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Twin quakes hit Japan

Rescuers search ruins for victims amid dozens of aftershocks; 9 killed

AFP, Kumamoto

A powerful earthquake hit southern Japan last night, authorities said, sending panicked residents from their homes and damaging buildings in a region where nerves were already frayed by a swarm of strong shaking.

The earthquake hit just over a day after another strong tremor in the same area killed nine people, injured hundreds and toppled buildings.

Public broadcaster NHK showed footage of rescuers carrying a victim on a stretcher from a collapsed house to an ambulance while they massaged the person's chest after yesterday's earthquake in the southwestern island of Kyushu.

NHK also said authorities were considering evacuating patients from a hospital in hard-hit Kumamoto city over fears it could collapse as a wave of aftershocks shook the area.

The hospital was slanted and soldiers were sent to the scene to assess the situation, according to reports.

Authorities warned residents that houses weakened by the quake could fall down, and NHK showed a partially collapsed apartment building in Kumamoto.

There were multiple reports of fresh injuries and damage, including a possible collapsed bridge in the city, which has borne the brunt of a swarm of strong quakes that have hit the region since Thursday's powerful earthquake.

Hisako Ogata, 61, evacuated to a nearby park with her daughter, where some 50 other people sat on blue plastic sheets. "We left my house as we could not stay due to continuous jolts," Ogata told AFP.

"It was so scary," she added. "Thank God, we are still alive." An AFP journalist in Kumamoto said he was jolted awake by powerful shaking, which sent the television set in his hotel room crashing to the floor. Staff urged guests to evacuate.

The quake, measured at magnitude 7 by the US

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



A quake damaged house in the town of Mashiki at Kumamoto prefecture in Kyushu Island yesterday. A strong 6.5-magnitude earthquake hit Japan's southwestern island of Kyushu on Thursday, demolishing homes and igniting fires.

PHOTO: AFP



Rushanara now trade envoy for Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UK Prime Minister David Cameron has appointed Bangladesh-born British MP Rushanara Ali as trade envoy for Bangladesh.

The announcement came on the occasion of the Bangla New Year Pahela Baishakh and the appointment underlined the importance the UK attaches to its trade and investment partnership with Bangladesh, British High Commission in Dhaka said

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

TILTED IN EARTHQUAKE

CDA to examine building designs

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Cg

The Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has completed a primary inspection and identified nine buildings in different areas of the port city that tilted slightly due to Wednesday's earthquake.

It has asked the building owners to submit by tomorrow the structural designs of the buildings and the names of the engineers involved in the construction.

"We asked the owners of the buildings that tilted more or less to give their structural designs and also sought the names of the engineers involved in the construction by Sunday [tomorrow]," said Shahinul Islam Khan, acting chief town planner of CDA.

According to sources in CDA, nine buildings in the city's Chandgaon, New Market, Wasa High Level Road, Jhatala, Enayetbazar, GEC, Rahamatganj, Jubilee Road and Halishahar areas tilted slightly due to the earthquake on Wednesday night.

Of them, three buildings in Chandgaon, on Wasa High Level Road and on Jubilee Road apparently seem risky, said the acting chief town planner. Shahinul, also the chief of a three-member investigation team which was formed following the earthquake to assess the damage, said they would seek cooperation from experts of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) in this regard.

Decisions would be made after taking opinions of the experts, he said, adding that those decisions would be conveyed to the building owners as well.

More than 60 people were slightly injured, mostly while rushing out of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Paresh has 2 aides from Bangladesh

Intel agency reports to home ministry

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Two Bangladeshis are working as security guards for absconding Paresh Barua, commander-in-chief of the military wing of the United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa), according to a report of an intelligence agency.

Alamgir Hossain and Golam Nobi also cook for Paresh so that the Ulfa leader has less risk of getting poisoned, the report adds.

The report was submitted to the principal secretary to the Prime Minister's Office and the senior secretary of the home ministry last month.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



'Invisible' train set to roll in 2018



CNN ONLINE

It's a train out of a "Hunger Games" world -- except it could actually happen.

A nearly invisible train designed by one of Japan's leading architects is scheduled to debut in Tokyo in 2018.

Designed by award winner Kazuyo Sejima, the commuter train uses semi-reflective and semi-transparent materials to blend into the scenery whether it's traveling through the city or the countryside, according to a Newsweek report.

The train "travels in a variety of different sceneries, from the mountains of Chichibu to the middle of Tokyo, and I thought it would be good if the train

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Fifty fall sick after having Baishakh feast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

At least 50 people fell sick after having food at a Pahela Baishakh programme in Kachua upazila town on Thursday.

Twenty-eight people were admitted to Kachua Upazila Health Complex, while some others were undergoing treatment at home, said Tapas Das, resident medical officer of the health complex.

Over 300 people, including officials of different departments of the upazila administration and their family members, police, teachers, journalists, and students of different educational institutions, attended the programme organised by the upazila administration at Ladies Club, said the victims' family members.

Panta bhat (rice soaked in water), hilsa, Alu Bhorta

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Man stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was stabbed to death by unidentified criminals at Siddikbazar in old Dhaka yesterday when he was going to Fulbaria Bus Station by a rickshaw from his Nawabpur house.

The dead is Sayeed Hossain, 45. He was supposed to join a clothes shop yesterday as a salesperson at Mascot Plaza in Uttara.

When the rickshaw reached Siddikbazar

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Amid scorching hot weather, an elderly rickshaw-puller takes a nap in the shade of a tree at the Dhaka University area in the city at noon yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Microsoft sues US govt over secret data request

AFP, San Francisco

Microsoft on Thursday sued the US government, arguing that secret warrants to search people's email violate constitutional rights of Americans.

The US tech giant brought the case "because its customers have a right to know when the government obtains a warrant to read their emails, and because Microsoft has a right to tell them," said the court filing in federal court in Seattle, near the company headquarters in Washington state.

The lawsuit said that a requirement to keep silent on warrants for data -- based on a presumption that tipping people off might hamper investigations -- violates constitutional protection of free speech and safeguards against unreasonable searches.

In the past 18 months, federal courts have issued nearly 2,600 secrecy orders gagging Microsoft from saying anything about warrants and other legal actions targeting customers' data, according to the filing.

"We believe that with rare exceptions consumers and businesses have a right to know when the government accesses their emails or records," Microsoft chief legal officer Brad Smith said in a blog post.

"Yet it's becoming routine for the US government to issue orders that require email providers to keep these types of legal demands secret. We believe that this goes too far and we are asking the courts to address the situation."

Internet giants have complained that these types of secret search warrants erode trust in US technology companies while trampling on the rights of citizens and businesses.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

SIBL
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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 16

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-35	12-45	4-45	6-24
JAMAAT	5-10	1-15	5-00	6-28
				8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION