

News

World News Briefs

Mexicans Dig Through Collapsed Buildings as Quake Kills 217

MEXICO CITY (AP) — 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.

Hurricane Maria Aims at Puerto Rico After Slamming Dominica

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — 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 (250 kph) 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



Rescue team members Candida Lozada, left, and Stephanie Rivera, right, embrace as they wait to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Humacao, Puerto Rico, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017.

said.

Maria had previously been a Category 5 storm with 175 mph (281 kph) 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 (75 kilometers) southeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and moving northwest at 10 mph (17 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Trump's Trashing of Iran Deal Poses Problems for NK Strategy

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — 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 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.

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PHOTO: Survivors gather on high ground to watch the destruction of Vanport. May 30, 1948. Photo by Allen deLay (1915-2005) ©Thomas Robinson

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Submit an essay telling us, in your own words, what you have learned about the lost city of Vanport and the flood that destroyed it

Essays must be no more than 700 words and will be judged by *The Skanner* editorial staff. Two winners will be chosen. \$1,000 will be given to the writer of each winning essay at "The Wake of Vanport" event on September 29, 2017 at The Kennedy School Theater beginning at 1:00 p.m. Participants must be present at the event to win. Submit essays by email to frontdesk@theskanner.com. Include your full name, email and phone number with your entry. Deadline to submit entries is September 20, 2017. One entry per person. Contest is open to all ages.



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