

SEISMIC PROCESSES IN UZBEKISTAN: HISTORY OF THE TASHKENT EARTHQUAKE

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ABSTRACT

The territory of Uzbekistan occupies the central part of Central Asia and is located in the area of transition from the mountain structures of the Tien Shan to the Turan platform. This transitional area is characterized by heterogeneous manifestations of seismicity due to the complex geodynamic interaction of lithospheric plates. The article describes issues based on the information seismic processes in Uzbekistan, as well as deals with the history of the Tashkent earthquake.

Keywords: *earthquake, organizations, seismic processes, consequences of the Tashkent earthquake*

It is known that many interesting events and happenings take place in nature. In particular, one of such events is the earthquake that occurred on April 26, 1966 in Tashkent, exactly one hundred years before April 26, 1966. The quake caused a number of casualties and premature deaths. Two years later, on April 4, 1868, 50 people were died in the earthquake that occurred¹.

The natural disaster, known in history as the "Tashkent Earthquake", occurred in the city of Tashkent on April 26, 1966 at 5:23 a.m.². The strong noise, vibration and bright color coming from under the ground woke up the townspeople³. However, the majority of the population was awake at this time and was busy with their work in the courtyards⁴. The fact that the quake struck early in the morning was one of the reasons many people saved their lives⁵.

The epicenter was reported near the Kashgar and Labzak mahallas in Tashkent. The epicenter was reported at a depth of 8 km⁶. Before the earthquake, there were cases of short circuits in non-contact electrical wires at the epicenter of the earthquake, spontaneous flashing of lights, the appearance of bright colors in the air⁷. Several weak earthquakes were recorded after the first earthquake, with earthquakes of magnitude 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 29 on May 29, June 5 and 29 and July 4, as well as on March 24, 1967⁸.

The earthquake destroyed 2 million square feet of housing in the city. 700 commercial and public catering facilities, 245 industrial buildings, 236 administrative buildings, 185 medical organizations⁹, 181 educational institutions¹⁰, 36 cultural and educational institutions, 26 service agencies were damaged¹¹. As a result, 78,000 families, or more than 300,000 people, were left homeless, 8 people died, 2,211 people were injured, and 200 people were hospitalized¹².

The recurrence of natural disasters, including earthquakes, can cause people to get sick or injured with

1 Tashkent earthquake. Shosh.uz/toshkent-zilzilasi.05.09.2020.

2 Earthquake light // Science and life. 1966 y. № 9. Page 24, About the earthquake in Tashkent // Young Leninist. 1966. April 27 № 79 (7258), Official News // Young Leninist. 1966 y. April 28 № 80 (7259), Square of Courage // Tashkent Binokori. 1968 y. April 26 №50 (281), On the Tashkent earthquake // Culture of Uzbekistan. 1966 y. April 27. № 33 (1062), Iz istoriya Tashkentskogo zemliryaseniya // Muhofaza +. 2010 y. № 4 (66) p.13.

3Maiorov E. The world asks: what is Tashkent? // Star of the East. 1966, No. 8. p. 91.

4 Mirzaev V. Earthquakes. T.: 1966 y. P. 11

5 Earthquake details // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1966 y. May 13 № 105.

6 Representation of the German People's Union. Tashkent 1966 earthquake: memory of witnesses. T.: 2008 y. Page 163, Kashgar mahalla construction site // Tashkent binokori. 1967 y. March 26, 37 (115)

7 Ibid. Page 163.

8 Tashkent seismic station reports // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1966 y. May 15. № 107 (18.369), AN UzSSR. Tashkentskoe zemliryasenie. April 26, 1966 T.: "Fan" 1971 str.16.

9 Hobilov B. Can the house you are building withstand an earthquake? T.: 1966. Page 7., Square of Courage // Tashkent builder. 1968 y. April 26 №50 (281)

10 Tashkentskoe zemliryasenie (1966). <https://ria.ru/20160426/1419855458.html>.05.05.2020

11 Tashkent earthquakes. <https://shosh.uz/toshkent-zilzilalari/03.05.2020>.

12 Representation of the German People's Union. Tashkent 1966 earthquake: memory of witnesses. T.: 2008. Page 15

various diseases, depression, and increased state of nervous tension¹³. More than 1,000 people have been hospitalized as a result of the panic caused by repeated earthquakes in the city. A repeat earthquake on the night of May 10, in particular, has increased the number of heart attacks in nervous people¹⁴. Dozens of people died of heart disease in hospitals¹⁵. Because from April 26, 1966 to December 31, 1969, there were 1,102 earthquakes¹⁶. At the time, the media reported, "Twelve days have passed since April 26. The earth is still shaking. At 11:48 a.m. on April 26, a seismogram tape recorded 5-6 magnitude oscillations. In 12 days, the quake was repeated a total of 264 times". Therefore, many people who were terrified spent the night in tents and courtyards.

On the same day, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party L.I. Brezhnev and the Chairman of the Central Council of the USSR N. Kosigin arrived in Tashkent¹⁷ to analyze the situation with the participation of local leaders and experts in the field¹⁸. In this regard, on April 28, A meeting of party activists was held under the chairmanship of L.I. Brezhnev¹⁹. At the meeting, the issue of taking urgent measures to eliminate the consequences of the earthquake in Tashkent was raised,²⁰ and among these issues it was determined to prioritize the most urgent work²¹.

The causes of the earthquake are the lack of reliable information about its duration, there were still no scientifically based answers to many questions related to earthquakes²². In order to clarify these issues, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party L.I. Brezhnev and other leaders accompanying him, as well as the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Uzbek SSR Sh. Rashidov held a series of meetings with seismologists²³.

In this regard, according to the preliminary conclusions of academician G.A. Mavlonov and other scientists led by the head of the seismological station V.I. Ulomov, the magnitude of the earthquake in Tashkent at a depth of 8 km was 8 points and the need for further development of seismology²⁴. Scientists have been tasked by the government to study the earthquake process within 30 days²⁵. At that time, the causes of the earthquake in Tashkent had not yet been scientifically proven²⁶.

In order to eliminate the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake, to restore the city, changes were made in the work schedule of government agencies. In particular, in accordance with the resolution of the Central Council of the Uzbek SSR "On some measures to eliminate the consequences of the earthquake in Tashkent"²⁷ on May 13, 1966 on the recommendation of the Republican Government Commission, cancellation of exams in grades 5, 6, 7, 9 and end the school year Classes in grades 8 and 10 were completed on May 14, and instructions were given to hold the final exams from May 16 to June 1 this year²⁸. University students were called in to deal with the aftermath of the quake²⁹.

On the instructions of the USSR Council of Ministers, 125,000 students from Tashkent went on vacation to pioneer camps. All expenses related to students going to and from pioneer camps were covered by social insurance³⁰.

13 Save your nerves // Tashkent evening. 1989. № 38 (6,827)

14 Abdurashidov K. Earthquakes, buildings and people. T. : 1967, p.30.

15 Earthquake and Nervous // Science and Life. 1966. № 5. p.32.

16 AN UzSSR. Tashkentskaya zemletryasenie. 1966 years. T. : Fan. 1971. P. 6.

17 Under the banner of friendship and brotherhood // Pravda vostoka. 1966 1 maya. № 96., LI Brezhnev and AN Kosigin in Tashkent // Young Leninist. 1966 y. April 27 № 79 (7258), Courage and perseverance of Tashkent // Uzbekistan. 1966 y. № 5 (293) Page 4, Let's build a new Tashkent! // Uzbekistan. 1966 y. № 6 (294) Page 2.

18 Great courage // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1966 y. May 1. № 98 (13.360)

19 Vsya strana: my stoboy, Tashkent! // Pravda vostoka 1966 g. 29 april' № 96 (15063)

20 Abdurashidov K. Earthquakes, buildings and people. T. : 1967 y. Page 40

21 State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR for Construction. "Elimination of the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake" T. : 1972 g. str. 5.

22 Earthquake // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1991 y. April 26. № 81 (20,948)

23 The morning that shook Tashkent. The Tashkent Earthquake is 54 years old. <https://qalampir.uz/news/1966-yil-26-aprel-soot-05-22-tashkent-zilzilasi-ga-54-yil-buldi-1828613.03.2020>.

24 Abdurashidov K. Earthquakes, buildings and people. T. : 1967 y. Page 27.

25 MDA UzSSR N.F. MS O'zSSR F. № R-837 op. №41 ED. XR-542. P. 212;

26 Causes of earthquakes // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1966 y. April 30, 96.

27 MDA UzSSR N.F. MS O'zSSR F. № R-837 op. №41 ED. XR-542. 72 p; Edited by Sultan Akbari. Disaster and courage in Tashkent. T. : 1966 y. P. 20

28 MDA UzSSR N.F. MS O'zSSR F. № R-837 op. №41 ED. XR-542. 72 p;

29 Eliminate the effects of earthquakes // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1966 y. May 13, Address of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, the Presidium of the OS of the USSR and the MS to the population of Tashkent // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1966 y. May 1. № 98.

30 State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR for Construction. "Elimination of the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake" T. : 1972, p. 13

A number of factors hindered the timely and comprehensive provision of quality assistance to the injured during the earthquake. In such a situation, it became necessary to establish open-air hospitals to provide first aid to the injured. As a result, 72.4 percent of patients had to be treated in the open air³¹.

In particular, sanitary control measures have been strengthened to ensure that the warming of the days does not derail the epidemiological situation³². More than 50 paramedics from different parts of the country were brought to the city³³.

The frequent recurrence of earthquakes has led to an increase in panic and a sense of dread in people³⁴. The number of various additional patients has increased, especially as a result of the sharp impact on the mental state of the population³⁵. For example, the number of patients with hypertension increased by 3,225, or 11 percent, to the number of these diseases, excluding those injured during the earthquake. In the five months since the quake, the number of heart diseases has doubled in four districts of Tashkent. During the year, the number of patients with myocardial infarction in Tashkent increased, reaching 745 this year³⁶. In April-December 1966, the number of patients with these diseases doubled compared to 1965.

During the earthquake, an acute and persistent state of fear led to an increase in the number of patients with diseases related to the cerebrovascular system³⁷, and the majority of patients were young people³⁸. In 1965, the number of people with the disease was 7.1 percent of those between the ages of 30 and 60, while after the earthquake, their number increased to 12 percent, and those between the ages of 50 and 60 were 3 percent. At the same time, among those aged 60 to 80 years with these diseases, the number of applicants decreased by 10 percent³⁹.

Another problem caused by the Tashkent earthquake was the failure of the communication system. The quake, like all areas in the city, caused extensive damage to the communications system. City and long-distance telephone, telegraph and postal services were cut off. The telephone exchanges were out of order. Telephone communication in Tashkent city districts was suspended for almost 6,000 hours⁴⁰. There was great difficulty in delivering incoming letters, telegrams, and telegrams to their owners.

Work was carried out at the level of a government commission to restore telephone communications. Due to the urgent measures taken by the Ministry of Communications of the Uzbek SSR, the communication system was launched⁴¹.

Large scientists, engineers, design engineers, as well as military builders and scientific expeditions began arriving from other parts of the former USSR, along with builders, to rebuild the city devastated by the earthquake.⁴² The first aid train arrived from Ukraine on May 17, Moscow on May 26, Novosibirsk on May 27, and Belarus on June 16⁴³. The city was regularly supplied with tents, medicine, food and industrial goods, machinery, fuel and other necessities. Tents have been set up in Tashkent, 600 temporary shops and restaurants have been opened⁴⁴. In particular, Azerbaijan has extended a helping hand⁴⁵. In 1966, Azerbaijani builders completed work worth 1.4 million rubles⁴⁶. They built 120 apartments in 1966 alone⁴⁷.

31 Ibid. p. 8. Friendship is a wonderful wealth // Tashkent builder. 1967 y. April 5 № 41 (119)

32 Edited by Sultan Akbari. Disaster and courage in Tashkent. T. : 1966 y. P 42.

33 State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR for Construction. "Elimination of the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake" T. : "Uzbekistan" 1972, p. 12.

34 The earthquake and nervous // Science and Life. 1966 № 5. p.32

35 The earthquake and nervous // Science and Life. 1966 № 5. p.33

36 ANUZSSR, Institute of Seismology and other. Tashkent earthquake. April 26, 1966 T. : "Fan" 1971 p. 636

37 The earthquake and nervous // Science and Life. 1966 № 5. p.32

38 ANUZSSR, Institute of Seismology and other. Tashkent earthquake. April 26, 1966 T. : "Fan" 1971 p. 634

39 Ibid. P. 634

40 Do not allow the destruction of communications in the city // Tashkent binokori. 1967 y. April 7, 42.

41 State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR for Construction. "Elimination of the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake" T. : "Uzbekistan" 1972, p. 9.

Do not allow the destruction of communications in the city // Tashkent binokori. 1967 y. April 7 № 42 (120)

42 A city built by soldiers // Tashkent builder. 1967 y. February 10 № 18 (96), Tashkent in the future-exhibition // Tashkent evening. 1967 y. June 15. № 138 (293)

43 Great courage. // Soviet Uzbekistan newspaper. 1966 y. May 1. № 98 (13.360)

44 State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR for Construction. "Elimination of the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake" T. : "Uzbekistan" 1972, p. 151.

45 Adilov F.A. History of socio-economic and cultural relations between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan (1945-1991). Abstract. T. : 2020 y. P. 3 ; Adilov F.A. Azerbaijan's unconditional assistance to the Uzbek people // Looking to the past. 2020 y. 12 last 4 p.

46 Rastyot chislo paromov // Kommunist. 1967 August 29. Tashkent-city bratstva. T. : "TsK KP Uzbekistana" 1969, Nurullin R.A. Toychiev Q. Friendship of peoples is a great force (friendship of Soviet peoples about). T. : 1970, Voronenkov N.D. A city built on friendship. T. : 1971 P. 41.

47 UzMA F-2515, inventory-2, case-37.

The government has developed immediate action plans to deal with the aftermath of the quake, the resettlement of the homeless, and the protection of public and private property, and has set up a 25-member government commission responsible for it⁴⁸.

The commission organized special charitable assistance to help the earthquake-affected population⁴⁹. In particular, a separate account was opened at the Tashkent State Bank Office⁵⁰ (№ 170 064⁵¹), the amount of funds received from various regions of the former USSR amounted to 9 million 975 thousand rubles. The money in the Tashkent fund was spent on the earthquake sufferers⁵².

In order to accelerate the work on housing, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Uzbek SSR and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR adopted a decree⁵³ "On measures to strengthen the management of capital construction and reconstruction in Tashkent." On May 7, in accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR, Glavtashkentstroy⁵⁴, the Main Department for Reconstruction and Construction of Tashkent, was established by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR to restore the city destroyed by the earthquake.

Thousands of families⁵⁵ were hastily evacuated from their homes and housed in tents, as the aftershocks reverted, further damaging damaged buildings and injuring residents⁵⁶. From the first days of the earthquake, the Ministry of Defense delivered 15,000 tents, as well as custom-made wooden tents. On May 25, 1966, the number of tents erected in the city was 15,440. Tent cities were provided with electricity, plumbing and bathrooms⁵⁷. 22 tent medical centers have also been restored to provide medical services to the population of the city.

With the onset of autumn, the onset of cold weather and the increase in rainy days required families living in tents to be relocated to apartments as soon as possible. However, as it was not possible to completely renovate the houses that needed major repairs to provide the entire population with new housing, the government commission also took measures to increase the population density while continuing the construction work⁵⁸.

According to it, it was possible to increase the population in the apartments, to adapt the dormitory and some administrative buildings to the apartments and to build a private house. Conditions were also created for those who wished to move to other cities⁵⁹.

As a result of the frequent recurrence of the earthquake in Tashkent, people of different nationalities from other republics began to move to different parts of the former Soviet Union. In May-June 1966, 6,400 families moved from Tashkent to various cities and regions of the USSR and Uzbekistan and were provided with housing⁶⁰.

On May 26, 1966, the Republican Commission adopted a Resolution "On assistance in the construction of individual housing for citizens of Tashkent affected by the earthquake." According to this decree, financial assistance of 300-500 rubles was provided for each family⁶¹.

For the overhaul of their homes, each family received financial assistance of 150-200 rubles. Thus, until

48 Prospects of Tashkent // Young Leninist. 1966 y. May 1. № 82 (7261), Adilov F.A. Azerbaijan's unconditional assistance to the Uzbek people // Looking to the past. 2020 y. Issue-12 . P. 5

49 To help the population of Tashkent // Pravda Vostoka. 1966 d. April 29, # 96. (15063)

50 Tashkent is under construction // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1966 y. May 14. № 106 (18.368)

51 Address "Tashkent Foundation" // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1966 y.15 May. № 107 (18.369)

52 State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR for Construction. "Elimination of the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake" T. : "Uzbekistan" 1972, p. 52

53 MDA UzSSR N.F. MS O'zSSR F. № R-837 op. №41 ED. XR-542. P. 52; Let's build a new Tashkent // Pravda Vostoka. 1966 May 1. No. 96.

54 MDA UzSSR N.F. MS O'zSSR F. № R-837 op. №41 ED. XR-865. 20 sheets; Government meeting of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR // Pravda. May 8, 1966.

55 Nikitin Yu., Nikolaev G. Tashkent looks to the future // Zvezda vostoka. 1966 № 7. p. 113.

56 Great courage // Soviet Uzbekistan. May 1, 1966. № 98. (13.360)

57 State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR for Construction. "Elimination of the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake" T. : "Uzbekistan" 1972, p. 10

58 MDA UzSSR N.F. MS O'zSSR F. № R-837 op. №41 ED. XR-542. P.1 On measures to implement the decisions of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on urgent measures will assist the Uzbek SSR in eliminating the consequences of the earthquake, in the reconstruction and construction of Tashkent // Pravda Vostoka. 1966 May 23. No. 140.1.

59 Everyone has shelter // Truth of the East. 1966 June 1. No. 121 (15066)

60 Ibid. P.11

61 Ibid. P.11. Square of Courage // Tashkent builder. 1968 y. April 26 № 50 (281)

November 1, 1966, 5,600 rubles were provided to 43,675 families. Loans of up to 1,500 rubles have been issued for the construction of private houses⁶², and as a result of the assistance provided, as of July 1 this year, 3,000 families have relocated to renovate their homes⁶³.

During 1966-67, more than 25,000 builders from other republics of the former USSR took part in the construction of Tashkent⁶⁴. 10,000 builders from Russia and 4,500 from Ukraine alone came to the rescue. Builders from the Kazakh SSR, the Azerbaijani SSR, the Georgian SSR and the Byelorussian SSR were actively involved in the construction of the city⁶⁵. In particular, the builders of the Leninabad Construction Trust of the Tajik SSR built 4 large prefabricated houses with an area of 5330 square meters and 44 apartments in Tashkent⁶⁶. Moscow builders in Chilanzar 26⁶⁷, Azerbaijani builders⁶⁸ in Chilanzar K-24 and Navoi Street have built 7 multi-storey buildings⁶⁹. As of February 1, 1967, 580 Azerbaijani builders contributed to the construction of Tashkent⁷⁰. Construction raw materials were delivered by railway⁷¹.

The creative work carried out to eliminate the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake has led to the emergence of a new satellite city - Sergeli⁷². On October 11, 1966, the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Uzbek SSR "On the transfer to Sergeli" was adopted⁷³. The design estimate for the construction of Sergeli amounted to 48 million rubles. Construction work began in November 1966 and until early 1967 completed the construction of 150,000 square meters of housing in Sergeli district⁷⁴.

As a result of construction work in Tashkent, by the end of 1966, about 300,000 Tashkent residents were provided with housing. By 1970, 3.2 million square feet of housing had been built. This was 1.6 times more than the buildings were demolished⁷⁵.

In conclusion, we can say that the Tashkent earthquake of 1966, while causing great disasters to the local population, opened a new stage in the development of seismology. This earthquake led to the establishment of specific research institutes in the country, changing the landscape of the city as a result of the construction of buildings and structures. It also led to a further revival of a sense of compassion among the population.

62 State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR for Construction. "Elimination of the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake" T.: "Uzbekistan" 1972, p. 11

63 Disaster and courage in Tashkent // Young Leninist. 1991 y. April 24 № 63 (13,739)

64 Rastiyot chislo paromov // Kommunist. 1967 April № 6. p. 15., Toshkent-city bratstva. T.: "TsK KP Uzbekistana" 1969, Tashkentskoe zemletryasenie. April 26, 1966. T.: "Fan" 1971

65 Fraternal support to Tashkent // Soviet Uzbekistan. May 15, 1966. № 107 (18.369)

66 Support from Tajikistan. // Soviet Uzbekistan. 1966 y. 15 May № 107 (18.369)

67 Nikitin Yu, G.Nikolaev. 3.Moskow brand. // Zvezda vostoka. 1966 № 12. p. 163., Relying on reeds ... // Tashkent builder. 1967 y. January 4 № 2 (80), Baltic builders., Sinch house, peaceful house // Tashkent builder. 1967 y. April 7 № 42 (120), Enthusiasm of Moscow people. // Tashkent builder. 1967 y. April 12 № 44 (122), Great victory // Tashkent binokori. 1967 y. April 12 № 45 (123)

UzMA F-2515, opis-2, delo-41.

68 UzMA F-2515, inventory-2, case-41.

69 Zeynalova M. Historical ties of the Azarbaydzhani and Uzbek peoples in the XIX-XX centuries. Dissertation for the co-academic degree doctoral philosopher. on the history of sciences. Baku: 2010 144., Relying on reeds ... // Tashkent builder. 1967 y. January 4 № 2 (80), The future of our city., Do not allow the destruction of communications in the city // Tashkent binokori. 1967 y. April 12 № 44 (122)

70 UzMA F-2515, inventory-2, case-7. P. 42

71 MDA UzSSR N.F. MS UzSSR F. № R-837 op. №41 ED. XR-554. P. 82;

72 A city built by soldiers // Tashkent builder. 1967 y. February 10, 18 (96)

73 UzMA F-2515, inventory-2, case-37. P. 12

74 MDA UzSSR N.F. MS UzSSR F. № R-837 op. №41 ED. XR-824. P. 135; State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR for Construction. "Elimination of the consequences of the Tashkent earthquake" T.: "Uzbekistan" 1972, p. 124

75 Representation of the Association of German People's Universities. "Tashkent 1966 earthquake: the memory of witnesses". T.: 2008 y. P. 20