

Turkey devastated by quake

KAYNASLI, Turkey (AP) - With time working against them, rescue workers battled bitter cold Sunday as they searched through concrete slabs and other debris in hopes of finding more survivors from Friday's devastating earthquake.

So far, 374 people are known to have died in the tremor, and another 3,000 are injured.

With the mercury plunging as low as 23 degrees overnight, the cold was also worsening the plight of those who lived through the disaster.

Local television reported that survivors were having difficulty sleeping even with three or four blankets. There were not enough emergency tents to go around, and many people slept outside.

"With the cold, people give up more easily. They do not fight to stay alive," said French Army Capt. Jean Marc Castagnet, working with his team in the hard-hit town of Kaynasli, where rescuers dug out at least 135 bodies.

Castagnet and his colleagues also came to provide support following the massive earthquake that hit a nearby region of Turkey on Aug. 17, leaving more than 17,000 dead. After that quake, the survivors were struggling with sweltering heat and dehydration.

The latest 7.2-magnitude quake hit this hilly region of northwestern Turkey just after nightfall Friday. The center was in Bolu province, an area just 45 miles east of the more populated coastal region worst hit by the August temblor.

With the chances of survival under

piles of rubble decreasing with every passing hour, the official death toll was expected to rise.

Still, Turkish media seized on any signs of hope. The Milliyet newspaper ran a front-page picture of a man who was rescued after midnight along with two of his daughters, having spent more than 30 hours under the debris of their home in the town of Duzce.

"At every site possible we are searching and listening. We are talking to people to see if they know the whereabouts of their relatives," Israeli Col. Gilad Golan said in Duzce. He was speaking on Israel's army radio network.

The location of the quake zone - directly between Turkey's two major cities, Istanbul and Ankara - allowed many rescue workers to arrive quickly. Roads in the quake zone were crowded with trucks bringing in aid, including tents, blankets, food and water.

Ambulances zig-zagged in traffic jams, sirens blaring, as they rushed the injured to hospitals.

A 48-year-old woman, Saziye Bulut, was pulled out alive from the rubble of a five-story apartment building in Duzce on Sunday, 41 hours after the quake, the Anatolia news agency reported. She was reported in stable condition and was the fifth survivor rescued from the same building.

Turkish authorities, who had been criticized for reacting too slowly to the previous quake, were working to respond more promptly this time around. Government ministers went

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quickly to the quake zone, and the military was also dispatched right away.

While some survivors were critical of the authorities, many Turks appeared more satisfied with the response this time. The Sabah newspaper praised authorities and rescue teams for moving quickly, running a story headlined "The resurrection of the state."

Eight aftershocks, the strongest with a magnitude of 3.9, rattled the quake zone overnight.

The Friday quake flattened hundreds of buildings. In Duzce, the farming town at the epicenter of the quake, the temblor tore out the center of a turn-of-the-century mosque, leaving only the walls standing.

"The destruction is severe," said Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit. "I hope that the wounds will be healed. ... We are faced with a disaster."

International rescue teams rushed to Turkey from Greece, the United States, France, Germany, Italy and

Algeria.

The quake struck as Turkey prepared to play host to world leaders for a summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The temblor rocked buildings in Istanbul, 90 miles to the west, where the officials are scheduled to convene, but Ecevit said the summit would not be canceled.

President Clinton was to arrive in Turkey on Sunday night. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, arrived in Ankara on Saturday.

Friday's quake was a separate tremor, not an aftershock of the August quake, according to experts.

Seismologists warned that more strong quakes could hit the town of Akyazi, west of Bolu. The warning caused panic in Akyazi, where residents began erecting tents and building huts from wood in open areas, news reports said.



France Severe flooding destroys towns, kills at least 22

NARBONNE, France (AP) - Rescuers searched for missing people Sunday, and helicopters plucked survivors from rooftops in towns still submerged two days after torrential rains hit southern France, killing at least 22 people.

The deluge Friday and Saturday devastated portions of the Aude, Tarn and Eastern Pyrenees regions, destroying homes and businesses, snapping dikes and bridges and damaging roads and rails.

Residents in flooded areas took stock of their losses and scrambled to salvage what remained intact.

The Aude was the worst-hit region, with 14 deaths reported.

The torrential rains inundated small towns with up to 6 feet of water and triggered mudslides that swallowed up entire homes.

Flood waters began receding Sunday, but rescue operations continued.

Russia Despite calls for an end, Chechen offensive goes on

MOSCOW (AP) - The Russian government said Sunday it will not abandon its offensive in Chechnya despite Western calls to end the fighting, while federal forces prepared an offensive on the Chechen capital.

President Boris Yeltsin held a rare Sunday meeting with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to review Russia's campaign in the break-away republic and endorse Putin's presidential bid in next year's elections.

Putin's popularity at home has soared in recent weeks because of his hard line on Chechnya.

Russia's 2-month-old campaign in Chechnya has drawn criticism from Western countries, which say Russia is using excessive force and causing high civilian casualties. But Moscow maintains that it is hitting only Islamic rebels and dismisses the criticism as interference in Russia's domestic affairs.

Oregon Kinkel blames voices for shooting rampage

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) - The teachers, family and friends who testified about the Kip Kinkel they knew described a kid like a lot of others - funny, a little wild, struggled with reading, got mad when he was teased.

What made him different - the Kinkel that no one knew - were the voices screaming in his head.

Those voices, Kinkel told experts, drove him to shoot his father in the back of the head.

They made him kill his mother, father and head for Thurston High School in Springfield, opening fire on the crowded cafeteria.

"He carefully hid it so that he would not be stigmatized. The sad part of it is, we are fairly good at treating mental illness," said Charles Patrick Ewing, a professor of law and psychology at State University of New York at Buffalo.

After pleading guilty, Kinkel, who was 15 at the time of the May 1998 shooting spree, was sentenced to nearly 112 years in prison.

Study: Web neglects inner-city shoppers

NEW YORK (AP) - Few Internet merchants try to woo inner-city shoppers to their Web sites, and that means most e-retailers are missing out on a huge market because many residents living in these economically depressed neighborhoods are eager to buy online.

A new study, expected to be released today, shows inner-city residents with access to computers and the Internet use the Web as often, and sometimes more frequently, as the general U.S. population.

The Internet is an easy way for these shoppers to get goods and services they can't find in their own neighborhoods, which generally aren't served by more traditional

stores. "Bricks-and-mortar retailers have virtually ignored the inner cities, so it is natural that consumers there would look for other places to shop," said Carl Steidtmann, chief retail economist at PricewaterhouseCoopers, which conducted the study with the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, a Boston-based nonprofit group.

"The Internet opens doors for these people that they never saw before."

The study of 1,159 inner-city households was done by mail last fall, and the results were compared with an existing PricewaterhouseCoopers database of shoppers nationwide.

Voice recorder may reveal crash cause

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) - Investigators are hoping that in the next few days the cockpit voice recorder recovered from EgyptAir Flight 990 will help tell investigators why the jet crashed, the chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board said Sunday.

"We're certainly hopeful that within the next two or three days that we'll be able to answer a lot of the puzzling questions that the information on the flight data recorder has raised in our minds," Jim Hall said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"We have the best experts in the world, I believe," he said. "They will be looking at this tape, evaluating it, and I'm praying that we will have a good tape."

The recorder, recovered at 10:12 p.m. EST (9:12 CDT) Saturday from the midst of the wreckage deep in the Atlantic, arrived Sunday at the NTSB laboratory in Washington, where experts hope to answer questions about the Oct. 31 crash.

Investigators continue to focus on all possible causes for the crash, including mechanical problems. Officials say they are not leaning toward any specific theory.

Barry Mawn, an FBI special agent, said on NBC that more than 250 agents are working with the NTSB. The FBI has "no evidence at this particular point in time that a crime was committed," he said.

The recorder, which was bent on one side, was found not far from where investigators detected a signal from its pinger, which had become detached. A name plate identifying the box also was missing.

Deep Drone, a remote-controlled underwater robot, recovered the

recorder, Navy Rear Adm. William Sutton said. The so-called black box was hauled up within minutes and taken aboard the USS Grapple, where it was to be held overnight.

EgyptAir and civil aviation officials from Egypt planned to help NTSB officials in Washington with translations of any cockpit conversations in Arabic that may have been recorded on tape.

An EgyptAir official has said the cockpit voice recorder had a tape that records over itself every 30 minutes. While not the two-hour digital models recommended by the NTSB, the tape should have lasted long enough to record conversations as the plane climbed 33,000 feet and then began to plummet about 40 minutes after the flight from New York to Cairo took off.

The flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder could tell investigators what doomed the Boeing 767, which crashed in the ocean off the Massachusetts island of Nantucket, killing all 217 people aboard.

NTSB officials said investigators will travel to Seattle this week to use a Boeing 767 flight simulator. NTSB investigator Greg Phillips said information from the flight data recorder would be entered into the simulator to study how the airplane would react.

Preliminary data released Friday showed that the plane was put into a dive so steep and fast that passengers would briefly have been rendered weightless. And both engines were shut off before the aircraft climbed briefly out of its dive and then turned and plunged into the ocean.

One veteran pilot said the actions taken on the Boeing 767, such as shutting off the engines, seemed to be the exact opposite of what would be done by someone trying to save the plane.

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