**Casualties exceed the worst forecasts**

Mr Wen said: “[Caring for] refugees and the elderly” and “effective” efforts were continuing for the nearly 10,000 who were injured and more than 29,000 who were missing.

The State Council announced on Friday that as of Oct 10am yesterday, the death toll was 51,151, up nearly 10,000 from the previous recorded toll of 41,364. A total of 288,431 were injured and 29,328 were missing.

As of 10am yesterday, the death toll was 24,540, up 10,000 from a day earlier and above the previous estimate of 15,000. A total of 288,431 people were injured and 29,328 were missing after the magnitude-9 earthquake, the worst in China’s history.

Sichuan earthquake

**Earthquake survivors from Beichuan are housed in a tent on a tennis court in the county. Beichuan has been evacuated and is to be rebuilt in a nearby county, nearby 50km away. Photo: Robert Ng**