

Rescue efforts in NZ mine face further delay

REUTERS, Greymouth

Efforts to rescue 29 men trapped in a New Zealand coal mine faced more agonising delays yesterday...

There has been no contact with the miners since an explosion ripped through the colliery on the rugged west coast of New Zealand's South Island on Friday afternoon...

"It's not a case of simply pulling on a mask and running in there, the risk is huge," district police commander Gary Knowles said.

Naturally occurring methane gas is thought to have caused the explosion. High levels of gas have been detected near mine ventilation shafts...

Drilling of the new, narrow shaft had not begun by Sunday afternoon, 48 hours after the blast...

The Taliban on Saturday said Nato was heading for defeat in Afghanistan after the alliance announced plans to begin withdrawing troops...



This photo taken yesterday shows a Chinese woman (C) carrying a photo of her mother as she and her family members attend a mourning ceremony for victims who were killed in a huge high-rise fire in Shanghai which killed at least 58, on November 15.

N Korea showed US scientist new nuclear plant

AFP, Washington

North Korea last week showed an American scientist a vast, new plant for enriching uranium with hundreds of centrifuges already installed and running...

Scientist Stueffried Hecker told the US daily late Saturday that he had been "stunned" by the sophisticated new plant...

The North Koreans had claimed some 2,000 centrifuges were already installed and running in the plant, which Hecker was allowed to tour...

Hecker said he saw "hundreds and hundreds" of centrifuges set up in an "ultra-modern control room."

But he said he was forbidden from taking photographs and could not verify North Korean claims that the plant was already producing low-enriched uranium.

The revelations came as the State Department said Saturday that the top US envoy for North Korea would arrive in Asia on Sunday for talks with regional leaders on Pyongyang's suspect nuclear program.

Afghan fraud watchdog disqualifies 19 candidates

AP, Kabul

The watchdog panel fraud with rooting out fraud in Afghanistan's recent parliamentary election says it has disqualified 19 candidates yesterday...

It was not immediately clear if Sunday's disqualifications would affect the power dynamic in the 249-seat lower house of the Afghan legislature...

The Sept 18 vote is being watched carefully by Karzai's western allies for signs that the Afghan president is committed to reforming his corruption-ridden government.

Nato 'headed for defeat' after withdrawal plan: Taliban

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban on Saturday said Nato was heading for defeat in Afghanistan after the alliance announced plans to begin withdrawing troops...

"It has become clear that after nine years of occupation, the invaders are doomed towards the same fate as those that tread this path before them," the hardline Islamist group said in an emailed statement.

Their troop surges, their new strategies, their new generals, their new negotiations, and their new propagandas have been of no avail, it added.

Nato leaders meeting in Lisbon earlier pledged to begin the process of handing over responsibility for security to the Afghan police and military from next year...

The agreement comes as the 28-member alliance and its 20 partner nations in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) maintain that they are gaining the upper hand in the nine-year conflict.

US President Barack Obama said Saturday the Nato-led allies "are achieving our objective of breaking Taliban momentum" after committing extra resources to the war.

But the Taliban said the withdrawal plans were a sign the 150,000-strong foreign force, which is mostly made up of US troops, had "exhausted" itself and a huge surge of soldiers to tackle Taliban strongholds in the south had failed.

The White House has determined July 2011 as the deadline to begin withdrawing their defeated invader forces from Afghanistan, the statement said in English.

It added: "What they could not gain in the last few months with their then-fresh

troops, they will not be able to gain in Kandahar, with their now demoralised and fearful troops.

"It is becoming manifest that the Americans will not be able to conceal their defeat in Afghanistan for too long."

"Therefore, the White House, instead of counting their mounting casualties in Afghanistan, would be better advised to formulate a withdrawal plan, to at least save those troops which are still alive."

Foreign military casualties are at their highest since the US-led invasion to oust the Taliban from power after the September 11 attacks in 2001, with more than 650 deaths so far this year, many of them caused by guerrilla-style roadside bomb attacks.

But Nato's top civilian official in Afghanistan, Mark Sedwill, said this week that foreign forces have "regained the initiative" this year due to the surge and targeted counter-insurgency tactics.

Britons want William, not Charles as next king: Poll

REUTERS, London

Prince William and his fiancée Kate Middleton should be Britain's next king and queen, not the heir to the throne Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, two polls showed on Saturday.

An ICM poll, published in Britain's News of the World newspaper, showed that 64 percent of people wanted William and his future bride as next in line to the throne, while a YouGov poll in the Sunday Times found the majority of Britons thought William would make a better king than his father Charles.

Charles, 62, is currently next in line to the throne, now occupied by his mother Queen Elizabeth, 84. The British public has no say in who should be their next king or queen, a largely symbolic role in a country run as a parliamentary democracy.

The ICM survey also found that fewer than one in five people wanted the crown to pass to

Charles and Camilla. The YouGov poll showed that 44 percent of people thought Charles should make way for his son to become the next king, against 37 percent who thought he should not.

William and Middleton, both aged 28, announced their engagement this week, the photogenic couple drawing extensive media coverage.

Charles is seen by some as too old to inject vitality in the monarchy should he eventually succeed his mother. Charles's wife Camilla is nowhere near as popular as his first wife, Princess Diana, who died in a car crash in 1997 after they had divorced.

The surveys come a day after Charles, in a television interview, said Camilla could be queen if he is crowned king. Charles married Camilla, his long-time lover, five years ago and at the time of the marriage, it was officially decided that she would have the title Princess Consort if Charles becomes king.

Vacancy Announcement



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the following positions for "Early Recovery Facility (ERF)" project.

- 1. Project Officer - SB3
2. Administration & Finance Associate - SB3

The duration of the Service contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs. Applications should be received no later than Sunday, December 05, 2010.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

50 hurt

FROM PAGE 16

Of the derailed compartments, four were goods-laden while the rest were carrying passengers.

Travellers were hurt while trying to come out of the carriages hurriedly after the derailment, said MA Matin, Gochihata railway stationmaster.

Sub-inspector of Katiadi Police Station Monsur Ahmed said the compartments veered off around 4:52am due to a certain fault in the railway track.

The train link was restored around 9:30am.

Our Sraijagan correspondent adds, rail communications between Dhaka and the northern and southern districts were cut off for about four hours, as the engine of a Dhaka-bound train from Dinajpur went out of order on Jamuna Bridge yesterday.

Government Railway Police (GRP) and witnesses said the engine of intercity train 'Ekota Express' went out of order around 10:00am near pillar no-12 of the bridge, causing untold sufferings to thousands of passengers on different routes.

The link resumed around 2:00pm after the engine was removed from the spot.

Chief Engineer Anwar Hossain of western zone said overload caused the disruption, as four additional compartments were attached to the train to accommodate additional number of passengers.

KL to regularise

FROM PAGE 16

now it wants to hire workers from Bangladesh.

He said Bangladesh and Canada would establish an institute to train the workers who would migrate to the province. The minister did not mention the required number of workers.

Mosharraf said the governments of the two countries would handle the recruitment process. The issues of salary and facilities for the workers would be settled during the province premier's visit to Bangladesh in January.

On his meeting with apparel buyers in Canada, he said the buyers are happy with present wage structure for garment workers in Bangladesh. The misunderstandings that arose from the labour unrest in Bangladesh's garment sector are over now.

About the GFMD conference, he said representatives from 140 countries gathered in Mexico and discussed how migrants help both the source country and the employer nation. The participants put emphasis on ensuring the rights of migrant workers and decent working conditions, he said.

"It was a meeting to create awareness. No agreement was signed there," said the minister.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সদর দপ্তর, আনসার ও গ্রাম প্রতিরক্ষা বাহিনী
খিলগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৯
(মেডিকেল শাখা)
www.ansarvp.gov.bd
তারিখ: ১১/১১/২০১০খ্রি:
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বাংলাদেশ আনসার ও গ্রাম প্রতিরক্ষা বাহিনীর নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন আনসার ও ডিডিপি হাসপাতাল, সফিপুর, গাজীপুর-এ শূন্য পদে জনবল নিয়োগের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত পদে রাজস্বাধীন অস্থায়ীভাবে বহর বহর সংক্লেভের ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, Bangladesh (Component A)
Invitation for Bid for Construction of Irrigation Channels
Credit No. 4507 - BD, Project ID No. UTF /BGD/ 040 /BGD, Bid Package No.1W1.C
The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the construction of small scale irrigation structures/channels.