultant (firm) in similar field.
- Experience of the consultant (firm) in other works/assignments
- Support service of the consultant (firm)

The organization will be selected based on the Consultants Qualification (CQ) method in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers. In accordance with the CQ method of the Guidelines, based on the submissions of expressions of interest (EOI), the Bank will select the organization with the most appropriate qualifications/ experience and references as described above. Only the selected firm shall be asked to submit combined technical-financial proposal and then be invited to negotiate the contract.

Interested consultants should obtain further information from the address below.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered through WBG eConsultant (www.worldbank.org/wbgeconsultant) by May 26, 2009. In case the consultant is unable to submit EOI through WBG eConsultant due to technical difficulties (i.e. eConsultant system down, unable to upload applications etc.) then they may submit EOI to the below address through hardcopy or electronic submission (i.e. email).

The World Bank Dhaka Office

Khawaja M. Minnatullah
E-32, Agaraoan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar,
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh, Tel: + 880-2-815-9001
E-mail: Kminnatullah@worldbank.org

North Korea runs cyber warfare unit

AP, Seoul

North Korea runs a cyber warfare unit that tries to hack into US and South Korean military networks to gather confidential information and disrupt service, a news report said yesterday.

The North's military has expanded the unit, staffing it with about 100 personnel, mostly graduates of a Pyongyang university that teaches computer skills. Yonhap news agency reported, citing an intelligence agency it didn't identify.

South Korea's Defence Ministry said it is aware that Pyongyang has been training hackers in recent years but did not provide details and had no other comment. The National Intelligence Service South Korea's main spy agency said it could not immediately confirm the Yonhap report.

Pakistan court acquits two over 2002 attack on French nationals

AFP, Karachi

A Pakistan court yesterday acquitted two men sentenced to death over a 2002 bombing that killed 11 French engineers, the highest number of Westerners to have died in a single attack in the country.

Asif Zaheer and Mohammad Rizwan, who allegedly belonged to al-Qaeda-linked extremist group Harkatul Mujahideen al-Ahmi, were arrested in December 2002, seven months after the attack in Pakistan's financial capital Karachi.

In 2003, an anti-terror court convicted them on multiple counts of assisting the suicide attack, which killed 11 French engineers and three Pakistanis outside the Sheraton Hotel, and sentenced them to death and 50 years in prison.

A suicide bomber rammed a Toyota Corolla sedan packed with 140 to 150 kilograms (300 to 330 pounds) into a bus as it collected the Frenchmen from the hotel.

They were helping Pakistan build its first locally made submarine.



Vacancy Announcement



UN
DP
Bangladesh

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh invites applications from highly qualified, energetic and experienced professionals who wish to join dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following positions for the 'Activating Village Courts Project'.

- Project Manager
- Legal Expert
- Training Manager
- Finance and Accounts Officer
- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (2 Posts)
- Communication Officer
- Admin and Procurement Assistant
- Admin and Finance Clerk

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 22 May, 2009.

RECRUITMENT FOR MERCHANT BANKING OPERATION

Southeast Bank Limited is a fast growing modern banking institution having a unique corporate culture & friendly working environment which unite our people towards achieving tremendous results in every aspect of Bank's operations.

The Bank is looking for a few highly capable, skilled, confident and enthusiastic experienced personnel for **Merchant Banking Operation**, Head Office, Dhaka:

Position : Portfolio Officer

Qualification : A post graduate degree preferably with Finance background with no third division/ class/ CGPA below 2.50 in academic career.

Skill : Strong communication and writing ability. Familiar with Ms Word, Excel, CDBL and capital market related software. Knowledge about trading rules and regulations of SEC and stock exchanges.

Experiences : Minimum 2-3 years job experience in portfolio management services with reputed merchant bank or broker house.

Position : Accounts Officer

Qualification : MBA/ Master Degree in Accounting or Finance (CA P-I/PII passed preferred)

Skill : The candidate should be able to run independently the Accounts & Finance Department along with periodical reporting to all regulatory bodies, specially preparation and presentation of accounts and knowledge about the trading and settlement procedure and rules of SEC and stock exchanges. Excellent written and oral communication skills in English. Familiar with Ms Word, Excel, CDBL and capital market related software.

Experiences : Minimum 3-4 years job experience in accounts and settlement activities with reputed merchant bank and brokerage house.

Position : Compliances Officer

Qualification : MBA/ Master Degree in Accounting or Finance (CA P-I passed preferred)

Skill : Familiar with Ms Word, Excel, CDBL and capital market related software and the trading and settlement procedure of stock exchanges and adequate knowledge about the rules and regulations of SEC and stock exchanges.

Experiences : Minimum 2-3 years job experience in compliance and monitoring activities with reputed merchant bank and brokerage house.

The job offers attractive compensation package for the deserving candidate.

Age: Not over 32 years as on 30.04.2009 (Age may be relaxed for experience candidates).

If you think you are the right person we are looking for, please send your application with a complete resume along with 03 (three) copies of recent passport size photographs, attested copies of all academic certificates addressed to the Senior Executive Vice President, Human Resources Division, Southeast Bank Limited, Head Office, Eunoo Centre, Level #3, 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 in a sealed envelop within **May 14, 2009**.



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