



GENERAL

Tears, prayers mark Asian tsunami anniversary

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Buddhist monks chanted on white-sand beaches in Thailand and thousands prayed at mosques in Indonesia to mark the fifth anniversary of the Asian tsunami that left 230,000 people dead.

The devastating Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami struck a dozen countries around the Indian Ocean rim. Its towering waves wiped out entire coastal communities, devastated families and crashed over tourist-filled beaches the morning after Christmas. Survivors waded through a horror show of corpse-filled waters.

In Thailand, hundreds of residents and foreigners returned to the beaches on the island of Phuket to recall one of the worst natural disasters of modern times.



A young girl runs past umbrellas printed with portraits of smiling children made for a project to raise support for children in the province worst-hit by Indian ocean tsunami in Banda Aceh, Aceh province, Indonesia, Friday, Dec. 25, 2009. A giant quake in Indian Ocean on Dec. 26, 2004, triggered a massive tsunami that killed 230,000 people, half of them in Aceh. (AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara)

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