

Pakistani internally displaced children, who fled military operations against Taliban militants in troubled Swat valley and Buner, attend a class in their tent school at the makeshift Yar Hussain Camp in Swabi. The dusty camp was set up by the government in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) with the help of the UN refugee agency on the outskirts of the town of Swabi, sheltering about 1,200 families in the same number of tents.

PHOTO: AFP

UN chief Ban in 'refugee land'

Sees for himself despair of displaced Tamils

AFP, Cheddikulam

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon came face-to-face yesterday with the despair of Sri Lanka's war-hit civilians as he toured the nation's biggest refugee complex, home to 200,000 displaced by fighting.

Just days after Colombo declared victory over Tamil Tiger, he toured the sprawling Menik Farm camp, 250 kilometres north of Colombo, which was jammed with civilians who had fled the war zone.

"I'm very moved after what I have seen. I've seen so many wounded," he said after spending 20 minutes walking through the camp, a sea of makeshift corrugated iron shacks and tents.

"There are huge challenges that can only be overcome by strong support from the international community," said Ban, on a 24-hour visit to Sri Lanka.

He stopped at a government-run clinic where he saw around 100 elderly patients, some with gaping wounds, who had been caught up in the conflict.

The camp, referred to by Sri Lankan authorities as a "welfare village," was surrounded by barbed wire and under heavy guard.

Tamil activists have likened "welfare villages" to concentration camps, while UN and aid agencies have complained about restrictions on vehicle access to the shelters.

Asked whether the security was there to stop people leaving, Ban replied: "I don't think they are holding them (the civilians) back for any particular purpose."

"They're trying to resettle them, to reintegrate them," he said. "That is the Sri Lanka government's commitment."

But "there seems to be a clear limitation in their capacity to resettle these people. The UN is going to try to fill the gap."

Ban, due to return to Copenhagen late Saturday, said Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama had promised him civilians would be resettled by year end.

He said he would mobilise UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations to help with the resettlement.

Former leader's apparent suicide stuns S Korea

AFP, Seoul

South Koreans were in shock Saturday over the apparent suicide of former president Roh Moo-Hyun, with his successor describing the case as a national tragedy.

Roh, who was in office from 2003-8, was questioned last month as a suspect in a multi-million dollar corruption case.

He fell from a cliff near his retirement village of Bongha close to the southeast coast. An aide said he left a suicide note for family members.

"It is truly hard to believe what happened. It is a sad, tragic incident," current President Lee Myung-Bak was quoted by his spokesman as saying.

Lee was told of the death while holding a summit with Czech President Vaclav Klaus. He cancelled his remaining engagements for the day.

Lee told ministers to prepare Roh's funeral "with respect and in line with the protocol for a former president," the spokesman said.

Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso offered condolences to the neighbouring country.

"I was quite surprised," Aso told reporters after hearing about Roh's death, according to Jiji Press.

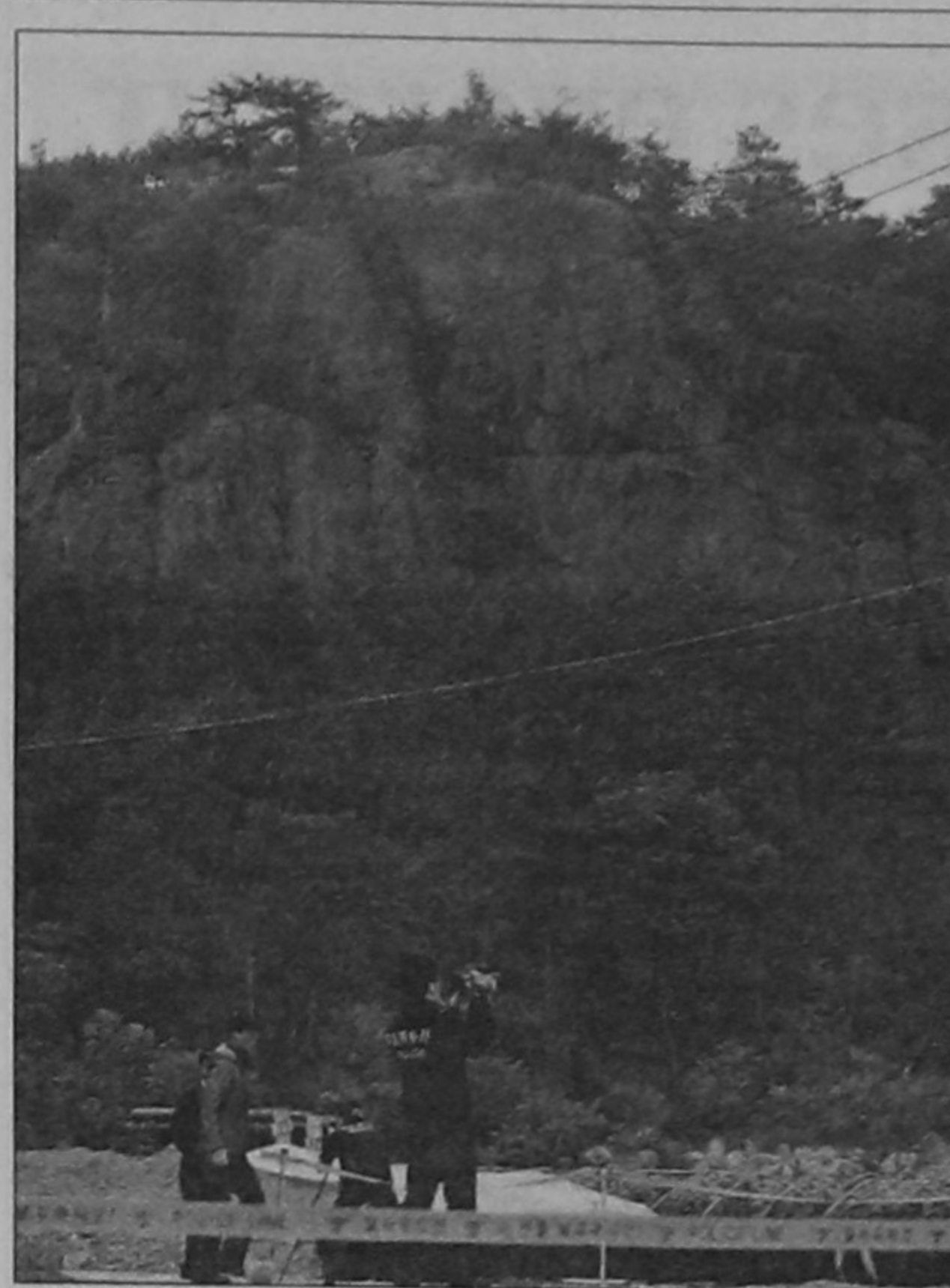
"I would like to offer my condolences and pray for the repose of his soul."

The allegations against Roh had tarnished his image while in office as a clean president who had been elected partly on pledges to fight corruption.

Justice Minister Kim Kyung-Han said the graft case against Roh would be formally closed. "I express deep condolences...and pray for the repose of the deceased," he said.

Kim Dae-Jung, Roh's predecessor as president, expressed "great shock and sorrow," according to an aide.

Kim was the country's best-known dissident during the days of army-backed rule, while Roh made a name as a human rights lawyer before turning to politics.



South Korean police investigate the area near an entrance to the mountain where former South Korean president Roh Moo-Hyun plunged to his death, near his private residence, at the village of Bongha in Gimhae, about 450km southeast of Seoul yesterday.

US offers resuming Cuba migration talks

AFP, Washington

The United States, in another move aimed at thawing relations with Cuba, has offered to resume migration talks with the communist-ruled island almost six years after they were suspended.

"We intend to use the renewal of talks to reaffirm both sides' commitment to face legal and orderly migration," a State Department official told AFP Friday.

The official, who asked not to be named, said Washington hoped the talks would "improve operational relations with Cuba on migration issues."

The United States and Cuba had carried out discussions on the issue every two years until they were suspended in 2003 by former president George W. Bush.

Washington is trying to facilitate reunification of Cubans who want to leave the country with kin in the United States, mainly in South Florida.

Assad brands Israel key obstacle to peace

AFP, Damascus

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad launched a tirade against Israel yesterday, branding it the "major obstacle" to peace in the Middle East and backing the right of resistance to recover occupied land.

He said the current state of Middle East peacemaking had exposed the "true nature of this aggressive state."

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and indirect contacts between the Jewish state and Syria have been on ice since Israel's massive offensive against the Gaza Strip in December and January.

"The failure of the peace process is a blatant demonstration that Israel is the major obstacle to peace," Assad said

in an address to a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in Damascus.

"Our experience with Israel during indirect peace negotiations mediated by Turkey is further proof of this."

Turkey brokered four rounds of indirect talks between the two foes last year, the first such contacts since previous peace negotiations were broken off in 2000 over the fate of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

But Syria froze the contacts at the turn of the year when Israel launched its 22-day war on Gaza, controlled since June 2007 by the Islamist Hamas movement whose exiled leader Khaled Meshaal lives in Damascus.

Terrified residents flee Mogadishu fighting

53 people killed in crossfire

AFP, AP, Mogadishu

Terrified residents fled the Somali capital yesterday, following a day of fierce fighting between government forces and hardline Islamist rebels that left at least 53 people dead.

A Somali human rights organisation says 53 people were killed in the most recent fighting between government troops and Islamic insurgents in the capital.

Ali Sheik Yasi said Saturday that 181 people were also wounded during Friday's offensive by the government in Mogadishu.

Yasi is the deputy chairman of Elman Human Rights

Organisation, which collates casualty figures based on interviews with health officials, morgues and witnesses.

Most killed in Friday's exchanges were civilians trapped in the crossfire or claimed by mortars. As soon as things calmed down many inhabitants packed up and left Mogadishu, some on horse carts heading to camps outside the city.

"The city is quiet this (Saturday) morning and many people are fleeing to avoid upcoming attacks. I think the government is planning a further offensive," said Somali police officer Colonel Mohamed Adan.



Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre, Dhaka.

Congratulations!

Prof. M. Alamgir Chowdhury, Professor & Head, ENT Dept. Medical College for Women & Hospital has been awarded 'Atish Dipankar Gold Medal-2009' for his outstanding contribution in Medicine. The hon'ble Speaker Advocate Md. Abdul Hamid presented the award on 16th May, 2009 at

We are proud of his distinguished achievement.



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US drone attacks on Pakistan counter-productive: PM

AFP, Islamabad

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani yesterday said attacks by US drones on Pakistani territory were "counter-productive" because they undermined Islamabad's efforts to isolate militants.

"As far as drone attacks are concerned, the entire world has the same stand as Pakistan has that drone attacks are counter-productive," Gilani told reporters in a televised press conference in the eastern city of Lahore.

"If the drone attacks had been useful, then we would have ourselves supported them."

Gilani said missile strikes by US drones on the northwestern tribal areas bordering Afghanistan were in fact strengthening the militants.

"Our policy is to isolate militants from the local tribes, but drone attacks unite them," Gilani said.

Gilani said Pakistan had convinced the international community about the repercussions from drone attacks and was also urging the United States to stop them.

"We have convinced the world, we have tried to convince the United States also and you will see that America would review its policy,"



PHOTO: AFP

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki (L) attends with unidentified delegation members the opening session of Organisation of the Islamic Conference ministerial meeting in Damascus yesterday. The meeting is focused this year on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process in the Middle East.

পাওয়ার গ্রিড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Institution of Engineers (IEB) New Bhaban (4th floor) Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Tender for Leasing out countrywide one pair of PGCB's dark optic fiber cable.

1.	Agency (Lessor)	Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (PGCB)
2.	Concerned Entity	Company Secretary Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. IEB Bhaban (4 th floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
3.	Short Description	Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. wants to Lease out one pair of dark optical fiber (OPGW), countrywide.
4.	Tendering method	Open tendering method (OTM); two envelope system.
5.	Eligibility of Tenderers	License holders from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), such as PSTN, Mobile/Cellular Operator, NTTN, Wi max etc.
6.	Price of Tender Document	1. A bank draft or pay order of Taka 21,000 (Twenty one thousand) or USD-\$300.00 (Three hundred) in favour of "Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd." in favour of "Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd." 2. Bidding document may also be sent to tenderers through courier on request of the tenderer against an additional fee of Tk. 500.00 (for local delivery) or of USD-\$50.00 (for overseas delivery) with the price of the bidding document mentioned above.
7.	Name and office of tender seller, receiver & opener	Company Secretary Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. IEB Bhaban (4 th floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
8.	Last date and time for selling tender document.	27 July 2009 (Office hour).
9.	Last date and time for tender submission	28 July 2009, 12:00 noon.
10.	Date and time for opening tender proposal	28 July 2009 at 12:30 pm.
11.	Bid Security	Bangladesh taka 30,000,000.00 (taka thirty million) as Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd.

(Md. Ashraf Hossain)
Company Secretary



বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতি

DIABETIC ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH
BADAS-Perinatal Care Project

Employment Notice

BADAS-Perinatal Care Project is a joint initiative of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS), Women & Children First-UK and Centre for International Health and Development, University College London, which aims to improve women and child health in rural areas of Bangladesh. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the below mentioned position funded by the Wellcome Trust (UK).

Position: Deputy Director

Job Responsibilities

The post-holder will be expected to:

- Provide assistance in overall operations management to Project Director
- Provide technical assistance to Dhaka and District Offices staff (on areas including but not limited to community interventions, mortality surveillance, data systems, process evaluation)
- To contribute to technical, managerial and research capacity building among PCP staff and affiliated researchers.
- To monitor progress of PCP activities
- Prepare of briefing documents, reports and peer-reviewed publications in English and Bangla
- Liaise with key partners in Government, bilateral and multilateral agencies, the NGO sector
- Have an active involvement in PCP research activities

Essential requirements:

- Masters in Public Health/Epidemiology/Social Sciences
- At least 5 years project management and experience in relevant field
- Committed to improving women and children's health
- Ability to work independently and as a part of a team
- Strong managerial, communication and interpersonal skills
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Computer literacy in MS Word, MS Excel & Power Point
- Experience in analysis of population health projects

Salary: Not more than Tk 70000/per month (consolidated). Other benefits as per rule.

Instructions to Apply

Candidates meeting the above requirements should send their CV mentioning two names of referees along with a covering letter, and one copy of recent photograph to Project Director, BADAS-Perinatal Care Project, Room No. 390 (2nd Floor), BIRDEM Building, 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000 by 31/05/2009. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Md Sayef Uddin

Secretary General

Bangladesh Diabetic Society (BADAS)