Thursday, 4.25.13

Building Collapse In Bangladesh Kills 87

SAVAR, Bangladesh (AP) — Rescuers tried to free dozens of people believed trapped in the concrete rubble after an eight-story building that housed garment factories collapsed, killing at least 87. Workers had complained about cracks in the structure before it came tumbling down, but were assured it was safe.

Searchers cut holes in the jumbled mess of concrete with drills or their bare hands, passing water and flashlights to those pinned inside the building near Bangladesh's capital of Dhaka.

"I gave them whistles, water, torchlights. I heard them cry. We can't leave them behind this way," said fire official Abul Khayer. Rescue operations illuminated by floodlights continued through the night.

The disaster came less than five months after a factory fire killed 112 people and underscored the unsafe conditions in Bangladesh's

Workers said they had hesitated to go to into the building on Wednesday morning because it had developed such large cracks a day earlier that it even drew the attention of local news channels.

Men At Center Of Ricin Letter In Feud

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) — The investigation into poisoned letters mailed to President Barack Obama and others has shifted from an Elvis impersonator to his longtime foe, and authorities must now figure out if an online feud between the two men might have escalated into something more sinister.

Paul Kevin Curtis, 45, was released from a north Mississippi jail on Tuesday and charges against him were dropped, nearly a week after authorities charged him with sending ricin-laced letters to the president, Republican U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi and an 80-yearold Lee County, Miss., Justice Court judge, Sadie Holland.

Before Curtis left jail, authorities had already descended on the home of 41-year-old Everett Dutschke in Tupelo, a northeast Mississippi town best known as the birthplace of the King himself. On Wednesday, they searched the site of a Tupelo martial arts studio once operated by Dutschke, who hasn't been arrested or charged.

Wednesday evening, hazmat teams packed up and left Dutschke's business. He was at the scene at times during the day. A woman drove off in a green Dodge Caravan parked on the street that had been searched. Daniel McMullen, FBI special agent in charge in Mississippi, declined to speak with reporters afterward.

Dutschke's attorney, Lori Nail Basham, said he is "cooperating fully" with investigators and that no arrest warrant had been issued.

11th-Century Mosque Destroyed In Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — The 11th-century minaret of a famed mosque that towered over the narrow stone alleyways of Aleppo's old quarter collapsed Wednesday as rebels and government troops fought pitched battles in the streets around it, depriving the ancient Syrian city of one of its most important landmarks.

President Bashar Assad's government and the rebels trying to overthrow him traded blame over the destruction to the Umayyad Mosque, a UNESCO world heritage site and centerpiece of Aleppo's walled Old

City.

"This is like blowing up the Taj Mahal or destroying the Acropolis in "This is like blowing up the Taj Mahal or destroying the Acropolis in "This construction" said Helga Seeden, a pro-Athens. This mosque is a living sanctuary," said Helga Seeden, a professor of archaeology at the American University of Beirut. "This is a disaster. In terms of heritage, this is the worst I've seen in Syria. I'm

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and a commercial hub, emerged as a key battleground in the nation's civil war after rebels launched an offensive there last summer. Since then, the fighting has carved the city into rebel- and regime-held zones, killed thousands of people, forced thousands more to flee their homes and laid waste to entire neighborhoods.

The Umayyad Mosque complex, which dates mostly from the 12th century, suffered extensive damage in October as both sides fought to control the walled compound in the heart of the old city. The fighting left the mosque burned, scarred by bullets and trashed. Two weeks earlier, the nearby medieval covered market, or souk, was gutted by a fire sparked by fighting.

Clashes In Iraq Prompt Fears Of Wider Struggle

BAGHDAD (AP) — With Sunni gunmen beginning to confront the Shiite-led government's security forces head-on in northern and western Iraq, fears are growing fast of a return to full-scale sectarian fighting that could plunge the country into a broader battle merged with the Syrian civil war across the border.

With more than 100 people killed over the past two days, it's shaping up to be the most people moment for Iraq since U.S. combat troops withdrew in December 2011.

"Everybody has the feeling that Iraq is becoming a new Syria," Talal Younis, the 55-year-old owner of a currency exchange in the northern city of Mosul, said Wednesday. "We are heading into the unknown. ... I think that civil war is making a comeback."

A crackdown by government forces at a protest site in the northern town of Hawija on Tuesday triggered the latest unrest. It has enraged much of the country's restive Sunni Arab minority, adding fuel to an already smoldering opposition movement and spawning a wave of bold follow-up clashes.

It is too soon to say whether the rage will lead to widespread insur-rection in the largely Sunni cities of Mosul and Ramadi or, more significantly, spiral into open sectarian warfare in the streets of Baghdad.

White House Open To Fix On FAA Furloughs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under growing pressure, the Obama administration signaled Wednesday it might accept legislation eliminating Federal Aviation Administration furloughs blamed for lengthy delays affecting airline passengers, while leaving the rest of \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts in place.

The disclosure came as sentiment grew among Senate Democrats as well as Republicans for legislation to ease the impact of the cuts on the FAA, and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood held talks with key senators

"I think there was a meeting of the minds" on steps to remedy the situation, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said after the meeting. He said he hoped for a resolution before the Senate begins a scheduled weeklong vacation at week's end.

According to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, which is privy to FAA data, there were 5,800 flight delays across the country for the three-day period beginning Sunday, when the furloughs took effect. Some were caused by weather. The union said that compares with 2,500 delays for the same period a year ago.

Boston Attack Inquiry Extends To Russia

BY DAVID CRARY **AND RODRIQUE NGOWI**

Associated Press

BOSTON — From Boston and Washington to Russia, investigators pressed for answers Wednesday about the Muslim radicalism believed behind the Boston Marathon bombing, while more than 4,000 mourners paid tribute to an MIT police officer who authorities say was gunned down by the bombers.

Among the speakers at the memorial service in Cambridge was Vice President Joe Biden, who condemned the bombing suspects as "two twisted, perverted, cowardly, knockoff

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, was listed in fair condition as he recovered from wounds suffered during a getaway attempt. He could get the death penalty if convicted of plotting with his older brother, now dead, to set off the pressure-cooker bombs that killed three people and wounded more than 260 on April 15. Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, died in a shootout with

The bombs were detonated by remote control, according to U.S. officials close to the investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly. It was not clear what the detonation device was, but the charges against Dzhokhar say he was using a cellphone moments before the blasts.

U.S. officials also said Dzhokhar has told interrogators he and his brother were angry about the U.S. wars in Muslim Afghanistan and

After closed-door briefings on Capitol Hill with the FBI and other law enforcement officials, lawmakers said earlier this week that it appeared so far that the brothers were radicalized via the Internet instead of by direct contact with any terrorist groups, and that the older brother was the driving force in the bomb plot.

In Russia, U.S. investigators traveled to the predominantly Muslim province of Dagestan and were in contact with the brothers' parents, hoping to gain more information.

The parents, Anzor Tsarnaev and Zubeidat Tsarnaeva, plan to fly to the U.S. on Thursday, the father was quoted as telling the Russian state news agency RIA Novosti. The family has said it wants to bring Tamerlan's body back to

Investigators are looking into whether Tamerlan, who spent six months in Russia's turbulent Caucasus region in 2012, was influenced by the religious extremists who have waged an insurgency against Russian forces in the area for years. The brothers have roots in Dagestan and neighboring Chechnya, but had lived in the U.S. for about a decade.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, bagpipes wailed as students, faculty and staff members and throngs of law enforcement officials paid their respects to MIT police officer Sean Collier, who was ambushed in his cruiser

three days after the bombing.

The line of mourners stretched for a halfmile. They had to make their way through tight security, including metal detectors and bomb-

Boston native James Taylor sang "The Water is Wide" and led a sing-along of "Shower the

Biden told the Collier family that no child should die before his or her parents, but that, in time, the grief will lose some of its sting.

The moment will come when the memory of Sean is triggered and you know it's going to be OK," Biden said. "When the first instinct is to get a smile on your lips before a tear to your

The vice president also sounded a defiant

note.
"The purpose of terror is to instill fear," he said. "You saw none of it here in Boston. Boston, you sent a powerful message to the

In another milestone in Boston's recovery, the area around the marathon finish line was reopened to the public, with fresh cement still drying on the repaired sidewalk. Delivery trucks made their way down Boylston Street under a heavy police presence, though some damaged stores were still closed.

"I don't think there's going to be a sense of normalcy for a while," Tom Champoux, who works nearby, said as he pointed to the boarded-up windows. "There are scars here that will be with us for a long time."

Presidential Library Puts George W. Bush Back In Public Eye

BY PAUL WEST

Tribune Washington Bureau/ (MCT)

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, the four living expresidents and thousands of others head to Dallas on Thursday for the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. The challenge facing library officials will be to keep the crowds coming after that.

Popularity translates into box office receipts at presidential libraries. And although Bush's poll ratings have improved since he left office, more Americans continue to view him negatively than favorably. By contrast, even presidents whom voters threw out after one term -Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Bush's father — were regarded favorably by the public by the time their libraries opened.

In Bush's case, his reputation is more than a topic for historians. It could have a direct bearing on the next presidential election. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is leaving the door open for a 2016 run, and the former president said he hopes his image wouldn't hurt his vounger brother's chances.

"I would hope that people would judge (him), if Jeb were to run, on his merits and his track record," Bush told Parade magazine recently.

The interview was part of a carefully choreographed effort surrounding the opening of the Bush library at Southern Methodist University. The rollout includes a series of TV interviews with Bush and his wife, Laura, on ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN. Fox News, whose conservative viewers represent the Bush library's biggest target audience, will get two interviews.

The resemblance to the start of a national campaign is no accident. For a former president seeking to turn around public opinion about his tenure, "the presidential library is their key to getting a better place in American history," said Benjamin Hufbauer of the University of Louisville, who is a specialist on presidential libraries.

Bush's re-emergence comes after several low-profile years. He did not attend last year's Republican convention and played no role in the 2012 campaign. More recently, he became a grandfather for the first time and attracted unexpected attention for his newest hobby: painting.

"People are surprised," he told the Dallas Morning News. "Of course, some people are surprised I can even read."

Dedicating a new presidential library is a chance for the ex-president and his supporters to cast him in the most favorable light, and for



PAUL MOSELEY/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

Two bronze statues of former United States Presidents George W. and his father George H.W. Bush are seen in a courtyard at the Center as news media outlets were given tours of the new George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in Dallas, Texas, Wednesday.

record. The Bush library is opening in the immediate aftermath of the Boston Marathon attack, the first successful terrorist bombing on U.S. soil since 2001. Bush, whose presidency was transformed by the Sept. 11 attacks, has called the absence of another terrorist strike during the rest of his tenure his most meaningful accomplishment as president.

And yet, sharp criticism over his handling of the Iraq war, the fumbled federal response to Hurricane Katrina and the worst financial crisis since the Depression dealt a blow to his popularity that has yet to subside. An NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll this month found that 35 percent of Americans viewed Bush positively and 44 percent unfavorably (a new ABC News-Washington Post poll on his performance as president showed a smaller net negative assessment, with 47 percent positive to 50 percent negative).

In his 2010 memoir, Bush wrote that it was "too early to say how most of my decisions will turn out."

But he noted that the verdict of his. tory had changed for the better for previous presidents.

Bush's library is the 13th operated by the National Archives. Together, the libraries attract nearly 2 million visitors a year. The Ronald Reagan library in Simi Valley, Calif., is the most popular, with more than 380,000 museum visitors in the most recent year, and the highest ticket price (\$21). Another top draw is the Abraham Lincoln library and museum, run by the state of Illinois. By contrast, the Herbert Hoover library in Iowa gets fewer than 45,000 annual museum visitors, despite its location near a busy interstate highway and a \$6 entrance fee.

Private funds are used to build the libraries, provide an endowment sufficient to cover maintenance of the building and pay some of the costs of the exhibits and public programs. Taxpayer funds pay for many operating costs and the professional archivists who maintain the historical records of the presidency, the public purpose for which the libraries ostensibly exist. Despite the commitment to scholarship, however, the libraries increasthe legacies of the former presidents whose names they bear.

ingly have come to commemorate

Former presidents have total freedom to portray their life and times however they wish until they turn over their libraries to the Archives, as Bush will do this week. Even after the Archives takes control, a more historically neutral depiction of a president's record typically comes only after his death and those of his immediate family and close aides.

"It's always difficult when the former president is wandering the halls," said Richard Cox, an archivist at University of Pittsburgh, who has criticized as unhealthy the cozy relationship between former presidents and library officials.

Hufbauer, another critic, said that even the most popular museums struggle to stay relevant and keep drawing paying visitors. As president in 2005, George W. Bush spoke at the opening of the Air Force One pavilion at the Reagan library, which produced a jump in attendance. But even the Reagan library has had to reach for new ways to attract visitors, with temporary exhibits such as a display of Disney memorabilia.

At the outset, the new Bush library will in effect be "a huge, glitzy, glamorous museum of spin. A giant campaign commercial in museum form," said Hufbauer, author of 'Presidential Temples: How Memorials and Libraries Shape Public

Memory."
The bullhorn Bush used to address rescue workers at ground zero in September 2001, a twisted steel beam from the World Trade Center and the pistol Saddam Hussein carried when he was pulled from a spider hole in Iraq are among the artifacts on exhibit. A standard attraction at presidential museums — a replica of the Oval Office — also will be on display.

But two other presidential libraries within a few hours' drive -Lyndon B. Johnson's in Austin and George H. W. Bush's in College Station — also have Oval Office reproductions, suggesting another challenge that the Bush center's management could face: presidential library glut.

The museum, with an admission charge of \$16, opens to the public May 1, the 10th anniversary of one of the gaudiest moments of Bush's presidency: Dressed in a flight suit. he landed in a fighter jet on the deck of the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, where he proclaimed the end of major combat operations in Iraq beneath a banner declaring "Mission Accomplished." The war, of course, would not end

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