

RESCUE EFFORTS

Hope fading as deaths in Turkiye, Syria quake pass 11,000

AP — GAZIANTEP, TURKIYE

With the hope of finding survivors fading, stretched rescue teams in Turkiye and Syria searched yesterday for signs of life in the rubble of thousands of buildings toppled by a catastrophic earthquake. The confirmed death toll from the world's deadliest quake in more than a decade passed 11,000.

Search teams from more than two dozen countries have joined tens of thousands of local emergency personnel on the ground in Syria and Turkiye. But the scale of destruction from the earthquake and its powerful aftershocks was so immense and spread over such a wide area, including places isolated by Syria's ongoing civil war, that many people were still awaiting help.

Experts said the survival window for those trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings or otherwise unable to access water, food, protection from the elements or medical attention was closing rapidly. At the same time, they said it was too soon to abandon hope for more rescues.

The first 72 hours are considered to be critical as the condition of people trapped and injured can deteriorate quickly and become fatal if they are not

rescued and given medical attention in time." Steven Godby, a natural hazards expert at Nottingham Trent University in England.

Rescuers at times used excavators in their searches and picked gingerly through debris at other points to locate survivors or the dead. With thousands of buildings toppled, it was not clear how many people might still be caught in the rubble.

Turkiye's disaster management agency said yesterday that the recovered bodies of people who died in the earthquake but cannot be identified would be buried within five days even if they remained unname.

The agency, known as AFAD, said unidentified victims would be buried following DNA tests, finger printing and after being photographed for future identification.

The region was already beset by more than a decade of civil war in Syria that has displaced millions in that country and left them reliant on humanitarian aid and sent millions more to seek refuge in Turkiye.

Turkiye's President said the country's death toll passed 8,500. The Syrian Health Ministry, meanwhile, said the death toll in government-held areas climbed past 1,200, while at

Erdogan vows to rebuild homes in a year

BLOOMBERG — ISTANBUL

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan promised to rebuild areas hit by two deadly earthquakes within a year as he toured one of the worst-stricken towns yesterday.

Speaking on a visit to a tented community of displaced people in Kahramanmaraş, Erdogan said his government had mobilised all available means to deal with the fallout from the quakes.

Obstacles including harsh weather conditions and damage to infrastructure have been overcome, he said, and basic supplies such as gas canisters used for heating are on their way.

"We aim to rebuild homes in Kahramanmaraş and nine other provinces within one year," Erdogan said, before heading to another quake zone in Hatay province.

"If anyone prefers not to stay in tents, we can transfer them to hotels in Alanya, Mersin and Antalya," on the Mediterranean coast, he said.

A handout of 10,000 lira (\$531) will be given to

least 1,400 people have in the rebel-held northwest, according to the volunteer first responders known as the White Helms.

That brought the overall total to 11,000 since Monday's earthquake and multiple strong aftershocks. Tens of thousands more are injured.

Syrian officials said the bodies of more than 100 Syrians who died during the earthquake



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan tours the site of destroyed buildings during his visit to the city of Kahramanmaraş in southeast Turkiye, yesterday. (AFP)

each family affected by the quakes, the President said.

"We had some difficulties the first

day but control of the situation was taken on the second day and today," Erdogan said.

warm covers could help buy the search teams more time.

In Syria, aid efforts have been hampered by the ongoing war and the isolation of the rebel-held region along the border, which is surrounded by Russia-backed government forces.

Syria itself is an international pariah under Western sanctions linked to the war.

Israeli court delays demolition of West Bank village again

AFP — JERUSALEM

Israel's Supreme Court on Tuesday approved a new delay to the controversial demolition of a Bedouin village in the occupied West Bank.

The Khan Al Ahmar community, on a strategic highway east of Jerusalem, was slated for demolition in 2018. The Supreme Court granted a delay until May 1 imposed a fine of 20,000 shekels (around \$5,750) over the government's "general attitude" to the case.

DIPLOMACY

Russia, Western envoys offer duelling visions for Africa in Sudan

BLOOMBERG — KHARTOUM

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and envoys from the US and Europe have converged on Sudan simultaneously as the Kremlin and its Western opponents step up competition in Africa against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine.

Lavrov's visit to Khartoum yesterday, his second Africa tour this year, comes as an increasingly isolated Moscow seeks allies on the continent.

Sudan is one of several African nations, including Libya, Mali and the Central

African Republic, where Russia has bolstered ties in recent years. The visit by six envoys from Europe and the US to Sudan was planned for a long time, and the talks on the same day involving Russia's top diplomat came as a surprise in Western capitals, said three people familiar with the matter.

Sudan's military leaders are being offered a choice similar to those facing juntas across Africa: allow democratic elections in return for potentially billions of dollars in aid and debt relief from the West, or move closer to Moscow and

remain in power.

The Kremlin has maintained cordial ties with the Sudanese junta, while the West held back aid over an October 2021 military coup that overthrew the transitional government established in 2019 after the ouster of former President Omar Al Bashir. The EU officials are in the country to encourage the implementation

of an internationally backed agreement signed in December by major opposition groups and the military-led government that supposed to lead to civilian rule.

Lavrov on Tuesday visited Mali, and condemned what he described as the "colonial mentality" of European nations. Russia has relied on votes from

African nations at the United Nations, including to counter resolutions criticising Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop thanked Russia for its support, while referencing an as yet unfulfilled pledge to provide \$100m worth of fertilizers, cereals and fuel for the impoverished country.



Residents dismantle a vehicle belonging to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) in Kanyaruchinya, Nyiragongo territory, Democratic Republic of Congo, yesterday, after it was set on fire overnight by angry residents. (AFP)

Three protesters killed in attack on UN convoy in DR Congo

AFP — GOMA, DR CONGO

At least three demonstrators were killed on Tuesday in an attack on a UN convoy in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Nations mission in the country said in a statement.

Militias have plagued the mineral-rich eastern DRC for decades, many of them a legacy of regional wars that flared during the 1990s and early 2000s. The UN convoy was returning from a resupply mission north of Goma, the capital of North Kivu province, when assailants set four trucks on fire, the statement from MONUSCO said.

"Three people unfortunately lost their lives during the attack," as the peacekeepers, accompanied by Congolese soldiers, "tried to protect the convoy," the statement said.

Jean-Claude Mambo Kawaya, a civil society leader in Nyiragongo territory, where

the attack took place, said it had occurred near Kanyaruchinya, where thousands of displaced people live.

After vehicles were set on fire, the crowd tried to break into a container containing weapons and the peacekeepers opened fire, killing five people, he said. "The population and displaced persons attacked a MONUSCO convoy," said Colonel Patrick Iduma, the territory's administrator, without giving further details of the toll.

The M23 rebel group has seized chunks of territory since its resurgence in November 2021 despite a peace roadmap hammered out in Angola last July and the deployment of an East African Community force in November.

Rwanda has been accused by the DRC of supporting the M23, a charge corroborated by UN experts and Western countries, although Kigali has denied the accusations.

MONUSCO regularly faces

criticism that it has failed to stop the conflict, and demonstrations against the peacekeepers have grown in recent months.

In July, protesters stormed MONUSCO facilities in Goma, Butembo, Beni and other towns to demand the peacekeepers' departure. At least 36 people were killed, including four peacekeepers, according to authorities.

East African leaders called Saturday for an immediate ceasefire in eastern DRC at an extraordinary summit called to find ways of calming the raging conflict.

The talks were hosted in Burundi by the seven-nation East African Community, which is leading mediation efforts to end the fighting in the vast central African nation.

A South African peacekeeper was killed and another seriously wounded on Sunday when their helicopter was shot at in North Kivu.

Buoys - what are they and what are they used for?

Buoys are floating objects anchored at specific locations to assist maritime navigation and safety in oceans, lakes, water channels and rivers. There are various different types of buoys, each with its own purpose.

Harbour masters, mariners and other seafarers have relied on navigation aids for safe sea journeys for centuries. The history of buoys dates back to the 13th century. Their design over the years has developed from a basic wooden raft into today's high-tech maritime tools.

History of buoys

The first buoys were used in the Guadalquivir River in Spain in the 13th century, according to the 1295 mariners' handbook, La Compasso de Navigare. The guide contained details of sea routes and approaches for boats around the Iberian Peninsula.

Basic buoys that were simply wooden rafts were used to direct vessels attempting to access Sevilla. A buoy was recorded on the nautical chart, Lo Compasso De Navegare, detailing Mediterranean Sea routes in 1296.

Thirty years later, historical literature detailed the use of buoys in the Zuider Zee, a North Sea bay used by ships sailing to Amsterdam and other European ports. These comprised a hollow drum bough with iron bands and secured by chains tied to a heavy stone.

While the early buoys provided a navigational service in daylight hours only, experiments began in the 19th century to find other ways of highlighting the buoys' location, even at night.



Bell buoys that made a clanging sound as they moved in the waves were developed.

Patented in 1876, US Lighthouse Society member John Courtenay's groundbreaking whistle buoy contained a hollow tube with a whistle attached on top. As the buoy moved, air was forced up the tube and produced a whistling sound.

Uses of modern buoys

The capabilities of today's modern buoys have far exceeded their predecessors. The three different types of buoy are used for navigation, mooring and data platforms. They guide and warn seafarers, mark the position of a submerged object and moor vessels before they drop anchor.

Two international systems mark channels and submerged hazards. Both systems use buoys of standardised shapes and colours to highlight safe passageways. In addition, special-purpose buoys including anchor buoys, cable buoys and race buoys have various uses.

Mooring buoys differ from other types, as they are a point where vessels can be tied up. The mooring buoy is secured to a group of permanent anchors by a heavy chain. It is a connecting link between the boat and the anchors. A moored vessel needs less space to swing with the tide and wind than a vessel at anchor.

The purpose of data buoys is to support, power and protect a number of sensors that measure water conductivity, depth, temperature, pH, chlorophyll A, dissolved oxygen and turbidity for scientific purposes.

Solar light-up buoys

The latest 21st-century innovations include solar light-up buoys to aid navigation. Solar power is used to light the buoys, which are made in a variety of colours. The rechargeable solar light engine illuminates several bright LED lights so the buoy can be seen after dark.

They can be used to mark the location of a pier or dock. Their bright LED glow means they are visible for up to half a nautical mile away. The solar sea buoys are a fine example of modern marine technology. They are an eco-friendly option due to being solar-powered.

The latest buoys have come a long way since the wooden raft structures of the 13th century, but one thing remains the same: they are still the road signs of water more than 700 years after their invention.

If you would like to learn more about the marine buoys and other marine solutions - go to Bayanat Engineering Qatar website bayanatengineering.qa to learn more about solutions that can help your organization.

