

DEADLY US TORNADO

More storms feared as death toll rises to 116

Obama says 'heartbroken'

AFP, Joplin

Rescue crews clawed through the rubble overnight searching for survivors yesterday after a tornado in Missouri killed 116 people, amid warnings that more powerful storms were on the way.

US President Barack Obama said he was "heartbroken" over the devastation wrought by the massive storm over the weekend and would visit the disaster zone on Sunday, following his four-nation visit to Europe.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families that are suffering at the moment," Obama told reporters in London, after earlier promising federal aid for recovery efforts.

"All we can do is let them know that all

of America cares deeply about them and we are going to do absolutely everything we can to make sure they can recover."

Shocked residents of the Missouri town of Joplin were meanwhile digging through the rubble of their homes, astonished by the extent of the devastation.

"That's all that's left," Roger Dedick said on Monday as he pointed to a section of foundation, the remains of his home of 17 years in Joplin after the deadliest single tornado in six decades ripped through the town.

He said he had to use a metal bar to pry himself out of his crushed home.

More than 2,000 buildings -- or about a third of the city of 50,000 near the border with Kansas and Oklahoma

-- were damaged or destroyed, when the twister came roaring through with just a 24-minute warning.

The Joplin tornado is on course to be the deadliest single twister to strike the United States since modern record keeping began in 1950 -- matching the toll in a tornado in Flint, Michigan in 1953 that also left 116 people dead.

A single twister in 1925 is said to have left 695 dead in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, but that was before accurate record-taking began.

Joplin residents were meanwhile warned that more potent storms were on the way after Sunday's massive twister cut a swath of destruction 6.4 kilometres long and more than a kilometre wide.



Storm debris from a tornado that struck Sunday litters whole neighborhoods on Monday in Joplin, Missouri.

PHOTO: AFP

LATEST LEAKS

India offered US Saarc observer role

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India invited the United States to participate as an observer in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), according to a leaked American Embassy cable published yesterday in "The Hindu" newspaper.

The US was surprised by the Indian suggestion and saw it as a possible attempt by New Delhi to "balance" Pakistan's request to include China in the regional grouping.

According to a US diplomatic cable dated November 17, 2005, sent by US Political Counsellor in New Delhi Geoffrey Pyatt Jr, Indian Ministry of External Affairs Joint Secretary (SAARC) PK Kapur had told him that both Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran supported a closer US role in the regional body and requested feedback from the US.

Kapur told the US diplomat that the SAARC membership invitation extended to Afghanistan and the decision to offer China and Japan observer status were among the most important outcomes of the Summit.

"The offer for US observer status may be an attempt to balance Pakistan's request to include China but it is a welcome opportunity to play a more prominent role in promoting US foreign policy goals for South Asian integration and reflect India's confidence in its relationship with the US," the cables said.

The US diplomat quoted Kapur as saying that the Indian Prime Minister was "very comfortable" and Foreign Secretary Saran was "quite positive" about the idea of US participation.

India requested a feedback before the April 2006 Special Session of the Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries when the leaders will likely agree on a mechanism for Chinese and Japanese Observer status.

The cable noted that "in return for Afghanistan's membership, Pakistan wanted Chinese involvement. Since India was not able to block this proposal, and since China has agreed to India's full participation at the East Asian Summit, New Delhi went along with Chinese and Japanese observer status.

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MUMBAI TERROR ATTACK

Accused links Pakistan with plotting

BBC ONLINE

A man who scouted sites for the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks has testified in a Chicago trial that the Pakistani intelligence service had links to the group that carried out the attacks.

David Headley was testifying against Tahawwur Rana, a Chicago businessman accused of helping plan the attacks.

At the opening on Monday of Rana's trial, Headley testified that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI) and militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) coordinated with each other.

The ISI provided military and moral support to the group, he said.

He said a Pakistani agent paid him \$25,000 for the operation.

Mubarak, sons to be tried for killings

AFP, Cairo

Ousted Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak and his two sons were yesterday referred to a criminal court on suspicion of graft and ordering deadly fire against anti-government protesters, state mediareported.

The official MENA news agency said the 83-year-old former strongman and his two sons Alaa and Gamal have been charged with "premeditated murder of some participants in the peaceful protests of the January 25 revolution".

"The public prosecutor Abdel Maguid Mahmud has decided today to refer former president Hosni Mubarak and his two sons Alaa and Gamal and businessman Hussein Salem to a criminal court," the news agency reported.

They have also been charged with profiteering and using their positions for illicit gains and squandering public funds, it added.

Several of the charges extend to a fourth defendant, Hussein Salem, a businessman close to Mubarak who has been blamed for a controversial deal to supply Israel with gas at lower than usual prices. He has fled the country.

Mubarak, who was forced to resign on February 11 in the face of 18 straight days of mass protests, has been in police custody in hospital since April 13 in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

The veteran leader, who ruled Egypt for three decades, was hospitalised after reportedly suffering a heart attack during questioning.

Prosecutors allege that Mubarak "participated by agreeing with the former interior minister Habib al-Adli and some former police commanders... in committing premeditated murder," MENA said.

Pak nuke security a concern:Nato

AFP, Kabul

The head of Nato said yesterday he was confident Pakistan's nuclear weapons were safe, but admitted it was a matter of concern, the day after the worst assault on a Pakistani military base in two years.

Rasmussen was asked if Nato was concerned about Pakistan's nuclear weapons after it took Pakistani forces 17 hours to reclaim control of a naval air base from Taliban attackers and following the death of Osama bin Laden.

"I feel confident that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is safe and well protected," said Rasmussen. "But of course it is a matter of concern and we follow the situation closely."

Rasmussen was scheduled to wind up his Afghan visit yesterday after spending a night and a full day in Afghanistan.

Don't divulge trial

FROM PAGE 1

process to the media. Nizami was interrogated at a Dhanmondi safe home on May 5 on charge of involvement with crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

The tribunal also rejected a second petition filed by Nizami bringing contempt of court charge against investigator M Sanaul Haque. The petition said Sanaul has illegally disclosed statements and information provided by Nizami to him during the questioning to the media.

The tribunal rejected both two petitions on the ground that the statements and information given by the accused petitioner Nizami during interrogation are not admissible as evidence against him during the trial. Nizami's counsel M Tazul Islam and prosecutor Syed Haider Ali earlier put forth their arguments regarding the matter.

The three-member tribu-

nal headed by Justice Nizamul Huq however asked Nizami's counsels, investigators and prosecutors involved in the process to be careful about making any statements to the media.

The tribunal observed that the counsels for both parties have made statements to the television regarding the interrogation which is unwarranted.

It pointed out that the investigators can only talk to the media regarding the proceedings taking place but not about any information discovered during the process.

Later chief prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo told reporters that the counsels and investigators involved have to be careful about what they divulge to the media so that the proceedings of the tribunal is not affected in any way.

The petitions were filed with the tribunal on May 8 and 15.

Jubo League

FROM PAGE 20

upazila of Bogra yesterday.

The dead, Aminul Islam Shahin, 40, was accused in 11 cases, including one for murder, Shajahanpur police said.

Police captured Khairul Islam Dulu, 40, in this connection.

The authorities concerned fixed yesterday noon for offering a tender invited by the local horticulture department few days back to sell fruits of 120 trees.

Yesterday, the supporters of Shahin and AL man Moju sat in a meeting to take decision on who would accept the tender, local sources said.

As both the groups showed their interest to accept the tender and give commission to their rival party men, a brawl took place among them, police said.

At one stage, supporters of Moju stabbed Shahin in his head at about 11:30am, leaving him dead on the spot.

A case was filed against 11 persons including Moju, who is also an accused in at least five cases, police said.

BNP may join

FROM PAGE 20

They said they might return to the House after June 9, the expected date for placing the budget for the next fiscal year.

The current session began on Sunday with BNP boycotting. Apart from the passage of the budget, the session may hold discussion on constitution amendment.

"We didn't decide that we won't return to parliament. We'll do what is good for the country," said RA Gani, the senior most member of the standing committee, when asked about their joining the House.

Lt Gen (ret) Mahbubur Rahman, also a standing committee member, said: "I hope the government will create congenial environment for the opposition in parliament, as our lawmakers want to join it."

The government is con-

spiring against multiparty democracy, and it cannot go unchallenged in and outside the House, said another senior member of the committee.

BNP, however, will not take part in "any process" of amending the country's constitution, as it has taken stance against any changes to the country's charter.

Party insiders in return for anonymity said a section of senior leaders are mounting pressure on the party high-ups not to join parliament now while another group is in favour of joining it.

Of late, senior leader Moudud Ahmed and opposition chief whip Zainul Abidin Farroque said they would not return to the House if the government did not respond to their call.

Moudud said the party would join the session if cases against Khaleda Zia are withdrawn while Farroque said the government must declare a mid-term election before they join parliament.

Shifting the stance, Farroque on Sunday said BNP's parliamentary party will take the decision on the issue.

After boycotting for 74 consecutive sittings since last June, lawmakers belonging to BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party returned to parliament on March 15.

The party boycotted the session on March 24, the last day of the 8th session, protesting against the speaker's refusal to hold votes on each of the 1,030 amendment proposals they had placed on the thanksgiving motion on the president's speech.

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জালালাবাদ গ্যাস টি এ্যান্ড ডি সিস্টেম লিঃ. (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী) গ্যাস ভবন, মেদিনাবাগ, সিলেট-৩১০০। বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সাক্ষরী যেন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন সূত্রঃ ১৪২৫০৩/২০ মেঃ ৩ঃ/ (২০১১-১২)/দরপত্র/ তারিখঃ ১৯/০৫/২০১১

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ডিভিশন	বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয় / জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ
২	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ তেল, গ্যাস ও খনিজ সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)
৩	প্রকল্পের নাম	জালালাবাদ গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এ্যান্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন সিস্টেম লিমিটেড
৪	দরপত্র নং	২০ মেঃ ৩ঃ/ (২০১১-১২)/দরপত্র/
৫	কাজের নাম	সিলেট-২০ মেঃ ৩ঃ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রে গ্যাস সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে কুমারগাঁও ডিআরএস হতে পিডিবি'র অভ্যন্তরে অরিকিস মিটার স্থানান্তর (পূর্বে নিম্নলিখিত) এবং এরোজনীর উচ্চচাপ পাইপলাইন নির্মাণ কাজ।
৬	প্রকল্পের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৭	অর্থায়নের উৎস	কোম্পানীর নিজস্ব অর্থ।
৮	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সময়সীমা	২৯/০৫/২০১১ ইং হতে ০৫/০৬/২০১১ ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
৯	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৬/২০১১ ইং তারিখে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৬/২০১১ ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা উপস্থিত দরদাতা/ প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১১	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	১) ক্যান্স কাউন্টার, অর্থ ডিপার্টমেন্ট, জালালাবাদ গ্যাস, সিলেট। ২) ঢাকা সিন্ডিকেট অফিস, জালালাবাদ গ্যাস, বাড়ী নং ৭৪ (২য় তলা), সড়ক নং ৬, পুরাতন ডিওএইচএস, বনানী, ঢাকা
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান	কমিটি রুম (২য় তলা), জালালাবাদ গ্যাস, গ্যাস ভবন, মেদিনাবাগ, সিলেট।
১৩	দরদাতার যোগাযোগ	জালালাবাদ গ্যাসের ২০০৯-১০ অর্থ-বছরের তালিকাভুক্ত ১.৪ শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদার।
১৪	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	৳ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র; অফারযোগ্য)।
১৫	দরপত্রের জামানত	৳ ১৫,০০০/- (পনের হাজার টাকা মাত্র) জালালাবাদ গ্যাসের অনুকূলে ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার আকারে জমা দিতে হবে।
১৬	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা	৪৫ (পয়ত্রিশ) দিন।
১৭	বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ	ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই সকল দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। খ) দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার তারিখে সরকারী ছুটি বা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্য দিবসে উপরোক্ত স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। গ) দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণকারী ঠিকাদারদের মধ্যে কেউ যদি ইতিমধ্যে অত্র কোম্পানীর অন্য কাজে নিয়োজিত থাকেন তাকে সে ক্ষেত্রে আসোচ্য কাজের বিদ্যুৎ টায়ে না মর্মে অস্বীকারনামা প্রদান করতে হবে এবং উক্ত কাজের জন্য পৃথক পৃথক গাড়ী, মেশিনপত্র ও স্ক্রনবল নিয়োজিত করবেন। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী কোম্পানীর নির্ধারিত দরপত্র তফসিলে অবহিত হওয়া যাবে এবং সে অনুযায়ী দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

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