



Indonesian visitors explore a wedding exhibition during the Jakarta wedding festival yesterday. Hundreds of bridal businesses are participating in the event.

Pakistan monsoon floods kill more than 320

AFP, Peshawar
Flash floods and landslides triggered by torrential monsoon rains have killed more than 320 people in Pakistan in three days and yesterday at least 300,000, officials said yesterday.
Hundreds of homes and thousands of hectares (acres) of cultivated land were destroyed in the northwest and Pakistani Kashmir, with the main highway to China reportedly cut off and communities left isolated.
The death toll dwarfed even the 152 killed when a Pakistani passenger jet crashed into hills overlooking Islamabad on Wednesday and capped a week of tragedy in the nuclear-armed nation of 167 million.
Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where impoverished families live in remote mountain villages, was the worst affected.
'We have so far gathered the figure of 325 deaths due to flash floods in the northwest and (Pakistan-controlled) Kashmir,' Anwer Kazmi, spokesman for Pakistan's largest charity the Edhi Foundation.
'Our officials have got reports of at least 300 deaths in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province while 25 people died in Kashmir's capital Muzaffarabad.
'We have not collected the complete figures from some districts and fear the number of casualties is much higher,' he said.
The meteorological department said an 'unprecedented' 312 millimetres (12 inches) of rain had fallen in the last 36 hours in the northwest but predicted only scattered showers during coming days.
Government officials put the death toll at 325.
'At least 181 people have died and more than 60 are missing in the province,' provincial relief commissioner Shakil Qadir told AFP.
The worst-hit area was Malakand, where 102 people died and 16,000 were marooned because bridges have collapsed and road links been cut, he said.
Qadir said that around 2,800 Pakistani holidaymakers had been stranded in the Swat valley, where the military maintains a heavy presence after a massive operation against Taliban insurgents last year.
Efforts are being made to airlift them to safety in helicopters, he said.
The death toll was confirmed by senior provincial minister, Bashir Ahmad Bilour, who said around 300,000 people had been affected as gushing water swept away hundreds of houses.
In Pakistan's largest northwestern city, Peshawar, 80,000 people were affected alone, he said.
Bridges were washed away and areas cut off as heavy rains swept away roads and disrupted communications.
Among the 210 dead in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were 29 killed when a landslide hit their houses yesterday, police said.
Women and children were among the dead. The landslide caused by heavy monsoon rain destroyed 11 houses on a mountain in Shangla district.
'Twenty-nine people have died, think the death toll will rise. There are women and children among the dead,' senior police officer Qazi Jamil told AFP.
Fazlullah Khan, a local member parliament, said 34 people were killed.
'A rescue operation is under way. Bad weather is a big hurdle,' he told AFP.
The Karakoram Highway, which links Pakistan to China, was closed as rains washed away a bridge in Shangla district, also cutting off Gilgit-Baltistan from other parts of the country, media reports said.
In Pakistani Kashmir, another 22 people were killed and more than 30 injured Thursday as dozens of houses collapsed due to heavy rains, said the regional prime minister Sardar Atique Ahmed.
The army said it sent boats to rescue stranded people and army engineers were attempting to open roads and divert the waters from key routes.

US pushes for India Pakistan dialogue

IAN S, Washington
The United States says it encourages a dialogue between India and Pakistan despite 'revelations' of known links between Pakistani spy agency ISI and the Taliban as it is in the interest of all three nations.
'We are simply encouraging Pakistan and India to pursue a dialogue that we think is fundamentally in the interest of both countries,' State Department spokesman Phillip Crowley told reporters Thursday when asked why the US was nudging India for talks when it knew that ISI was funding Taliban to kill Indians in Afghanistan.
'Pakistan's relationship with elements that morphed into the Taliban go back to the Soviet occupation were very well known,' he said asserting like other US officials from President Barack Obama down that there was nothing new in the over 90,000 secret US military documents leaked by WikiLeaks.
'They're known to the United States, they're known to India, and they're known to Afghanistan,' Crowley said when asked if the US had shared with India intelligence about ISI's relationship with the Taliban before it asked India to go in for talks with Pakistan.
Asked if the US would now be putting more pressure ally Pakistan to bring those responsible for Nov 26, 2008 Mumbai terror attacks as the US now acknowledges the relationship between the ISI and the Taliban extremist groups of which India had provided proof, Crowley repeated: 'It is not a new revelation.
'Our concerns about the ISI and its contacts with some of these elements has been well known,' he said. 'It has been a part of our conversation with Pakistan for some time. Pakistan itself has commented publicly about this.
'But we are focused on the decisive action that Pakistan must take to deal with the threat that is within its borders and has, in the last year or two, become clear that it's a threat to Pakistan, and we are satisfied with the aggressive action that Pakistan has taken in response,' Crowley said.
'We want to see that aggressive action continue,' he said. 'Where we have concerns about ongoing contacts, we will not hesitate to raise them with Pakistan.'
But ultimately, as we seek a military and political solution to this challenge, it will take the leadership of Afghanistan, as was outlined last week in the Kabul conference, he said. 'But Pakistan will have to play a role in this, as will other countries in the region.'
As for the India-Pakistan dialogue, Crowley said: 'Well, quite simply, we encourage dialogue between India and Pakistan because it's in the interest of both countries and the interest of the United States.
'These countries that have gone to war multiple times in the past 60 years need to build their own relationship, need to find ways beyond military conflict to remove tensions in the relationship, (and) gain a greater understanding that can be of substantial benefit to both the people of India and the people of Pakistan.'

Italy speaker refuses to step down

REUTERS, Rome
The influential speaker of Italy's lower house refused to step down yesterday after being censured by his own party, and said his supporters could vote against the government of his former ally Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.
'Obviously I have no intention of resigning,' Gianfranco Fini told a packed news conference a day after Berlusconi effectively booted him out of the party they jointly founded two years ago, raising the specter of early elections.
A combative Fini also attacked Berlusconi for 'having not exactly a liberal concept of democracy' and of trying run a government with an autocratic business mentality, 'which has nothing to do with our democratic institutions.'
Standing behind the 58-year-old Fini were parliamentarians who will join him in his party rebellion and could weaken Berlusconi's majority in parliament.
Fini supporters said they had about 34 members in the lower house of parliament, thus enabling them to deprive him of a majority there. They have 10 supporters in the Senate, which could reduce Berlusconi's majority there to two votes.
Fini said his fellow rebels would 'loyally support the government every time it acts within the framework of the electoral program, but will not hesitate to fight proposals that are unfair or damaging to the wider interest.'

Afghans riot after SUV collides with a civilian car

ALJAZEERA ONLINE
Rioters in the Afghan capital have set fire to two US embassy vehicles shouting 'death to America' after one of the SUVs collided with a civilian car killing a number of passengers, officials and witnesses have said.
Police fired into the air to disperse the crowd of angry Afghans who threw stones and chanted 'death to Karzai' in reference to Hamid Karzai, the Afghan president.
Al Jazeera's correspondent in Afghanistan James Bays said the exact details of the incident are still unclear, but security officials are concerned.
'Some in the crowds said people got out of a [passenger] vehicle and embassy guards started firing,' our correspondent said yesterday.
Nato's International security assistance force (Isaf) said it had dispatched a quick reaction force to the area outside the American embassy and near Afghan and US army bases in the centre of Kabul.
Saleh Ahmed, a local resident in Kabul, said the accident happened when the civilian vehicle attempted to drive onto the main road from a side street and was hit by one of the two SUVs.
'The civilian vehicle was trying to get into the main road when the two foreign vehicles hit it and killed all four occupants,' Ahmed said.
'People gathered around the crash site to see what happened, got angry and started attacking the foreigners.'
Security forces were concerned that the deadly traffic accident could lead to widespread rioting, our correspondent said.
A similar accident in May 2006 led to massive riots in Kabul that left at least 14 people dead.
The area 'seems to have calmed down for now, but authorities are very concerned', our correspondent said.
Outside of the capital, six US soldiers were killed in a series of attacks in Afghanistan, bringing this month's death toll to at least 66, making July the deadliest month for American forces in nearly nine years of war.
In southern Afghanistan, one US soldier died following an insurgent attack and two others were killed in a roadside bombing yesterday, the US military said.
Earlier on Friday, Nato said that three service members died in southern Afghanistan on Thursday.
The statement did not provide the nationalities of the dead, but US officials speaking on the condition of anonymity said all three were Americans.
June had previously been the deadliest month for US troops as well as the overall Nato led force.
A total of 104 international troops died in June, including 60 Americans, according to a tally compiled by Associated Press.

Galapagos Islands taken off Unesco danger list

BEC ONLINE
A UN panel has voted to remove the Galapagos Islands from its list of precious sites endangered by environmental threats or overuse.
Unesco's World Heritage Committee backed a Brazilian recommendation to withdraw the islands from the list, saying the Ecuadorian government had made significant progress addressing threats to its island.
But the move was criticised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which said there was 'still work to be done'.
The Galapagos - the chain of volcanic islands whose unique bird and animal life influenced Charles Darwin's evolutionary theories - were declared the first World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1978.
But they were added to the committee's 'red list' of endangered sites in 2007, amid concerns about a booming population and tourism, overfishing and the introduction of invasive species.
Meeting in the Brazilian capital Brasilia on Wednesday, the 21-member World Heritage Committee agreed by majority vote that the Ecuadorian government had made strides in strengthening conservation measures.
But the IUCN - which had initially recommended the addition of the Galapagos to the 'red list' - criticised its removal.
'IUCN's recommendation for the Galapagos was that it should not be removed from the Danger List as there is work still to be done,' said Tim Badman, head of its World Heritage Programme.
'We will need continued strong commitment from the Ecuadorian government over the coming years to resolve these issues.'

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পাট গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
মানিক মিয়া এ্যাভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২০৭
ফোন: ৯১১০৯৫৩, ৮১২১৯৩১-২
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তারিখ: ২১/৭/২০১০

বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
সাভার, ঢাকা।
নং-বিএলআরআই-মহিষ/নিয়োগ/২০১০/২৭ তারিখ: ২৯/৭/২০১০ খ্রীঃ।
বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউটের অধীনে পরিচালিত 'মহিষ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প' প্রকল্পের নিম্ন বর্ণিত শূণ্য পদসমূহে প্রকল্প মেয়াদকালের জন্য সাক্ষ্যে বেতনে চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিম্নে হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।