

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Diplomat Was To Meet Jailed Agent In Colo.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Qatari diplomat was on his way to an official visit with an imprisoned al-Qaida sleeper agent when he touched off a bomb scare by slipping into an airplane bathroom for a smoke, officials said Thursday as the diplomat prepared to leave the U.S.

The diplomat, Mohammed Al-Madadi was going to meet Ali Al-Marri in prison, according to a State Department official and another person close to the matter. Al-Marri, a citizen of Qatar, is serving eight years in prison after pleading guilty last year to conspiring to support terrorism. Al-Marri was arrested after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, accused of being a sleeper agent researching poisonous gasses and plotting a cyberattack.

Coal Mine Rescuers Can Do Little But Wait

MONTICELLO, W.Va. (AP) — Rescuers running on adrenaline waited Thursday for a massive drill to vent noxious gas so they could safely resume the underground search for four coal miners missing in an explosion that killed 25 colleagues.

They had spent more than four hours working their way through the Upper Big Branch mine by rail car and on foot, but had to turn back because of an explosive mix of gases in the area they needed to search.

Crews at the surface resumed drilling in an effort to get fresh air into the mine and hoped 32 rescuers could return by about 7 p.m. They had made it within 500 feet of an airtight chamber with four days worth of food, water and oxygen where they hoped the miners might have sought refuge after the worst U.S. mining disaster in more than two decades.

Chris Adkins, chief operating officer for mine owner Massey Energy Co., said the rescue teams were "very angry" when told to abandon the mission, but their safety was paramount. He said the teams are off their feet and resting, but too anxious to sleep.

Rio Landslide Buries Up To 200 In Slum

NITEROI, Brazil (AP) — As many as 200 people were buried under tons of mud and feared dead on Thursday after a slum built atop a former landfill gave way in the latest deadly landslide to hit metro Rio de Janeiro.

If confirmed, the deaths would raise the toll sharply from the 153 people already known to have died this week in slides triggered by record rains.

"We know that about 60 houses were buried," Rio state health secretary Sergio Cortes told The Associated Press. "It is hard to say exactly how many people were buried under the mud as well, but a worst-case scenario is 200."

The slide that hit late Wednesday was a wall of black earth and garbage about 40 feet (12 meters) high that plowed through the Morro Bumba shantytown before coming to a halt along the edge of road in Niteroi, a city of about 500,000 across the bay from Rio.

Heavy Shooting Breaks Out In Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — The president of Kyrgyzstan declared on Thursday that he would not surrender to a violent uprising that put the opposition in control of much of the country, home to a U.S. air base key to the war in nearby Afghanistan.

Just after he spoke, automatic weapons fire broke out in the capital miles from the Manas facility, where flights were at least temporarily halted and troops were confined to the base.

It was not clear if Kyrgyz forces controlled by the opposition in Bishkek were battling loyalists of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, or simply firing to deter looters after nightfall. There appeared to be little evidence of armed men loyal to Bakiyev in the capital before dusk.

The opposition has seized vital official buildings in Bishkek and elsewhere and was giving orders to at least some security forces, declaring it controlled four of the nation's seven provinces. Opposition leader Roza Otunbayeva said parliament had been dissolved and she would head an interim government that would rule for six months until elections were held. She urged Bakiyev to resign.

Bakiyev, who has fled the northern capital for his stronghold in the south, told a Russian radio station that "I don't admit defeat in any way." But he also said he recognized that "even though I am president, I don't have any real levers of power."

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NUCLEAR ARMS TREATY

Obama: Senate Will OK Agreement

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama predicted on Thursday that enough Republicans will support his arms control treaty with Russia to win Senate approval by the end of the year.

History is on his side, even if numbers in the Senate are not. He will need 67 votes in a chamber where Democrats control 59 votes and in a sour political climate that could tempt Republicans to set aside the nonpartisan deference often given to national security treaties.

"There is a strong history of bipartisanship when it comes to the evaluation of international treaties, particularly arms control treaties," Obama said in Prague, where he signed the new strategic nuclear weapons pact with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

Republicans were expected to swing behind the treaty if Obama can promise it won't undercut the nation's ability to set up missile defenses to protect against an attack from Iran or North Korea.

They also want assurances that the agreement will preserve what's known as the "nuclear triad" — the nation's ability to deliver nuclear weapons from the air, land and sea.

"The Senate will assess whether or not the agreement is verifiable, whether it reduces our nation's ability to defend itself and our allies from the threat of nuclear armed missiles, and whether or not this administration is committed to preserving our own nuclear triad," said Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell. GOP officials say they won't know the

answer to those questions until senators are briefed on the treaty in detail and convene hearings.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-NeV., said Thursday that he bets that Republicans won't "play politics" on the issue.

"Strategic arms control treaties similar to this one have historically passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support, and I am confident that this agreement will receive the 67 votes from both sides of the aisle needed for passage," he said in a statement.

Jim Manley, spokesman for Reid, said Democrats were hopeful they would have the votes but that "there are no slam dunks in the Senate anymore."

The Democrats lost their 60-vote, filibuster-proof margin with the January election of Republican Sen. Scott Brown to fill the late Democrat Edward Kennedy's Massachusetts seat.

Several Senate Republicans, including Arizona's Jon Kyl and John McCain, have said they think Obama has put too many restraints on the nuclear arsenal, which could weaken the nation's defense. Obama this week announced a new strategy that would narrow circumstances under which the weapons would be used.

But the treaty, which would cut back the size of the arsenal, has been less contentious. McCain, for example, has supported arms reductions in the past.

Speaking on PBS' NewsHour, Kyl said he wants to review the treaty and the annexes before he decides on ratification.

"Well want to review all of that, have constructive discussions with the administration

officials in charge of implementing it and then obviously talk to experts, have hearings and debate in the Senate," Kyl said.

He added that the president's modernization plan for the nation's nuclear arsenal would also bear on his support for the treaty. "Those two things go hand in hand," Kyl said.

Democrats are hoping they could find support from Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, a moderate Republican steeped in nonproliferation issues and the top GOP lawmaker on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Lugar has said he looks forward to hearings on the matter "so that we can work quickly to achieve ratification of the new treaty."

Obama said he has talked about the treaty with the chairmen of the relevant Senate committees and would broaden those discussions now that it has been signed.

Obama gave no specific timeline other than by the end of the year. Some administration officials have suggested a vote is more likely after the midterm congressional elections in November.

The Constitution gives the Senate the power to consider treaties negotiated by the president. Approval takes two-thirds of the 100-member Senate, or 67 votes, and the Senate has the power to amend the language. The process is cumbersome by design, and intended to give pacts with foreign nations bipartisan support at home.

The Senate has approved most of the hundreds of treaties it has reviewed, but many others were sidelined or withdrawn by the White House to avoid defeat.

CITY

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"That is the reason any elected official is in the position they are in," he said.

Also, "We need to be very, very aggressive on economic development so we can provide better opportunities for our current residents and future Yanktonites," Swedeen added.

Gross said a single commissioner has only a limited ability to influence the priorities of the commission, but the time in which the commission as a whole has the most influence will arrive soon. The budgeting process for 2011 will get under way next week and continue through the summer.

"It forces us to prioritize on an annual basis the money we estimate we'll have coming in," he said. "One of our concerns obviously this year in this eco-

nom environment is, if the sales tax revenue is not there, what will we do? Even though the commission will certainly have a hand in that, staff does an excellent job of cutting back expenditures if sales tax dollars drop off.

"It's fun to watch January, because the departments that want to make sure they get their new piece of equipment are bidding that equipment in January," Gross added. "The reality is, a lot of pieces of equipment will be delayed until we see how the budget is shaping up."

Responding to another question, Gross said the capital improvement project he would most like to see accomplished by the city is extending 15th Street from Summit Street to West City Limits Road. It's an undertaking that has spent years on the city's capital improvement plan.

"It would do a number of things," Gross said. "It would open up a part of town that has raw land for development. By

placing the high school and the Summit Activities Center in that location, it's made it a much more desirable neighborhood than apparently it was in the past, because no one was ever able to justify developing that land."

Woerner agreed that the 15th Street extension is important to the city, because it would connect major central and western north-south roadways in the middle of the community.

"I would also like to keep an open mind to beyond where we are now with our outer limits," he added. "We are fairly crowded in town. There are some sites available for future development. But I think we need to continually look outside the box ... and make sure what we're doing today will allow us to do what we need to do tomorrow."

With any luck, a tax-increment district created on the north side of Yankton for retail development will come to fruition, Lowrie said.

"One thing we have going on now is a tremendous amount of

leakage to other communities, such as Sioux Falls, Sioux City and Norfolk," he stated. "We are losing literally thousands of dollars of tax revenue by people going to Sioux City and dropping not just \$50-\$100 but \$3,000-\$6,000 in a visit to something such as a large home improvement store. The other thing that happens is the cluster effect. Once something like that comes in, you get more and more around it. If you want to know how that works, all you have to do is remember back to when Wal-Mart moved into the corner of highways 81 and 50."

Swedeen said capital improvements have to be put on the back-burner because they are not economically feasible in the current fiscal climate. "But if I was to look down the road, what we definitely should look into and study is modernizing the water treatment and wastewater facilities," he said.

Tune into AM 1450 KYNT for information on re-broadcasts of the forum in its entirety.

OBITUARIES

Doris Orwig

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Doris L. Orwig, 87 of Hartington, Neb., died Thursday (April 8, 2010) at the residence of her daughter, Kathryn Keithley, in Atlanta, Texas.

Her services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington.

Bentley Rethwisch

CROFTON, Neb. — Bentley Lammers Rethwisch, of Crofton, Neb., 10-week-old son of Brittany Lammers and Blake Rethwisch, died on Thursday (April 8, 2010) at the Sanford Children's Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Monday at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Crofton, with the Rev. Michael Schmitz officiating. Burial will be in St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Fortdyce, Neb. Visitation is 6-8 p.m. Sunday, with a vigil service at 7 p.m., at Wintz Funeral Home, Crofton.

To send online condolences or to view the video tribute, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Adelene Odegard

LAKE ANDES — Adelene Grace Odegard, 77, died on April 7, 2010 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at First Lutheran Church in Lake Andes with burial following in Lakeview Cemetery in Lake Andes. Visitation will be Friday, April 9, 2010 from 5-7 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Lake Andes with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Arrangements by Koehn Bros. Funeral Home in Lake Andes.

Adelene Grace Odegard was born on a farm south of Armour, SD in Charles Mix County on September 12, 1932 to Frank and

Lula (Ridgeway) Laska. She spent her entire life in Charles Mix County except for 6 weeks where she lived in Ft. Riley, KS. She went to school in Wagner for five and a half years, then attended country school. She attended Armour High School for one year before graduating from Ravinia High School in 1950. On July 4, 1952, she married Robert M. Odegard at First Lutheran Church in Lake Andes, SD. She worked for Saltzman Bakery and Crabbs Department Stores in Wagner, SD, then for G. F. Buche for 5 years before working for Charles Mix County as Treasurer, Clerk of Courts, Superintendent of Schools, Assessor, Highway Department, Auditor, and also worked for the R.E.A. and A.S.C. in Lake Andes. Adelene was a member of First Reformed Church in Lake Andes where she taught Sunday school and was on church circle, V.E.W. Auxiliary, American Legion Auxiliary which she was president in 1976. She enjoyed baking,

cooking, the Minnesota Twins, word searches, cards, puzzles, bingo, reading, and her grandchildren. She died on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls at the age of 77.

She is survived by her husband, Robert of Lake Andes, SD; 6 children: Lila Jean Jaeger and husband, Don of Bridgewater, SD; Judy Ann Klicker and husband, Delbert of Wolsey, SD; Rhonda Lynn Blair and husband, Wayne of Geddes, SD; Tammie Jo Merkwon of Armour, SD; Jacquelyn Michelle Slaba and husband, Chris of Geddes, SD; and Russell Robert Odegard and wife, Beth of Madison, SD; sister, Lillie Hruska and husband, LoVern of Bruce, SD; 2 brothers, Marlin Laska and wife, Pat of Lake Andes, SD and Merlen Laska and wife, Mary of Albrunett, IA; 15 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by

her parents, sister, Rose Romann, granddaughter, Tarrah Odegard, and parents-in-law, Karl and Luella Odegard.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
April 9, 2010

Clint VanderPoel

SIoux FALLS — Clint VanderPoel, 28, of Sioux Falls and formerly of Irene, died Tuesday (April 6, 2010) at his residence in Sioux Falls.

Funeral services are at 2 p.m.

Monday at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton, with the Rev. Dani Jo Ninke-Greaver officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home with a prayer service, video tribute and time of sharing at 7 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral of Monday.

To post an online sympathy message, visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

IN REMEMBRANCE

Clint VanderPoel
2:00 PM, Monday
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