

Ocean earthquake slams killer tidal wave into Nicaragua

MASACHAPA, Nicaragua — Splintered huts and buildings littered a 200-mile swath of Nicaragua's coast Wednesday following a tidal wave that killed at least 36 people and left thousands homeless.

"The sea took us by surprise. All of sudden, I was swimming inside my own home, and all my furniture was floating around me," Socorro Lopez, 47, said. She lost two grandchildren in Masachapa, a beach resort of about 2,000 people south of the capital, Managua.

injured. More than 300 houses were destroyed, he said. Jose Adan Guerra, vice minister of the presidency, said more bodies were being found. Unconfirmed radio reports said there were more than 50 deaths.

centered 75 miles southwest of Managua, according to the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo.

Aftershocks followed, and the center said they likely would continue for days but probably would cause no damage.

Nonetheless, authorities evacuated thousands of people from coastal areas and wailing ambulances sped through towns picking up the injured and dying.

The earthquake was among the most damaging to hit Nicaragua since a 1972 quake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale devastated the capital, killing 5,000 people.

South Florida refugees begin tent city check-in

MIAMI — Hurricane Andrew's weary, homeless victims started trickling into tent cities Wednesday, and were greeted like guests at a first-class hotel. Some of them enjoyed their first hot shower in days.

available, although they weren't officially opening until Thursday. Still, they offered some of Andrew's victims a sign that the federal government, sharply criticized as sluggish and inefficient in the first days after the storm, was serious about providing help.

In this corner, the incumbent Bush hands out election-year cash, subsidies

SHALLOWATER, Texas — President Bush, polishing his new image of an activist president doling out election-year largess, on Wednesday announced \$755 million in disaster aid for farmers and a \$1 billion package of farm export subsidies.

He delivered a similar message during a rally at a cotton gin mill in Shallowater, near Lubbock. Bush told his Texas audience that he saw his role as "being there to help you get back on your feet when disaster strikes."

ers in nations that subsidize farm exports, allowing American growers to "beat their socks off." The White House denied that the announcement represented a retreat from the U.S. position — taken repeatedly by the United States in international trade talks — to end all such subsidies.



Brian Shellito/DN

Asylum-seeking swarm causes German strain

BERLIN — The headline in Germany's most widely read newspaper caught plenty of people off guard: "Refugee Shelter Seeks German Cleaning Lady."

Rhine-Westphalia state and a Social Democrat. Recent riots in Rostock and elsewhere have plunged Germans into the most profound soul-searching and political bickering since the country was reunited nearly two years ago.

"The effects abroad are bad, of course," said Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. "Other countries are watching us very closely, with an eye toward our rightist-extremist tendencies in the past."

political persecution, and know they won't be granted asylum. Fewer than 10 percent are ever granted refugee status, but few are booted out if they aren't.

U.N. to monitor Serb artillery

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The leader of Bosnian Serbs agreed Wednesday to put his heavy weapons around Sarajevo under U.N. supervision, and a U.N. official said peace-keeping operations could last for years.

pendence from Serbia-dominated Yugoslavia and ethnic Serbs rebelled. Numerous cease-fire agreements have quickly collapsed, and earlier promises by the Serbs to have U.N. troops monitor heavy weapons have not slowed the fighting.

Fred Eckhard, the U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, said Karadzic signed the supervision agreement Wednesday after talks with U.N. military officers on the details of how Serb weapons would be monitored.

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