

# Anchorage Daily News

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BREAKING NEWS AT ADN.COM

Alaska's Newspaper

## No end to Japan's misery

### Country begins to dig for the dead as nuclear threat lingers



TADASHI OKKUBO / The Yomiuri Shimbun via The Associated Press

A woman stands amid rubble as she looks at the submerged city of Ishinomaki in Miyagi prefecture Sunday morning, two days after the catastrophic earthquake-triggered tsunami hit northeastern Japan.

By ERIC TALMADGE and TODD PITMAN  
The Associated Press

**S**OMA, Japan — Rescue workers used chain saws and hand picks today to dig out bodies in Japan's devastated coastal towns, as Asia's richest nation faced a growing humanitarian, nuclear and economic crisis in the aftermath of a massive earthquake and tsunami.

Millions of people spent a third night without water, food or heating in near-freezing temperatures along the devastated northeastern coast. Also, the containment building of a second nuclear reactor exploded because of hydrogen buildup while the stock market plunged over the likelihood of huge losses by Japanese industries including big names such as Toyota and Honda.

More than 10,000 people are estimated to have died in Friday's twin tragedy that has caused unimaginable deprivation for people of this industrialized country that has not seen such hardships since World War II. In many areas there is no running water, no power and four- to five-hour waits for gasoline. People are suppressing hunger with instant noodles or rice balls while dealing with the loss of loved ones and homes.

"People are surviving on little food and water. Things are simply not coming," said Hajime Sato, a government official in Iwate prefecture, one of the three hardest hit.

"We have repeatedly asked the government to help us, but the government is overwhelmed by the scale of damage and enormous demand for food and water," he told The Associated Press.

"We are only getting around just 10 percent of what we have

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GREGORY BULL / The Associated Press

An official wears protective clothing while waiting to scan people for radiation at an emergency center Sunday in Koriyama, Japan, two days after a giant quake and tsunami struck the country's northeastern coast. At least six nuclear reactors appear to be damaged, and officials are monitoring radiation levels.

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**RADIATION:** NRC says U.S. should be safe from any releases.

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**GRACE:** In devastation, traditional Japanese courtesy endures.

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**DEATHS:** Fears grow that death count will be staggering.

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## Northwest Alaska cheers for 'hometown' musher

### John Baker relentless as he pushes along the Bering Sea coast

By KYLE HOPKINS  
khopkins@adn.com

Iditarod  
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adn.com/Iditarod

**UNALAKLEET** — When Darlene Katchatag received her share of reindeer cuts to prepare for the Native village of Unalakleet's annual potluck, she set three steaks aside.

"These are for John Baker," Katchatag told her husband, Sheldon, who watched the Iditarod standings Sunday from the village checkpoint as Baker outpaced his nearest challenger by three hours.

Baker, who lives in Kotzebue, 26 miles



Baker

above the Arctic Circle, is a hometown favorite in Western Alaska. After years of top five finishes, he's on the verge of becoming the first musher from that part of the state to win an Iditarod title — and, at the same time, end Lance Mackey's four-year reign.

"It's about time an Inupiaq won the world's premier dog-mushing race and about time Baker was the one to do it," Sheldon Katchatag said. "He has been too hungry for too long."

Baker arrived in Unalakleet at about 5 a.m. Sunday, resting just four hours before leaving

ahead of Hans Gatt of Whitehorse and Willow's Ramey Smith.

In between, the 48-year-old musher leaned against his trademark blue sled, arms folded, talking softly with his brother Andy. A private conversation and a private man.

Compared to Mackey, who roars into checkpoints firing taunts and proclamations like a 160-pound professional wrestler, Baker wears a poker face.

He chooses his words carefully and reveals little. (You still have 11 dogs in harness?)

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## Weyhrauch agrees to deal



Federal prosecutors drop felony charges for misdemeanor plea

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**FEATURED ONLINE**  
The aurora was out last week and we're gaining extra minutes of light every day. Post your scenic Alaska sky photos and see more at [adn.com/alaskaskies](http://adn.com/alaskaskies)