

Nor'wester kills 120 in India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

At least 120 people were killed and more than 200 injured as a severe nor'wester raged through parts of three eastern Indian states including West Bengal's North Dinajpur district bordering Bangladesh on Tuesday night.

The highest number of deaths of 77 were reported from Bihar followed by West Bengal 39 and four in Assam as the nor'wester struck at midnight on Tuesday night.

In Bihar, 33 people were killed in the nor'wester in Purnea, 29 in Araria districts, seven in Katihar and two each in Kishanganj and Supaul districts.

Preliminary estimates said more than one lakh people were affected, many of them rendered homeless, in the areas where the nor'wester lasting for nearly 40 minutes flattened mud-built houses and uprooted thousands of trees and electric poles.

It was a "severe nor'wester that struck the region, said G C Debnath, director of regional met department in Kolkata but there was no prior warning of storm of such a magnitude.

Several victims died in their sleep as the nor'wester lashed at midnight razing huts and shanties.

The storm fell several electric poles, leading to snapping of power supply and telephone lines in North Dinajpur district where the worst-hit villages are Raiganj, Hematabad and Kiran Dighi, West Bengal Civil Defence Minister Srikumar Mukherjee said.

Medical teams and dry food have been sent to storm-affected people in West Bengal, state chief secretary Ashok Mohan Chakrabarty said.

A prison collapsed in Bihar's Araria district, after which jail authorities shifted about 600 under-trials.

The governments of West Bengal and Bihar announced cash compensation to next of kin of those who were killed in the nor'wester.



PHOTO: AFP
Indian storm victims queue to receive relief material from the local administrative office in the village of Karandighi, some 460kms north of Kolkata yesterday. The violent storm that killed 120 and left hundreds of thousands homeless in northeast India was a tornado that took forecasters by surprise, weather officials said.

Indian govt criticised over anti-Maoist strategy

AFP, New Delhi

India's government came under attack from the opposition yesterday over its tactics to tackle Maoist insurgents who killed 76 policemen in an attack earlier this month that shook the country.

The parliament reconvened after recess for a session that will see a new budget passed, but immediately set aside all other business to debate the growing attacks from the outlawed left-wing rebels.

The government is under fire from leftist allies who favour softer tactics and solutions to the underlying problems fuelling the rebellion and right-wing opponents who favour a hard-line military solution.

The April 6 police carnage in the Dantewada forests of the central state of Chhattisgarh was the bloodiest single blow by the Maoists in their decades-long struggle against India's regional and central governments.

"No one in India is safe after Dantewada and we will not be secure as long as we do not have control on the insurgency," said Yashwant Sinha, who was finance minister in a right-wing opposition BJP party-led national government.

Pak Senate approves reforms to curb president's power

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's upper house of parliament yesterday unanimously approved constitutional reforms stripping President Asif Ali Zardari of the power to dissolve parliament and sack the prime minister.

The package reverses sweeping powers amassed by former military dictators Pervez Musharraf and Zia ul Haq and could ease political instability in the nuclear-armed country on the front line of the US-led war on al-Qaeda.

Ninety lawmakers present in the 100-

member Senate voted in favour of the package of amendments and there was no vote against it.

"It is a victory of democracy today," Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told the assembly after the vote.

"Approval of this constitutional amendment is a landmark in the constitutional history of Pakistan," Gilani said.

The lower house of parliament last week approved the 102-clause bill that reverses moves by successive military rulers to weaken Pakistan's 1973 parliamentary constitution. It will now go to Zardari to be signed into law.



PHOTO: AFP
This handout picture released by The Pakistani Press Information Department shows Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari talks with former external affairs minister of India, Jaswant Singh (R) during a meeting in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Myanmar blasts kill 9

AP, Yangon

At least nine persons have been killed as several explosions hit Myanmar's biggest city Yangon during traditional New Year festivities.

A hospital official who gave the death toll said the number was expected to rise. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to release information.

The casualties were not officially confirmed.

Taliban claim victory in 'Valley of Death'

AFP, Kabul

Taliban militants yesterday claimed victory after the US military withdrew this week from a rebel-infested area in eastern Afghanistan that became known as the "Valley of Death".

Troops pulled back from Korengal, a rugged mountainous region in Kunar province bordering Pakistan, as part of what Nato's International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) said was its new "repositioning" strategy.

The commander of foreign forces in Afghanistan, US General Stanley McChrystal, is looking to concentrate his counter-insurgency campaign against the Taliban in more populated areas.

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আমাদের য়োন



Vacancy Announcement Smiling Sun Franchise Program

Smiling Sun Franchise Program (SSFP), the largest health project of USAID-Bangladesh, is moving fast forward, to become one of the world's largest health social franchise. In fulfillment of this mission, SSFP has been maintaining a highly motivated and fairly large team of skilled personnel from medical, engineering, business and communication disciplines, employed by Chemonics International Inc. Smiling Sun Franchise Program (SSFP) in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following position for Dhaka.

1. Franchise Development Officer

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.smilingunhealth.com/jobs>. Interested candidate are requested to send their CV in strict confidence, mentioning current salary by emailing to jobs@smilingunhealth.com. Please mention the position in the subject line. Application should be submitted no later than 25 April 2010.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants".

"Women are especially encouraged to apply"

TENDER NOTICE

INVITATION FOR SUPPLY OF FOREIGN FURNITURE For the NSU Campus @ Bashundhara

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide suppliers for Supply of Foreign Furniture at North South University Campus, Bashundhara, Dhaka.

The interested suppliers shall apply in their letterheads to the undersigned along with attested copies of the up to date Trade License, Income Tax Certificate and VAT registration certificate in support of their eligibility to obtain documents.

Tender document shall be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of non-refundable cash of Tk. 1,000.00 (Taka one thousand) only from 18 April, 2010, and are to be submitted by 16:30 hours on 03 May, 2010.

Director, Logistics & Resources

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Plot # 15, Block # B, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh
(Established by the North South University Foundation)



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In order to take over the existing activities, and further establish and develop our Pulcra textile and garment business in Bangladesh, we are looking for 4 entrepreneurial minded team players with strong expertise of the textile and garment business.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO ALL CANDIDATES:

- Ability to represent and achieve the company's objectives vis-a-vis external partners and customers
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- Expertise in using MS Office
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- Excellent contacts to the textile and garment industries
- Ability to lead, motivate and grow a sales + technical team
- Identify new markets/trends, maintain and expand customer portfolio
- Experienced in preparing annual planning and reporting

SALES MANAGER:

- Excellent contacts + know-how of local market and clients
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TECHNICAL MANAGER:

- Outstanding technical expertise in pretreatment, dyeing, printing and finishing of fabrics, garments, knits and yarns
- Experienced in practical trials and bench testing for the pretreatment and finishing processes
- Good sense for technical innovations and market requirements/trends
- Ability to demonstrate and present product portfolio and its technical application
- Candidates for above positions should possess Graduation / Post Graduation degree in Textile Engineering. MBA degree will be preferred.

FINANCE MANAGER:

- Post graduation degree in Finance/Accounting from reputed institute
- Minimum of 12 years experience in multinational company or private group company

If you feel that you are the person we are looking for, if you are ready to take on new challenges in a start-up business, please send your Resume/ Bio-data/ CV by end April 2010 to:
Corporate Adviser, Pulcra Chemicals Bangladesh (Private) Limited, 62/1, Purana Paltan (Level-4), Motijheel, Dhaka

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