

## PAKISTAN FLOODS

## Two 'major peaks' due on Indus river

BBC ONLINE

Flood levels in Pakistan are expected to surge even higher along parts of the already dangerously swollen Indus river.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said "major peaks" were expected on Friday and next week in Punjab and Sindh provinces.

The region's worst flooding in 80 years has affected 14 million people and killed 1,600, according to the UN.

Doctors say that malaria, diarrhoea and gastroenteritis are growing threats.

On yesterday, President Asif Ali Zardari said he would go ahead with a visit to Russia next week, but would stay only a few hours instead of the scheduled two days. It comes after he was heavily criticised for failing to cut short a visit to Europe last week, amid his country's worsening crisis.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's PM has promised aid distribution will be transparent, after criticism of the government's handling of the two-week-old crisis.

NDMA spokesman Ahmed Kamal said: "There can be further devastation as we are expecting two major peaks in the Indus system."

He said places downstream of the Kotri barrage - a flood barrier in Sindh - and areas on either side of the Taunsa barrage in Punjab were likely to take the brunt of this surge.

President Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani are reported to have held an emergency meeting on Thursday night to review the government's much-criticised response.

Mr Zardari made his first visit to the disaster zone on Thursday in an effort to defuse public anger over his handling of the flooding. He toured a relief camp at Sukkur in Sindh.



**\$460 MILLION AID:** Pakistani flood survivors evacuate a flooded area of Bassera village yesterday. Struggling aid agencies urged donor nations to rush through 460 million dollars in aid for Pakistan's devastating flood, warning of a potential "second wave" of deaths due to disease.

## Rains leave 33 more dead in China

AFP, Beijing

Torrential rains yesterday battered several parts of western China, killing at least 33 people and heightening fears of a disease outbreak in a mudslide-ravaged town where more than 1,150 have died.

Health authorities said survivors of the deadly floods and landslides in Zhouqu, remote town in the mountains of Gansu province in China's northwest, were facing a grim situation after clinics were damaged and vaccines ruined.

The bad weather showed no signs of letting up, with at least 33 people killed and 32 missing after floods and landslides in other parts of Gansu and neighbouring Sichuan province, as China battles its worst flooding in a decade.

In Zhouqu, 588 people are still missing after the weekend avalanche of mud and rocks, which levelled an area five kilometres (three miles) long and 300 metres wide.

## Myanmar polls set for Nov 7

AP, Yangon

Myanmar's ruling military announced yesterday that the country's first elections in two decades will be held Nov 7, finally setting a date for polls that critics have dismissed as a sham designed to cement military rule.

Foreign governments have urged Myanmar to ensure the elections are open, fair and include the party of detained pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi. Her party, however, has decided to boycott the vote, saying the junta has imposed unfair rules that restrict campaigning and effectively bar the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and other political prisoners from participating.

The election date is another symbolic blow to Suu Kyi's chances of taking part - it falls just days before her current term of house arrest is due to expire on Nov 13.

## Smoke from Russian wildfires reaches Kazakhstan

## Moscow 'hiding heatstroke cases' after death rate jumps

REUTERS, BBC ONLINE, Almaty

Smoke from Russia's deadly wildfires has spread into northern regions of Kazakhstan but poses no immediate danger to residents, the Kazakh Emergency Ministry said yesterday.

Black smoke had reached the city of Kostanai, about 100 km (63 miles) from the border with Russia's Chelyabinsk region, said a ministry spokesman, Eldor Raimbekov.

"The smoke has entered some border areas," Raimbekov said. "There is no threat to the population. The smoke could clear again today, depending on the prevailing winds."

Russia's deadly summer heat wave, the worst on record, could wipe \$14 billion off its economic growth this year, economists said this week. Weather forecasters say the heat has lasted for an uninterrupted 50 days in Moscow and central Russia.

Doctors in Moscow are being told not to diagnose heatstroke as a cause of death after a jump in the mortality rate during the heat wave, Russia media say.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one doctor said the unofficial instruction being passed down was to use diagnoses that "sound less frightening".

A photo shows a note pinned up in a casualty area, which reads "Attention! Do not diagnose heatstroke".

While wildfires continue to burn, temperatures are starting to drop.

The emergency ministry reported that as of Thursday morning 66 major fires continued to burn across Russia, 40 of them in peat bogs, which are notoriously difficult to extinguish.

While wildfires continued to burn up to 100 km (60 miles) away from the site of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in Ukraine, experts said there was little danger of serious radioactive contamination.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said the fires had destroyed a quarter of the agricultural land where cereals are grown.

Speaking in southern Russia at a meeting on stabilising the grain market, he said rises in the price of foodstuffs must be avoided. Russia has already suspended exports of wheat.

The number of people said to have been killed by the fires directly stands at 54 after two security personnel died fighting flames near the Sarov nuclear research centre in Nizhny Novgorod.

But little has been revealed officially about the number of people who succumbed to temperatures approaching 40C (104F) and choking smog from the fires.

National mortality figures for the summer have not been reported and when the city of Moscow revealed on Monday that its daily death rate had more than doubled, the federal government swiftly challenged the figures.

## Canadians board Tamil asylum boat

BBC ONLINE

Canadian officials have boarded the MV Sun Sea off British Columbia, they said.

The authorities intercepted the MV Sun Sea off British Columbia. They say the migrants will now be vetted amid fears that some are Tamil Tiger rebels - banned by Canada as a terrorist group.

The ship reportedly crossed the Pacific after Australia turned it away.

The Tamil Tigers were routed last year by the government, which has been widely accused of rights abuses.

Sri Lanka's high commissioner to Canada, Chitrangana Wagswara, has urged Canada to refuse their asylum claims.

She says the ship is part of a people-trafficking operation linked to the Tamil Tigers.

## Lankan court martial convicts Fonseka

BBC ONLINE

A court martial has found the former Sri Lankan armed forces chief, Gen Sarath Fonseka, guilty of engaging in politics while on active service.

Gen Fonseka would be stripped of his rank and medals once the government ratified the decision, officials said.

He has been detained since shortly after January's presidential election, when he failed to oust President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Gen Fonseka led the army in its victory last year against the Tamil Tigers.

He was hailed as a war hero by the majority Sinhalese community for bringing an end to 26 years of civil war, which left 100,000 people dead.

On Friday, officials said the general had been found guilty by a three-member panel and sentenced to a dishonourable discharge.

"The guilty verdict was read out to General Fonseka at the court martial a short while ago," a military source told the AFP news agency. "The president as commander-in-chief must now ratify the decision."

A few months after the Tamil Tigers' defeat, Gen Fonseka was promoted from army commander to chief of the defence staff by Mr Rajapaksa.

The two men clashed over who should take credit for the war, however, and Gen Fonseka is said to have seen this as an attempt to sideline him.



## Huge protests after police kill 4 in Indian Kashmir

AP, Srinagar

Tens of thousands of Kashmiris staged angry street demonstrations yesterday after government forces killed four people and injured 12 others during the latest unrest against Indian rule in the disputed Himalayan region, police said.

Two months of violent clashes with security forces have left at least 55 people dead in Indian-controlled Kashmir - mostly protesters who have been shot. The unrest shows no signs of easing despite the deployment of more troops and calls from the Indian prime minister for calm.

Residents staged protest marches after Friday prayers across much of the predominantly Muslim region. Most of the marches were peaceful but in some places clashes broke out after security forces tried to block curfew-defying marches.

Paramilitary soldiers opened fire in Bomai, a village northwest of the main city of Srinagar, after thousands of protesters gathered and threw rocks at the troops, a police officer said. Two people were killed and at least four others wounded, he said on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Local residents maintained the protest was peaceful and clashes only erupted after the shooting. Protesters surrounded a camp of

paramilitary troops and were throwing bricks and rocks at it.

In the northern town of Pattan, troops fired at a group of people who defied the curfew, killing a 65-year-old man and wounding two others, another police officer said, also on condition of anonymity.

As the news of the shooting spread, thousands of people came out of their homes and clashed with government forces at several places in the town, police said.

In Trehgam, north of Srinagar, protesters threw stones at government forces, angered by their refusal to allow them to visit a mosque for prayers on the first Friday after the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, resident Maqsood Ahmed said.

The security forces fired at the protesters, killing a teenage student and wounding at least six others, the police officer said. The protesters were later joined by thousands of residents from neighbouring villages, leading to more clashes, he said.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep in Kashmir, which is divided between India and Pakistan but claimed by both. Protesters reject Indian sovereignty over Kashmir and want to form a separate country or merge with predominantly Muslim Pakistan.

## Afghan army offensive goes 'disastrously wrong'

BBC ONLINE

An Afghan National Army operation - initially run independently of Nato - in the eastern province of Laghman went "disastrously wrong", officials say.

They say that what should have been a routine "mopping up" operation turned into a "major confrontation" after the Taliban launched an ambush.

Defence officials told the BBC that at least seven Afghan soldiers had been killed and 14 injured.

They say that Nato troops and air support have now joined the fighting.

Officials say that while troops were caught by surprise in the Taliban ambush, they have now fought back and inflicted heavy casualties on the insurgents over the last few days.

## Peru battles vampire bats after 500 bitten

BBC ONLINE

Peru's health ministry has sent emergency teams to a remote Amazon region to battle an outbreak of rabies spread by vampire bats.

Four children in the Awajun indigenous tribe died after being bitten by the bloodsucking mammals.

Health workers have given rabies vaccine to more than 500 people who have also been bitten.

Some experts have linked mass vampire bat attacks on people in the Amazon to deforestation.

The rabies outbreak is focused on the community of Urakusa in the north-eastern Peruvian Amazon, close to the border with Ecuador.

The indigenous community appealed for help after being unable to explain the illness that had killed the children.

The health ministry said it had sent three medical teams to treat and vaccinate people who had been bitten.

Most of the affected population had now been vaccinated, it said, although a few had refused treatment.

Vampire bats usually feed on wildlife or livestock, but are sometimes known to turn to humans for food, particularly in areas where their rainforest habitat has been destroyed.

Some local people have suggested this latest outbreak of attacks may be linked to the unusually low temperatures the Peruvian Amazon in recent years.

## Iran nuke plant start date set

BBC ONLINE

Russia says it will undertake a key step next week towards starting up a reactor at Iran's first nuclear power station.

Russia's state atomic corporation, which is building the plant, said engineers will begin loading the Bushehr reactor with fuel.

However, it could be six months before the reactor is fully operational.

Russia has been helping build the plant since the mid-1990s, amid tensions over Iran's nuclear programme.

"The fuel will be charged in the reactor on 21 August. From this moment, Bushehr will be considered a nuclear installation," spokesman Sergei Novikov said.

Iranians will remain sceptical until they see the Bushehr plant finally working and generating electricity, 35 years after the project was started under the Shah, says the BBC's Jon Leyne in Cairo.



Ethnic unrest broke out yesterday after about 200 Hazara villagers allegedly burnt down the hilltop mud homes of Pashtun nomads in an argument over land. Witnesses said several people were injured in the violence. More than 300 police and army fired bullets into the air and used batons to disperse about 200 Hazara men.



**Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd.,**  
(An Enterprise of BCIC)



**International Tender Notice**

1. Ministry / Division		Ministry of Industries.				
2. Agency		Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC)				
3. Name of Procuring Entity		Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Polish, Narsingdi				
4. Invitation Ref. No., Invitation for, Bid security Money, Last selling Date & time, Closing & Opening time, price of Tender Documents are as follows :-						
Sl No	Ref. No. & Date	Invitation for	Security Money	Last selling Date	Closing & Opening Date & Time	Document Price
1.	PUFFL/Com/2.447/10-11 dt: 11/08/10	Urea Solution Pump with Spare Parts	Tk. 20,000.00	Dt: 27/09/2010	Dt: 28/09/2010 11.00 AM	Tk. 200.00
2.	PUFFL/Com/2.449/10-11 dt: 11/08/10	Phosphate Dosing Pump with Motor and Spares	Tk. 10,000.00	Dt: 27/09/2010	Dt: 28/09/2010 11.00 AM	Tk. 150.00
3.	PUFFL/Com/3.448/10-11 dt: 11/08/10	Three Phase Induction Motor	Tk. 65,000.00	Dt: 27/09/2010	Dt: 28/09/2010 11.00 AM	Tk. 500.00
4.	PUFFL/Com/4.433/10-11 dt: 11/08/10	Pressure Gauge	Tk. 40,000.00	Dt: 27/09/2010	Dt: 28/09/2010 11.00 AM	Tk. 300.00
5. Procuring Method		International Open Tendering Method (IOTM)				
6. Source of Fund		Any suitable Source of Finance.				
7. Name and Addresses of the offices selling Tender Documents.		i Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, (6th Floor), 30-31 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.				
		ii Sr. General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6-Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.				
		iii G.M (A & F) PUFFL, Polish, Narsingdi.				
8. Address of the office Receiving & Opening Tenders.		General Manager (Commercial), Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Polish, Narsingdi.				
9. Detail Address of Official Inviting Tender		Managing Director, Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Polish, Narsingdi. Phone: 9351216, 0628-74391 Fax: 88-02-9351223				
10. Special Instruction		The procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason.				

(Md. Harun Al Rashid)  
Manager (Purchase)  
For Managing Director.