

Coordination problems dog Haiti relief effort

Desperate Haitian quake survivors awaited vital supplies on Saturday as coordination problems hampered a massive international aid effort and US troops struggled to clear the logjam.

Four days after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake brought death and misery on an unprecedented scale to the impoverished and dysfunctional Caribbean nation, aid was trickling in but failing to reach some of those most in need.

Crammed onto overflowing buses or on foot, thousands fled the flattened capital where the putrid stench of decomposing bodies hung in the air and fears grew of angry riots in the tense aftermath of Tuesday's quake.

"The streets smell of death," said Talulum Saint Fils, who sold her jewellery for one-way bus tickets for her husband and their four children out of Port-au-Prince.

"I'd go to any place but away from this city," she told AFP. "There is no assistance of any kind, and our children simply cannot live like animals."

Senior Haitian aid official Michel Chancy complained of "major coordination problems" at the US-operated airport in Port-au-Prince where the control tower was felled by the quake and said that when planes land "there is no one in charge."

French Secretary of State for Cooperation Alain Joyandet said he had lodged an official complaint with the

Americans after a plane from France carrying a field hospital was turned away.

"At this time there is a gigantic traffic jam at Port-au-Prince airport. Moreover, the airport is functioning at a very reduced capacity," Red Cross coordinator for the Americas Mauricio Bustamante told AFP.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton became the highest-ranking US official to visit Haiti since the quake and highlighted an urgent bid to clear logistics hurdles and find creative ways to deliver aid.

Back in Washington, President Barack Obama rounded up the unlikely duo of George W. Bush and Bill Clinton for a united aid pledge for Haiti and said the United States was doing its utmost to help.



Image released by the UN on Saturday shows Brazilian and Chinese search and rescue teams work through the rubble of the United Nations mission headquarters in Haiti. Port au Prince, was rocked by a devastating earthquake on Tuesday killing thousands.

UN confirms death of mission chief in Haiti

AFP, United Nations

UN chief Ban Ki-moon Saturday confirmed the death of his mission chief in Haiti, Hedi Annabi, and his Brazilian deputy in the quake that flattened the UN mission's main headquarters.

"I am deeply saddened to confirm the tragic death of my special representative to Haiti, Hedi Annabi," Ban said in a statement.

"His deputy Luiz Carlos da Costa and the acting police commissioner, Doug Coates of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, are also confirmed to have perished," he added.

The announcement brings to 40 the number of UN personnel confirmed dead in Tuesday's 7.0-magnitude quake, which killed at least 50,000 people, according to Haitian authorities.

Close to 330 people among the 12,000 UN staffers serving in Haiti are still unaccounted for, according to UN officials.

Ban hailed Annabi, who was meeting with a Chinese police delegation when the quake struck Tuesday, as "a true citizen of the world."

"The United Nations was his life and he ranked amongst its most dedicated and committed sons. He was passionate about its mission and its people," the secretary general said.

Obama, Bush, Clinton stand 'united' for Haiti

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama on Saturday brought together his White House predecessors, Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton, for a joint appeal for victims of Haiti's devastating earthquake.

"By coming together in this way, these two leaders send an unmistakable message to the people of Haiti and to the people of the world," Obama said in the Rose Garden, flanked by the two former leaders.

"In these difficult hours, America stands united. We stand united with the people of Haiti who have shown such incredible resilience, and we will help them to recover and to rebuild."

Cops helpless in face of looters

AFP, Port-au-Prince

Exhausted police fired in the air to scare off armed looters pillaging shops Saturday in the quake-ravaged Haitian capital, but to little effect. Only seconds later the desperate mob was back.

The uniformed police -- one of the rare signs that the Haitian government has not collapsed -- are under orders not to open fire on the hungry, angry crowds frantic to find food and water in the rubble of Port-au-Prince.

But their shots fired in the air did nothing to dissuade the looters, combing the wreckage of shops, public offices and houses destroyed in the Tuesday's 7.0-magnitude quake.

Ignoring the dangers of clambering through the unstable ruins, Haitians dash into the rubble hoping to find something useful and still intact that could be sold on the black market if it's not edible.

"They steal whatever they can take. Whether they need it or not. It's crazy. We are under orders only to disperse them. We can't fire at them. But it's not working. We have no protection and we are afraid," said policeman Louis Jean Eficien.

"Lots of people are armed and the streets are full of criminals because all the prisoners have escaped. Not far from here, they fired on a Brazilian team," another officer said.



A child cries in an orphanage on Saturday which was destroyed during the earthquake in Fontamara close to Port-au-Prince following the 7.0-magnitude quake on January 12.

Create right atmosphere for talks

India tells Pakistan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao Sunday said Pakistan 'needs to do much more' to address India's concerns over continuing cross-border terror before dialogue can resume between the two neighbours.

When asked about the recent spate of terrorist attacks, rockets attacks and repeated firing across the international border in Kashmir from the Pakistan side, Rao said that Pakistani groups are involved, possibly with support from the Pakistani authorities. "Terrorism directed against India continues from territory under Pakistan control and from Pakistan," Rao told Karan Thapar in The Devil's

Advocate to be aired on CNN-IBN Sunday night, excerpts from which were made available by the channel in advance.

"All the events you have seen over the last few days basically point to the basic and undeniable fact that the infrastructure of terrorism which operates out of Pakistan and territory under Pakistan control has not been dismantled..." she said.

"...and it continues to be directed against the Indian people. It affects ordinary people," she added.

"Look at what has been happening in Srinagar over the last few weeks. Look at the incidents of infiltration that have gone up despite the fact that this is cold weather," she said.



A Kobe resident prays for earthquake victims during a memorial service for the 15th anniversary of the Great Hanshin Earthquake yesterday in Kobe city in Hyogo prefecture, western Japan. Approximately 6,400 people lost their lives in the quake known as Kobe quake that occurred on January 17, 1995.

Tigers take first day

FROM PAGE 1 satisfaction had a miscued pull from Tendulkar was grabbed by one of the three fielders in the last over before the batsman complained of bad light and the umpires called it a day after 63 overs.

Still, the Bangladeshi bowlers proved that they had the ability to pull off a surprise even in the longer-version with limited resources.

Tendulkar also survived a close call early in his innings courtesy of Imrul Kayes, who failed to grasp the ball at first slip when the right-hander was on 16.

The morning however hardly showed what following as Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir gave India a flying start after Shahad won the toss and decided to bowl in trying conditions after the match started one and a half hours behind the schedule due to dense fog.

Runs came thick and fast with Sehwag batting in his usual style and they went for a happy lunch with the scoreboard reading 63 without loss, but things changed dramatically from the second over of the second session.

Shakib gave the much-needed breakthrough sending back the dangerous Sehwag, who smashed nine boundaries to make 52 off 51 balls, to open the door for Shahadat who dismissed Gambhir (23) and Rahul Dravid (4) in quick succession.

The crisis deepened for India when VVS Laxman was intelligently stumped by Mushfiqur Rahim and Yuvraj Singh offered a simple catch to Rubel Hossain at mid on and on both occasions the bowler was Shakib. India lost half their wickets for 149 runs and the tail was quickly exposed when Shahadat got the last recognised batsman Dinesh Kartik, who was brilliantly caught by Rokibul Hasan at silly point and India went for tea at 160 for six.

Shahadat captured his fourth wicket trapping Amit Mishra, who came in for injured spinner Harbhajan Singh, and finished with four for 51 in 14 overs while Zaheer Khan could not capitalise on his chance as he was dropped by debutant Shafiqul at point.

Shakib later took the wicket of Zaheer to take his fourth wicket. He returned figures of four for 52 in 26 overs.

In the Indian innings, the only resistance came from Tendulkar, who achieved another milestone by scoring 13,000 runs as the only batsman in the world to reach the mark.

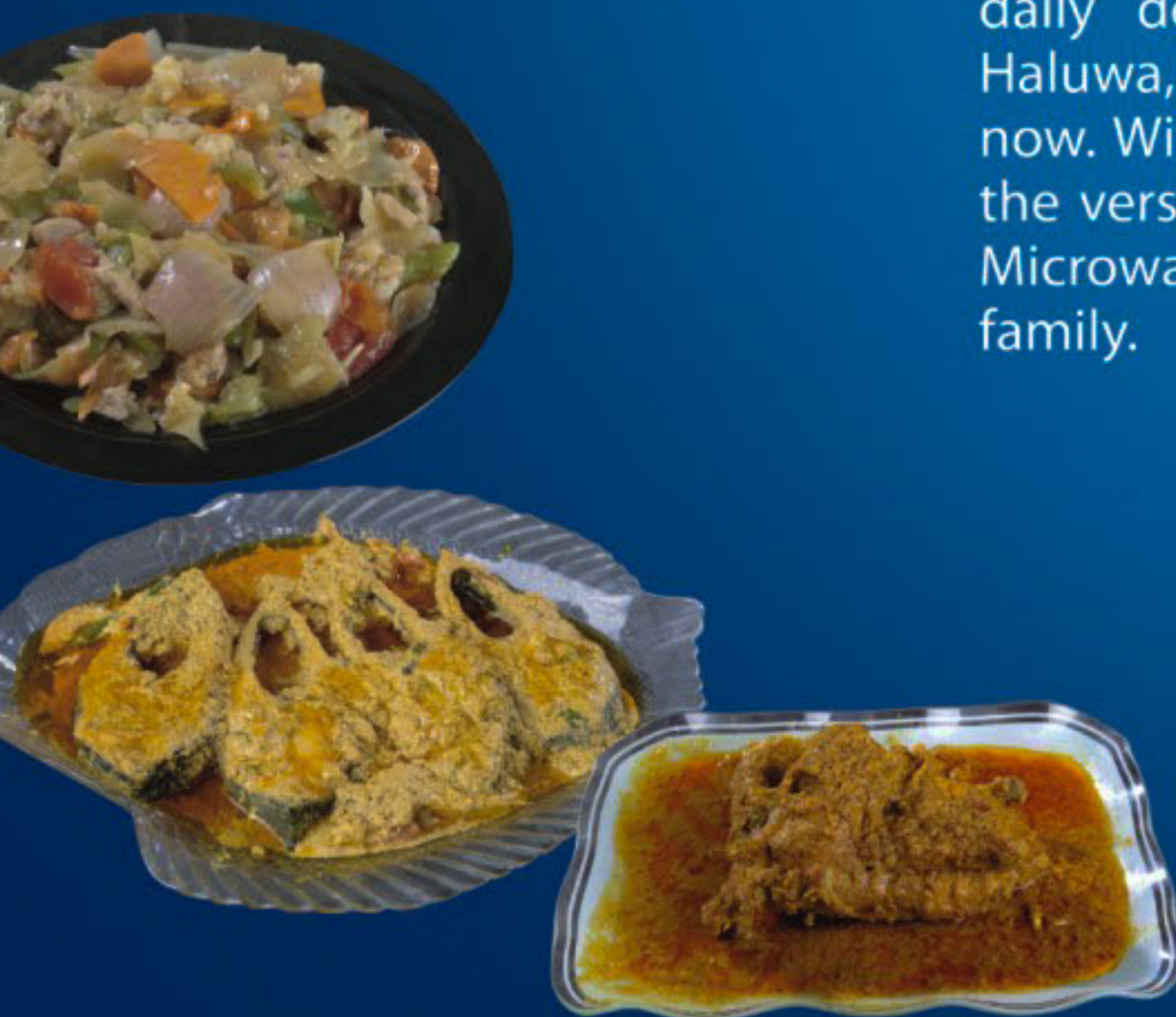
Sachin struck six fours and a six during his unbeaten 140-ball 76.

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