

Nearly 500 Prisoners Escape In Kandahar

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — During the long Afghan winter, Taliban insurgents were apparently busy underground. The militants say they spent more than five months building a 1,050-foot tunnel to the main prison in southern Afghanistan, bypassing government checkpoints, watch towers and concrete barriers topped with razor wire. The diggers finally poked through Sunday and spent 4 1/2 hours ferrying away more than 480 inmates without a shot being fired, according to the Taliban and Afghan officials. Most of the prisoners were Taliban militants. Accounts of the extraordinary prison break, carried out in the dead of night, suggest collusion with prison guards, officials or both. Following a recent wave of assassinations here, the breakout underscores the weakness of the Afghan government in the south despite an influx of international troops, funding and advisers. It also highlights the spirit and resourcefulness of the Taliban despite months of battlefield setbacks.

Swollen Missouri Levee Threatens To Burst

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. (AP) — A thousand residents fled their homes in southern Missouri on Monday as heavy rains falling on saturated ground threatened to break the levee protecting their town. Smaller evacuations also took place from Kentucky to Arkansas as rivers and lakes continued to rise, and it was only expected to get worse. Forecasters called for severe storms that will drop more heavy rain across the lower Ohio and Mississippi River valleys, compounding the misery from a storm system that pounded the region last week and over the weekend, spawning tornadoes and washing away roads. Some places have seen 10 to 15 inches already, and the worst flooding may not come until Wednesday. Two storms with heavy rain and possible tornadoes are moving into the region, with northeast Texas, eastern Oklahoma and Arkansas expected to feel the brunt, said Greg Carbin, a meteorologist with the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla. Areas in Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee are expected to get several more inches of rain, and Carbin predicted "substantial" flooding as water lands on ground too wet to absorb it or in rivers and lakes already over flood stage. He said it's unusual to see two distinct storm systems hit the same spots back to back, but that's what will happen. "I think we'll see substantial flooding. It will affect those areas already experiencing heavy rain," he said.

Hospital: Giffords Can Attend Shuttle Launch

HOUSTON (AP) — Arizona U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords can fly to Florida this week to watch her astronaut husband rocket into space as commander of the space shuttle Endeavour, but she will return shortly after the launch to resume rehabilitation, her doctors in Houston confirmed Monday. The doctors at TIRR Memorial Hermann said Giffords is "medically able" to travel and that they view the trip to Cape Canaveral as part of her rehabilitation from a gunshot wound to the head. "Medically, there is no reason she could not travel safely to Florida to participate in this incredible event with her husband," said Dr. Dong Kim, director of the Mischer Neuroscience Institute at Memorial Hermann. The last time Giffords flew was when she was transported on a private jet from the hospital in Tucson, Ariz., that treated her immediately after the Jan. 8 shooting to Houston, where she has been undergoing intensive rehabilitation. But this time, her flight is not an ambulance transport, Kim added. "She is medically able and well enough to travel without additional risks," said Kim, who also serves as professor and chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Medical School.

Federal Reserve Winds Down Support Program

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is increasingly confident in the economy and about to end a \$600 billion program to support it. Now for the next step — figuring out how to keep inflation from taking off. Since late last year, the Fed has bought government bonds to keep interest rates low. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues are expected to signal this week that they will allow the program to expire as scheduled in June. The end of the bond-buying program would mean that, aside from tax cuts, almost all the extraordinary measures the government took to prop up the economy are over. Congress is fighting over how deeply to cut federal spending, not whether to spend more for stimulus. Since the Fed announced the plan last August, worries that the economy would fall back into recession have all but disappeared. The private sector is adding jobs, and the stock market is at its highest point since the summer of 2008. But higher oil and food prices pose a threat. If companies are forced to raise prices quickly to make up for escalating costs, that could start a spiral of inflation. Exactly how much of a threat inflation poses to the economy right now is a matter of disagreement within the central bank.

U.S. Mulls Syria Sanctions

Global Community Wary To Take Aggressive Action

BY MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite a ruthless crackdown on pro-reform demonstrators, there is no international appetite for a warlike approach to Syria — a crucial Mideast playmaker with ties to Iran and a say in any eventual Arab peace with Israel. In contrast with the quick international decision to launch an air campaign in nearby Libya, the United States is responding cautiously to mounting civilian deaths in Syria, preparing steps such as slapping new travel limits and financial penalties on Syrian leaders. As violence escalated anew on Monday, the White House stepped up its condemnation of President Bashar Assad's regime, but stopped well short of demanding the ouster of a leader some U.S. Democrats had considered a poten-

tial reformer and peace broker. U.S. officials said Washington has begun drawing up targeted sanctions against Assad, his family and inner circle to boost pressure on them to halt the repression. Meanwhile, the U.S. also was conferring with European countries and with the United Nations about options for Syria, where more than 350 people have been killed in weeks of protests and government attempts to quell them. Thousands of soldiers backed by tanks poured Monday into the city where the five-week-old uprising began, opening fire indiscriminately on civilians before dawn and killing at least 11 people, witnesses said. Bodies were scattered in the streets. Widespread arrests — often of men along with their families — appear to be an attempt to intimidate protesters and set an example for the rest of the country. President Barack Obama and Turkish Prime

Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan voiced their concern Monday during a telephone call over what the White House called "the Syrian government's unacceptable use of violence against its own people." White House Press Secretary Jay Carney explored the latest developments in Syria and said that sanctions against the Assad regime were a possible response "to make clear to the Syrian government that we believe it needs to cease and desist from the violence it's been perpetrating against its own citizens." "Syria already is under some significant sanctions by the United States, but we're looking at other means to increase the pressure on the regime and the Syrian government in a targeted way," Carney said. He declined to say whether Assad had lost the support of his people, saying "it is up to the people of Syria to decide who its leader should be. That's what we believe."

NOT RUNNING AFTER ALL



Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, shown here in a March meeting in Biloxi, Miss., said Monday that he won't seek the Republican nomination for president next year.

Barbour Bails On 2012 Run

Paul Moving Toward Second Run

BY EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
AND LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Republican Gov. Haley Barbour bowed out of presidential contention Monday with a surprise announcement just as the 2012 campaign was getting under way in earnest, 18 months before Election Day. The Mississippi governor said he lacked the necessary "absolute fire in the belly" to run. Barbour's declaration, unexpected because he had been laying the groundwork for a campaign for months, thins a Republican cluster of no less than a dozen potential candidates to take on Democratic President Barack Obama. With the GOP campaign's first debate scheduled for next week, the muddy Republican field will become clearer very soon as more potential contenders announce whether

they'll run or sit out. Texas Rep. Ron Paul, who lost in 2008 and is a favorite of libertarians as well as tea partiers, is planning to take a step toward a second bid on Tuesday. The next facing a self-imposed deadline of this weekend, is Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Barbour friend and a fiscal conservative who has shined a spotlight on rising budget deficits and national debt. "All eyes will be on Daniels. ... It's a clear path for him if he wants to run," said Doug Gross, an Iowa Republican who dined with Barbour last month and left questioning whether the governor had the hunger to get in the race. It turns out he didn't. "I will not be a candidate for president next year," the two-term governor said a statement, adding that he wasn't ready for a "10-year commitment to an all-consuming effort." As the GOP race comes into sharper focus, Obama is working to both prevent an erosion of his sup-

port while under Republican attack and to raise enough money to overwhelm his eventual foe. He's been packing his schedule with fundraisers and visits to battleground states as he gears up for what he says will be a tough campaign. Potentially vulnerable, Obama has middling poll ratings and is seeking a second term in a country reeling over high unemployment, rising gas prices and the remnants of recession. Yet, the GOP faces plenty of its own troubles. Its field lacks a front-runner. Most of the candidates are largely unknown to Republicans. The most recent Associated Press-GfK poll indicated that only half of all Republicans were satisfied by their choices and a third were dissatisfied. Unlike four years ago, GOP presidential hopefuls have been hesitant to rush into the race. Many have been mindful of the long slog and huge costs of a campaign. Several also have been waiting to see what the first half of the year would bring, when the focus would be on the new House GOP majority and its tangles with the Democratic administration. But now, the clock is ticking, and candidates are under pressure to commit to participating in multi-candidate events. Neither a forum in New Hampshire on Friday nor a debate in Greenville, S.C., next week — the first of the campaign — is expected to draw a full slate of candidates. No such slate exists yet.

Airstrikes Turn Up Pressure On Gadhafi

By KARIN LAUB
AND HADEEL AL-SHALCHI
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — The latest NATO airstrike on Moammar Gadhafi's compound that reduced parts of it to a smoldering ruin steps up pressure on the increasingly embattled Libyan leader as he struggles to hold onto the western half of the country. A Libyan government spokesman denounced Monday's bombing as a failed assassination attempt, saying the 69-year-old leader was healthy, "in high spirits" and carrying on business as usual. A separate airstrike elsewhere in Tripoli targeted Libyan TV and temporarily knocked it off the air, a government spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters. Since an armed uprising erupted in mid-February, Gadhafi has been clinging to control in the western half of Libya, while opposition forces run most of the east. A NATO campaign of airstrikes has sought to break a battlefield stalemate, and the U.S. last week added armed U.S. Predator drones to the mission. Italy said Monday its military will join in strategic bombing raids in Libya. NATO said its latest airstrike sought to destroy a communications headquarters used to coordinate attacks on civilians. A spokesman for the alliance said it is increasingly targeting facilities linked to Gadhafi's regime. "We have moved on to those command and control facilities that are used to coordinate such attacks by regime forces," the spokesman said of the strike on Bab al-Aziziya, which was hit last month, early in the NATO air campaign. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military briefing regulations.

OBITUARIES

Helma Konrad

TRIPP — Funeral services for Helma Konrad, 101, of Tripp will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday at the Emmaus Lutheran Church in Tripp. Interment will follow in Gracehill Cemetery, Tripp. Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 4-7 p.m., with a 7 p.m. prayer service, at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp. Helma passed away on Sunday, April 24, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Society of Tripp. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Kyle Bender

Kyle Bender, age 26, of Yankton, missing since Dec. 11, 2010, was recovered in the Missouri River on Sunday, April 24, 2011. Funeral services are pending with Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

Cardinal Weston

WAGNER — Cardinal Weston, 60, of Wagner died Friday, April 22, 2011, at Sanford USD Medical Center, Sioux Falls. Funeral services are 1 p.m. Wednesday at the YST Community Center, Wagner. Burial is in the Greenwood Presbyterian Cemetery, rural Greenwood. Wake services began Monday at the Community Center. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of arrangements.

John Williamson

WAGNER — John Williamson, 62, of Wagner died Sunday, April 24, 2011, at the Rapid City Regional Hospital, Rapid City.

Walter Rembold

TRIPP — Funeral services for Walter Rembold, 91, of Tripp will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday at the Emmaus Lutheran Church in Tripp. Interment will follow in Gracehill Cemetery, Tripp. Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 4-7:30 p.m., with a 7:30 p.m. prayer service, at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp. Walter passed away on Monday, April 25, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Society of Tripp.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com. In lieu of flowers, the family has established a memorial.

Goglin Funeral Home

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Thursday at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Wagner. Burial is in the Greenwood Presbyterian Cemetery, rural Greenwood, with military honors. Wake services will begin

Wednesday at the American Legion Hall in Wagner. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, is in charge of arrangements.

Mon.-Fri. 9-8
Sat. 9-5, Sun. 12-5

With all the great selections of the past... NOW OPEN!

bedding plants, perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, and rose bushes
You furnish the pots, we'll plant them for you!

Brandt's Garden Center
1208 W. 8th, Yankton • 665-8273

ECOWATER SYSTEMS
Water Softeners
It's That Good.
LINDSAY WATER COND.
209 E. 3rd, Yankton 605-665-7471

BRADY TREE FARM & Landscape
665-4726
660-8285
4 Miles East of Yankton
Container Trees
• 2ft. Colorado Blue Spruce...\$9
• 2ft. Black Hills Spruce...\$9
• 6ft. Quaking Aspen...\$14
Trees Installed With Spade
• 8ft. Colorado Blue Spruce...\$179
• 20ft. Seedless Ash...\$275
FREE ESTIMATES On Tree Service Work

Add BEAUTY & VALUE to your home...

Fireplace Surrounds, Cultured Marble & Cultured Granite

Midwest Custom Marble
215 Mulberry St. • Yankton • (605) 668-0765 or (605) 661-9271
www.midwestcustommarble.com

Locally Owned & Operated

TeMari Designs, LLC
Terri (Haro) Cash - owner
Buying Precious Metals
Insurance Appraisals
909 Broadway #3, Tripp Park Plaza
(605) 260-0446
Monday-Friday 10-5:30 • Saturday 10-2

Send an on-line sympathy card at
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644
WINTZ FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547