

UN climate chief quits

AFP, Paris

Yvo de Boer, head of the UN's climate change convention, will resign as of July 1, his office announced yesterday.

De Boer, who is executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, will join the consultancy group KPMG as global advisor on climate and sustainability and work with a number of universities, the UNFCCC secretary said.

The announcement came nearly two months after the Copenhagen summit on climate change, widely seen as either a disappointment or a chaotic failure.

The UNFCCC, an offshoot of the 1992 Rio summit, gathers 194 nations in the search for combating the causes of man-made climate change and easing its effects.

Taliban put up tough resistance

AP, Marjah

US Marines pummeled insurgents with mortars, sniper fire and missiles as fighting intensified Thursday in two areas of the Taliban southern stronghold of Marjah, where US and Afghan forces are facing stubborn resistance in an operation now in its sixth day.

Marines traded machine-gun fire after coming under attack by insurgents with rocket-propelled grenades. One Marine company attacked Taliban positions surrounding them at dawn.

Marines and Afghan troops continued to battle "stiff resistance" in different parts of town, a Marine spokesman said Thursday.

"We're seeing more fortified positions. They're standing their ground, essentially," Lt Josh Diddams said. "You don't know where you're going to get a little pop up of insurgents who are going to stay and fight."

The fighting in Marjah has followed a similar pattern over the past few days: relatively light in the morning with sniper fire intensifying through midday before subsiding at nightfall.

But there were also pockets of calm. Families trickled back and shops reopened in a northern part of town as a small measure of normalcy returned to parts of Marjah that are under Afghan and Nato control.

Their donkeys laden down with their belongings, several families could be seen coming back to their homes in a sign that some civilians believed the fighting is over in zones secured by Nato troops.

Several storekeepers reopened their shops in the bullet-riddled northern bazaar in the northern part of town, as customers lined up to buy goods for the first time in nearly a week.

This is the biggest offensive since the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan, and a test of President Barack Obama's strategy for reversing the rise of the Taliban while protecting civilians.

Five Nato service members and one Afghan soldier have been killed since the attack on Marjah, the hub of the Taliban's southern logistics and drug-smuggling network, began Saturday. About 40 insurgents have been killed, Helmand Gov Gulab Mangal said.



A newly hoisted Afghan flag is seen in the background as US Marines with Nato forces stand guard in a deserted market in Marjah on Wednesday. Afghans have raised their flag over a bazaar badly damaged by fighting with Taliban militants in a major US-led offensive to drive out the Taliban from a southern Afghan town.

Mossad involved in Hamas leader killing

Says Dubai police

AP, Dubai

Dubai's police chief says the investigation into the killing of a Hamas commander now points almost certainly to Israel's Mossad spy agency.

The Web site of UAE daily The National on Thursday quoted Lt. Gen. Dahi Khalaf Tamim saying a probe into the slaying "reveal(s) that Mossad is involved in the murder" of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh.

He says it "is 99 percent, if not 100 percent that Mossad is standing behind the murder."

The National is owned by the government of Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE.

Origin of key cosmic explosions unravelled

AFP, Chicago

Astronomers who have long used supernovas as cosmic mile markers to help measure the expansion of the universe now have an answer to the nagging question of what sparks the massive stellar explosions.

"These are such critical objects in understanding the universe," lead author Marat Gilfanov of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Germany said Wednesday in describing his team's study.

"It was a major embar-

assment that we did not know how they worked. Now we are beginning to understand what lights the fuse of these explosions."

Most scientists say Type Ia supernovas are formed when a white dwarf star -- the collapsed remnant of an old

star -- becomes unstable after it exceeds its weight limit.

Instability could come from the merging of two white dwarfs or accretion -- a process in which the gravity of the star draws in enough material from a sun-like companion.

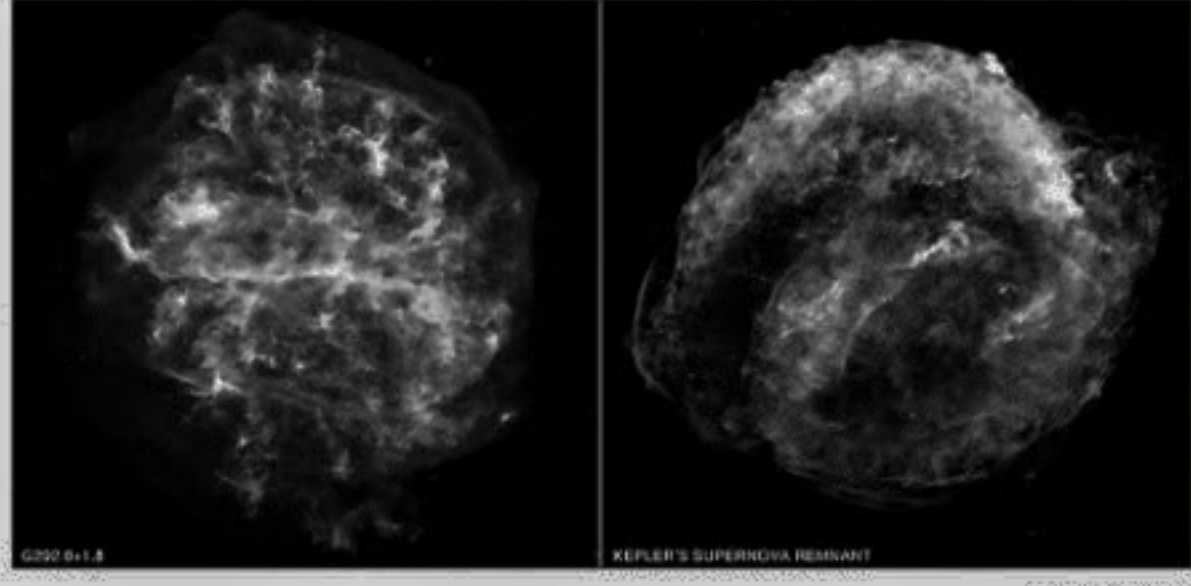


PHOTO: AFP

This composite image obtained February 17, 2010 from the Chandra X-Ray Observatory shows two supernova remnants, part of a new study from Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory that shows how the shape of the remnant is connected to the way the progenitor star exploded. In this study, a team of researchers examined the shapes of 17 supernova remnants in both the Milky Way galaxy and a neighbour galaxy, the Large Magellanic Cloud.

12 killed in attack on Iraqi govt compound

AP, Baghdad

A suicide car bomb exploded yesterday outside the gate the main government compound in the capital of Iraq's Anbar province, killing at least 12 people, including four police, a security official said.

The province, where al-Qaeda-backed Sunni insurgents once held sway, has seen a rise in attacks against security forces and government officials in recent months. The incident also comes amid fears that next month's elections will stoke political violence.

The attacker blew up his explosive-packed car outside the gate of a compound housing the governor's office, police headquarters and courts, the security official said.

The blast also wounded at least 20 people, he added, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to release the information.

Anbar is primarily made up of Sunnis, who enjoyed a privileged status under Saddam Hussein's Sunni-led regime. It was the site of some of the war's most intense fighting between US forces and insurgents in the key cities of Ramadi and Fallujah.

Britain reasserts right to oil exploration in Falklands

AFP, London

Prime Minister Gordon Brown reasserted Britain's oil exploration rights in the Falkland Islands yesterday and said the population there is "properly protected".

Argentina is ramping up the pressure on Britain over oil exploration in contested waters around the resource-rich South Atlantic archipelago, over which the two sides fought a brief war in 1982.

"This is oil drilling that is exploration for the future. It is exactly within our rights to do this."

US won't talk to Taliban until it cuts Qaeda ties

AP, Kabul

The United States is monitoring reconciliation talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government but will not participate unless the insurgents renounce al-Qaeda, a top US diplomat said Wednesday.

The comments by Richard Holbrooke, the US envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, came the same day that a Maldives government spokesman said delegations representing the Taliban and the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai held talks late last month in the

island nation.

Spokesman Mohamed Zuhair said the delegations held three days of face-to-face talks to forge a peaceful solution to the eight-year-old Afghan conflict. The talks did not involve a third party, and the Maldives government was not directly involved in organising them, Zuhair said.

Holbrooke told reporters at the US Embassy in the Afghan capital that there have been lots of "indirect contacts" made with the Taliban, but he dismissed the impression that there was a "peace negotiation going on somewhere in the shadows."

Global cyberattacks hit firms, govts

AFP, San Francisco

Coordinated cyberattacks launched from Europe and China breached computers at firms and government agencies worldwide in the past 18 months, The Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday.

The Journal quoted computer security firm NetWitness as saying the attacks made mountains of data vulnerable to mining by hackers, although the damage had yet to be fully assessed.

Information bared to hackers ranged from credit card transactions to intellectual property of slightly more than 2,400 victims, including 10 US government agencies, according to the Journal.

Missionaries accused of Haiti child trafficking back in US

AFP, Miami

Eight American missionaries who faced child kidnapping charges in Haiti arrived back in the United States early yesterday after being freed by a judge in the quake-devastated nation.

Two of the missionaries are still being held over the case which has overshadowed the international relief effort after more than 217,000 people were killed in the January 12 quake.

The eight checked in to the Miami International Airport hotel after arriving at the Florida city from Haiti.

Teacher killed in German school

AFP, Berlin

Armed police commandos rushed to a school in Germany yesterday, arresting a 23-year-old man after a teacher was killed in the latest in a string of school attacks.

The training college in Ludwigshafen, southwest Germany, with more than 3,200 pupils, was immediately evacuated and there were no further injuries, police said, although the attacker apparently assaulted several teachers.

"There was one person dead. It was a teacher who was seriously injured and then later died of those injuries," police spokesman Michael Lindner told rolling news channel N24.

No details were immediately given of how the attack was carried out.

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Interested candidates are requested to send their own hand written applications with recent passport size photograph and resume to the following address by 4th March 2010. Please inscribe the position title on the top of the envelope.

Radiant Pharmaceuticals Limited
22/1 Dhanmondi, Road 2, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 8611661

নীট এবং ওভেন গার্মেন্টস এর জন্য সাব-কন্ট্রোল কারখানা আবশ্যিক

জরুরী ভিত্তিতে নীট এবং ওভেন গার্মেন্টস (বটম এন্ড টপস) উৎপাদন-এ সক্ষম কারখানা, ২/৩ মাস সময়ের জন্য সাব-কন্ট্রোল ফ্যাক্টরি আবশ্যিক। আপনার কারখানা যদি উপরোক্ত ধরনের গার্মেন্টস উৎপাদনে সক্ষম হয় এবং নির্ধারিত সময়ে তৈরী করতে ইচ্ছুক হন, তবে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে নিম্নোক্ত মোবাইলে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

যোগাযোগ : ০১৭১৩-০৩৩৫৮৮

 Australian Government
AusAID

Vacancy for Program Officer, Bangladesh

The Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), is seeking to fill the position of Program Officer, based in the Australian High Commission, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Program Officer's duties will support the development and management of Australian aid program activities, in Water and Sanitation (WatSan) and Health as well as other sectors as required, within the Bangladesh Program.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA

- Experience in working with development programs in the WatSan and/or health sectors. The ideal candidate will have had a minimum of 4 years professional experience;
- Postgraduate qualifications in development studies and demonstrated knowledge of Bangladesh's development, economic, political, social and environmental situation;
- Knowledge of WatSan and health related activities in Bangladesh and also preferably, in the international context;
- Excellent English and Bangla communication skills;
- Demonstrated ability to analyze, interpret and provide input to policy development;
- Demonstrated ability to work as a part of a multicultural team as well as independently;
- Ability to travel and work non-standard hours, when work demands dictate.

DESIRED SELECTION CRITERIA

- Knowledge of the Australian Government's aid policy and programs.

APPLICATIONS

- Interested applicants should submit their CV and a statement, outlining their suitability for the position, by 4:00 pm on Saturday, 27 February 2010.
- Statements should not exceed two pages AND MUST DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE 'ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA' ABOVE. Statements not addressing the selection criteria will not be considered.
- Please address applications to hr.ausaid@dfat.gov.au and clearly mention 'Program Officer' in the subject line.
- All applications will be treated on merit and in strict confidence.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.