



The two ends of a train remain on a bridge after passengers were evacuated near Guangan in southwest China's Sichuan province yesterday -- one of the areas hit hard by flooding that has plagued China in recent weeks. The train travelling in southwestern China derailed after floods destroyed a bridge, plunging at least two carriages into a river, but all passengers were safe.

PHOTO: AFP

US backs Myanmar war crimes probes

REUTERS

The United States supports forming an international commission to probe possible war crimes and crimes against humanity by Myanmar's military rulers, a senior administration official said on Wednesday.

The decision comes after months of fruitless diplomacy by President Barack Obama's administration, which had offered greater engagement in an effort to win democratic concessions from Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

"The United States supports establishing an international commission of inquiry to investigate alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Burma," the official said.

"We will consult with a broad array of stakeholders and key players to determine how best to achieve that end."

In March, a United Nations investigator into Myanmar's human rights record called for the formation of the commission, saying the military government of the isolated Southeast Asian nation had a pattern of gross and systematic violations of fundamental freedoms of its citizens.

zens.

Tomas Ojea Quintana, UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, said violations included mass arrests of dissidents, deaths and torture of detainees and forced labor, which could involve categories of crimes against humanity or war crimes under international law.

Myanmar's rulers came in for renewed criticism after they announced they would hold the country's first parliamentary polls in two decades on Nov. 7. They rejected Western criticism that the elections would be neither free nor fair and would only entrench military rule.

Myanmar's now-defunct National League for Democracy, led by detained Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, said in March it would boycott the polls because of unjust election laws and imprisonment of many of its members.

Last year, Washington offered Myanmar a fresh start in trying to improve strained relations. But U.S. officials have been disappointed by the junta's refusal to budge on key sticking points involving democratic reforms as well as growing concern over its nuclear ambitions.

Nepal's central bank calls time on ex-king's face

AFP, Kathmandu

More than two years after Nepal's last king stepped down from the throne, his face is finally to disappear from the country's banknotes, the central bank said yesterday.

Nepal replaced former king Gyanendra's face with a picture of Mount Everest on all new currency in 2007 after parliament voted to abolish the 240-year-old Hindu monarchy.

But old notes bearing the portrait of the unpopular former monarch have remained in circulation.

Central bank spokesman Gopal Kaple said the old notes would be phased out by the end of the current Nepalese year, which falls in mid-

April 2011.

"We are trying to circulate clean notes. The old notes will be replaced by new notes, and we are getting rid of notes with a picture of the former monarch," Kaple told AFP.

Former king Gyanendra left the throne in June 2008 when the then Maoist-led government declared the country a secular republic.

Revered by supporters as a living incarnation of a Hindu god, he lost the support of many Nepalese when he seized direct rule in 2006 following Maoist protests.

The Maoists waged a 10-year insurgency against the monarchy before winning elections in 2008 and forming a government.

Myanmar imposes control on poll campaign

REUTERS

Myanmar authorities published rules yesterday that impose tight controls on political campaigning ahead of November's elections, the country's first parliamentary poll in two decades.

The opaquely-worded rules, published in state media by the army-appointed election commission, empower authorities to prohibit "the act of holding flags and shouting slogans" if deemed to disturb the peace.

Parties must seek permission a week in advance to hold public events so security forces can "safeguard" the gatherings. Speeches or publications "tarnishing the image" of the state or the military are banned.

Offenders will be barred from standing in the elections, the rules said.

Myanmar's Nov 7 nationwide polls are widely dismissed by critics as an elaborate charade aimed at cementing the army's grip on power and attracting much-needed investment to a country nestled strategically between booming China and India.

Forty political parties, most representing ethnic groups, have so far registered with the intent to run in the elections and win seats in a national parliament, senate or one of 14 regional assemblies.

PAKISTAN FLOOD

'Corrupt' govt prevents overseas Pak-Muslims from donating funds

ANI, Washington

Despite millions of Pakistanis struggling to battle the devastating floods, and the government's fervent pleas to the international community to rush in more funds to help the victims, many Pakistanis living in the US have stayed away from making any kind of donations, as they believe that their money would be misappropriated by the corrupt government.

A majority of Pakistanis in the US do not trust the Gilani government, and have thereby declined to help their countrymen in need.

"The money might reach a quarter of the people who really need it. The doctor and I were discussing the flood, there is just so much corruption," The Christian Science Monitor quoted one Mussarat Khan, as saying.

Fed up with the response of corrupt officials, donors now believe that it is better to reach out to the affected families directly rather than handing over the money to any government authority.

"If you are going to give help, you give it directly to relatives," said Syed Irshad Bukhari,

a Pakistani-American news dealer in Manhattan.

The slow response of the donors has worried charity organizations.

"There has been a tepid response, it is down significantly from other disasters of recent times," said Ken Berger, president of Charity Navigator, an evaluator of charities.

"There could be a host of different reasons - from donor fatigue to people not feeling comfortable because of their concerns about terrorism," Berger added.

Zakat Foundation of America in Chicago, Executive Director Halil Demir also said that donations have been "very slow," with the charity not even raising 20 percent of what it raised to help the Haiti quake victims.

"This is very scary that the message is not getting through," Demir said.

Even the United Nations (UN) has expressed concern over the slow pace of international aid donations for the Pakistan floods, saying the relief being offered is not sufficient to deal with the country's worst disaster.

UN estimates 4.6m without shelter in Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

The United Nations estimates that 4.6 million survivors of Pakistan's floods are still without shelter and wants to provide six million with tents and plastic sheeting, a spokesman said Thursday.

"Roughly 4.6 million people are still without shelter," Maurizio Giuliano, spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Islamabad, told AFP.

The rough estimate includes hundreds of thousands of people who are still on the move, he said.

"In this context we have decided to increase the number of targeted beneficiaries for tents and plastic sheeting from the initial figure of two million to at least six million," he said.

Almost one million people have already received these items and the United Nations called on donors to keep up the pace of funding to reach the target.

Ex-army chief calls Lanka 'dictatorship'

AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's ex-army chief called the government a "total dictatorship" and said yesterday that he will appeal his recent conviction by a military court, which he described as a political vendetta.

Former Gen Sarath Fonseka said the inquiry on charges he was involved in politics while still in the military was launched to persecute him for daring to challenge President Mahinda Rajapaksa in the presidential election earlier this year.

He criticized the Rajapaksa regime for harassing political opponents, saying a "lawlessness" prevails in the country while "a total dictatorship is going on."

A military court ruling last week recommended Fonseka be dishonorably discharged and stripped of his rank, pension, medals and other military honors. The president approved and carried out the dismissal on Saturday.

Fonseka led Sri Lanka's army in its victory last year against ethnic Tamil rebels, ending a quarter-century civil war

that killed 80,000 to 100,000 people.

One-time allies, the president and Fonseka were both considered heroes by the Sinhalese majority for crushing the Tamil rebels.

Rajapaksa and Fonseka had a falling out months after the war ended and the general quit the army after accusing Rajapaksa of sidelining him, suspecting a military coup. Their relationship further deteriorated after Fonseka challenged Rajapaksa in the presidential election.

Request for Quotation

Procurement of FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT for Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)



UNDP Bangladesh is launching 04 different Requests for Quotation and invites Sealed Quotations from interested manufacturer/ authorized agents/ dealers & distributors with the detailed specification for the following RFQs

Group	Description
RFQ-01	Fire Fighting (Search & Rescue) Equipment
RFQ-02	Search & Rescue Equipment
RFQ-03	Medical Support Aid Equipment
RFQ-04	Training Support Aid Equipment

Submission of Procedures: The selection of Quotations will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations and only the successful offeror will be contacted.

All interested firms may collect the bidding Documents (RFQs) at the below web address: http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php.

Quotations must be submitted before 12.30 hrs on 09 September 2010 to Procurement Cluster, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangal Nagar, Dhaka-1207



James P Grant School of Public Health BRAC University Admission to MPH Programme

Applications invited for International MPH Programme (7th Batch) Beginning in January, 2011

Features of the MPH Programme:

- 51 credits, full-time, 12 months' residential programme
- Multi disciplinary, emphasizing development of the core public health competencies
- Faculty members are from reputed international universities, institutions and research centers such as: BRAC University, ICDDR,B, BRAC, University of Heidelberg (Germany), Harvard University (USA), Johns Hopkins University (USA), George Washington University (USA), Karolinska Institute (Sweden), London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), and University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Fees:

- The total fee for the MPH Programme is US \$ 18,000 which covers tuition fee, accommodation, food, local transportation, course materials and supplies. **Scholarships available and Bangladeshi students admitted are only required to pay US \$ 6,000 equivalent to BDT 400,000.** Those who are funded by organizations (e.g. Fulbright Fellowship, Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation), UN agencies and other agencies are not eligible for a fee waiver and are required to pay full fees

Admission requirements:

The MPH programme is particularly suited to individuals who wish to build or further enhance their career in public health or allied areas. Candidates fulfilling the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- A Bachelor's/ Master's degree (at least 16 years of education) in Medicine, Nursing, Health Sciences or any physical, biological or social sciences. Excellent academic records with no third division or with GPA of less than 3.0 (out of 4)
- Basic Arithmetic skills and proficiency in English (written and spoken). A TOEFL score of 250 on computer-based test/100 on internet-based test or IELTS of 6.5 would be an advantage.
- Preferably 1 year of work experience in health / social development sector.
- Computer literacy is essential: skill in using data analysis software will be an advantage.
- The admission process involves a written test and interviews

Application deadline:

October 10, 2010. Only short listed candidates will be called for a written test and interviews. Application forms may be downloaded from the website: http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/academics/mpH/Application_form2.doc or collected from BRAC University Admissions Office. Submit the application form with attached detailed CV, attested photocopies of transcripts & certificates along with 2 copies of recent passport size photographs. Please mention "MPH programme 2011-12" on top of the envelope.

Applications should be sent to: Sabina Faiz Rashid, PhD, Coordinator, MPH Programme, or Mrityunjoy Das, Sr. Academic and Administrative Officer, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212 or email: sabina@bracu.ac.bd or mrityunjoy@bracu.ac.bd (PDF format preferred). For further inquiries please visit <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/> [Tel. +88 (02) 8824051-4 Ext: 4101]



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The ILO Country Office for Bangladesh invites applications from the qualified persons for the following position based in Dhaka:

Position	: Senior Secretary
Grade/Step	: GS Level 5
Contract Type	: Fixed Term
Duration	: 1 year (with possibility of extension)

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: www.ilo.org/dhaka/aboutus. Applications should be received no later than 16.30 pm, Sunday, 29 August 2010. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Price Sensitive Information

This is for the kind information of all concerned, that Bangladesh Bank has accorded its approval to the formation of a fully owned subsidiary company of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTB) under the name and style of "MTB Exchange (UK) Limited" with approval for establishing 03 branches in London, Birmingham & Manchester. This subsidiary company of MTB will be incorporated under the Companies Act. 2006 of England and Wales as a private company limited by shares having registered office in England.

Sd-
Quamrul Islam Cowdhury
Company Secretary



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