



US, China defence chiefs meet in Cambodia

Russian, US pressure mounts on Turkey over Syria threat

Indonesia quake toll jumps to 268

'I had to free us by digging, nothing is left and there is nothing I could save'

CIANJUR, Indonesia: The death toll from an earthquake on Indonesia's main island of Java jumped to 268 on Tuesday, as rescuers searched for survivors in the rubble and relatives started to bury their loved ones. As body bags emerged from crumpled buildings in Indonesia's most populous province, West Java, rescue efforts turned to any survivors still under debris in areas made hard to reach by the mass of obstacles thrown onto the roads by the quake.

"I just lost a brother 10 days ago. Now I've lost another brother," said his sister Siti Rohmah as she sobbed uncontrollably. "I kept waiting, hoping he would survive and that nothing bad would happen to him." One of the dozens of rescuers, 34-year-old Dimas Reviansyah, said teams were using chainsaws and excavators to break through piles of felled trees and debris to find survivors. "I haven't slept at all since yesterday, but I must keep going because there are victims who

because of severed road links and temporary power outages in parts of the largely rural, mountainous region. Those who survived camped outside in near-total darkness surrounded by fallen debris, shattered glass and chunks of concrete. Doctors treated patients outdoors at makeshift wards after the quake, which was felt as far away as the capital Jakarta. One father carried his dead son wrapped in white cloth through the streets of his village near Cianjur.

Others searched for their missing relatives in the chaos. Rahmi Leonita's father was riding a motorbike to Cianjur when the quake struck. "His phone is not active. I am in a state of shock now, I am very worried but I am still hopeful," said the 38-year-old, tears falling down her face as she spoke.

'Nothing I could save'

At a shelter in Ciherang village near Cianjur, evacuees sat on tarpaulins stretched over the cold morning ground. Nunung, a 37-year-old woman, had pulled herself and her 12-year-old son out of the rubble of their collapsed home. "I had to free us by digging. Nothing is left, there is nothing I could save," she told AFP from the shelter, her face covered in dried blood. The devastation caused by the quake was made worse by a wave of 62 smaller aftershocks that relentlessly shook Cianjur, a town of about 175,000 people.

The Geological Agency of the Indonesian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said in an analysis posted online Monday that the soil make-up of the area could have exacerbated the impact of the quake.

It said the area's "undulating to steep hills" were made up of "weathered" and "young" volcanic debris. "These... deposits are generally soft, loose, unconsolidated and strengthen the effects of shocks, making them prone to earthquakes," it said.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday joined Canadian and French leaders in offering their condolences. Indonesia experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide.

A 6.2-magnitude quake that shook Sulawesi island in January 2021 killed more than 100 people and left thousands homeless. — AFP

38 killed in central China fire

BEIJING: Thirty-eight people were killed and two were injured in a fire at a factory in central China, state media said Tuesday, with authorities blaming workers for illegal welding. The fire broke out at a plant in Anyang city in Henan province on Monday afternoon, news agency Xinhua reported.

Rescue services first received reports of a fire at 4:22 pm (0822 GMT) at Anyang Kaixinda Trading Co., Ltd, according to state media. "After receiving the alarm, the municipal fire rescue detachment immediately dispatched forces to the scene," state broadcaster CCTV said.

It added that the fire was extinguished by around 11 pm local time. Footage from the scene shared by CCTV showed thick plumes of black smoke from the fire, with at least two trucks in position to battle the flames.

In addition to the dead, two were sent to hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening, the state-run People's Daily said. Authorities said "criminal suspects" had been taken into custody in connection with the fire.

CCTV then reported, citing local officials, that a preliminary investigation had found the fire was caused by "electric welding in which workers violated safety measures". Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a directive later Tuesday, ordering officials to "go all-out in treating the injured... (and) strictly pursue accountability in accordance with the law".

He added that officials must "comprehensively investigate and rectify hidden risks to firmly prevent and curb the occurrence of major accidents", noting a recent string of accidents in Henan and neighbouring Shanxi province.—AFP



CIANJUR, Indonesia: Rescue workers carry the body of a victim in Cianjur on November 22, 2022, following a 5.6-magnitude earthquake that killed at least 268 people, with hundreds injured and others missing. — AFP

The epicentre of the shallow 5.6-magnitude quake on Monday was near the town of Cianjur where most of the victims were killed, hundreds were injured and dozens feared trapped as buildings collapsed and landslides were triggered. The death toll jumped dramatically again later on Tuesday from 162 to 268, Suharyanto, the head of Indonesia's national disaster mitigation agency, or BNPB, told a press conference. At least 151 people remain missing and more than 1,000 have been injured, said the official, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

Drone footage taken by AFP showed the extent of a quake-triggered landslide where a wall of brown earth was only punctuated by workers using heavy machinery to clear a road. President Joko Widodo visited the area on Tuesday, offering compensation for victims and ordering disaster and rescue agencies to "mobilise their personnel".

"The focus is still on the search and evacuation of victims. That's the priority," he said. "When the emergency response ends, hopefully everyone has been found." At a burial in a village near Cianjur, relatives of 48-year-old victim Husein, who was killed while building a house when the quake struck, broke into hysterical wails before his body was lowered into the ground.

Many of those killed were children, according to the head of Indonesia's national rescue agency Basarnas. "They were at school, at 1 pm, they were still studying," Henri Aliandi told a press conference. Some of those dead were students at an Islamic boarding school, while others were killed in their homes when roofs and walls caved in on them. The search operation on Tuesday was made more challenging

Scan & Subscribe
KD 20 a year

For Individuals Only

Scan Now

Tel: 24833199 Ext: 356-355-353

Super Friday Deals

23 NOVEMBER - 29 NOVEMBER 2022

75% OFF

Nadec UHT Milk 1Ltr 4's (Full Fat / Low Fat / Skimmed) 1.99	Sadia Chicken 1.2kg 2's 1.19	Lambweston Regular Potato Fries 2.5kg 1.19
Norwegian Whole Salmon /kg 3.99	Sea Prawns (Saudi) /kg 1.99	White pomfret (Medium) /kg 4.79
Indian Chilled Whole Mutton /kg 3.99	Pomegranate (India) per kg 0.99	Grapes Red Crimson (Lebanon) per kg 0.69
Avocado Hass (Mexico) per kg 1.79	Blueberry (South Africa) 125gm packet 0.49	Dettol Antiseptic Liquid 1Ltr 2's 2.47
Fairy Plus Dishwash 600 ml 2x1 Free 1.19	Black+Decker Aereofry AF300-B5 12kg 19.99	Potato Box 0.49
LG 65" 4K Smart UHD TV 65UP7550PVG 189.99	Samsung 58" UHD TV UA58AU7000UXZN 139.99	iPhone 11 128GB White 152.99
Samsung Galaxy S21 149.99	Samsung Galaxy S21 G991 128GB 5G 149.99	

GET OUR WEEKLY OFFERS ON YOUR MOBILE

LuLu Hypermarket