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Brothers survive Taiwan earthquake orde

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Two brothers were pulled to freedom yesterday after five and a half days buried alive in the wreckage of Taiwan's killer quake, saying they survived by eating a few apples and playing cards in the small space where they were trapped.

Page 6 • Monday, September 27, 1999

Amid the devastation and shattered hopes, Taiwanese were cheered by the improbable survival of Sun Chi-kwang, 20, and Sun Chi-feng, who turned 26 Wednesday, one day into their 130-hour ordeal in the wreckage of a collapsed Taipei building.

The brothers were rescued even as powerful aftershocks continue to jolt Taiwan. A particularly strong one hit early yesterday, killing at least three people on top of the more than 2,000 who had already died.

Onlookers applauded as the younger Sun, stripped to the waist but staying upright and holding a bottle of water he got from rescue workers, was lifted to safety by a crane. His brother was rushed away on a stretcher.

Their mother, Liu Luan, heaved with sobs of joy as her sons came out alive, speaking so fast she was almost incoherent. "I kept thinking, 'This is not possible, this is not possible,'" Liu told reporters at the scene, "I

kept praying for them all the time."

The brothers were hospitalized in stable con-

dition. Doctors were checking them for possible internal injuries or dehydration.

'They are both very clear and conscious of what happened," Dr. Su Chong-jen, chief of

surgery at the hospital where they were taken, said. "What they need now is rest."

The Sun brothers had been playing bridge when the 7.6-magnitude quake struck in the wee hours Tuesday.

The 12-story building they were in crumpled, flattening parts of the hotel, offices and apartments it contained. The brothers' parents and sister were not at home at the time

"I kept thinking, 'This is not possible, this is not possible."

> - Liu Luan Mother of victims trapped under rubble

The two kept up their spirits by continuing their card game while they waited in the small space, their doctor said by telephone. When their water ran out, they were forced to drink their own urine.

From his hospital bed, Sun Chi-kwang said he even managed to give his sibling a birthday gift. 'My older brother told me that never in my life

did I celebrate his birthday with him, so I said today I would celebrate with you and I gave him

my necklace," he said. He told TVBS television that while trapped he had "a very strange dream" in which "there was

someone beside me saying that behin there was a hole from where I could

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"I thought that was really strang my older brother. He asked me what said fate could not have been talking

went back to sleep," Sun said.
"A little later I saw a hole, and index out to be a big hole," he said, referring guess I

rescuers carved into the rubble to rea morrow Emergency crews worked into through a light drizzle in hopes of sa lives in the Taipei building, though the certain whether anyone else was sti on his 2: building was one of the hardest-hit str

Taipei, the capital. Yesterday's aftershock — a sizable in its own right — brought down some in central Taiwan, the hardest-hit re the b cracked walls as far away as Taipei, 90 the north. Its magnitude was estimated

6.5 by different sources.

The aftershock killed three people, least 58 and buried another 20 in the n

Although there have been thousan shocks, Sunday's was big enough to sen on his 6 ened people scurrying out of their hom in sch open spaces. Others donned motorcyc 'Nobody here dares to stay home

said university student Lee Wen in th Puli, where water, electricity and tele vice have yet to be restored. "They all sta Deaths from the new tremor, and me

unearthed on Sunday, brought the conf from the quakes to 2,056.

Russian warplanes bomb Chechen capital

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - The Russian military on Sunday warned

it may launch ground operations Islamic against militants Chechnya while warplanes bombed the Chechen capital for a fourth day, pounding industrial and communications facilities.

Four Russian jets flew repeatedly over the city's southern Oktyabrsky district yesterday morning, firing rockets and dropping bombs, the Interfax news agency said.

The district is the site of Chechnya's now-destroyed tele-vision broadcasting center as well as oil wells.

Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev said he could not rule out the possibility of launching ground operations in the breakaway republic.

Until now, the military has favored an air war that would keep Russian casualties to a minimum.

"There are several variants of a plan for ground operations, which will be implemented depending on the situation that develops," Interfax quoted Sergeyev as saying.

He spoke while visiting sol-

diers recovering from Dagestan

battle wounds in a Moscow military hospital.

The main aim of all the plans is to eliminate the bandits" and "to create a considerably deep security zone around Chechnya," he said.

The militants are separatists who want to form an independent Islamic nation in what is now southern Russia. The Russian military said the air

raids are aimed at preventing militant incursions from Chechnya into the Russian republic of Dagestan, where they fought Russian forces in August and September.

Increasingly, however, Russian leaders have vowed to eradicate the militants altogether.

Eyewitnesses said that over the past four days, Russian air raids have destroyed more than 100 oil pumps, around Grozny that are believed to be controlled by Chechen rebel field commanders. The oil was the basis of a prof-

itable business providing low-grade gasoline to other Russian regions. Russian planes also struck sus-

pected rebel camps near Chechnya's border with Dagestan on Saturday, the ITAR-Tass news agency said, citing the provisional federal press center in Dagestan.
Col. Gen. Anatoly Kornukov,

commander of Russia's Air Force, said in a television interview Sunday that the air campaign against Chechnya could last another month.

Russian military commanders appeared to be considering a major raid into Chechnya to put the militants on the defensive and stop their incursions into surrounding Russian territory.

While Russian has massed armored forces on the Chechen borders, military analysts say the force is too small to mount a fullscale invasion of Chechnya.

The Russian military is short of everything from trained infantry to food, and an invasion of Chechnya could risk a major defeat — not unlike the kind it suffered during the 1994-96 war, when it lost control of Chechnya to a much smaller, poorly-armed guerrilla force.

Nonetheless, Russian public opinion appears to favor tough action against Chechnya in the wake of a series of apartment bombings in Russia during the past month that have been blamed on the Chechen militants.

Meanwhile, Chechens tried desperately to flee the bombing in their republic.

An estimated 40,000 people arrived in the neighboring republic of Ingushetia, prompting the Ingushetian authorities to close the border on yesterday.

Plane crasht on son in Hawaii with

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii we wa A sightseeing airplan We w people aboard crashed the flanks of the Mauna cano. There were no sur 'The plane was totally ished, just like a plane w

if it went into rocks at ah of speed," Doug spokesperson for the canoes National Park, sa Rescue crews rea mote spot on the B Hawaii to recover

day morning, said the Hawaii Count No details were the victims. The Redimina

working with the tour 3. Floring Island Air, to notifue 4. Texas Butts said. Big Island Air notified &

ternational Airport at 72 1. Tennes Saturday that its plane w 8. Georg due with a pilot and nine 9. Virgin gers, Marilyn Kali, a special purchase son for the state Depart 1. Ohio Transportation, said. 2. Geo The plane had taken 13. Kar

the airport at 4:30 p.m. Str for a tour of the island's M Loa and Mauna Kea volcan 'This is a shock to us Mann, Big Island Air's direct operations, said.

Fireworks storage blows up, kills 50

sions ripped through a crowded area of street stalls and shops across from a downtown bus station in the central Mexican city of Celaya on yesterday, killing at least 50 people, authorities said

Media reports said the tragedy apparently began when a fireworks storehouse exploded about 10:30 a.m. A few minutes later there was a second large blast. Some reports said it was caused when

gas tanks used for cooking exploded at a nearby restaurant, while others blamed more exploding fireworks. The second explosion apparently trapped some rescuers who had responded to the first blast. Television footage showed some concrete

buildings reduced to mounds of rubble, oth-

ers with their fronts blown off

The streets were piled with debris and bodies as fire fighters sprayed water on the remnants of the fire caused by the blasts.

State spokesperson Francisco Aguilar said 50 people were confirmed dead and 76 others were injured in this industrial city 120 miles northwest of Mexico City

Among those reported dead were a police officer, two Red Cross workers, two firefighters, a local reporter and four children.

'It's a very big tragedy,' Mayor Ricardo Suarez said in an interview with the national TV Azteca network

Troops were called in to help police evac uate residents and seal off an eight-block area around the explosions as rescue workers searched for more victims.

Turkish police storm pris 21. Oki

curity forces at an Ankara prison for call yesterday in a riot that left 10 inmates dead and Ass

The violence began early Sunday morning in M

Guards tried to enter a prison ward after being off that the inmates were planning to escape by

selves in their ward to thwart the search, fired and hurled bombs at the security forces, the min 5. Texas statement said.

have weapons and cellular phones.

The security forces fired tear gas before \$10. Ge

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10 inmates killed in riot 24. Virg ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Left-wing inmates ball

Ulucanlar prison.

a tunnel, the justice ministry said. The approximately 50 inmates barricaded

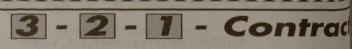
Turkish police have little control over the country crowded prisons, and it is not uncommon for inno

the ward.

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