

I've met the great small of China... : World's tallest man catches up with the tiniest ... and there's a 1.8m gap.

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World's tallest man catches up with the tiniest...and there's a 1.8m gap

I've met the great small of China...



ONE has a head for heights and the other has a head that, well, goes up to the big guy's knees.

The world's tallest and smallest men came together yesterday and while not a meeting of minds – there is 1.8m (6ft) between their minds – it was nonetheless a momentous occasion.

The pair shook hands (well, one shook the other's finger) for the first time at the launch of the Guinness World Records Live Roadshow in Istanbul.

At 2.5m (8ft 1in), Sultan Kosen

By Ross McGuinness

from Turkey towers over the record holder at the other end of the height spectrum – China's He Pingping, who is 74cm (2ft 5in).

Mr Kosen, 27, said: 'I've wanted to meet Pingping ever since I was awarded the title of tallest man.'

The Turk is also the Guinness World Records holder for having the largest hands and feet – 27.5cm and 36.5cm respectively.

His height is a result of a condition known as pituitary gigantism

and he stopped growing in 2008 after surgery to remove a tumour which caused his excess growth.

Mr He, 21, was born with a condition called primordial dwarfism and was small enough to fit into the palm of a hand at birth.

However, his record could be under threat from a fellow Chinese man, Wu Kang.

Mr Wu, 22, claims to be 6cm shorter than Mr He, and it has been reported that medical records at Tong Ji Hospital in China say he is the smallest man on Earth.



Height fight: Mr Wu, above, says he is 6cm shorter than Mr He, right. Far right: Mr He meets Sultan Kosen

Pictures: AP/Getty, CNN/Europe



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World unites but time is running out for survivors

THE full horror of the devastation in Haiti became clear yesterday with up to 50,000 feared dead and time running out to save survivors buried alive.

About 3 million people – a third of the population – have been left injured or homeless by the quake with entire hillsides of densely packed homes flattened in the capital Port-au-Prince, according to the International Red Cross.

Rescuers struggled to bring in essential relief supplies and heavy lifting equipment to free

By Fred Attewill

people trapped in the rubble as no new flights were allowed into the capital's airport after its airspace was declared full.

Shellshocked survivors silently wandered the streets of Port-au-Prince in 30°C (86°F) heat searching for water, food and medical help.

'There's no water. There's nothing. Thirsty people are going to die,' said doctor's assistant Jimitre Coquillon at a makeshift triage centre.

America led worldwide relief efforts and president Barack Obama told Haitians: 'You will not be forsaken.' He pledged £60million aid, while Britain pledged £6million.

But the sheer scale of the challenge became increasingly clear with Port-au-Prince communications, roads and hospitals wrecked.

Rezene Tesfamariam, from the Plan charity, said the devastation was on an 'unimaginable' scale. 'I've seen refugees fighting for their lives and floods destroy communities but I've never

seen anything like this,' he added. Thousands of corpses were piling up in the streets with morgues simply overwhelmed by the numbers of the dead. Cedric Perus, from Oxfam, added: 'There are bodies all over the city. People have nowhere to put them so they wrap them in sheets and cardboard in the hope that the authorities will pick them.'

No Britons have been reported dead but fears are growing for 16 who lived in Haiti but have not been accounted for.

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Buried alive: A man tries to make his way out of the rubble. Picture: AFP

7,000 buried in agencies battle

AID agencies were yesterday struggling to co-ordinate a huge relief effort as Haiti was left reeling from the disaster.

'We have already buried 7,000 in a mass grave,' president Rene Preval told reporters at the airport while accompanying Dominican Republic president Leonel Fernandez, the first foreign head of state to visit after the devastating earthquake.

Mr Fernandez said one of the most important things Haiti needed was help in burying its dead.

Elsewhere, the country's devastated infrastructure and communications network caused difficulties in getting supplies to areas that most needed help.

'It's chaos, a logistical nightmare,' said UN spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs.

With eight Port-au-Prince hospitals severely damaged, it was nearly impossible to treat the thousands of injured, said the World Health Organisation.

With virtually no sign of any Haitian government assistance, survivors searched for loved ones and dug through rubble with bare hands.

The UN – which was helping to run the country even before the quake struck – has seen 22 staff killed, with a further 200 unaccounted for.

Planes carrying teams from China, France, Spain and the US landed yesterday with tonnes of water, food, med-