

Earthquake death toll rises in Turkey

by Amberin Zaman
and Richard Boudreaux
Los Angeles Times

DUZCE, Turkey -- The death toll from Turkey's second massive earthquake in three months swelled to 362 late Saturday as rescue teams spent a second frigid night looking for people trapped under scores of flattened apartment blocks.

Turkey's Health Ministry said that 1,800 people were injured as Friday evening's magnitude 7.2 tremor wrecked several towns in the country's northwest. The number of confirmed dead, which tripled during the day, could rise, officials said, as search crews with jackhammers strip away the rubble of as many as 300 collapsed buildings.

"The destruction is severe," said Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

The quake confined its damage mainly to the Bolu province but spread shock and dismay across an entire country that thought it had recovered from the worst of nature's fury.

Some of the victims had been living in tents after an Aug. 17 quake damaged their apartments, but, in recent days, had taken the risk of moving back home to escape cold autumn rains.

Bolu, a hilly province 100 miles east of Istanbul, is on the eastern edge of a far larger industrial region ravaged by the August temblor, which measured 7.4 and killed more than 17,000 people.

Much of Duzce, whose 100,000 people were caught at the epicenter, lay in ruins Saturday. The quake tore through a century-old mosque, leaving only the walls standing. Outside the city's damaged hospital, evacuated

as a safety precaution, surgeons operated on injured victims in the open air.

Electricity was cut to most buildings in the stricken area to reduce the risk of sparks that could ignite leaking gas.

As evening temperatures fell to 37 degrees, survivors either wandered the streets, huddled in a park around fires of wood and old tires, or they simply packed up and hitchhiked out of town.

Dozens of soccer fans crammed into a truck stop cafe, lighted by its own generator, and exploded in cheers Sat-

people who were crushed in a single apartment during a Muslim prayer service for a dead relative, passengers on a bus flattened by a falling building and 20 people engulfed by fire when the quake toppled a stove in a coffeehouse.

One of three lanes on a stretch of the highway between Istanbul and the capital, Ankara, slid off a hillside. Elsewhere on the highway, near Kaynasli, reporters saw five large trucks on their sides. One, carrying emergency medical supplies, apparently was overturned by an aftershock.

Friday's quake struck at 6:57 p.m., well after dark.

"We were having dinner, and before we knew what was happening, the ceiling fell on us," Hatice GUSDIL said as she lay on a stretcher outside Duzce's hospital and wept. Her husband, Hakki, and their son, Cumhur, 14, were killed when their single-story house collapsed.

The disaster added to a lingering humanitarian emergency in the wider area hit by the August quake.

Tens of thousands of people made homeless then are still living in flimsy, makeshift tents, despite repeated government pledges that they would be shifted to winterized shelters before the fall rainy season began. Many lack access to clean running water.

In recent weeks, hundreds of people left jobless by the August quake have demonstrated near the governor's office to protest their living conditions, only to be dispersed by club-swinging riot police. Hatice Colak and her husband, Ismael, a furniture store owner, got fed up with living in a small tent city behind Duzce's soccer field and moved back to their slightly damaged second-floor apartment on Bulvar Avenue only days ago.

"Each time it rains, we get soaked," she said. "It's so bitterly cold, and we just miss our home so much."

The couple escaped harm as their five-story building fell Friday, but the quake left them "with only the clothes we are wearing and back in this awful tent again," Colak said.

Others in Duzce expressed amazement and gratitude that the government, which was bitterly criticized for a slow response to the August quake, reacted so swiftly to this one.

Six army battalions and 50 members of an anti-terrorist police squad joined in the rescue efforts, while three military helicopters ferried badly wounded patients to hospitals in Ankara. Government ambulances stood outside most collapsed buildings, along with backhoes and mobile generators.

President Suleyman Demirel said he had sent a Cabinet minister to each stricken town.

Friday's temblor rocked buildings in Istanbul, where leaders of 54 countries, including President Clinton, are scheduled to convene Wednesday for a two-day meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ecevit said the summit would not be canceled. "There was no such request from our guests," he said.

Clinton was due to arrive in Ankara Sunday for a two-day state visit to Turkey before the Istanbul summit. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and the couple's daughter, Chelsea, arrived Saturday in the capital, which also felt the shock waves of Friday night's temblor.

EGYPTAIR FLIGHT 990



PHOTO BY ISSAC D. MERRIMAN - NAVY NEWS

An FBI special agent prepares the cockpit voice recorder from EgyptAir Flight 990 after the recorder was found by the remote operated vehicle "Deep Drone" on Saturday, Nov. 13.

"We were having dinner, and before we knew what was happening, the ceiling fell on us."

-Hatice GUSDIL,
earthquake victim

Charges filed against expelled students

by Flynn McRoberts
and Jimmy Greenfield
Chicago Tribune
November 09, 1999

Charges of mob action were filed Tuesday, Nov. 9, against four of seven youths expelled after a fight at a football game at a Decatur high school, but no further details on the charges were immediately available.

Meanwhile, a showdown between Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Decatur school board over the expulsion of the students never materialized today, though classes in Decatur's three high schools were closed for a second straight day.

Jackson brought six of the young men to Eisenhower High School, the scene of the brawl that resulted in their being kicked out, but chose not to test the police officers surrounding the school.

Jackson said his Rainbow/Push Coalition would file a lawsuit at 2 p.m. on Nov. 9 in federal court in Champaign, challenging the expulsions, which the board on Monday night, Nov. 8, reduced from two years to one year. The board also allowed the students to enroll in alternative programs where they could earn academic credit.

Jackson said his group also would ask a federal court for an emergency injunction blocking the board's decision and allowing the students back into classes immediately. He said that, depending on the judge's response, he would decide whether to attend a school board meeting on Nov. 9 and return to the school Wednesday morning, Nov. 10.

While neither Jackson nor any of the students was arrested, the morning air was thick with tension and one white man, who had warned a reporter that Jackson faced "bodily harm," was taken away in a squad car. The man, 39-year-old Mark Reynolds, said Jackson's efforts in Decatur had further strained race relations.

"Racial tension in this town is a firecracker waiting to explode," said Reynolds, whose 15-year-old daughter, Amber, is a sophomore at Eisenhower. "I want her to get an education and him to get back to Chicago."

Later, after Jackson addressed re-

porters with two white students at his side, a white parent and black parent got into a shouting match over the fairness of the expulsions.

But nearby there were signs of reconciliation. A young black high school student stood watching the scene and chatting amiably with an elderly white couple. The white man, 81-year-old Kenneth Crouch,

"Racial tension in this town is a firecracker waiting to explode."

-Mark Reynolds,
father of Eisenhower
student

a lifelong Decatur resident, said he was glad to see Jackson come to his hometown.

"I think it's helped to awaken the community out of a lazy, drowsy sleep," he said. "Decatur is contradicting itself. We have signs at the entrance of town that say, 'Racism, not in our town.' To me [the board's handling of the expulsions] is a clear sign of racism, though they categorically deny it."

Attorney Lewis Myers, who represents six of the expelled students, said he would accompany Jackson and the boys to Champaign to file the suit. A seventh student moved to Tennessee before he was expelled, according to Myers, and is not part of the lawsuit.

There has been no attempt by Myers or Jackson to absolve the boys from their part in the Sept. 17 melee, but Myers said each boy played a different role, and he was outraged that they were all lumped together when the punishments were handed out.

Myers said one of the boys has almost a dozen scholarship offers to play college basketball, but can't qualify for them under the expulsion.

Scientists photograph planet outside Earth's solar system

by Thomas H. Maugh
Los Angeles Times

The first direct photographic evidence of a planet circling another star outside Earth's solar system has been found by a team headquartered at the University of California, Berkeley.

The planet is a bloated gas giant half again as big as Jupiter, but with only 63 percent of Jupiter's mass, astronomer Geoffrey Marcy and his colleagues revealed Saturday.

Marcy, his collaborator Paul Butler of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and other astronomers have previously produced a variety of indirect evidence hinting at the existence of at least 28 other planets circling distant stars. But Saturday's finding marks the first time a planet itself has actually been photographed.

Planets are normally too dim to be seen from Earth, even with the finest telescopes. In this case, however, astronomer Greg Henry of Tennessee State University was able to photograph the gas giant passing in front of the star HD 209458, producing an eclipse-like image.

The planet is scheduled to pass in front of its star again Sunday, and Henry hopes to capture further images of the extraordinary find.

"This is the first independent confirmation of a planet," Marcy

said. "And it also gives us the first-ever measure of the size of one of these planets."

Although most cosmologists are convinced that planetary systems are common throughout the universe, proving it has been difficult. The best evidence to date has been provided by observing "wobbles" in distant stars.

Although we generally think about planets orbiting suns, a planet

"This planetary transit occurred at exactly the time predicted from Marcy's observation, confirming absolutely the presence of a companion."

-Greg Henry, astronomer

and a sun actually orbit a common center of mass. Because the sun is so much bigger than the planet, its orbital motion is much smaller. Nonetheless, researchers have now observed many stars whose motion suggests that they are being orbited by a large planet.

Researchers have also seen stars surrounded by large discs of dust -- the primordial material from which

planets are formed. In some cases researchers have even observed voids in the dust that they believe have been swept clean by newly forming planets. But until now, they have never been able to see a planet itself.

Marcy and Butler first detected a wobble in HD 209458 on November 5. The star is 153 light-years from Earth in the constellation Pegasus, and is about the same age, color and

size as our own sun.

Based on the star's wobble, Marcy and Butler concluded that the planet orbits its star once every 3.523 days. As they routinely do, they notified Henry of their discovery and told him the best chance of observing the planet was Nov. 7.

Observing a planet is a hit and miss proposition because it can only be seen if its orbital plane brings it

between the star and a telescope on Earth. With previously discovered wobbling stars, that has not happened.

In this case, however, the astronomers were lucky and the planet was captured on film. Henry observed a 1.7 percent dip in the star's brightness as the planet passed in front of it.

"This planetary transit occurred at exactly the time predicted from Marcy's observation, confirming absolutely the presence of a companion," Henry said. "We've essentially seen the shadow of the planet and used it to measure the planet's size."

All of the data and observations "hang together" to indicate the existence of the planet, Marcy said. "This is what we have been waiting for."

The short orbital period indicates that the planet is very close to HD 209458, and that closeness suggests that the planet is also very hot and unlikely to have any life on it.

The team hopes to be able to learn more about the planet. Because the planet passes in front of the star, some of the star's light will pass through its atmosphere. Telescopes on Earth thus should be able to learn a great deal about its composition.

No funds for Russia's war

The Washington Post

No U.S. politician would propose helping to pay for Russia's war in Chechnya. Yet, that is what U.S. taxpayers, indirectly, are doing. The International Monetary Fund, which gets about one-quarter of its money from the United States, lends billions of dollars to keep Russia's government afloat. Now that Russia is spending money to destroy villages and create refugees in Chechnya, it seems fair to ask -- as presidential candidate and Republican Sen. John McCain did last week -- whether such assistance should continue.

In principle, the IMF does not get involved in "political" questions such as the legitimacy of Russia's war against its breakaway province of Chechnya.

The fund is neither equipped nor chartered to make such judgments. To the extent it deviates from its core economic mission, it can only weaken itself. That is why an IMF mission in Moscow last week could approach this question only obliquely, by asking whether Russia's war would require a fiscally unacceptable rise in military spending.

In Russia's case, there are especially compelling reasons not to cut off aid. The United States will not be well served if the Russian economy spirals downward. U.S. officials rightly want to retain connections -- to stay engaged -- with Russian officials, to maintain some leverage in favor of reform, to continue a dialogue with a nuclear-armed and unstable giant.

Yet there must be some behaviors that are so repugnant that they override

all such sensible arguments, and it is hard to view Russia's brutality against the people of Chechnya in any other light. Few would oppose a Russian campaign to eliminate terrorism, the stated purpose of its military action. But Russia's violence against Chechen civilians has become so indiscriminate and massive that no one can take seriously any longer the official justifications. Just on Friday a Russian deputy prime minister stated flatly that Chechnya's capital will be destroyed.

Due to relentless bombing of cities and towns, some 200,000 residents have fled Chechnya, mostly to the neighboring province of Ingushetia. Many are subsisting on tea and bread and sleeping in unheated tents or even open fields as temperatures plunge below freezing. But these refugees are the fortunate