INTERNATIONAL

Chilean quake among top 10 strongest on record

AFP, Santiago

The 8.8 magnitude earthquake that slammed central: Chile on Saturday is among · the top 10 strongest on: record, according to data · from the US Geological: Survey, which monitors earthquakes around the: world.

Eighteen of the top 20 most powerful earthquakes, including the strongest, . struck in a zone of volcanic . instability that encircles the . Pacific Ocean known as the "Ring of Fire."

The "Ring" stretches along the western coast of the Americas through the island : nations of the South Pacific . and on through Southeast:

Half of the top 20 strongest: earthquakes struck the Pacific coast of the Americas, and six of those -- including four in Chile -- struck south America.

The most powerful earthquake ever, a magnitude 9.5 whopper, struck Chile on May: 22, 1960 not far from the epicentre of Saturday's earthquake.

The 1960 quake, known as the Valdivia quake, killed 1,655 people, injured 3,000: and left two million homeless. It triggered a tsunami that killed 61 people in. the Philippines.



People look at destroyed cars on Sunday at the "Puente Viejo" (old bridge) over the Biobio river, that links Concepcion and San Pedro de la Paz, 500 km south of Santiago, after a huge 8.8-magnitude Hawaii, 138 in Japan and 32 in : earthquake rocked Chile Saturday killing at least 300 people and destroying around 1.5 million

Tsunami warning lifted

Waves reach Japan, Russia; 5 killed, 11 missing in Robinson Crusoe islands; Japan evacuated 320,000 people

AP, AFP, Tokyo

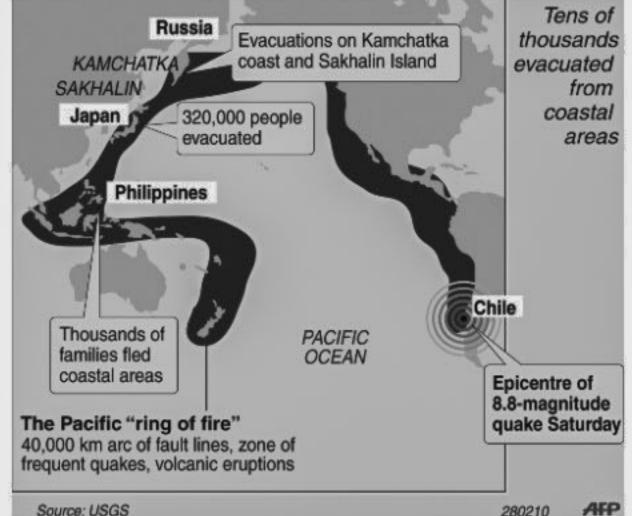
The tsunami from Chile's deadly earthquake hit Japan's main islands and the shores of Russia on Sunday, but the smaller-than-expected waves prompted the lifting of a Pacific-wide alert. Hawaii and other Pacific islands were also

spared. In Japan, where hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated from shorelines, the biggest wave following the magnitude-8.8 quake off Chile hit the northern island of Hokkaido. There were no immediate reports of damage from the four-foot (1.2-meter) wave, though some piers were briefly flooded.

As it crossed the Pacific, the tsunami dealt populated areas including the US state of Hawaii only a glancing blow.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii issued a warning for 53 nations and territories, but lifted it Sunday, though some countries were keeping their own watches in place as a precaution. Waves over two meters

(seven feet) high crashed into the Chilean coast, carrying boats far inland near Concepcion. The tsunami killed at least five people, and remote Robinson Crusoe Pacific tsunami



islands before pressing on across the Pacific to Hawaii, Polynesia and beyond.

Japan ordered more than 320,000 people away from its east coast. Sea surges up to 1.2 metres (four feet) high slammed ashore Sunday and part of the port of Nemuro was flooded. "Please do not approach the coast at any cost," Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama warned in a national address.

The tsunami raised fears leaving 11 missing, in the the Pacific could fall victim to the type of devastating waves

that killed 230,000 people in the Indian Ocean in 2004 the morning after Christmas. During that disaster, there was little-to-no warning and much

Officials said the opposite occurred after the Chile quake: They overstated their predictions of the size of the waves and the threat.

confusion about the impend-

ing waves.

"We expected the waves to be bigger in Hawaii, maybe about 50 percent bigger than they actually were," said Gerard Fryer, a geophysicist

for the warning centre. "We'll be looking at that."

Japan, fearing the tsunami could gain force as it moved closer, put all of its eastern coastline on tsunami alert and ordered hundreds of thousands of residents in low-lying areas to seek higher ground as waves generated by the Chilean earthquake raced across the Pacific at hundreds of miles (kilometres) per hour.

Japan is particularly sensitive to the tsunami threat.

In July 1993 a tsunami triggered by a major earthquake off Japan's northern coast killed more than 200 people on the small island of Okushiri. A stronger quake near Chile in 1960 created a tsunami that killed about 140 people in Japan.

Towns along northern coasts issued evacuation orders to 400,000 residents, Japanese public broadcaster NHK said. NHK switched to emergency mode, broadcasting a map with the areas in most danger and repeatedly urging caution.

As the wave continued its expansion across the ocean, Japan's Meteorological Agency said waves of up to 10 feet (three meters) could hit the northern prefectures of Aomori, Iwate and Miyagi, but the first waves were much

Chile was ready for quake, Haiti wasn't

AP, Port-au-Prince

death toll in this Caribbean . quake in seven weeks. nation is magnitudes higher. But the Latin American country, reeling from The reasons are simple.

with strict building codes, the scale of the task is clear. robust emergency response · enced a quake at home when · reporters. the Jan. 12 disaster crumbled : Chile does not want "aid from anywhere to be buildings.

lucky this time.

Haiti's tectonic mayhem struck ' Much of Santiago was plunged into darkness. increased its destructiveness.

World pledges aid to quake-ravaged Chile

AFP, Paris

The earthquake in Chile was: The United States and Europe vowed to come far stronger than the one that . to Chile's aid as relief workers rushed to the struck Haiti last month yet the ; western hemisphere's second enormous earth-

· the deaths of at least 300 people and a trail of Chile is wealthier and : destruction caused by Saturday's 8.8-magnitude infinitely better prepared, · quake, appealed for foreign donors to wait until

"We are very grateful for people's good intenand a long history of handling: tions, but let's let the (Chilean) emergency office seismic catastrophes. No · get its very specific report on needs done," living Haitian had experi- : Foreign Minister Mariano Fernandez told

their poorly constructed · a distraction" from disaster relief, he said. "Any : aid that arrives without having been determined And Chile was relatively · to be needed really helps very little." At least 1.5 million homes were damaged in

Saturday's quake was cen- · the pre-dawn quake, roads were torn up and tred offshore an estimated : buildings reduced to rubble in the nation of 16 34km underground in a rela- * million people. The main international airport tively unpopulated area while : in the capital Santiago suffered heavy damage.

closer to the surface about . The country's second largest city, Concepcion, 13km and right on the edge of south of the capital, was near the epicentre of the Port-au-Prince, factors that . quake, one of the largest on record.

"We anticipate the situation in the worst-

affected areas closer to the epicentre to be much more serious," said Pete Garratt, the disaster relief manager for Britain's Red Cross.

"Our fear is that this quake will have had large-scale impact." UN chief Ban Ki-moon's office said he was

"very closely monitoring developments" including the risk of Pacific Basin tsunamis. A Pacificwide tsunami alert was lifted, but Japan evacuated 320,000 people.

US President Barack Obama pledged to meet any request for help from Chile, while the European Union offered three million euros (four million dollars) in immediate aid and Australia and South Korea also pledged assis-The United States "stands ready to assist in

the rescue and recovery efforts, and we have resources that are positioned to deploy should the Chilean government ask for our help", Obama said in a televised address. French President Nicolas Sarkozy expressed

his "deep emotion" while British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said: "The people of Chile are in agony today but Britain stands ready to help. We will do whatever we can." Spain, which holds the EU's rotating presi-

dency, offered to help coordinate relief efforts once the damage and requirements are



PHOTO: AFP

Handout photo shows Sunday a wharf covered with seawater at Hanasaki port in Nemuro city: Americas and through the on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido. Japan evacuated more than 320,000 people as a tsunami · island nations of the South triggered by Chile's massive earthquake sent waves up to 1.20 metres (four feet) high barrelling . Pacific and on through

'Ring of Fire' strikes again

· AFP, Santiago

A massive earthquake that struck off Chile on Saturday revealed anew the ferocity of the volatile "Ring of Fire", a massive zone of volcanic instability that encircles the Pacific Ocean.

The 8.8-magnitude quake struck some 115 kilometres northeast of the city of Concepcion, killing 122 people, toppling buildings and triggering a tsunami that experts said was roaring

across the Pacific. Most of history's deadliest quakes, tremors and volcanic explosions have occurred along this weak line in the Earth's crust, including the eruptions of Krakatoa near Java and Mount St Helens in the United States, as well as the massive quake that sparked the Indian Ocean

The Ring of Fire stretches along the western coast of the Southeast Asia.

tsunami of December 2004.

PM pledges justice

has contributed the money.

The association earlier decided to pay Tk 40,000 per

month to each deceased family for up to 10 years for their daily expenses. At the programme, one

minute's silence was observed in remembrance of the slain army officers.

Praying for the salvation of

the departed souls of the army officials and expressing deep sympathy to their family members, Sheikh Hasina urged them to let the government know if they have any need. She also assured them of more assistance from her government.

Emotional about the brutal killing of the army officers, the premier described how she

the CHT, the ministry said

adding Bangladesh expects the

EU to act responsibly and in a

Saying the EU statement as

an unfortunate one, the release

said, the initial consideration of

the EU (prima facie), it is not

based on any actual fact-finding

exercise on the part of EU or any

consultation with the govern-

constructive manner.

ment of Bangladesh.

FROM PAGE 1

August 15, 1975 and suffered the loneliness, as at that time there was none to express sympathy to them.

Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League, said when her father and other family members were killed, she and her sister could not even see the dead body of their near and dear ones.

"You [family members of the slain army officers] have lost your near and dear ones. But I am with you all the time. I'm trying to do something for you all the time," she said.

"I know how much painful losing near and dear ones is since I have lost all of my family members except one sister. I know, we won't be able to compensate for this loss but we will help you [the families] lost her entire family on within our capacity," said the

the EU is aware of allegations

prime minister.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Prime Minister's Adviser HT Imam and Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, Deputy Press Secretary Mahbubul Hoque Shakil, among others, were present.

Exim Bank, Southeast Bank, National Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Islami Bank, First Security Bank, AB Bank, Eastern Bank, Uttara Bank, Jamuna Bank, Mercantile Bank, Premier Bank, Bank Asia, Mutual Trust Bank, The City Bank, United Commercial Bank, Standard Bank, NCC Bank, Shahjalal Islami Bank, Al-Arafa Islami Bank, Social Investment Bank, Dhaka Bank, Prime Bank, Trust Bank and BRAC Bank have provided the money.

first victory over the inventors of cricket. The wicket was devoid of any grass with very slow, low bounce and provided lots of assistance to the spinners, but the hosts could not take advantage of that due to some irresponsible batting and

dropped chances.

Off-break bowler Naeem Islam took three wickets for 49 runs and skipper Shakib Al Hasan took one for 42, while returning pacer Mashrafe Bin Mortaza bowled six overs

England coast home despite

FROM PAGE 16

As it happened, England coasted on an unbeaten 75-run knock from vice-captain Paul Collingwood and a 64 from skipper Alastair Cook to take home the first of the threematch Beximco ODI Series by 6 wickets with four overs to spare at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

without any luck as the Englishmen batted professionally and proficiently to reach their target.

Earlier, despite a raging 125 from opener Tamim, Bangladesh folded for 228 with 26 balls unused, thanks to a three-wicket haul from spinner Graeme Swann and some sloppy batting and running between the wickets from the Tigers. Tamim looked in imperious form, and he played with utter disdain mixed with aplomb as he accumulated runs during his 120-ball stint that provided the backbone for the Bangladesh innings. Most pleasing about Tamim's knock was his adaptability to the different bowlers and his switching of gears to suit the changing tempo of the innings. However he was left with too

team were looking up to him for whatever they could get. An ungainly boundary down to third man got the game going for Tamim and few balls later he got a lucky break when he was dropped on 10 by Eoin Morgan at cover off the bowling of Ryan Sidebottom. That was the only blemish in a majestic performance from the 22-year-old left-hander who is fast establishing himself as one of the most devastating batsman in world cricket.

much to do on his own and

perished in a very unpleasant

manner at a time when the

He showed signs of early aggression threading Sidebottom through cover for responsible for instigating or four of the fifth ball of the fifth committing acts of violence on over and then lofted him over February 19 and 20 in the CHT, long on for six the next ball.

the morning so all the batsmen had to do was to hit through the line and Tamim did exactly that. The bowlers resorted to banging it in short to cramp him for room, but on a slow wicket that was not a successful ploy either. He raced to fifty in

just 32 balls, 44 of those runs

coming in boundaries. He picked all the corners of the park, even hitting behind the

England though got their first break on 63 when Tim Bresnan induced a leading edge from Imrul Kayes after the opener had scored 15 runs.

Once the crater was found, Bangladesh's batting order crumbled softly around Tamim. Zunaed Siddiqui clipped one for a second-ball duck, Aftab Ahmed was left stranded by some indecision in running between the wickets. Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfigur Rahim and Naeem Islam looked good for the while they were in the middle, but put very little price on their wickets to leave Tamim playing a lone hand. And he did so for the most part of the innings. As the slower bowlers came into operation, Tamim used the V to accumulate most of the runs.

Tamim brought up his hundred from 94 deliveries, four more boundaries added since his tally at half-century He took 62 balls for his second 50, but that was all very precious in the context of the game. He leaped a few feet off the ground in celebration of the hundred, his first against a major cricketing power and ample evidence was that this century was special.

After getting to a hundred, he once again switched gears, lifting Paul Collingwood over long-on boundary for a maximum. As the batting Powerplay was taken in the forty-fourth over with only two wickets in hand, Tamim decided to go for The wicket played well in it all by himself. But this time an ill-judged paddle against Broad brought the outstanding knock to a sombre end. The last wicket added 14 more runs leaving England with a teasing target on a track that something to offer for the Bangladesh bowling attack

packed with spinners.

Normalcy back in Khagrachhari

FROM PAGE 16

remains vacant."

"Those who committed the massacre might grab the land if it

One of the victims of the clashes, Mohammad Hossen Sarker from Shantiniketon, said, "The clashes between Bangalee settlers and indigenous people were overland.

"Anyone can grab it if falls vacan because existing laws are not adequate for resolving land disputes," headded.

Aungya Marma from Satbaiyapara said he has begun reconstructing his house because there is not enough room for his eight-member family to stay in his relative's house. "I need more assistance to

reconstruct the house as soon as possible, and I need more food and clothingassistance," he said. Pratima Roaza, an arson victim

from Mohazonpara, said that some of those affected are still in hiding due to a perceived lack of security.

Deputy Inspector General Police in Chittagong Zone Asaduzzaman Miah told The Daily Star that joint forces, including the army, have started patrolling 60 key points in Khagrachhari. He maintains that the situation

isnowunder control. Some 1,200 personnel from the police, army, Rapid Action Battalion and Bangladesh Rifles were deployed to monitor the situation,

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Abdullah said that Tl 3.26 lakh and 58 metric tonnes of rice were distributed among the affected families last Thursday.

"We will work hard to distribute Tk 30 lakh and 500 bundles of corrugated iron sheets to affected families by Monday," he said.

The DC also said that authorities have sent another proposal to the ministry regarding the distribution of Vulnerable Group Feeding cards

forthenext three months. On February 19 two indigenous people were killed when security forces opened fire on feuding indigenous people and Bangalee

settlers in Gongaram Mukh area of Baghaichhari upazila in Rangamati. The dispute allegedly concerned land ownership and trig-

gered the unrest in the Chittagong HillTracts last week.

Atiqul was recently made the

head of a six-member BGMEA

committee for probing the fire

incident at the Garib and Garib

Company, a Gazipur-based gar-

ment factory, where 21 workers

were killed and 30 injured on

dent of Sammilito Garment Sramik

Federation, said the workers got

agitated when the management did

not announce holiday on Eid-e-

among the workers led to the van-

dalism. But the workers could have

discussed the issue with labour

leaders and the management to

BGMEA President Abdus Salam

Murshedy said vandalism of such a

After visiting the factory,

Nazma said the resentment

Miladunnabion Saturday.

reach a settlement.

However, Nazma Akter, presi-

consideration," hesaid.

Thursday.

RMG factory vandalised in Gazipur

FROM PAGE 1

process of filing a case with Joydevpur police station is underway," Rashid said. The agitating workers damaged

machinery and the offices of textile dyeing, finishing, weaving and knitting sections at around 8:00am, saidAtiqulIslam,ownerofthefactory thathasabout8,000workers. He said the vandalism was part

of a well-thought-out plot as most attackers were outsiders.

Atiqul Islam, also a director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said initial losses hover around Tk 40 crore as all expensive machinerywas damaged.

"The losses would have crossed Tk 100 crore if shipment of apparels had not been made from my factory on time," said Atiqul.

overtime of the workers.

He said it might not be possible to resume production in two

Atiqul claimed that they had not defaulted on salary, bonus and

factories," Murshedysaid.

compliant factory is a threat to the growth and sustainability of garment business in Bangladesh. "We want assistance from the government to prevent such violence in ready-made garment

"Theworkersweredemandinga hike in salary which was under

The EU in its statement said

corroborating evidence in

support of the allegations

implementing the CHT Peace that the incident involved army Treaty, reports BSS. personnel and labourers Rather, such statement employed by army. would encourage those who The government draws chose to instigate instability in

attention to the fact that--it was the Awami League government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her previous term, that took the bold step to conclude the CHT Peace Accord in order to bring back peace, security and stability in the area, said the foreign ministry release.

The present government, after assuming office in January last year, made no delay in As such, it does not offer any resuming the process of full implementation of the accord. As part of this process, a

good number of military camps were withdrawn from the hill

Dhaka terms EU claims baseless

allowances.

economic development of the people living in the CHT, with particular focus on the marginal and vulnerable groups, specially the ethnic minorities, it Cases have been lodged and police have arrested suspected

districts, the functioning of the

CHT Land Commission was

reinvigorated, and more power

CHT local councils.

and tasks were transferred to

special emphasis on the socio-

perpetrators following the incidents of February 19 and 20. The government has also provided house-building and

other relief materials for affected families as well as cash

The government has taken added.

participated solidarity rallies The government attaches were also held in the hill districts, it said. Bangladesh government wishes to reiterate its commitment to 'zero tolerance' against impunity. Persons found

steps to promote harmony and

understanding between the

communities in the CHT fol-

lowing which several widely

The release said the government expects full understanding and cooperation from the friends of Bangladesh. The government is commit-

will be brought to book.

ted towards the full implementation of the CHT accord, it