

DISASTERS – JULY 2007

THOUSANDS FLEE INDONESIA VOLCANO

July 10, 07. Thousands of Indonesians have been evacuated from the slopes of a volcano that is spewing out hot ash and smoke in the east of the country. The alert around Mount Gamkonora, in North Maluku province, has been raised to its highest level amid fears a major eruption could be imminent. Scientists have reported seeing fire and ash clouds rising as high as 4,000m (13,100ft) since Monday.

Indonesia sits on the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire," where continental plates meet, causing frequent volcanic and seismic activity. The archipelago nation has the world's highest number of active volcanoes. Gamkonora has erupted 12 times since records have been kept.

EARTHQUAKE 6.7 - JAPAN

July 16, 07. A major earthquake killed centred off the coast of Niigata, central Japan killed nine people, injured hundred (47 seriously), and flattened hundreds of homes. 13,000 were homeless. About 50,000 homes were without water, and most without gas or power. The quake triggered small (2ft) tsunamis.

At a nuclear plant about 100 drums with low-level nuclear waste tipped over There have long been concerns about the safety of Japan's nuclear power plants, which many fear are vulnerable in earthquakes. During the tremors, and some of their lids were found open. Water containing radioactive material is already known to have leaked from the plant into the sea, but officials say it will not harm the environment.

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NUCLEAR CRISIS IN JAPAN AS SCIENTISTS REVEAL QUAKE THREAT TO POWER PLANTS

July 19, 07. The world's biggest nuclear power station stands directly above an active earthquake faultline, which provoked an atomic spill this week, seismologists revealed yesterday. The disclosure that the Kashiwazaki plant was prone to further earthquake damage threw Japan's nuclear industry into crisis as seismologists recommended that up to a third of the country's 55 atomic power stations should be closed for inspection. Read full article>

<http://www.worthynews.com/news/timesonline-co-uk-tol-news-world-asia-article2096238-ece/>

July 21. A Japanese nuclear power plant -- the world's biggest may be shut down for more than a year while a safety study is made after an earthquake caused radiation leaks and showed that the plant was built above an active fault.

This July quake was the deadliest in Japan since the Kobe 7.2 quake of 1995 killed 6,433 people. It followed a destructive ...

TYPHOON. July 13, 07.

EARTHQUAKES. PERU. 6.0. July 12, 2007.

FLOODS. CHINA

July 16.07. Hundreds of thousands of villagers in east China's Huai river basin, are suffering the region's worst flooding in 50 years. Torrential summer rains across the country have fed floods and landslides that had killed 403 people, left 105 missing and forced the evacuation of 3.17 million, the China Daily said. Further south, officials in Hunan province were battling to contain a plague of more than 2 billion rats fleeing the rising waters of Dongting Lake.

CHINA. 6.1 QUAKE

July 20. A 6.1 quake hit northern Xinjiang's mountainous Tekes County. More than 2,120 homes were destroyed or made too dangerous to live in. A 6.8 quake that struck the region in February 2003 killed 268 people.

ENGLAND

BRITAIN: WORST FLOODS IN 60 YEARS. ENGLAND SWAMPED

July 22-24, 07. Last month (June) England suffered widespread floods. But worse floods have wreaked havoc across England and Wales this month. Severe weather has caused tremendous chaos and severe flooding which England and Wales.

Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said, "This was very, very intense rainfall, with five inches in 24 hours in some areas, even some of the best defences are going to be overwhelmed. The situation we are dealing with is truly exceptional and unprecedented." Another report said one month's rain fell in one hour.

It was the worst flooding to hit Britain in 60 years. Water levels in the city are equal to the 1947 flood. Flood levels were so high that water poured into homes through the windows.

More than one million Britons were displaced by the floods.

Thousands of 2,000 people spent nights in emergency centres and hundreds of stranded people had to be rescued by boats and by helicopters.

Thousands of vehicles were stranded overnight on the M5 highway. Many motorists had to spend the night sleeping in their cars after being left stranded on roads that were 5ft (1.5m) deep in water in some places.

Drinking water supplies were running out in a number of cities, and thousands of homes in central and western England had no electricity or drinking water.

Up to 350,000 people in Gloucestershire have been left without supplies as the River Severn and the Thames threaten to overflow.

– from various news reports

THE UK FLOODS: AT-A-GLANCE. FULL STORY AND MAP

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/629/629/6911778.stm

GREECE BURNS

July 22. Amidst soaring temperature that reach 43C, some 63 forest fires broke out in Greece over the weekend. Last week, 180 fires broke out across Greece.

EXTREME HEAT

In June, more than 35 people died in Romania, Turkey and Greece when the mercury shot up to 46 degrees. The Romanian government banned outdoor work, including construction, in the hottest hours.

HEALTH

EU PAVES WAY FOR GM POTATO

July 17, 07. The European Commission is set to approve the cultivation of a genetically modified variety of potato, following a stalemate among EU member states. Brussels argues the product is safe despite some NGOs claiming the opposite.

Read story: <http://euobserver.com/9/24489/?rk=1>

PERSECUTION

VIETNAM JAILS 13 HOUSE CHURCH CHRISTIANS

July 16, 07. *BosNewsLife* reported that Vietnam sentenced 13 Degar Montagnards, a major ethnic group in the country's volatile Central Highlands, to prison terms of up to 15 years for "being House Church Christians" and because of their involvement in religious rights campaigns.

BURMESE PASTOR BEHEADED IN MANIPUR, INDIA

July 5, 07. Rev. Pau Za Khen (62), pastor of the Upper Myanmar Evangelical Lutheran Church, was beheaded by an unidentified group in the town of Churachanpur, Manipur. Pastor Khen was abducted from his daughter's home by four men on July 4. His decapitated body was found in a field outside of town the following morning. His hands were tied behind his back and he was blindfolded. Pray that Pau's loved ones will find comfort in the Lord.

For more information on persecution in India, go to www.persecution.net/country/india.htm.

CHRISTIANS CRUCIFIED IN IRAQ

July 17, 07. A senior Dutch parliamentarian has confirmed that militants have recently crucified Christians in Iraq. The victims were mostly converts from Islam or people who were involved in "mixed marriages." Mr Joel Voordewind of the governing coalition's junior party Christian Union (CU), said several Iraqi Christians were "nailed to a cross, and their arms were tied up with ropes. The ropes were put on fire."

INDIA NAMES FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT

NEW DELHI - India elected Pratibha Patil as the country's first female president Saturday in a vote seen as a victory for the hundreds of millions of Indian women who contend with widespread discrimination.

Patil, the 72-year-old candidate of the governing Congress party and its political allies, defeated incumbent Vice President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the candidate of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party.

Full story: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070721/ap_on_re_as/india_president

HARRY POTTER BOOKS FLY OFF THE SHELVES

July 21, 07. Harry Potter fans are finally finding out their hero's fate, after the seventh and final book in the popular series went on sale. The first copies of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows were snapped up across the world. UK book chain Waterstones said more than 250,000 fans turned up at midnight to its shops across the UK.

A decade after the first instalment, Harry Potter has become a global phenomenon with 325 million books already sold. That number will grow as millions of copies of the new novel are snapped up over the weekend. It is being released in 93 countries, with a print run of 12 million in the US alone. More >

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/-/1/hi/entertainment/6907855.stm>
