World remembers victims of 9/11

AP, Wellington

Ten years on from the day the 9/11 terrorist attacks changed so much for so many people, the world's leaders and millions of citizens are pausing to reflect.

From Sydney to Atlanta, formal ceremonies are planned or already under way to remember the nearly 3,000 who perished from more than 90 countries. And, in a reminder that threats remain, authorities in Washington and New York are beefing up security in response to intelligence about possible plans for a car bomb attack.

For some people, the pain never stops. In Malaysia, Pathmawathy Navaratnam woke up Sunday in her suburban Kuala Lumpur home and did what she's done every day for the past decade: wish her son "Good morning." But Vijayashanker Paramsothy, a 23year-old financial analyst, was killed in the attacks on New York.

In Manila, dozens of former shanty dwellers offered roses, balloons and prayers for another 9/11 victim, American citizen Marie Rose Abad. The neighborhood used to be a shantytown that reeked of garbage. But in 2004, Abad's Filipino-American husband built 50 brightly colored homes, fulfilling his late wife's wish to help impoverished Filipinos.

In New Zealand, players from the American Eagles rugby team were among the first to mark the anniversary at a Sunday memorial service in the town of New Plymouth. The players, who are participating in the Rugby World Cup tournament, listened to a speech by US ambassador : David Huebner, whose brother Rick sur- : vived the attacks on the World Trade Center.

"We watched live on television the brutal. murder of 3,000 individuals," Huebner said. "We reacted with near unanimous horror · and sadness."

"As we mark the 10th anniversary of that : day, we commemorate the triumph of · human kindness, and the humanity and : self-abrogation which sets us apart from ; every other species on this planet Earth."

In Australia, Sydney resident Rae: Tompsett said she's never felt angry over the murder of her son Stephen Tompsett, · 39, a computer engineer who was on the : 106th floor of the World Trade Centre's : north tower when it was hit by a hijacked · plane.

"No, not anger," she said. "Sorrow. Sorrow : that the people who did this believed they . were doing something good."

In Japan, families gathered in Tokyo to pay their respects to the 23 Fuji Bank . employees who never made it out of their: World Trade Centre office.

One by one, family members laid flowers . in front of an enclosed glass case containing a small section of steel retrieved from Ground Zero.

Kunitake Nomura, 76, a former Fuji Bank : employee who mourns losing his younger · co-workers, attended a subsequent memorial service.







his wife Laura Bush (L) observe a moment of silence at the time the first hijacked airliner crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Centre at the lower Manhattan site of the World Trade Center yesterday in New York. And relatives and friends of the victims pay emotional tributes worldwide to mark the history changing event.

: US stronger 10 years after attacks : Says Obama

· REUTERS, Shanksville

 US President Barack Obama : said on Saturday the United : States was stronger 10 years · after the Sept 11, 2001, attacks and Americans would "carry on" despite · continued threats against · their safety.

Marking Sunday's 10th anniversary of the "9/11" · attacks on New York, . Washington and Pennsylvania, Obama noted · that al-Qaeda's strength had been sapped by relentless US efforts in the decade since the tragedy killed · nearly 3,000 people.

"Thanks to the tireless efforts of our military per-· sonnel and our intelligence, : law enforcement and home-: land security professionals, there should be no doubt: · Today, America is stronger : and al-Qaeda is on the path to defeat," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address.

The attacks sparked USled wars in Afghanistan and · Iraq, the latter of which : Obama, a Democrat, opposed.

Swedish cops arrest 4 terror suspects

AFP, Stockholm

Swedish police in the southwestern city of Gothenburg have arrested four people suspected of preparing a terror attack, Swedish media said Sunday quoting intelligence reports.

"Four people suspected of preparing a terror attack" were arrested late Saturday, said TT news agency quoting Sara Kvarnstroem, spokesman of the Saepo intelligence agency.

The arrests were announced after hundreds of people were evacuated from Gothenburg's Roeda Sten building, venue of the city's art biennale, on Saturday night.

Egypt, Israel seek calm after embassy attack

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli officials called yesterday for relations with Egypt to return to normal despite Friday's attack by a mob on the Israeli embassy in Cairo. "We shall do everything in order that rela-

tions between the two countries will return to normal," Environment Minister Gilad Erdan, considered close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told public radio. "In this case the Egyptian authorities

acted as they should," he said, referring to the rescue by Egyptian commandos of six Israeli security guards besieged in the embassy building for several hours on Friday night by angry protesters.

Egypt warned Saturday of harsh measures to quell civil unrest after protesters stormed Israel's embassy.

After a meeting with the ruling military council, Information Minister Osama Heikal said Egyptian authorities would take all necessary steps to preserve order, including the protection of embassies.

Calling the unrest an "attack on Egypt's image". he added: "It is clear that the behaviour of certain people menaces the Egyptian state in its entirety." And he warned: "Exceptional circumstances demand decisive judicial measures."

Consequently, "security forces will have recourse to all necessary measures, including the right to legitimate self-defence, to preserve the security of the homeland."

Cairo would apply "all articles" of an emergency law in force for 30 years that provided greater powers to the judiciary and police, he added.

Tanzania mourns for ferry victims

AFP, Zanzibar

Tanzanians yesterday began three days of national mourning for victims of a ferry accident off the popular tourist archipelago of Zanzibar, in which nearly 200 people died.

But amid the grief, there were recriminations and anger that one of the worst maritime disasters in Africa in a decade could have been avoided if the ferry had not been patently overloaded.

The ferry Spice Islander, reportedly with more than 800 people as well as cargo on board, capsized early Saturday.

Arctic ice cover hits historic low conclusion in the coming days.

AFP, Paris

The area covered by Arctic sea ice reached its lowest point this week since the start of satellite observations in 1972, German researchers announced on Saturday. "On September 8, the extent of the

Arctic sea ice was 4.240 million square kilometres. This is a new historic minimum," said Georg Heygster, head of the Physical Analysis of Remote Sensing Images unit at the University of Bremen's Institute of Environmental Physics.

The new mark is about half-a-percent under his team's measurements of the previous record, which occurred on September 16, 2007, he said. According to the US National Snow and

Ice Data Centre (NSIDC), the record set on that date was 4.1 million sq km. The discrepancy, Heygster explained by phone, was due to slightly different data sets and algorithms.

"But the results are internally consistent in both cases," he said, adding that he expected the NSIDC to come to the same Arctic ice cover plays a critical role in

regulating Earth's climate by reflecting sunlight and keeping the polar region cool.

Retreating summer sea ice -- 50 percent smaller in area than four decades ago -- is described by scientists as both a measure and a driver of global warming, with negative impacts on a local and planetary scale. It is also further evidence of a strong

human imprint on climate patterns in recent decades, the researchers said.

"The sea ice retreat can no more be explained with the natural variability from one year to the next, caused by weather influence," Heygster said in an statement released by the university.

Temperatures in the Arctic region have risen more than twice as fast as the global average over the last half century.

significantly thinner in recent decades, though it is not possible to measure the shrinkage in thickness as precisely as for surface area, the statement said.

The Arctic ice cover has also become

UK should mull loosening EU ties

Says British foreign secretary CNN Online



Britain's top diplomat said his country should consider loosening ties with the European Union and distancing itself from the rest of Europe, according to an interview published Saturday by a British newspaper.

"We may get ahead as a result of being outside," Foreign Secretary William Hague, a longtime critic of the European Union, told The Times.

Hague disparaged the implementation of the euro currency in the interview, saying "It will stand as a monument in time to how groupthink can go so seriously away from what is realistic."

He said it was "always a giant mistake" to implement the common European currency without first aligning its member countries' tax and budgetary provisions.

The United Kingdom retained its own currency, the pound, opting out of Europe's shared currency, the euro, which is on shakier ground due to the debt crises of member countries.

A former head of Britain's Conservative Party, known for its skepticism of the European Union, Hague would also like to see other powers returned to Britain from the EU.

Gaddafi loyals stall rebel advance

REUTERS, Bani Walid

Battle-hardened Libyan combatants joined the fight to capture a desert town from wellarmed loyalists of Muammar Gaddafi yesterday after the head of Libya's interim council warned that the ousted leader still posed a threat.

Gaddafi troops firing rockets and mortars held up local fighters trying to push into the northern outskirts of Bani Walid, which lies 150 km southeast of Tripoli.

Scores of uniformed soldiers and experienced fighters of the ruling Transitional National Council (NTC) reinforced their comrades who have met fierce resistance from Gaddafi forces since Friday, saying they would attack within hours.

Nato warplanes again patrolled the skies after launching several air strikes the day before.

Ibrahim Bakkar, a 20-year-old fighter outside Bani Walid, said: "Nato dropped many bombs yesterday, targeting Grad rocket launchers. It is really helping us.

When we enter the city, Nato should give us more protection from the sky."

The original plan was for local men to enter the town of 100,000 to reassure residents and to encourage Gaddafi fighters to lay down their weapons and stay indoors.

But NTC officials, who first estimated they were facing only 150 Gaddafi loyalists, now say their opponents number about 1,000 after an influx of extra men from other Gaddafi strongholds such as Sirte on the coast and Sabha in the south.

It is vital for the NTC to capture Gaddafi's last strongholds and find the fugitive former leader to assert its grip over the vast oil-producing North African country and begin a countdown to elections and a new constitution.

NTC chairman Mustafa Abdel Jalil, a former Gaddafi justice minister who had run the council from the eastern city of Benghazi, arrived in Tripoli on Saturday for the first time since bands of anti-Gaddafi rebels captured it on August 23.

DIAMOND WORLD LTD. the art of beauty USTAAD FATEH ALI KHAN Date & Time 22 September (Thursday) 2011, 6.00pm Bangabandhu International Conference Centre Seat Reservation Contact us: 01715-068878, 01711-830036, 9137086 01198-127389, 01732-951251, 8191720

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Chirac received 'briefcases of cash'

AFP, Paris

African leaders gave former French president Jacques Chirac and his prime minister Dominique de Villepin briefcases full of cash, notably to finance election campaigns, a former aide alleged yesterday.

Villepin, a potential candidate in next year's presidential election, denied the allegations, which claim to shed new light on the French political establishment's often shady relationship with former colonies in Africa.

Robert Bourgi, a lawyer with a network of African contacts who advised Chirac and Villepin before changing camps in 2005 to aid now President Nicolas Sarkozy, made the allegations in France's Journal du Dimanche newspaper.

Bourgi said he "took part in handing over several briefcases to Jacques Chirac in person, at Paris city hall" when the future president was mayor in the 1980s and 1990s. "There was never less than five million francs (more than

750,000 euros). It could go up to 15 million," Bourgi said. Bourgi said five African leaders came to Villepin's office: Senegal's Abdoulaye Wade, Burkina Faso's Blaise Compaore, Ivory Coast's Laurent Gbagbo and Congo-Brazzaville's Denis Sassou Nguesso and Gabon's Omar Bongo.

Recruitment of Information Technology Staff

Cowater International Inc. Is the implementing agency for a project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), "Strengthening Comptrollership and Oversight of Public Expenditures" (SCOPE). This is a capacity development project, working with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh. A major component of this project is to develop a web-based audit management and monitoring system (AMMS) software. Applications are being invited from qualified individuals for the following positions to provide assistance with the development of the AMMS software.

1. Software Development / Database Specialist

Responsibilities - To oversee the development of the AMMS software, assure software quality and to work with the AMMS development team to ensure that the OCAG user requirements are fully met.

Period of employment - 1 year (may be extended)

Qualifications and experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Science or related fields.
- Current Microsoft Certified Database Administrator (MCDBA) or Oracle's OCP (Oracle Certified Professional) DBA (Database Administrator). Extensive knowledge of Microsoft SQL Server, client server systems and
- database application systems. including Structured Query Language, and database performance tuning Essential - minimum of three years' experience in database management
- including creating and administering primary database storage physical and logical structures (such as table spaces, views, indexes) for applications, user maintenance and application security
- Desirable three years' experience in working on projects for developing web based applications using ASP.NET, C# and SQL server

2. AMMS Development Advisor

Responsibilities - work intermittently, providing advice to the AMMS development team to ensure that software development best practices are followed and software quality is assured.

Period of employment - 4 months intermittent on call

Qualifications and experience

- Master's Degree in Computer Information Science or related fields.
- Recognized qualification in project management
- Extensive knowledge of Microsoft SQL Server, ASP.NET and C#
- At least five years of experience in leading software development projects Knowledge of audit monitoring software systems

Interested individuals/ software firms may respond immediately with a cover letter, CV and copies of academic / professional certificates, testimonials and professional references to the following address by 25 September 2011:

> Peter Armstrong Canadian Field Project Manager SCOPE Project

9th Floor, Second 12-Storied Government Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka 1000 Applications may also be sent by fax or by email: Fax: 88 02 9362447 Email: parmstrong@cowater.com