

State of Disaster in Malawi Photography Contest

MELINDA BOWLING
Staff Writer

According to Associated Press, the African nation of Malawi has declared a state of disaster. The president made the decision on Saturday, based on a terrible food crisis. They are calling for more international aid.

On top of famine, Malawi is facing a shortage of maize, a staple for their nation. This year is threatening to be the worst in a decade for hunger, partly because high HIV infection rates have left farmers too sick to plant or tend their crops. The president, Bingu wa Mutharika, has said that the crisis is threatening five million of the country's eleven million people.

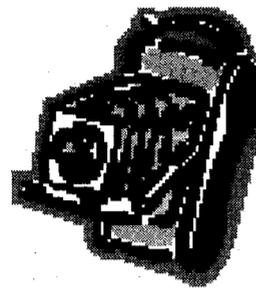
Heavy rain has added to the misery of millions of homeless victims in Pakistan only a week after their worst recorded earthquake. The downpours have briefly grounded relief flights, and thus prevented the delivery of much-needed medicine and tents. There are an estimated two million people currently lacking shelter with the approaching threat of Himalayan winters.

Any more delays are said to be potentially catastrophic. Seven days after the 7.6 magnitude earthquake which is believed to have killed more than 35,000 people, many villages are still without aid. UNICEF has warned that thousands of children are at risk of death from cold, malnutrition and disease; a re-

ported half of those affected by the earthquake are under the age of eighteen.

CNN reports that a prominent British lawyer has been asked to defend Saddam Hussein at the dictator's trial for mass murder. Anthony Scrivener, who was part of the legal team that freed the "Guildford Four" (they were jailed for two 1975 pub bombings), has not decided whether or not to take the job.

Saddam and seven other defendants face their first trial starting October 19. Prosecutors have not announced the exact charges, but it is expected that Hussein will face the death penalty if convicted.



Did you capture a great picture of the monks during their time at Meredith? Here's your chance to show it off!

Send your best pictures to baileyka@meredith.edu or put in Kathryn Bailey's Joyner mailbox and win a prize! Prizes will be awarded for best black & white and best color photos. Winners will also be submitted for possible publication in The Colton Review. Contest ends Monday, October 31!

Questions? Contact Kat at x8603 or at baileyka@Meredith.edu.

Deadly Earthquake Hits Asia

EMELIA DUNSTON
Staff Writer

On October 8th a massive earthquake rocked South Asia to its core. The quake, which had a magnitude of 7.6, was centered about 60 miles northeast of Islamabad. It struck Pakistan and parts of India and Afghanistan on Saturday morning as well. It destroyed thousands of homes, buildings, and schools and triggered landslides that prevented rescuers from reaching the area. It has been reported that up to 22 aftershocks followed within 24 hours.

According to the Associated Press, the earthquake to date has killed more than 35,000 and left about 2.3 million homeless. Officials are expecting the death toll to rise because rescue workers cannot reach some of the remote areas that were hit by the quake. Many of the main roads that lead to these remote villages have been completely wiped out. For the ones that they can reach, the military is trying to set

up medical camps and evacuate the injured. Helicopters are flying in and out daily to deliver needed supplies and to transport injured people to hospitals. The helicopters have been their only means of transportation until the roads are cleared and deemed safe to travel on. To help relieve some of their stress, many nations, including the US, have stepped forward to donate money and needed supplies. The US has agreed to provide initial aid of up to \$50 million dollars for reconstruction and relief efforts in Pakistan. European Union Commissioner Louis Michel said he was sending \$4.4 million in emergency relief aid to the stricken region.

As of Friday, authorities decided to end search and rescue efforts for survivors. In

Pakistan, according to AOL.



Photo courtesy of www.cnn.com.

com, officials have said that there is no hope of finding more people beneath the rubble of collapsed buildings because "after a week, very few people survive." So, right now, they are trying to focus their attention on the survivors and finding more supplies for them, like tents and food, while trying to deal with freezing temperatures and heavy rain. They are hoping to be able to do things fast enough because, if not, people could begin dying from cold, malnutrition and disease.

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