



ASIA-PACIFIC

13 March 2011

New fire hits Japan nuclear plant

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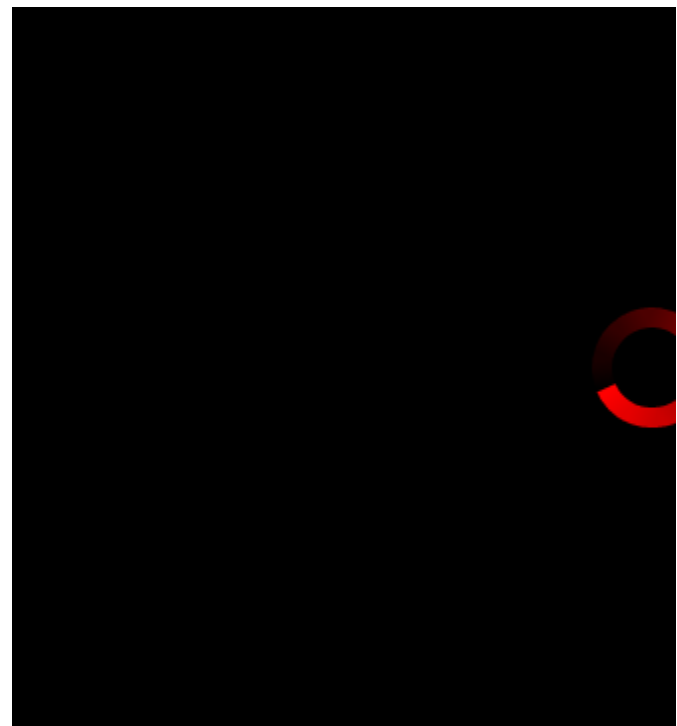
2359: Back to the ongoing crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant: the Kyodo news agency reports that engineers are spraying boric acid to prevent "recriticality" - presumably, the resumption of a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction - at reactor 4.

2351: Finally, more than 76,000 buildings have been damaged, including at least 6,300 completely destroyed, NHK says.

2349: About 850,000 households in the north are still without electricity in near-freezing weather, according to the Tohoku Electric Power Company. The government says at least 1.5 million households lack running water.

2343: NHK also says more than 440,000 people are currently living in 2,400 evacuation shelters in north-eastern and central prefectures. Some shelters have yet to receive food and water and other essential supplies.

2341: The official death toll from Friday's earthquake and tsunami has risen to 3,373, police tell NHK television. In Miyagi prefecture, 1,619



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deaths have been confirmed, and 2,011 people remain unaccounted for. In the town of Minamisanriku, about 1,000 bodies have been discovered. Another 8,000 people, or nearly half the town's population, are missing. Police have found several hundred bodies on the beaches of the Oshika peninsula. Iwate prefecture has 1,193 confirmed deaths, including 373 deaths from the cities of Rikuzentakata and Ofunato. Fukushima prefecture has meanwhile reported 506. More than 7,000 people remain unaccounted for.

Key points

Four explosions in as many days have rocked the was damaged by Friday's huge earthquake

Officials say radiation levels, which spiked earlier c safe limits

The Tokyo stock market has plummeted for a secc pumped into the banking system

Food, water and fuel are reported to be running sh of the country remain without power

Live page reporters: Stephanie Holmes, Becky Bra David Gritten

All times in GMT

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