

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Mexicans dig through collapsed buildings as quake kills 217

MEXICO CITY — Police, firefighters and ordinary Mexicans dug frantically through the rubble of collapsed schools, homes and apartment buildings early Wednesday, looking for survivors of Mexico’s deadliest earthquake in decades as the number of confirmed fatalities stood at 217.

Adding poignancy and a touch of the surreal, Tuesday’s magnitude-7.1 quake struck on the 32nd anniversary of the 1985 earthquake that killed thousands. Just hours earlier, people around Mexico had held earthquake drills to mark the date.

One of the most desperate rescue efforts was at a primary and secondary school in southern Mexico City, where a wing of the three-story building collapsed into a massive pancake of concrete slabs. Journalists saw rescuers pull at least two small bodies from the rubble, covered in sheets.

Volunteer rescue worker Dr. Pedro Serrano managed to crawl into the crevices of the tottering pile of rubble that had been Escuela Enrique Rebsamen. He made it into a classroom, but found all of its occupants dead.

“We saw some chairs and wooden tables. The next thing we saw was a leg, and then we started to move rubble and we found a girl and two adults — a woman and a man,” he said.

Rescuers wriggle into collapsed school after Mexico quake

MEXICO CITY — The three-story school structure had pancaked into a pile of concrete slabs. The bodies of 21 children and four adults had been pulled out. But still sounds came from the collapsed structure early Wednesday — nobody knew if they were survivors pounding for help, or simply the noises of shifting rubble.

After a wing of the Enrique Rebsamen primary and secondary school collapsed in Tuesday’s magnitude-7.1 earthquake, rescuers dug at the pile of rubble and soldiers wedged in wooden beams to try to prevent it from crumbling further.

Then a group of them decided to head in.

Pedro Serrano, a 29-year-old doctor, was one of the ordinary Mexicans who had volunteered to join the rescue effort. He crawled into a crevice amid the tottering pile.

“We dug holes, then crawled in on our bellies,” Serrano said.

Hurricane Maria aims at Puerto Rico after slamming Dominica

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Puerto Rico faced Wednesday what officials said could be the strongest hurricane to ever hit the U.S. territory as they warned it would decimate the power company’s crumbling infrastructure and force the government to rebuild dozens of communities.

Maria barreled toward the island with 155 mph winds and was expected to make landfall Wednesday midmorning along Puerto Rico’s southeast coast as a Category 4 storm, punishing the island with life-threatening winds for 12 to 24 hours, forecasters said.

Maria had previously been a Category 5 storm with 175 mph winds.

“This is going to be an extremely violent phenomenon,” Gov. Ricardo Rossello said. “We have not experienced an event of this magnitude in our modern history.”

The number of power outages spiked as Maria approached, with the storm centered early Wednesday about 50 miles southeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and moving northwest at 10 mph, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Trump’s trashing of Iran deal poses problems for NK strategy

UNITED NATIONS — President Donald Trump’s threat before the world to obliterate North Korea left no doubt about his determination to stop the communist country’s nuclear weapons



AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo
A car sits crushed from a building felled by a 7.1 earthquake in Jojutla, Morelos state, Mexico.

buildup. His disparagement of the Iran nuclear deal in the same speech offered Pyongyang little hope of a negotiated solution.

In his maiden address at the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, Trump spelled out in blunt and personal terms the reasons why Kim Jong Un and his government should be treated as pariahs. It was a surprisingly brutal indictment, even by the standards of a president who has spoken about unleashing “fire and fury” on Kim’s country if it didn’t end its nuclear provocations.

Trump said not only has the North Korean government starved its citizens and killed opponents, it was now threatening the world with “unthinkable loss of life.”

“It is time for North Korea to realize that the denuclearization is its only acceptable future,” Trump said.

He offered no path toward making that future a reality.

Trump’s North Korea threat leaves Asia struggling to explain

SEOUL, South Korea — Was it a bluff? A warning that Washington would shoot down North Korea’s next missile test? A restatement of past policy? Or simply just what it seemed: a straightforward threat of annihilation from the president of the United States?

Officials and pundits across Asia struggled Wednesday to parse Donald Trump’s vow Tuesday at the U.N. General Assembly to “totally destroy North Korea” if provoked.

In a region well used to Pyongyang’s pursuit of nuclear weapons generating a seemingly never-ending cycle of threats and counter-threats, Trump’s comments stood out.

South Korea officially played them down, while some politicians worried that Trump’s words signaled a loss of influence for Seoul. Tokyo focused on his mention of Japanese citizens abducted by the North. Analysts across Asia expressed surprise, worry, even wry amusement, in one case, that Trump’s words seemed to mirror threats normally emanating from North Korean state media.

Amid the speculation, the focus of Trump’s belligerence, North Korea, remained silent in the hours after the speech.

As Syrian war winds down, Israel sets sights on Hezbollah

PILON MILITARY BASE, Israel — With President Bashar Assad seemingly poised to survive the Syrian civil war, Israeli leaders are growing nervous about the intentions of his Iranian patrons and their emerging corridor of influence across the region.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is agitating against Iran in global forums like this week’s U.N. General Assembly. The Israeli military is holding war games targeting the Iran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah, and generals are issuing tough threats in hopes of avoiding what could be another ruinous Israeli entanglement in Lebanon, this time with Iranian advisers and troops on Israel’s doorstep.

Israel has long identified Iran as its biggest threat, citing its suspect nuclear program, development of long-range missiles and hostile rhetoric. But gains by Syrian troops and their Iranian-backed allies have given those concerns new urgency.

Israel fears the establishment of a Shiite “corridor,” with land links from Iran to Lebanon, allowing the movement of fighters and weapons across the region. At the heart of those fears is Hezbollah, the Lebanese militia that battled Israel to a stalemate in a monthlong war in 2006. The group has greatly beefed up its arsenal of rockets and missiles since then, and after years of fighting in Syria, is more battle-tested than ever.

In his U.N. address Tuesday, Netanyahu warned that Iran was spreading a “curtain of tyranny and terror” across the region, and said Israel would defend itself.

Pelting rain, relocation add to woes in Rohingya Muslim camp

COX’S BAZAR, Bangladesh — Weary and uncertain, they carried whatever they could on their backs, trudging through monsoon rains and enduring relocations and extortion attempts as they struggle to find small patches of land that can be their own, at least for a moment.

Groups of Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar were on the move again Tuesday and Wednesday, forced by the rains to salvage what was left of their shanties and move toward drier ground in hopes of some relief — if the mudslides don’t come next.

Several Rohingya camps in this Bangladesh coastal city are flooded from three days of unrelenting downpours. People in the camps were pelted with heavy rain while desperately packing their meager belongings into plastic sacks and trying to find fresh shelter.

The initial arrivals in the most recent exodus from violence in Myanmar simply settled on whatever patch of land they could find, building shelters of bamboo sticks and plastic sheets.

But as their numbers soared to more than 420,000 in a matter of weeks, the local government has started moving them to newly allocated refugee camp areas. Many refused to move, terrified of being without shelter at all. But the rains washed away many shanties or made them uninhabitable.

A last, last chance: Republicans strain for Obamacare repeal

WASHINGTON — With time growing short, President Donald Trump and Republican Senate leaders are engaged in a frantic search for votes in a last-ditch effort to repeal and replace “Obamacare.” The outcome is uncertain in a Capitol newly engulfed in drama over health care.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, whose failure to pass an Obamacare repeal bill in July opened a bitter public rift with Trump, is pressing hard for the newly revived effort, which had been left for dead as recently as a week or two ago. But in a sign he remained short of votes, McConnell refused on Tuesday to commit to bringing the legislation up for a vote.

As in July, much of the focus was on Arizona Sen. John McCain. Would he step back in line with fellow Republicans now that there was a bill co-written by Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, his best friend in the Senate? McCain wasn’t saying. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, another crucial vote, wasn’t disclosing her views, either.

Republicans must act by Sept. 30 in the Senate or face the prospect of a Democratic filibuster. That blocking action is currently staved off by budget rules that will expire at the end of the month. The new legislation, by Graham and Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, would undo the central pillars of former President Barack Obama’s health care law, and replace them with block grants to the states so they could make their own health care coverage rules.

“Governors and state legislators of both parties would have both the opportunity and the responsibility to help make quality and affordable health care available to their citizens in a way that works for their own particular states,” McConnell said on the Senate floor. “It’s an intriguing idea and one that has a great deal of support.”

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV

LISTINGS

Evening listings
WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING														SEPTEMBER 20	
A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach															
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30		
2 KATU	2	KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	The Goldbergs	Speechless	Modern Family	Amer. Housewife	Designated Survivor "Brace for Impact"		KATU News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel		
5 KOMO	4	KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Goldbergs	Speechless	Modern Family	Amer. Housewife	Designated Survivor "Brace for Impact"		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel		
5 KING	5	NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	America's Got Talent "Live Results Finale" The winner is revealed. (N)				GoodPla "Everything is Great!" (SP) (N)		KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show		
6 KOIN	7	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother A group of strangers lives together in one house. (SF) (N)				Salvat "The Plot Against America" (N)		KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Colbert		
6 KIRO	7	KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother A group of strangers lives together in one house. (SF) (N)				Salvat "The Plot Against America" (N)		KIRO News (N)	(35) Colbert		
8 KGW	9	KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	America's Got Talent "Live Results Finale" The winner is revealed. (N)				GoodPla "Everything is Great!" (SP) (N)		KGW News (N)	(35) Tonight Show		
9 KRCW	3	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Arrow "Missing"	Supernatural "Who We Are"			News at 10 (N)	Mom	Two and a Half	Two and a Half		
10 KOPB	10	Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature's Great Race "Caribou"	The Vietnam War "Resolve (January 1966-June 1967)" (N)					The Vietnam War			
12 KPTV	12	6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	MasterChef "The Finale" Pt. 1 of 2 (N)	MasterChef "The Finale" (SF) 2/2 (N)			10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV		
13 KPDX	13	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)	9 O'Clock News (N)			FamilyGuy 2/2	American Dad!	The Game	The Game		
13 KCPQ	13	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	MasterChef "The Finale" Pt. 1 of 2 (N)	MasterChef "The Finale" (SF) 2/2 (N)			Q13 News at 10 (N)		Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons		
20 TBS	20	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal	Conan (N)			
22 KZJO	22	Friends	Friends	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half		
29 ESPN	29	(4:00) MLB Baseball (L)		MLB Baseball (L)						SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)			
30 ESPN2	30	USSF Soccer U.S. Open Cup (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		30 for 30 "Mike and the Mad Dog"		Jalen & Jacoby (N)	The Fantasy Show		
31 NICK	31	The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	I Am Frankie (N)	Nicky "The Wonderful Wizard of Quads"	Full House	Full House		Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends		
32 DISN	32	Jessie	Bunk'd	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Raven's Home	Bizaardvark	Bizaardvark		Liv and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home		
34 FAM	34	(5:00) ★★ The Twilight Saga: New Moon ('09) Taylor Lautner, Kristen Stewart.				★★ The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010, Drama) Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Kristen Stewart.						The 700 Club			
35 FMC	35	(5:00) The Fault in Our Stars ('14) Shailene Woodley.		(4:40) The Fault in Our Stars (2014, Drama) Ansel Elgort, Willem Dafoe, Shailene Woodley.						(15) FXM Presents	★★ True Story (2015, Mystery) Jonah Hill, James Franco.				
36 LIFE	36	Grey's Anatomy "Walk on Water"		Couples Retreat "Flight or Fight"		LW: LA - C. Retreat "Girls On Top" (N)	G. Up Supermodel "Striking Out" (N)			G. Up Supermodel "Super Insulting" (N)		Project Runway			
38 ROOT	38	Mariners Access	Post-game	MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field -- Seattle, Wash. (L)						Post-game	Press Pass (N)	MLB Baseball Texas vs Seattle			
39 FS1	39	TUF: A New Champion "Time to Shine"		TUF: A New Champion (N)		TUF Talk (N)	MLB Whiparound (L)			TUF: A New Champion		TUF Talk	UFC Tonight		
43 SPIKE	43	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops		
44 COM	44	(15) South Park	(50) South Park "Dead Celebrities"	(25) South Park		South Park	South Park	South Park		South Park (N)	Broad City (N)	The Daily Show (N)	The Daily Show		
45 HIST	45	A. Pickers "May the Ford Be With You"		Amer. Pickers "Red Barn, Black Keys"		Amer. Pickers "Something Weird Here"		American Pickers (N)		(05) Mountain (N) / (10) Pickers		(10) A. Pickers "Everything Must Go"			
46 A&E	46	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Wahlburgers	Wahlburgers	Wahlburgers	Wahlburgers	Wahlburgers (N)	Wahlburgers (N)	The Lowe Files "The Wood Apes" (N)		(05) Wahlburgers	(35) Wahlburgers		
47 TLC	47	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	7 Johnstons "A Family Emergency"		7 Little Johnstons "Party Pooper"	7 Little Johnstons "8 Little Johnstons?"	7 Little Johnstons	7 Johnstons "A Little Teen Romance"	7 Johnstons "A Little Teen Romance"		7 Johnstons "A Family Emergency"			
48 DISC	48	Misfit Garage "Spurred for a Ford"		Misfit Garage "Boom or Bust"		Misfit "Air Picking We Shall Go" (N)	Misfit "Chasing a Six-Figure Dream" (N)			Garage "Blue Ribbon Automotive"		(05) Misfit "Chasing a Six-Figure Dream"			
49 NIGO	49	State Troop. "Lock N' Load Neighbors"		Breakthrough "More Than Human"		Breaking2 (N)	Life and Death Row "Punishment"			Life and Death Row "Execution"		Life and Death Row "Crisis Stage"			
50 TNT	50	(5:30) ★★ Enemy of the State ('98, Action) Gene Hackman, Jon Voight, Will Smith.				★★ Django Unchained (2012, Western) Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx.						Movie			
51 AMC	51	(5:30) ★★ Con Air (1997, Action) John Cusack, John Malkovich, Nicolas Cage.				★★ Happy Gilmore ('96) Christopher McDonald, Julie Bowen, Adam Sandler.				★★ Happy Gilmore ('96) Christopher McDonald, Julie Bowen, Adam Sandler.					
52 USA	52	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Liberties"		Law&Order: SVU "Collateral Damages"		Law&Order: SVU "Unholiest Alliance"	Law&Order: SVU "Sheltered Outcasts"			The Sinner "Part VIII" (SF) (N)		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Zebras"			
53 FOOD	53	Worst Cooks in America		Worst Cooks in America		Worst Cooks in America	Worst Cooks in America (N)			Cook vs. Con "Endless Pastabilities" (N)		Cooks vs. Cons "Pizza Party" (N)			
54 HGTV	54	Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers	Buying "Letting Go Is Hard to Do" (N)			House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	Property Brothers			
55 FX	56	(5:00) ★★ Kingsman: The Secret Service (14) Colin Firth, Taron Egerton.				Taken 3 (2014, Action) Famke Janssen, Maggie Grace, Liam Neeson.				Taken 3 (2014, Action) Famke Janssen, Liam Neeson.					
57 CNN	57	Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	Anderson Cooper 360			Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon			
58 FNC	58	The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight	The Five			Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight			
61 CNBC	61	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Jay Leno's Garage "Keys to Happiness"	Jay Leno's Garage "Child at Heart"			Leno Garage "The Car My Father Drove"		Paid Program			
63 BRAV	63	Real Housewives "Run for Your Wife"		Housewives "Drag Bingo Bombshell"		H.Wives "Loose Lips Sink Friendships"	The Real Housewives			Below Deck "Jesus Saves"		WatchWhat (N)	Real Housewives		
64 TCM	64	(5:00) In the Heat of the Night		★★★ Roustabout (1964, Musical) Barbara Stanwyck, Joan Freeman, Elvis Presley.		★★★ The Stone Killer ('73, Cri) Martin Balsam, Norman Fell, Charles Bronson.				A Star Is Born ('37, Rom) Fredric March.		A Star Is Born ('37, Rom) Fredric March.			
65 SYFY	65	(5:30) ★★ xXx (2002, Action) Samuel L. Jackson, Marton Csokas, Vin Diesel.				★★ Jeepers Creepers (2001, Horror) Justin Long, Jonathan Breck, Gina Philips.				Channel Zero "This Isn't Real" (P) (N)		GameFace "The Killer Behind The Mask"			
102 RFD	102	Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	Racer's Edge	WesternSport	Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments	Product Showcase			

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