

151 Dead, Many Trapped In Turkish Coal Mine

BY SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — An explosion and a fire Tuesday killed at least 151 workers at a coal mine in western Turkey and hundreds more remained trapped underground, government officials said as Turkey launched a massive rescue operation.

Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said 787 people were inside the coal mine in Soma at the time of the accident and 363 of them had been rescued so far. He said 76 miners were injured, including one who was in serious condition. The mine is located some 250 kilometers

(155.35 miles) from Istanbul.

Authorities say the disaster followed an explosion and fire caused by a power distribution unit.

Yildiz said most of the deaths were the result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

"Time is working against us," Yildiz said earlier. He said some 400 rescuers were involved in the operation.

Yildiz said some of the workers were 420 meters (460 yards) deep inside the mine.

Television footage showed people cheering and applauding as some trapped workers emerged out of the mine, helped by rescuers, their faces and hard-hats covered in soot. One wiped away

tears on his jacket, another smiled, waved and flashed a "thumbs up" sign at onlookers.

Authorities had earlier said that the blast left between 200 to 300 miners underground and were preparing for the possibility that the death toll could jump dramatically, making arrangements to set up a cold storage facility to hold the corpses of miners recovered from the site.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan postponed a one-day visit to Albania scheduled for Wednesday and planned to visit Soma instead.

The rescue effort was being hampered by the fact that the mine was made up of tunnels that were

kilometers (miles) long, said Cengiz Ergun, the leader of Manisa province, where the town is located.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the mine and the hospital in Soma seeking news of their loved ones. NTV television said people broke into applause as rescued workers arrived in ambulances. Interviewed by Dogan news agency, some complained about the lack of information from state and company officials about the situation of the trapped workers.

Police set up fences and stood guard around Soma state hospital to keep the crowds away.

SOMA Komur Isletmeleri A.S.,

which owns the mine, confirmed that a number of its workers were killed but would not give a specific figure. It said the accident occurred despite the "highest safety measures and constant controls" and added that an investigation was being launched.

"Our main priority is to get our workers out so that they may be reunited with their loved ones," the company said in a statement.

Mining accidents are common in Turkey, which is plagued by poor safety conditions.

Turkey's worst mining disaster was a 1992 gas explosion that killed 263 workers near the Black Sea port of Zonguldak.

Police: 5 Shot Near High School In Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — Police say five people were shot near a high school in Atlanta. Officials say all five are believed to be students.

Atlanta Police Sgt. Greg Lyon says the five were shot near Therrell High School on Tuesday afternoon. He says their injuries don't appear to be life-threatening. Police have said the shooting didn't happen on school property.

Atlanta Public Schools spokeswoman Kimberly Willis Green says the victims are believed to be students. It wasn't immediately clear if the shooter was also a student.

Police spokesman John Chafee says authorities are speaking with a possible suspect but an arrest hasn't been made.

Green says the school was locked down as a precaution, and all after-school activities were canceled.

Further details were not immediately available.



Atlanta Police investigate at the scene of a shooting in Southwest Atlanta where five students were shot Tuesday near Therrell High School.

European Court Says Google Must Yield On Search Results Offering Personal Info

BY TOBY STERLING

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — Google and other search engines were thrust into an unwanted new role Tuesday — caretaker of people's reputations — when Europe's highest court ruled that individuals should have some say over what information comes up when their names are Googled.

The landmark ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union will force search engines to decide when to censor computer users' search results across the 28-nation bloc of over 500 million people.

The court decision — which cannot be appealed — was celebrated by some as a victory for privacy rights in the Internet age. Others warned it could lead to online censorship.

The ruling applies to EU citizens and all search engines in Europe, including Yahoo and Microsoft's Bing.

It has no immediate impact on the way Google and other search engines display their results in the U.S. or other countries outside Europe.

In its ruling, the EU court said search engines must listen and sometimes comply when people ask for the removal of links to newspaper articles or other sites containing outdated or otherwise objectionable information about themselves.

Google Inc. has long maintained that people with such complaints should take it up with the websites that posted the material.

"This is a disappointing ruling for search engines and online publishers in general," the Mountain View, California, company said in a statement.

Though Europe is one of Google's biggest markets, the decision isn't expected to have much effect on the company's earnings. That's because it has no direct bearing on the online ads that Google places alongside its search results.

Investors evidently weren't worried. Google's most widely traded class of stock gained \$3.11 to close at \$541.54 Tuesday.

It's unclear exactly how the European court envisions Google and others handling complaints.

Google, though, has dealt with similar situations in the past.

The company already censors some of its search results in several countries to comply with local laws. For instance, Google and other search engines are banned from displaying links to Nazi paraphernalia and certain hate speech in Germany and France.

The company has also set up a process so people can have their images blurred if they appear in Google's street-level photographic maps.

What Google and other search engines have sought to avoid is acting as the arbiters of what kind of information to include in their searches.

These companies rely on formulas, or algorithms, and automated "crawlers" that roam the Internet and gather up results in response to search requests.

In the EU ruling, "there's not much guidance for Google on how to figure out how and when they are supposed to comply with take-down requests — they just know they have to weigh the public interest," said Joel Reidenberg, a Fordham University law professor now visiting Princeton University.

The case was referred to the European Court from Spain's National Court, which asked for advice in the case of Mario Costeja, a Spaniard who found a search of his name turned up links to a notice that his property was due to be auctioned because of an unpaid welfare debt. The notice had been published in a Spanish newspaper in 1998, and was tracked by Google's robots when the newspaper digitized its archive.

Costeja argued that the debt had long since been settled, and he asked Spain's privacy agency to have the reference removed. In 2010, the agency agreed, but Google refused and took the matter to court, saying it should not be asked to censor material that had been legally published by the newspaper.

"It's a great relief to be shown that you

were right when you have fought for your ideas. It's a joy," Costeja said.

He said that "ordinary people will know where they have to go" to complain about bad or old information that turns up on a Google search.

Costeja's case will now return to Spain for final judgment. There are about 200 others in the Spanish court system, some of which may still prove difficult to decide. For instance, one involves a plastic surgeon who wants mentions of a botched operation removed from Google's results.

Debates over the "right to be forgotten" — to have negative information erased after a period of time — have surfaced across the world as tech users struggle to reconcile the forgive-and-forget nature of human relations with the unforgiving permanence of the Internet.

Though the idea of such a right has generally been well-received in Europe, many in the U.S. have criticized it as a disguised form of censorship that could, for example, allow ex-convicts to delete references to their crimes or politicians to airbrush their records.

Lee Rowland, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney specializing in privacy and technology issues, said a similar ruling in the U.S. is highly unlikely "because the First Amendment provides robust protections for the printing and reporting of publicly available information."

"What instead it will do is fracture these global Internet companies into having different rules and modes of governance for different countries," Rowland said.

Alejandro Tourino, a Spanish lawyer who specializes in mass media issues, said the ruling was a first of its kind and "quite a blow for Google."

"It is a most important ruling and the first time European authorities have ruled on the 'right to be forgotten,'" said Tourino, who has worked for The Associated Press in several legal cases and is the author of "The Right to be Forgotten and Privacy on the Internet."

6 Ukrainian Soldiers Killed In East

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — An insurgent ambush killed six soldiers Tuesday in eastern Ukraine as Germany moved to jumpstart a possible plan toward peace that includes launching a dialogue on decentralizing the government in Kiev.

Ukraine's leadership appeared cool to the plan and U.S. officials view its prospects for success skeptically. But some analysts say Russian President Vladimir Putin is more likely to accept a deal that doesn't come from Washington.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier is in Ukraine to try to broker a quick launch of talks between the central government and pro-Russia separatists. That would be a first step in implementing a "road map" drawn up by the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe aimed at settling the crisis.

The OSCE is a trans-Atlantic security and rights group that includes Russia and the U.S., whose sparring over each other's role in Ukraine sometimes overshadows events on the ground.

Speaking in Brussels, acting Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk thanked the OSCE for its plan but said Ukraine has drawn up its own "road map" for ending the crisis and noted the people of his country should settle the issue themselves.

Suspect In TV Station Crash In Custody

TOWSON, Md. (AP) — A man claiming to be God rammed a truck through the front of a Baltimore-area television station Tuesday, leaving a gaping hole as reporters and other staff fled the building.

Police took a suspect into custody Tuesday afternoon, about five hours after the incident, officials said at a news conference. The suspect was not injured but has been taken for mental health treatment, Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz said.

"It's very clear the subject is suffering from emotional or mental health issues," Police Chief James Johnson said. The man's identity was not immediately disclosed.

Michael Marion was in his office off WMAR-TV's lobby when he heard someone rattling violently against the security door about 11:45 a.m. The man demanded to be let in, claiming "I am God, I am God," Marion said.

"I heard a series of crashes," Marion said. "The next thing, I looked in the lobby, and the only thing between truck and the lobby was the final door. I heard one final crash. I looked through the door, and by then the truck was pulling in the lobby."

Donald Sterling Creates New Controversy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An interview that was supposed to be an attempt at rehabilitation instead had Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling facing fresh rebukes as he went from apologizing for recent racist remarks to slamming Magic Johnson, repeatedly bringing up the ex-NBA star's HIV status and calling him an unfit role model for children.

"He's got AIDS!" Sterling said loudly at one point in the interview, cutting off CNN's Anderson Cooper as the interviewer attempted to cite Johnson's accomplishments after Sterling asked, "What has he done, big Magic Johnson, what has he done?"

Johnson, who is appearing on Cooper's show to reply on Tuesday, wrote on his Twitter account that "I'd rather be talking about these great NBA Playoffs than Donald Sterling's interview."

In an early excerpt from Johnson's interview posted on CNN's website, the former Lakers star said Sterling is "upset."

"He's reaching," Johnson said. "He's trying to find something that he can grab on to help him save his team. And it's not going to happen. ... I'm a God-fearing man and I'm going to pray for him and hope things work out for him."

Area

From Page 1

Don Henery of Center defeating Niobrara police chief Doug Salmen 886-790.

Tuesday's election represents a rematch, as Henery defeated Salmen and Matt Gartner in a three-way Republican primary in May 2010. Henery finished ahead of Salmen in that primary by 32 votes.

Henery, deputy sheriff at the time, was appointed sheriff July 1, 2010, when then-Sheriff Jim Janeczek retired. Henery went on to defeat Democrat Mark Krepel of Crofton in the November general election.

Tuesday's primary featured a number of other county races.

For clerk of the district court, the GOP primary found incumbent Karen Riesberg defeating challenger Jody Fuchtmann 1,067-565. Riesberg now faces Democrat Matt Fischer in the general election.

For District 1 county supervisor, the Republican primary found incumbent Marty O'Connor winning with 88 votes, followed by Steve Wieseler with 71 and Allan Arens with 40.

The Democratic field found Kerry Kolterman defeating Kelly Marshall 41-39.

For District 3 county supervisor, the GOP primary saw incumbent Virgil Miller defeat challenger Ward Adema 170-74. Miller will now face Democrat Jeff Uhrir in the general election.

For District 5 county supervisor, the GOP primary was won by Kevin Mackeprang with 157, followed by

Ernie Ibach with 66 and Cindy S. Barney with 36. No Democrats ran in the primary.

Incumbent Norman Mackeprang isn't running for re-election.

For District 7 county supervisor, the Republican primary was won by Jim Borgmann with 129, followed by Robert Ganz with 103 and Carol Triplett with 82. No Democrats filed for the primary.

The incumbent, Jim Fuchtmann, isn't running for re-election.

Two elections are being held at the local level. For Wausa school board, the top six candidates will advance from the field.

The Knox County results were Mark Dawson 178, Derek Cunningham 149, Chad Vanness 140, Michael Kumm 132, Brian Wakeley 111, Kristal Thorell 102 and Dawn Baue 74.

Cedar and Pierce county results remained to be added to the final total.

For Creighton City Council, the top four candidates advancing to the general election were Leonard Clarkson 173, Mike Nutting 164, MaryAnne Block 152 and Curtis Keck 111. The fifth candidate, Vicki Lynn Belgum, garnered 86 votes.

In addition, the levy special elections passed in all five townships. The margins were Dolphin 26-8, Eastern 136-89, Hill 19-6, Morton 225-113 and Verdigre 132-65.

Check Twitter and online at www.yankton.net for more election results.

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