



An aerial view shows rescue team continuing to look for victims in Padang yesterday, a week after the 7.6-magnitude quake that struck off the western coast of the island, killing more than 1,000 people and leaving half a million homeless.

Villages of graves

Indonesia gives up hope on quake survival

AFP, Padang

Villages buried in landslides triggered by last week's earthquake may be declared mass graves, Indonesian authorities said Wednesday as relief agencies battled to reach remote areas.

Up to 400 people are believed to have been buried alive when hillsides collapsed in the 7.6-magnitude quake and obliterated four adjacent villages in Padang Pariaman district of Sumatra island.

West Sumatra Governor Gamawan Fauzi said most of the dead would probably never be found or would be in such a state of decay that it would be better to leave them

where they were.

"If after umpteen days the bodies are broken, if we dig them up, probably their arms will break off, their legs will break off. It's no good," he told reporters in Padang, the provincial capital and worst-hit city.

"If the community is willing, from a religious angle it is okay not to bury them. So that area would be designated a mass grave."

The official death toll from last Wednesday's quake stands at 704 but the Red Cross believes the final number will be more than 3,000, with hundreds of bodies still interred in the debris.

One body was recovered

from the flattened Ambacang Hotel in Padang on Wednesday, the 76th corpse pulled from the wreckage there since the quake.

Military officer Haris Sarjana said 71 corpses remained buried at the site.

Relief agencies are racing against time to get aid to farming villages in the rugged hinterland that are still cut off a week after the massive earthquake devastated parts of Sumatra.

Around half a million people could be homeless, according to estimates by the United Nations and Red Cross based on the official figure of about 100,000 homes destroyed.

German police discover 'terror cell'

ANI, London

German intelligence services have reportedly discovered a new Islamic terrorist cell operating from the port of Hamburg - the same city from which the devastating 9/11 attacks on the United States were secretly conceived and planned eight years ago.

According to The Independent, the existence of the new militant group was revealed in a secret report prepared by Hamburg-based intelligence agents which was leaked to German television's investigative documentary programme Report Mainz and Die Welt newspaper.

Washington readies fresh Iran sanctions

AFP, Washington

The United States is ready to slap fresh sanctions on Iran in the event international negotiations over its suspected nuclear weapons programme fail, a senior US Treasury Department official said Tuesday.

"This administration has demonstrated that it is committed to a diplomatic resolution of the international community's issues with Iran," Treasury Undersecretary Stuart Levey told the Senate Banking Committee.

"The world is now united in looking to Iran for a response. If Iran does not live up to its obligations in this process, it alone will bear the responsibility for that outcome," he said.

"Under these circumstances, the United States would be obliged to turn to strengthened sanctions," said Levey, who as undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence over-

sees the department's efforts to staunch the flow of funds to international terrorists and weapons of mass destruction proliferators.

"We are intensifying work with our allies and other partners to ensure that, if we must go down this path, we will do so with as much international support as possible," said Levey.

"We will now wait to see whether Iran follows its constructive words with concrete action. If it does not, and if the president determines that additional measures are necessary, we will be ready to take action, ideally with our international partners."

Levey told lawmakers that he was not in a position to provide details of the planned sanctions, although the department has completed work on them.

He added that sanctions already in place have borne fruit, and that the United States hope to exploit certain "economic vulnerabilities" in Iran.

Yemen army kills 29 Shia militants

AFP, Sanaa

The Yemeni army said yesterday that it has killed 29 Zaidi Shia rebels as it presses an all-out offensive against their strongholds in the northern mountains.

Troops killed 12 rebels in clashes on Tuesday in the Harf Sufyan district of Amran province, 70 kilometres (40 miles) north of the capital, the official Saba news agency quoted a commander as saying.

The other rebels were killed in several different clashes in Saada province farther north, the commander said.

The army said it had also destroyed five lorries carrying explosives to the rebels in Saada.

Nobel laureates committed to pursuing research

AFP, Stockholm

The trio who won the Nobel Chemistry Prize said yesterday they remained committed to pursuing their scientific endeavours, with one already at work in his lab and another saying she "can't sit and think of prizes all day."

Indian-born American Venktraman Ramakrishnan modestly credited the many researchers whose work helped earned him, Thomas Steitz and Ada Yonath the prestigious distinction.

"We're only sort of captains... of a team," he told Swedish Radio (SR) when reached in his research lab in Cambridge in England shortly after the announcement.

Ramakrishnan said many

of the ideas and work that led to the prize, in his lab and others, "was done by really brilliant students and post-docs," adding that he and his co-laureates were in a way "representing all of that effort."

"We are merely representatives of a large endeavour," he added.

The trio were honoured for their work, independently of each other, on the ribosome, a cellular machine that makes proteins.

Across the Atlantic Ocean, American Thomas Steitz was awake and on his way to the gym when the Nobel committee rang him with the news.

"My caller from Stockholm said I shouldn't go to the gym, (because) there would be phone calls," he told SR.



Photos of (from L) Venktraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas Steitz of the US and Israel's Ada Yonath displayed on a screen after they won the Nobel chemistry prize 2009 for their studies on the ribosome in Stockholm. The trio were honoured for "mapping the ribosome - one of the cell's most complex machineries - at the atomic level," it said.

Changes in US migrant jailing

AFP, Washington

The United States moved on Tuesday to scale down its controversial policy of jailing immigrants, after a government review branded the practice costly and often unnecessary.

Under new recommendations following a Department of Homeland Security review,

immigrants who are not seen as a risk will be placed in converted hotels and other residential facilities instead of high security prisons.

The country's top immigration and customs body will "pursue detention strategies based on assessed risk and reduce costs by exploring the use of converted hotels, nursing homes and other

residential facilities," DHS said in a statement.

At the beginning of September, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, which manages most immigrant detentions, had 31,075 immigrants in detention at more than 300 facilities ranging from jails to pre-trial holding facilities.

Philippines warns of epidemics at flood evacuation centres

AFP, Manila

The Philippines warned Wednesday there was a high probability of epidemics among the 340,000 people crowded into poorly equipped makeshift evacuation centres following recent deadly floods.

As the government also admitted it had no idea when those left homeless in the September 26 disaster would be resettled, international aid agencies stepped up their efforts to help the flood victims.

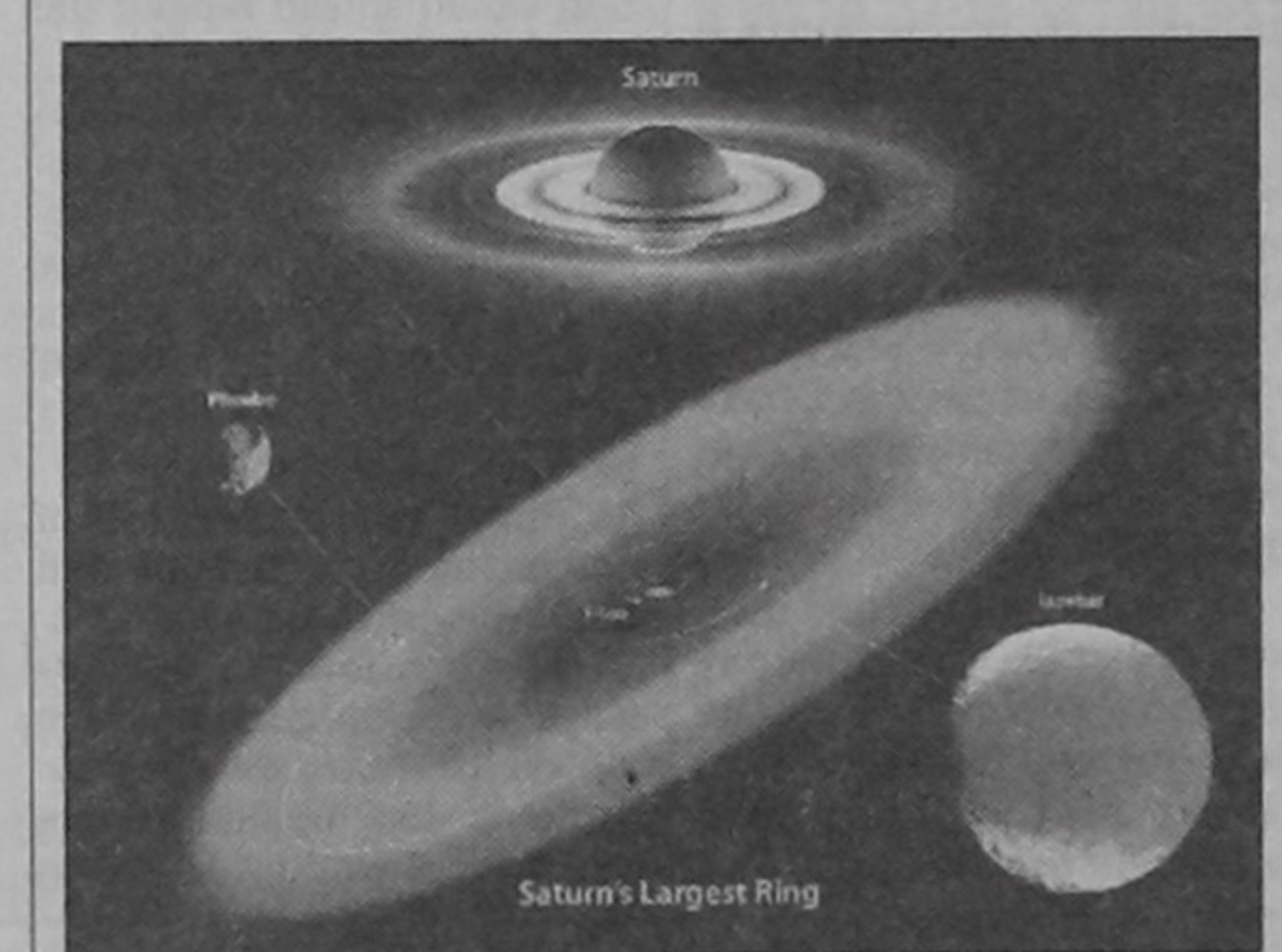
"Epidemic potential in some areas is very, very high," Health Secretary Francisco Duque told reporters after visiting one camp housing 8,000 people in a northern part

of Manila, the nation's capital.

The government has already faced fierce criticism for its response to the disaster, which claimed at least 295 lives when tropical storm Ketsana dumped the heaviest rains in over four decades on Manila and neighbouring areas.

Duque said that, 11 days after the floods, only 240 portable toilets had been delivered to the more than 500 evacuation shelters that had been set up at gymnasiums, schools and large sports arenas.

In the camp at suburban Marilao that he visited, Duque said an average of about 100 people daily had been complaining of diarrhoea and the number was increasing.



An undated handout of an artist's impression released by NASA to illustrate the extent of the largest ring around Saturn, discovered by NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope. Stunned astronomers have discovered that a small, distant moon of Saturn has the largest ring in the Solar System.

Giant ring detected around Saturn

AP, Pasadena

The Spitzer Space Telescope has discovered the biggest but never-before-seen ring around the planet Saturn, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory announced late Tuesday.

The thin array of ice and dust particles lies at the far reaches of the Saturnian system and its orbit is tilted 27 degrees from the planet's main ring plane, the laboratory said.

JPL spokeswoman Whitney Clavin said the ring is very diffuse and doesn't reflect much visible light but the infrared Spitzer telescope was able to detect it.

Although the ring dust is very cold minus 316 degrees Fahrenheit, it shines with thermal radiation.

No one had looked at its location with an infrared instrument until now, Clavin said.

The bulk of the ring mate-

rial starts about 3.7 million miles from the planet and extends outward about another 7.4 million miles.

The newly found ring is so huge it would take 1 billion Earths to fill it, JPL said.

Before the discovery Saturn was known to have seven main rings named A through E and several faint unnamed rings.

A paper on the discovery was to be published online Wednesday by the journal Nature.

"This is one supersized ring," said one of the authors, Anne Verbitser, an astronomer at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Her co-authors are Douglas Hamilton of the University of Maryland, College Park, and Michael Skrutskie, also of the University of Virginia.

Saturn's moon Phoebe orbits within the ring and is believed to be the source of the material.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Police Headquarters, Dhaka
Memo No-E&T/EQ/51-2009/3645(5)

Dt: 04-10-2009

Invitation for Tender

Sealed tender is hereby invited from the manufacturers/suppliers/local agents in their pad for the purchase of the following items for Bangladesh Police.

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2.	Agency	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
3.	Procuring entity name	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police.
4.	Invitation for	Purchase of equipment.
5.	Invitation reference No.	E&T/EQ/51-2009/01.
6.	Date	4 October 2009.

KEY INFORMATION	
7.	Procurement method

FUNDING INFORMATION	
8.	Budget & source of fund

PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
9.	Tender package no.

10.	Tender publication date
11.	Tender last selling date
12.	Tender closing date and time
13.	Tender opening date and time
14.	Name & address of the office(s)

15.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)
16.	Eligibility of tenderer

17.	Price of tender document (BDT)
18.	Brief description of goods

19.	Name of the official inviting tender
20.	Designation of the official inviting tender

21.	Address of official inviting the tender
22.	Contact details of official inviting the tender
23.	Important conditions-

a	No tender will be received after the deadline for submission.
b	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceeding.
c	Bangladesh Police will establish framework agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods. Purchase will depend on UN demand for deployment of police unit.
d	Tender will be evaluated item-basis.

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