

FIGHTING WORDS NO MATCH FOR GADHAFI'S GUNS

Ferocious onslaught forces Libyan rebels farther east, Mitch Potter reports. Story, A11



TORONTO STAR

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NUCLEAR CRISIS MOUNTS



AP/KYODO NEWS

Attendants pick their way through a devastated landscape in the northeastern town of Otsuchi as they help an elderly woman leave a tsunami-stricken hospital on Sunday.



BILL SCHILLER
RICK WESTHEAD
REPORTING FROM JAPAN

Japan scrambles to stave off multiple meltdowns as death toll soars after quake, tsunami disasters

BILL SCHILLER
ASIA BUREAU

TOKYO—Steeped in uncertainty, but striving to calm its people, the Japanese government struggled Monday to come to grips with the enormity of a national emergency that continues to grow.

As the death toll from Friday's earthquake and tsunami soared to 10,000 and more than 300,000 were evacuated from nuclear plant areas, the government confirmed it was battling two nuclear emergencies at its Fukushima complex, 240 kilometres north of Tokyo, and a third

in Ibaraki prefecture.

A new explosion was reported Monday morning at the Fukushima plant, further escalating concerns. TV footage showed a massive column of smoke belching from the plant's No. 3 unit. Officials said it could be a hydrogen explosion.

Seven people are missing and three hurt in the latest blast, which officials say is unlikely to have led to a large escape of radioactivity.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan insisted that Japan was not facing a challenge like the Chernobyl disaster of 1986. But at the same time, he said his country was staring down its greatest test in modern times.

SCHILLER continued on A8

● Stories of survival amid waning hope, A7
● Rick Westhead at ground zero, A6

THIS WEEK IS LIST WEEK AT THE STAR

For the next 7 days, you'll find lists throughout the paper, beginning with 10 fun facts in honour of Pi Day today. For more on Pi Day, see A2. To contribute a list, email sricher@thestar.ca

10 PECULIARITIES OF PI

Mathematicians celebrate Pi Day on March 14 — honouring the number also known as 3.14. Here's what you didn't know about the number that never ends.

1 Physicist Larry Shaw founded Pi Day at the San Francisco Exploratorium on March 14, 1988.

2 Albert Einstein, born March 14, 1879, would be 132 today.

3 The first calculation of pi was done by Greek mathematician Archimedes of Syracuse (287 to 212 B.C.), but it wasn't widely used until 1737, when Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler adopted it.

4 The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which releases its admissions decisions on Pi Day, incorporates pi into its cheers: "Cosine, secant, tangent, sine, 3.14159!"

5 British singer-songwriter Kate Bush recorded a song called "Pi" about a man obsessed with calculating the infinite number. In the chorus, Bush sings pi to more than 150 decimal places. Blogger Chris McEvoy reports Bush is mostly accurate for the first 77, but she's way off in the second half.

6 Givenchy sells cologne, aftershave and shampoo

named after pi. Their pitch? "The Pi man is a man of action who always surpasses himself."

7 Pi-kus are three-line poems constructed with three syllables, one syllable and four syllables: Pi Day! Oh/What/Delicious math.

8 In "Upon the Translations of the Psalms by Sir Philip Sidney, and the Countess of Pembroke, His Sister," poet John Donne condemns attempts to calculate pi, which he argues is like trying to rationalize God.

9 Lu Chao, a 24-year-old graduate student from China, set the Guinness World Record for pi memorization in 2006 by

reciting 67,890 digits. It took 24 hours and 4 minutes. The Canadian record is held by Mike Pretli, a high school math teacher in Windsor, Ont., who recited pi to 6,320 decimal places in 2009.

10 In O.J. Simpson's 1995 trial, defence attorney Robert Blasier and an FBI agent argued over the value of pi.

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