

China mudslides leave 127 dead, 2,000 missing

AFP, Beijing

At least 127 people were killed and nearly 2,000 missing after mudslides swept away homes and destroyed roads in northwestern China as the nation battled its worst flooding in a decade.

At least one village was buried entirely and deep rivers of sludge and rocks were hampering rescue efforts in the devastated region of Gansu province, where about 45,000 people have been evacuated, the government and state media said yesterday.

Authorities have sent more than 4,500 soldiers, police, fire-fighters and medics to help in search and rescue efforts after the landslides in the remote ethnically Tibetan region, triggered by a deluge of rain late Saturday.

Premier Wen Jiabao arrived in the mountainous region on Sunday after he and President Hu Jintao urged rescuers -- some using their bare hands -- to spare no effort to save lives in the latest natural disaster to strike the country.

At least 50,000 people have been affected by floods which submerged half of Zhouqu county at one point, the official Xinhua news agency said, citing Mao Shengwu, head of the affected Gannan prefecture.

The landslides -- which struck around midnight when many people would have been asleep -- swept mud, houses, cars and other debris into a river running through the county, blocking the waterway and triggering flooding in the valley, the government said.

One village was buried by the mudslides that levelled an area five kilometres (three miles) long and 500 metres (yards) wide, Xinhua said, as floodwaters reached as high as three storeys at one point.

State television broadcast images of local residents walking through streets clogged with mud and debris and pictures of buildings swept off their foundations or destroyed by the mudslides and flooding.

Other images showed buildings and vehicles partly submerged by muddy water and soldiers and local residents frantically shovelling mud as they searched for the missing.

One image showed a four-storey building

with the first three floors buried in mud.

Reports said more than 680 people had been rescued so far, many of them stranded on top of buildings where they had fled to escape the floodwaters.

So far rescuers have not been able to use heavy machinery because of the sludge, relying instead on shovels and their bare hands to search for survivors, Xinhua said.

"It's very hard to locate the people washed away by floods. It's hard to say what their chances of survival are," said He Youxin, whose rescue team had so far saved 23 people and recovered 15 bodies.

Reports said 76 people had also been injured. Torrential downpours had stopped, reports said, but the local weather bureau has forecast more rain in the coming days.

"The water of the Bailong River flowed into the county seat and many people were trapped," said Diemujiangeng, the head of Zhouqu county.

"Now the sludge has become the biggest problem to rescue operations. It's too thick to walk or drive through."

Some roads were covered with sludge as deep as two metres, Xinhua said.

More than 300 houses were buried in the landslides which destroyed roads and bridges and tore apart buildings while telecommunications, water, electricity and transport links have been cut in parts of the region.

"Someone said the fifth floor of my residential building has been submerged. People are busy looking for their family members and friends," local resident Li Tiankui was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

Authorities have sent electricity generators, tents, instant noodles and bottled water to the region, about one third of whose residents are ethnic Tibetans, the report said.

According to government figures issued before the latest disaster, the number of people killed or missing in floods across China this year has risen to more than 2,100.

China's civil affairs ministry said Friday more than 12 million had been evacuated from their homes.

Stolen brides and life in exile from Chechnya

BBC ONLINE

Over the years, large numbers of Chechens have fled Chechnya and are making lives elsewhere. Many have chosen to leave, but others have been given no choice.

As Zulikhan stepped on board, one of the guests thrust a bouquet of flowers into her arms. "For our new bride," he winked. It was Zulikhan's first outing as a married woman. A month ago, on her way home from college in the Chechen capital Grozny, she was snatched off the street and bundled into a car by a man she barely knew.

A week later, she was Bogdan Khazhieva's wife.

Straight after the wedding he took her to Pavlodar in northern Kazakhstan and installed her in a couple of sparsely furnished rooms above his parents' flat.

And now here she was, nearly 3,100 miles (5,000km) from home, sailing down a river in Kazakhstan.

But it was an idyllic summer's day and as the boat cut through the sun-flecked water, Zulikhan seemed resigned to her fate. She sat demurely on the top deck with a group of mothers and babies.

Meanwhile Bogdan, an aspiring businessman in mirror shades, was having lunch below deck with his cousin, Sultan.

The cousin explained that he too had kidnapped his wife.

"It's the law of our grandfathers," he said. "We have to respect our Chechen traditions."

In a separate cabin, the grandfathers were sitting at a banquet table covered with plates of wild garlic and grilled meat. But the food went untouched as the oldest man began to speak.

He wanted to talk about what happened 66 years ago when Stalin deported the entire Chechen people from the Caucasus to Central Asia.



Zulikhan

The old man was just 11 at the time, but says the date of 23 February, 1944 is forever etched in his memory.

It was Red Army Day and men from each village were invited to take part.

"But when my father reached the main square there was no parade," he said.

"Instead he was surrounded by soldiers with machine guns."

Then the soldiers went from house to house to round up women, children and the elderly.

"We had very little time to collect our things," he said. "My mother was numb with shock but she managed to grab a chicken and some bread. I remember how she cried when we had to leave our cows behind."

At the station the deportees were herded into cattle wagons. Many perished over the next three weeks as they rumbled eastwards into exile.

"It was dark in there and the smell was terrible. When people died soldiers just threw the corpses out of the train."

KSA delays BlackBerry ban to test 'solutions'

AFP, Jeddah

Saudi's telecoms regulator has said it postponed a ban on BlackBerry until Monday so that suggested solutions to the kingdom's security concerns offered by the Canadian maker can be tested.

The Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) said the 48 hours grace period, ending Monday evening, was given "to test the suggested solutions," according to a statement carried by SPA state news agency late Saturday.

The decision was also based on the "ongoing efforts by the providers of mobile services to meet the requirements of the commission's regulations."

"A decision to stop or maintain the service will be taken according to the results" of the tests, it said.

A deal between BlackBerry maker Research In Motion (RIM) and Saudi Arabia was "virtually" sealed, an official at one of the three mobile services providers said Saturday.

The Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya television said that RIM has agreed in principle to grant access to Saudi authorities to decipher its messenger exchanges between users.

A special server for the messenger services is to be set up in the highly security-conscious Gulf state, birthplace of al-Qaeda and its leader Osama bin Laden, according to Al-Arabiya.

The Saudi telecommunications authority announced a few days ago that it had ordered mobile providers to block key BlackBerry services as of August 6 or face a 1.3-million-dollar fine.

The regulator had said the suspension was because "the way BlackBerry services are provided currently does not meet the regulatory criteria of the commission and the licensing conditions."

Santos sworn in as Colombian president

BBC ONLINE

Juan Manuel Santos has been sworn in as the new president of Colombia.

In his inaugural speech, Santos said that mending relations with neighbours Ecuador and Venezuela would be one of his government's main priorities.

In response, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said he would like to meet "face-to-face" with Santos.

Santos also told Colombia's left-wing rebel groups the door to dialogue was open, but they would have to renounce violence first.

He promised to tackle the main problems besetting Colombians, saying his government would aim to lower unemployment to a single digit figure, fight corruption and reduce poverty.

He said the work of his predecessor in office, President Alvaro Uribe, had paved the way for "a new dawn for Colombia".

Santos, who served as Uribe's defence minister, said the former president had inspired hope in Colombians and allowed them to move freely in their own country again.

He said it was now time the country moved from Uribe's policy of "democratic security" to one of "democratic prosperity".

Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited

Telegajog Bhaban, 37/E, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000

Career Opportunity

Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) provides telecommunications services (PSTN, IGW, ICX, IIG, ISP etc) throughout the country, invites application from bonafide citizens of Bangladesh to fill up the following position on urgent basis for its Head Office at Dhaka.

Name of Post: Managing Director

The Managing Director is the Chief Executive of the Company responsible to the Board of Directors. He is the leader of the Managing Team of the Company, responsible for overall management, e.g., administration, corporate planning, business development and ensuring the compliances of laws, rules and regulations and for good governance including development of setup, rules, regulations and systems and legal functions of the organization. He is also responsible for supervision of all technical, financial, welfare aspects, negotiating project financing issues with donors/development partners and listing the company in the stock exchange(s) etc.

Required Academic Qualification

The candidate must have graduation in Engineering (Electrical/Electrical & Electronic/Telecommunication) along with an MBA degree from any recognized University. Any relevant higher qualification (MS, PhD etc) or academic qualification on legal affairs would be an added advantage. The candidate must have at least two 1st division/class in academic record with no 3rd division/class at all stage.

Required Experience

Working experience of the candidate shall be minimum 20 (twenty) years in different managerial levels in Telecommunications Sector (in govt/semi-govt/autonomous/private organization) with at least 5 years experience in policy/decision making (with a proven track record). The candidate should be efficient, dynamic, energetic, show initiative with assertive leadership ability that will ensure the vision and execute the mission for incremental ground of the company and excellent communication skills in Bangla and English and shall be capable of working under and managing the emergency situations.

Age Limit

Age should preferably be between 45 (forty-five) and 57 (fifty-seven) years as on last day of submission of application. Age can be relaxable in case of exceptionally qualified deserving candidates.

Remuneration/Compensation Package

Basic salary per month Taka one lac (1,00,000.00) only. The company will provide residential accommodation. Other fringe benefits will be provided as per company rule.

Nature of Service

The service shall be on contract basis. The initial contract period of the service shall be for 2(two) years and is renewable for further one year based on the satisfactory performance and as per approval of Board of Directors of the company. Selected candidate may remain engaged in the contractual service up to maximum of 60 (sixty) years of age.

Selection Process

Only the short-listed candidates will be called for interviews. Interested candidate may apply along with complete CV, two (2) passport size recent photographs, attested photocopies of all educational and experience certificates and attested copy of National Identity Card. Application should be addressed to the Company Secretary, BTCL and reach him at the above address on or before 21 September, 2010 within the office hour.

A search committee formed by the Board of Directors will select the Managing Director from the competent candidates.

GD-3415

Company Secretary, BTCL

Tel: 8314230

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka
www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Housing and Public Works, GOB.			
2	Agency	Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK).			
3	Procuring entity name	Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK).			
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
5	Invitation for	Tender for works.			
6	Invitation for tenders No.	RAJUK/SD-01/2010-2011.			
7	Date of invitation tender	02/08/2010.			
8	Procurement method	Open tendering method.			
9	Source of funds	RAJUK's own fund.			
10	Tender last selling date	29/08/2010 during office hours.			
11	Tender closing date and time	30/08/2010 at 01.00pm.			
12	Tender opening date and time	30/08/2010 at 02.00pm.			
13	Name & address of the office(s) -Selling tender document	Manager-Sonali/Janata/Agrani Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka.			
14	Name & address of the office(s) -Receiving tender document	Member-Dev./Admin. & Land/Planning/Estate/Finance, Chief Engineer, Superintending Engineer - (E&M/P&D/Implement), Executive Engineer - Design/Central/South Dhaka (Rajuk) Division, Dhaka.			
15	Place of opening tender document	Office of the Superintending Engineer (Project & Design), 4 th Floor, RAJUK Main Building.			
16	Eligibility of tenderer	Established private security firms/companies having experience in providing similar nature of security services at various govt., semi-govt., autonomous organizations.			
17	Price of tender document	Tk. 1000/- (non-refundable).			
18	Sl. No.	Name of the work	Location	Tender security amount (Tk.)	Completion time in days
	1.	Recruitment of Private Security Guard & Supervisor for external & internal security purpose for RAJUK Bhaban Complex (Re-tender)	RAJUK Main Bhaban	54,000/-	2 (two) years
19	Name of official inviting tender	M. Mahbul Ul Alam			
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Member (Development), RAJUK.			
21	Address of official inviting tender	4 th Floor, RAJUK Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.			
22	Contact details	Executive Engineer, South Dhaka(Rajuk) Division, Rajuk Annex Bhaban (2 nd Floor), Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. Telephone: 9559068.			
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.				

Md. Mahbul Ul Alam
Member (Development)
Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
Dhaka-1000

GD-3417

Invitation To Bid

Procurement of CISCO Products



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh hereby invites sealed bids from interested manufacturers/ authorized agents/ dealers & distributors for supply of Different Types of CISCO Products.

Submission of Bid: The envelopes should state "Bid for CISCO Products" and marked as 'Confidential'. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations.

The detailed tender documents are available from: parvin.akther@undp.org. Bid must be dropped to the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka before 12.30 hrs on 31 August 2010.

Invitation To Bid

Procurement of Earthquake Research Equipment



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh hereby invites sealed bids from interested manufacturers/ authorized agents/ dealers & distributors for supply of Different Types of Earthquake Research Equipment.

Submission of Bid: The envelopes should state "Bid for Earthquake Equipment" and marked as 'Confidential'. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations.

The detailed tender documents are available from: parvin.akther@undp.org. Bid must be dropped to the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka before 12.30 hrs on 31 August 2010.