

Indonesian tsunami death toll nears 350

AFP, North Pagai

The death toll from a tsunami that pummeled remote Indonesian islands soared to 343 yesterday as questions mounted over whether an elaborate warning system had failed.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was heading to the disaster zone, where fears were growing for hundreds still missing after a huge wave triggered by a powerful earthquake Monday hit the Mentawai off the west coast of Sumatra.

Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano, which killed 32 people earlier this week, erupted again yesterday, spewing ash and deadly heat clouds, an official said.

Government volcanologist Surono said hot gas and ash spewed from the mouth of Mount Merapi, Indonesia's most active volcano.

A mass funeral was held for some of the 32 people killed when the nation's most active volcano erupted on Tuesday.

Disaster response officials said bodies were being found on beaches and coastal areas in the Mentawai island chain, which took the full force of the tsunami as it washed away entire

villages.

West Sumatra disaster management official Ferry Faisal said "343 people were killed and 338 are still missing".

A ship bearing aid including food, water, medical supplies as well as body bags arrived Thursday at Sikakap, on North Pagai island, one of the two worst-hit islands in the Mentawai group.

An AFP photographer on board said hundreds of villagers being treated at a medical clinic, many requiring stitches to open cuts suffered as they were tossed around in the surging sea.

Survivors said they had almost no warning that the three-metre (10-foot) wall of water was bearing down on them, despite the laying of a sophisticated network of alarm buoys off the Sumatran coast.

The expensive warning system was instituted after the 2004 Asian tsunami, which killed at least 168,000 people in Indonesia alone.

An official tsunami warning was issued after Monday's 7.7-magnitude quake but it either came too late or did not reach the communities in most danger.



A mother cries after being reunited with her children at Taparaboat village in the Mentawai islands, West Sumatra yesterday after a 7.7-magnitude quake triggered a tsunami that hit the area. The death toll from the tsunami that pummeled remote Indonesian islands soared to 343 as questions mounted over whether an elaborate warning system had failed.

Baby found in trees days after tsunami

AP, Mentawai Islands

An official says an 18-month-old baby has been found alive in a clump of trees days after the devastating tsunami that killed at least 343 people.

Relief coordinator Hermansyah says the little boy is recovering in a health centre. He says a 10-year-old child discovered the baby in a clump of trees on Paga Selatan island on Wednesday. Both his parents are dead.

The discovery is one of the few bright spots in the tsunami that flattened villages and displaced tens of thousands of people when it hit Monday.

Residents of the Mentawai chain of islands dug graves and gathered in makeshift shelters Thursday. Officials said they fear that hundreds of missing people were swept out to sea and will never be found.

11 militants killed in Pak drone attack

BBC ONLINE

At least 11 suspected militants have been killed in drone strikes in north-west Pakistan in the past 24 hours, local officials say.

Officials say planes fired two missiles into a militant compound in North Waziristan early on Thursday, killing at least five people.

And up to six militants were killed in strikes in the area on Wednesday.

The lawless region, a haven for members of the Taliban and al-Qaeda, has been repeatedly targeted by US drones.

Thursday's attack in Ismail Jhel village, about 40km (25 miles) west of Miran Shah, the main town in North Waziristan, killed at least three foreign militants, officials said. The men were said to be Arabs.

US 'not tracking Afghan spending'

BBC ONLINE

The US government has spent about \$55bn on rebuilding in Afghanistan since 2001 but cannot easily show how the money was spent, a government watchdog says.

The special inspector general's office for Afghanistan reconstruction talked of a "confusing labyrinth" of spending.

It said some 7,000 contractors received \$17.7bn from 2007-09 but data prior to 2007 was too poor to be analysed.

It is the first comprehensive audit of US spending in Afghanistan since US-led troops ousted the Taliban in 2001.

According to the report, US government agencies are not tracking Afghan contracts in a shared database and cannot easily show where the money went.

The BBC's Quentin Sommerville in Kabul says record-keeping has been so poor that most of the money has not been properly recorded.

The Pentagon, state department and USAID "are unable to readily report on how much money they spend on contracting for reconstruction activities in Afghanistan", said the report from the special inspector general's office, which was set up by Congress.

It was also not clear who had received money disbursed by the three agencies, which are the biggest US spenders on Afghan reconstruction.

Pentagon contracts worth \$11.5bn for construction, supplies and logistics in Afghanistan went to more than 6,615 contractors between 2007 and 2009, the audit found. Half of that money went to just 41 contractors.

India to raise stapled visas case with China

PTI, Hanoi

The controversial issue of stapled Chinese visas to Kashmiris and Sino-India economic ties are expected to figure in crucial talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao here tomorrow.

China started the practice of issuing the stapled visas about two years back and the issue triggered a major row in July this year when Beijing wanted to give such a visa to India's Northern Area Commander Lt Gen BS Jaswal.

India responded by suspending high-level defence exchanges for which Lt Gen Jaswal was travelling to Beijing and has repeatedly made it clear that these will remain on "pause" till China reverts to its earlier position on Jammu and Kashmir.

'French troops may begin Afghan withdrawal in 2011'

AFP, Paris

France and some allied Nato armies could begin to withdraw some of their forces from the conflict in Afghanistan as early as 2011, Defence Minister Herve Morin said Thursday.

"There's a fixed date for Nato in the framework of its new strategy, that's the start of 2011, because in 2011 we're going to transfer a whole series of districts to the Afghans," he told RTL radio.

"At that moment, there could be the first movements or first withdrawals of Allied forces from Afghanistan. In any case, that's the calendar set by Barack Obama, that in 2011 the first American troops could quit Afghanistan."

"And that's what a certain number of European countries have started to say," he

explained, insisting that this has nothing to do with a threat issued against France on Wednesday by Islamist militant kingpin Osama bin Laden.

Asked whether the threat, contained in an audiotape broadcast by the Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera, was genuine, Morin said: "We're still in the course of trying to authenticate it. It's too soon to say."

"It's not impossible," he added. "All of our services and all of allies believe Osama bin Laden is alive."

In the tape, the apparent voice of Bin Laden warns that, by sending troops to fight in Afghanistan and by banning the Islamic full face veil on its own territory, France had left itself open to retaliation.

Mohammed: most popular boys' name in England

AFP, London

Mohammed was the most popular name for newborn baby boys in England and Wales in 2009, according to official data released on Wednesday. But 12 different spellings of the name, each listed separately, meant that Oliver officially topped poll.

The name, given to 7,364 children, ended Jack's 14-year reign at number one, with Harry, Alfie and Joshua rounding out the top five in the figures published by the Office for National Statistics.

Gunmen attack Japanese vehicle in Pakistan

AP, Karachi

Gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on a Japanese consular vehicle in Pakistan's largest city yesterday, wounding two of the mission's local employees and underscoring the poor security situation in the country.

The attack may have been an attempted robbery because the three Pakistanis in the car had stopped by a bank to get cash before they were ambushed, police official Javed Akbar Riaz said. The two wounded men were in stable condition.

Crime has long been a problem in Karachi, a sprawling port city of more than 16 million with a history of political, ethnic and religious tensions.

DESCO
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Visit us: www.desco.org.bd

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for notification of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO) approved the Audited Financial Statements thereon for the year ended June 30, 2010 in its meeting held on October 28, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. The Board also fixed and declared the following:

▪ Date & Time of 14 th AGM	: January 03, 2011 at 11:00 am
▪ Venue	: Bashundhara Convention Center Bashundhara R/A, Baridhara, Dhaka
▪ Record Date	: Thursday, November 04, 2010.
▪ Net Asset Value (NAV) per share	: Tk. 546.91
▪ Earning Per Share (EPS)	: Tk. 111.68
▪ Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	: Tk. 153.76
▪ Recommended Dividend	: 15% Cash and 30% Bonus i.e 3:10 (3 bonus share for every 10 existing shares held on record date)

By order of the Board,
A. H. M. Nurul Huda
Company Secretary

Date: October 28, 2010
Memo no. DESCO/CS/14th AGM/2010/5205

UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, brings together the efforts and resources of ten UN system organizations to the global AIDS response. UNAIDS Bangladesh Country Office invites application from eligible candidates for the following position:

Advisor, Gender and HIV/AIDS
Appointment (Service Contract) at SB5 to be based in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The duration of the contract in one year initially, subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance and availability of fund

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit UNDP Bangladesh website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>.

Last date of application: Thursday, 11 November 2010

Interested candidates are requested to apply according to the instructions on the website

ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED

Request for Quotation (Re-advertised)

Procurement of Training Aid Equipment for Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)

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

1. Mega Phone with Battery Charger-	26 units
2. Work Lamp-	26 units
3. Safety Cone-	26 units
4. Measuring Tape-	26 units
5. Scene Tape-	26 units
6. Safety Vest-	39 units
7. Spray Paint Orange Colour-	52 units
8. Tarp-	52 units
9. Fire Extinguisher (ABC Type)	39 units
10. Fire Extinguisher (CO2 type)	39 units
11. Brush Cotton -	52 units
12. Water Jar-	26 units
13. Cribs/ Shim/ Rail/ Still pipe-	13 units
14. Ply wood-	26 units
15. Oil cane/ Fuel Cane-	26 units
16. K 12 Wrench -	30 units
17. Water Spray Bottle-	70 units

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 (RFQ) at the below web address: http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php.

Quotations must be submitted before **12.30 hrs on 07 November 2010** to Procurement Cluster, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangal Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

Faculty Search Spring 2011

North South University
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

Full time Teaching positions

Applications are invited for teaching positions (mentioned ranks) in the following Departments

- **School of Business**
Positions : Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers
Specialization : Marketing, Finance, Management, Accounting, International Business, MIS, HR
- **Dept. of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science**
Positions : Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers
Specialization: EEE, ETE & CSE, Mathematics, Statistics
- **Department of English**
Positions : Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers
Specialization: TESOL, Linguistics
- **Department of Architecture**
Positions : Associate Professors, Assistant Professors
Specialization: Design, Urban Design, History & Theory, Construction and Service
- **Department of Economics**
Positions : Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers
Specialization: Economics
- **Department of Pharmacy**
Positions : Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers
Specialization: Pharmacy
- **Department of Public Health**
Positions : Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers
Specialization : Epidemiology, Health Economics, Med. Entomology, PH Nutrition, HRM&D, BCC Specialist
- **Department of Life Sciences**
Positions : Associate Professors & Assistant Professors
Specialization : Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Microbiology
- **Department of Environment Science & Management**
Positions : Lecturer
Specialization : Environmental Science/Environmental Management

Attractive salary and benefits (40% house rent, medical allowance, two festival bonuses, gratuity, provident fund, group insurance.)
Salary negotiable in case of deserving candidates

Qualification Required

- Master degree from a reputable preferably North American University for Lecturer position.
- Ph.D. in relevant field from a reputable preferably North American University for Assistant Professor & above.
- Excellent academic background; no third class/division at any level
- Adequate teaching and research experience and publications for Associate Professor & above.

Apply by 10 November, 2010 with

- Curriculum Vitae
- Attested copies of academic certificates & transcripts
- One passport size photo &
- Two recommendation letters.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted

Please apply to **The Vice Chancellor**
North South University, NSU Campus, Block-B, Bashundhara, Baridhara, Dhaka 1229
For information please Email: hgas@northsouth.edu or please visit <http://www.northsouth.edu>