

Volunteers remove rubble during the search for survivors in a flattened building in Mexico City



Frantic search after deadly Mexico quake

Mexico City

Rescue teams kept up a desperate search yesterday for survivors of a powerful earthquake that killed at least 217 people in Mexico on the anniversary of another massive quake that still haunts the country.

Soldiers, police and civilian volunteers worked through the night after Tuesday's 7.1-magnitude quake, hoping to find survivors beneath the mangled remains of collapsed buildings in Mexico City and across a swath of central states.

"The armed forces and federal police will continue working non-stop until every possibility of finding more people alive is exhausted," Interior Minister Miguel Osorio Chong said on Twitter.

The most agonizing search was at a school in the capital where 21 children and five adults were crushed to death, and where at least 30 children were still missing.

"No one can possibly imagine the pain I'm in right now," said one mother, Adriana Fargo, who was standing outside what remained of the school waiting for news of her seven-year-old daughter.

The nation's attention was fixed on the school, the Enrique Rebsamen elementary and middle school on Mexico City's south side.

Hundreds of soldiers, police and volunteers wrestled with the wreckage through the night trying to extract a teacher and two students found alive beneath the rubble.

Deadly earthquake rocks central Mexico

More than 225 people have died in Mexico City and the surrounding states of Puebla and Morelos after a powerful earthquake struck central Mexico on Tuesday afternoon



President Enrique Peña Nieto, who rushed to the site, warned that the death toll could rise.

Suspicion was already mounting of shoddy building standards at the school.

The three-storey building "ought to have had in-built earthquake resilience," said geoscience professor David Rothery of the Open University in Britain.

"Had it been properly constructed it should not have collapsed, and I expect questions will be asked about whether the appropriate building codes were adhered to."

Nowhere to go

Parks and plazas in the centre of Mexico City were meanwhile flooded with people unable or afraid to return home for the night after the quake caused their walls to sway and crack.

At Parque Mexico, in the swank neighbourhood of Condesa, nervous evacuees set up an impromptu kitchen to serve meals for rescue workers.

The destruction revived haunting memories in Mexico on the anniversary of another massive quake in 1985 that killed more than 10,000 people, the disaster-prone country's deadliest ever.

Tuesday's quake struck just two hours after Mexico held a national earthquake drill, as it does every September 19 to remember the 1985 event.

Adding to the national sense of vulnerability, the earthquake struck just 12 days after another quake that killed nearly 100 people in southern Mexico.

Experts said the two quakes did not appear to be related, as their epicentres were far apart. (AFP)

#PollToday



Do you think Myanmar would ever be ready to take back Rohingyas who fled the country?

Yes No Cant Say



"We have told Myanmar, they are your citizens, you must take them back. But Myanmar is laying land-mines along the border to stop the return of Rohingyas to their homeland."

Sheikh Hasina
Bangladesh's Prime Minister

Rest in sight

Obama begins lucrative job as Wall Street speaker



Barack Obama has begun cashing in on his time in the White House with paid Wall Street speeches less than a year after leaving office.

Third suspect arrested over London attack

British police on Tuesday arrested a third suspect over the bombing of a packed London Underground train which injured 30 people last week.

Amazon reserve already being mined

A huge nature reserve in Brazil's Amazon rainforest that the government wants to open to foreign mining companies already suffers from illegal mining activity, Greenpeace said.

Iran translator mocked for soft-balling speech

An Iranian television translator defended himself after being criticised for soft-balling US President Donald Trump's attacks on Iran in his maiden speech to the UN.

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Iran publicly hangs man for rape, murder of girl

Tehran

A man was hanged in front of cheering crowds in Iran yesterday after being convicted of the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl which had outraged the nation.

The execution of 42-year-old Esmail Jafarzadeh was shown in an amateur video shared on the state broadcaster's website.

He was hanged at dawn in the square of the small northwestern town of Parsabad, in Ardebil province.

The execution was held in

public "to restore citizens' sense of security and relieve their troubled minds," Ardebil's prosecutor Naser Atabati told reporters.

Seven-year-old Atena Aslani went missing on June 19 after walking away from her street vendor father, sparking huge concern on social media.

Prosecutors said that Jafarzadeh, who was already

the prime suspect, confessed to her rape and murder shortly after her body was found by police in the garage of his house, the judiciary-linked *Mizan* website reported.

Six die in mudslide as rain lashes parts of India



Indian ground staff attempt to remove a plane which became stuck in the mud during overnight rain in Mumbai

Mumbai

Six people were killed yesterday in a landslide in northeast India, while heavy rain in the western city of Mumbai caused havoc after a plane skidded off the runway and became stuck in mud.

Authorities in the remote Himalayan state of Sikkim said the six died when their home was swept away by a landslide following a monsoon deluge.

"Four others have been injured," Sudhakar Rao, Sikkim deputy police chief, said.

On the opposite side of

India, dozens of flights were diverted from Mumbai after a SpiceJet plane overshot the runway late Tuesday amid torrential rain.

All 183 passengers were safely evacuated from the flight from Varanasi after it "skidded off into the unpaved surface" due to wet conditions, the airline said in a statement.

Schools and colleges also closed for the day as a precaution after severe monsoon rain late Tuesday and overnight led to fears of widespread flooding in India's financial capital.

Indian dam collapses a day before inauguration

Patna

India's Bihar state government has ordered a probe into the breach of a canal in Bhagalpur, which led to the cancellation of its inauguration yesterday by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and a barrage of criticism from opposition RJD and JD(U) rebel Sharad Yadav.

Nitish Kumar was scheduled to inaugurate the Rs 389.31-crore (\$60

million) Bateswarthan Ganga Pump Canal Project yesterday, aimed at providing irrigation facilities in the state and neighbouring Jharkhand.

The wall broke after being forcefully hit by the Ganga river waters when the pump was switched on for a trial run. Gushing waters entered Kahalgao, about 3 km from the project site, and inundated areas in an NTPC township. (TOI)