

126,000 displaced daily by Pak conflict: UNHCR

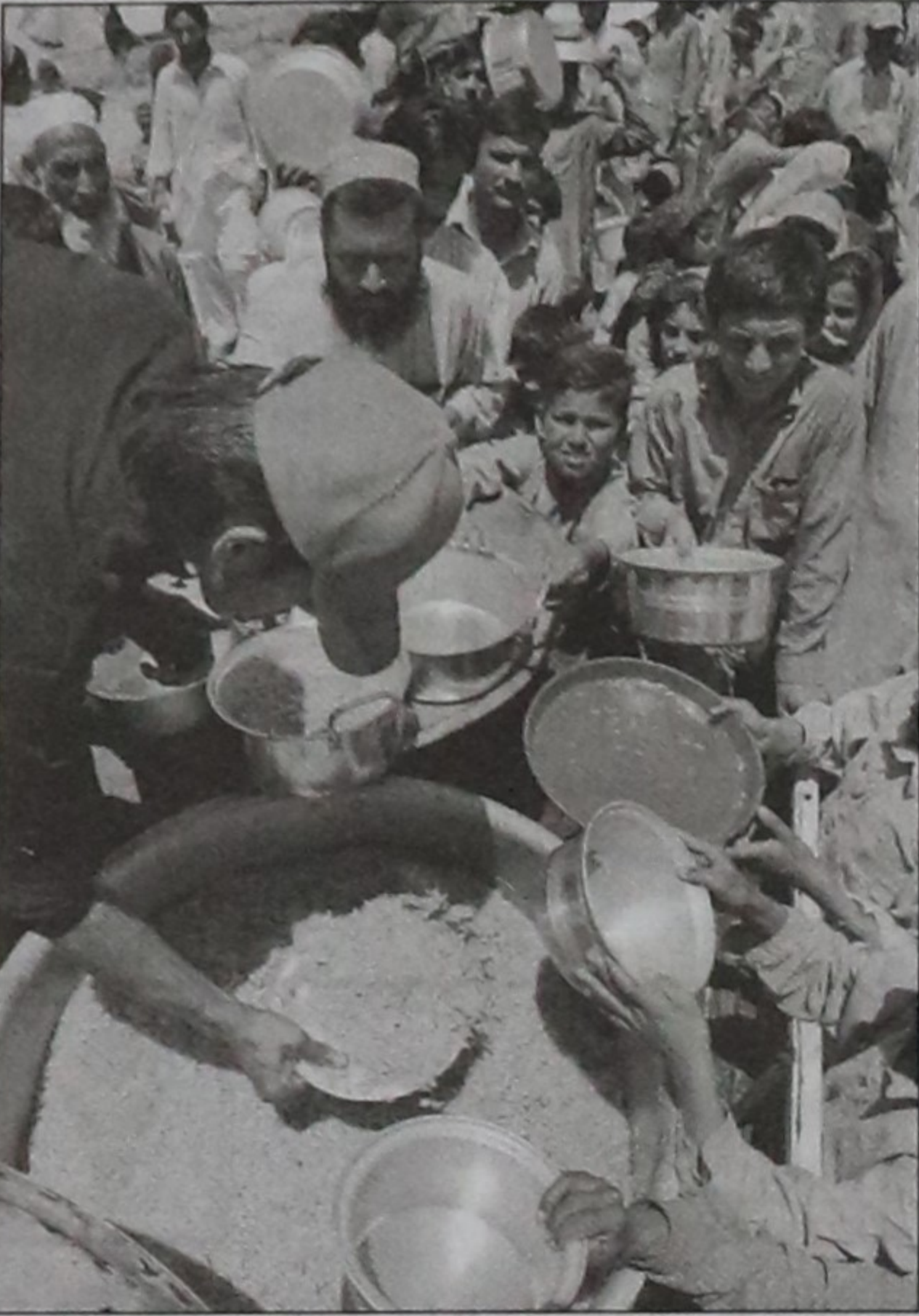
Pakistan should airlift food to Swat, says HR Watch

AFP, AP, Geneva Islamabad

About 126,000 people are daily fleeing fighting in northwest Pakistan in one of the "fastest major displacements" in recent years, the UN refugee agency said yesterday. "Pakistanis continue to leave the areas of conflict between government forces and militants in search of refuge in Mardan, Charsadda, Swabi and Nowshera districts of North West Frontier province," said Ron Redmond, spokesman for the UNHCR. "Some 18,000 families -- about 126,000 people -- are registered on average every day in these districts," he told journalists in Geneva.

On Monday, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said the number of displaced people from the Swat, Lower Dir and Buner districts had reached 2.38 million since May 2. Redmond said he did not know how many people were still trapped in the conflict zone and added he could not estimate the potential scale of the displacement. But he said the last census in Swat district alone counted between 2.2 and 2.5 million inhabitants. "This is one of the fastest major displacements that we have seen in some years," said Redmond. Meanwhile, Pakistan must immedi-

ately lift a curfew in the Swat Valley and airlift food, water and medicine to residents trapped by battles between the military and the Taliban or risk a humanitarian catastrophe, Human Rights Watch warned yesterday. Tens of thousands of civilians are thought to remain in the valley and surrounding districts, where the army faces a major test of the country's resolve to take on militants with a strong grip on parts of the country. More than 2 million people have fled the fighting, an exodus encouraged by government forces because it moves noncombatants out of harm's way and makes insurgents easier to identify.



Pakistani internally displaced people, who fled military operations against Taliban militants in troubled Swat valley and Buner, receive food at a makeshift camp in Swabi yesterday.

75 pc of terrified Pak cops go 'missing' in 'death zone' Buner

ANI, Peshawar

With the Taliban establishing its writ in the Swat Valley, a large number of police personnel deployed in the region have reportedly run away. It has been revealed that almost 75 percent of police personnel deployed in Buner District are missing, while over 40 percent of them have not reported on duty in Swat due to the Taliban's expanding writ in the region. Over 30 per cent of the total Malakand police force has either quit or the cops are not reporting to their police stations for the past several months, The News reports. "Almost 310 cops out of the total 400 policemen have reportedly deserted the force in Buner while 820 have quit jobs in Swat. The Swat police comprise of around 2000 policemen," sources said. Not only the local cops, but security personnel from the Elite Police Force (EPF) are

also evading repeated duty orders. Only 100 cops of the Elite Police Force (EPF) and four platoons, comprising around 136 individuals, of the Frontier Constabulary, are reporting for duty, sources added. It may be noted that the EPF had refused to be deployed in Swat to improve the law and order situation, saying they would prefer quitting their jobs rather than being posted in the 'death zone'. The inspector general of police (IGP) had directed the cops several times to report to their respective police stations, but all attempts have failed to sway the police officials. Once considered a plum posting, Swat is now being avoided by the cops. They are using all their contacts to pressurise higher police authorities for transferring them out of the hilly town.



Supporters of former Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif dance after a court verdict outside the Supreme Court building in Islamabad yesterday. Pakistan's Supreme Court suspended a ban on opposition leader and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from holding office and contesting elections.

Pak SC declares Sharif brothers eligible to contest elections

ANI, Islamabad

Revoking the Lahore High Court's verdict to disqualify former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his brother Shahbaz Sharif from contesting elections, the Pakistan Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday declared the Sharif brothers eligible for fighting elections. The five-member SC bench headed by Justice Tassaddq

Hussain Jilani, while hearing the review petitions filed by the Sharifs' against their disqualification on the conviction in plane hijacking case and default case respectively ordered to lift the ban from them. Earlier, the apex court had upheld the Lahore High Court's (LHC) verdict in February after the two consistently refused to appear before the before the PCO judges and SC three-member bench,

during hearing of the petitions. Later, Shahbaz Sharif was removed from the post of Punjab chief minister and governors' rule was imposed in the province. Nawaz Sharif, had then called on a nation wide protest march against the verdict and to restore the judiciary including reinstating the deposed chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

Extremism is Pakistan's biggest threat Says Musharraf

ANI, Lahore

Former Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf has said that extremism poses the biggest threat to Pakistan. In an interview to a private TV channel, Musharraf claimed that Islamabad has taken several steps to thwart extremism, and criticism in this regard was baseless. He urged both India and Afghanistan to join Pakistan in initiating some harsh measures to root out extremism from the region. Commenting on the Swat offensive, the Daily Times quoted him as saying that the security forces should remain in the valley even after the operation is called-off.

Afghan bomb attack kills 3 US soldiers

AFP, Kabul

A bomb attack on US troops north of the Afghan capital Tuesday killed three soldiers and three Afghan civilians, military and Afghan officials told AFP. The blast was near Bagram, a town about 50km north of Kabul, where the United States has its largest military base in Afghanistan, officials said. "Three International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members were killed and one injured after an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan this morning," Isaf said in a statement.

Nepal's new PM asks Maoists to join govt

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's new prime minister appealed yesterday for the Maoist party to join his government, saying the former rebels' participation was needed to protect the country's peace process. Madhav Kumar Nepal was sworn in on Monday after three weeks of political deadlock triggered by the shock resignation of Maoist premier Prachanda only eight months after taking office. Prachanda stepped down over a dispute with the national army, which he and his fellow guerrillas had fought against in a bloody civil war that ended in 2006. "This is not the time to stop the path of consensus, reconciliation and unity," the new prime minister said. "I appeal to the Maoists to join the present government and help in taking the peace process forward." Prachanda came to power in elections last year, but quit after a failed bid to sack the head of the army, General Rookmangud Katawal.

Fresh India-Pakistan dialogue soon

Hopes Pak FM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad
India with a new government headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh should resume the peace process with Pakistan, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said. "Cordial and better relations" between Pakistan and India would be not only beneficial for the region but also for the people of both countries, Qureshi said during a meeting with Indian High Commissioner Sharat Sabharwal here Monday. It was the first meeting of any Pakistani official with Indian high commissioner after elections in India, the Online news agency reported. The current India-Pakistan relations following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, investigation into the attacks, formation of new

government in New Delhi and other matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting that lasted for more than an hour, sources close to the meeting said. Qureshi, according to the sources, also advocated for resuming the confidence building measures between the two neighbours, saying that can remove 'sense of deprivation among the citizens of both countries'. He said Pakistan intended to resolve all outstanding issue with India through 'dialogue for sustainable and lasting peace in the region'. The Kashmir issue should also be resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmir people, the foreign minister said and pledged that Islamabad was committed to bringing the perpetrators of Mumbai attack to justice at all cost.

Swine flu hits cruise ship passengers in Australia

AFP, Sydney

More than 2,000 cruise ship passengers have been asked to quarantine themselves for a week after eight passengers and a crew member tested positive for swine flu. "We are all requesting that all people onboard this ship remain in quarantine for seven days," New South Wales chief health officer Kerry Chant told reporters after the Pacific Dawn ended its South Pacific cruise in Sydney. Two five-year-old boys who arrived in Sydney onboard the ship on Monday tested positive for the A(H1N1) virus, with an adult passenger and crew member also diagnosed on Tuesday in Sydney. Another five people from the ship returned positive test results in the neighbouring state of Queensland. Passengers were asked to remain in their homes or hotels.



HORTEX FOUNDATION
Sech Bhaban (3rd floor), 22, Manik Mia Avenue
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

Employment Opportunity

National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) Phase-I, a national project of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) funded by JDA/IFAD has started its implementation through the coordination of Ministry of Agriculture (Lead Ministry) and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. The project has 4 (four) components: (1) Agricultural Research Support (BARC and KGF), (2) Extension Support (Department of Agricultural Extension, Department of Fisheries and Department of Livestock Services), and (3) Supply Chain Development (Hortex Foundation) and (4) Project Coordination Unit (PCU). The overall objective of the long term program (in three phases over 15 years) of NATP is to support GOB's strategy to improve national agricultural productivity and farm income, with particular focus on small and marginal farmers. The development objective of phase-I of the NATP is to improve effectiveness of the national agricultural technology system in Bangladesh. The Hortex Foundation has been allocated public funds from the GOB and IDA (Credit # 4386-BD) towards the cost of the Supply Chain Development Component of NATP and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds for payment under contract to the following national contractual expert positions (project based).

Sl. No.	Name of the Position	Required Educational Qualification	Required Experiences	Salary Per Month
1	Manager (Financial Management) (one position)	Bachelor degree in commerce with CA course complete.	Proven experience in setting up and/or managing accounting systems in developing countries, knowledge of GOB Financial Management procedures will be added advantage; extensive experience in auditing and/or in operating grants/credit systems; proven skills in establishing financial management systems, including a minimum of fifteen years of experience in a senior position in administration, finance and accounts. Additional qualification in financial management will be preferred. Should be computer literate, fluent in English and have proven communications skills.	Tk. 90,000
2	Logistics (Transportation & Storage) Expert (one position)	Postgraduate degree in agricultural engineering.	15 years of experience in the field of transportation and storage of perishables. International experience in the relevant fields will be additional qualifications. Must be a dynamic with proven experience in handling of agricultural commodities. Should be computer literate, fluent in English and have proven communications skills.	Tk. 90,000
3	Business Development Expert (one position)	Postgraduate in relevant field preferably MBA or Masters in agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.	More than 15 years experience in the relevant field. Practical working experiences in business development services and development projects. Experience in contract farming approach and marketing linkage development will be treated as an added qualification. Should be computer literate, fluent in English and have proven communications skills.	Tk. 90,000
4	Assistant Manager (Procurement) (one position)	B. Sc. in engineering or Masters in Economics/ Statistics/Finance/Business/ Management/Law or other relevant subjects.	At least 5 years of working experience in private or public procurement in capacity of Procurement Specialist/ Contract Administrator or Buyer or equivalent positions; proven expertise in use of internally accepted contract documents for works, goods and services; sound understanding of national regulations and international agencies procurement guidelines; experience in preparation of procurement plans for Government projects, bidding documents, RFAs and evaluation reports following donor agencies guidelines shall be an added advantage; computer literate, fluent in English and proven communications skills.	Tk. 60,000
5	Assistant Manager (Accounts) (one position)	M. Com/MBA.	Experience in financial management in agricultural/ autonomous/private sector in high executive and decision making post; experience in handling fund of donor aided project; knowledge in accounting software; literacy in MS Word & Excel; fluent in English and have proven communication skills.	Tk. 60,000

About 3% may be added to the monthly salary of each consultant as GOB matching fund. The tenure of the above positions is for project period following satisfactory annual performance evaluation. The Hortex Foundation now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Request for Application (RFA) with details of the project, job description/TOR, application submission form, Curriculum Vitae form and expected outputs may be collected from Hortex from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on any work days or through email request to: hortex@citechco.net. The interested candidates are requested to send their application along with CV, relevant certificates and two (2) copies of recent passport size photographs attested by a Gazetted Officer along with a cover letter (one page) by mail to the address mentioned below within 14 (fourteen) days of publishing this notice in the newspaper. Women candidates are encouraged to apply. The candidates will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations-2003 and Public Procurement Rules 2008 issued by GOB and the guidelines for selection and employment of Consultants by the World Bank Borrowers. Candidates who are already in employment shall send application through proper channel, otherwise they shall not be considered for appointment. Candidates are requested to write the position applied for on the top of the envelope. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview. No TA/DA will be provided for attending interview. Also visit www.hortex.org or www.cptu.gov.bd or www.barc.gov.bd for this announcement.

Managing Director
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IFIC BANK LIMITED
ইফিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

HEAD OFFICE, BSB BUILDING (8TH, -10TH, 16TH -19TH) FLOORS
8 RAJUK AVENUE, DHAKA.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

IFIC Bank Ltd. is a first generation private sector commercial bank having 74 branches mostly under Real-Time On-line Network through Equation based Misys On-line Banking Solution.

In order to implement the Cheque processing system under Bangladesh Automated Clearing House (BACH) Project as guided by Bangladesh Bank, the Bank intends to procure necessary Hardware & Software which will be capable of capturing and processing outward cheque data and images as well as accepting inward cheque data and images from BACH.

The tender schedule will be available from Corporate Communication & Support Service Division, IFIC Bank Limited, Head Office, BSB Building, 17th Floor, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka from 28.05.2009 to 04.06.2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days upon payment of Tk.2,000/- (non-refundable) through payment order in favour of IFIC Bank Limited. The offer should be dropped in the tender box kept at Support Service Department, IFIC Bank Ltd. Head Office, 17th floor, BSB Building up to 3:00 p.m. on 07.06.2009 and the tender box will be opened on the same day at 4:00 p.m. in presence of vendor/bidder(s) (if any). If the tender cannot be opened as per scheduled date and time due to unavoidable circumstances, the same will be opened on the next working day.

The bidders shall submit one copy for technical proposal and another for financial proposal under separate sealed cover labeled as "Technical Proposal" & "Financial Proposal" in sealed envelope.

The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Abul Hossain
Executive Vice President
& Head of CC&SS Division