

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Iraq: Hundreds Of Projects Left Abandoned

KHAN BANI SAAD, Iraq (AP) — A \$40 million prison sits in the desert north of Baghdad, empty. A \$165 million children's hospital goes unused in the south. A \$100 million waste water treatment system in Fallujah has cost three times more than projected, yet sewage still runs through the streets.

As the U.S. draws down in Iraq, it is leaving behind hundreds of abandoned or incomplete projects. More than \$5 billion in American taxpayer funds has been wasted — more than 10 percent of the some \$50 billion the U.S. has spent on reconstruction in Iraq, according to audits from a U.S. watchdog agency.

That amount is likely an underestimate, based on an analysis of more than 300 reports by auditors with the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction. And it does not take into account security costs, which have run almost 17 percent for some projects.

There are success stories. Hundreds of police stations, border forts and government buildings have been built. Iraqi security forces have improved after years of training, and a deep water port at the southern oil hub of Umm Qasr has been restored.

7 U.S. Troops Killed In Afghanistan fighting

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Seven U.S. troops have died in weekend attacks in Afghanistan's embattled southern and eastern regions, while officials found the bodies Sunday of five kidnapped campaign aides working for a female candidate in the western province of Herat.

Two servicemen died in bombings Sunday in southern Afghanistan, while two others were killed in a bomb attack in the south on Saturday, and three in fighting in the east the same day, NATO said. Their identities and other details were being withheld until relatives could be notified.

The latest deaths bring to 42 the number of American forces who have died this month in Afghanistan after July's high of 66. A total of 62 international forces have died in the country this month, including seven British troops.

Fighting is intensifying with the addition of 30,000 U.S. troops to bring the total number of international forces in Afghanistan to 140,000 — 100,000 of them American. Most of those new troops have been assigned to the southern insurgent strongholds of Helmand and Kandahar provinces where major battles are fought almost daily as part of a gathering drive to push out the Taliban.

'Daily Show,' 'Mad Men' Repeat At Emmys

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show" won its eighth consecutive Emmy Award for best variety, music or comedy series.

Sunday's victory kept Conan O'Brien from claiming an Emmy for his short-lived stint as "Tonight" host and also deprived nominee "Saturday Night Live" of a trophy for its episode with host Betty White.

Meanwhile, "Mad Men" is winner of a third consecutive Emmy Award as best drama series.

"Modern Family" wins Emmy for best comedy series. Bryan Cranston's portrayal of a meth dealer in "Breaking Bad" and Kyra Sedgwick's role as a brassy deputy police chief in "The Closer" earned the pair top drama series acting Emmy Awards.

Archie Panjabi of "The Good Wife" was honored as best supporting actress in a drama for her part as a law-firm's in-house private investigator, as Emmy voters spread the riches widely among veterans and fresh faces.

Edie Falco of "Nurse Jackie" and Jim Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory" were honored for their comedy series lead roles.

Eric Stonestreet of "Modern Family" and Jane Lynch of "Glee" were honored for their comedy-series supporting roles.

"Top Chef" won best reality series, ending the seven-year winning streak of "The Amazing Race."

George Clooney accepted the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award from his former "ER" co-star, Julianna Margulies, who lauded his fundraising efforts for victims of this year's earthquake in Haiti, the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Temple Grandin," the movie based on the life of the gifted animal sciences expert, earned an Emmy for its star, Claire Danes, and supporting acting trophies for Julia Ormond and David Strathairn. The film's director, Mick Jackson, also was honored.

Al Pacino was honored as best lead actor in a miniseries or movie for "You Don't Know Jack," about euthanasia advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian, who was in the audience and stood, smiling, at Pacino's request. The controversial physician received scattered applause.

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KATRINA ANNIVERSARY

5 Years Later, Revival Incomplete

BY CAIN BURDEAU AND MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press Writers

NEW ORLEANS — Gulf Coast residents tried to put Hurricane Katrina behind them on Sunday, marking its fifth anniversary by casting wreaths into the water to remember the hundreds killed. But part of the catastrophe lives on, in abandoned homes still bearing spray-painted circles indicating they had been searched and whether bodies were found inside.

President Barack Obama joined those hailing the recovery made so far in New Orleans, which he said has become a "symbol of resilience and community." In a neighborhood that has seen little of that recovery, the Lower 9th Ward, it was the failures that seemed more apparent to residents.

"It don't seem like much is getting done," said Charlene LaFrance, a 42-year-old teacher who watched commemoration events on Claiborne Avenue. Brass bands played dirges and marches and politicians spoke about the nation's failure to do enough to rebuild New Orleans, in particular the Lower 9th Ward.

The neighborhood, down river from the French Quarter, was devastated when the flood wall on the Industrial Canal toppled over and unleashed a wall of water that knocked scores of homes off their foundations. Many of the more than 1,800 people killed by Katrina died in the Lower 9th Ward, and only about a quarter of the 5,400 homes there before the storm have been rebuilt.

"This is hallowed ground now," said Marc Morial, a former New Orleans mayor and the president of the National Urban League.

He told a jubilant crowd that the Lower 9th Ward can be rebuilt. "All it needs is decent, strong leaders that don't break."

The Army Corps of Engineers is nearing completion on a levee system for New Orleans that the agency says should be able to withstand a Katrina-like storm once it is finished next summer. The Lower 9th Ward is now protected by a massive, dam-like structure.

Obama, speaking at Xavier University, cited progress made in the recovery but added that there are still too many vacant lots, too many



Janice Boudreaux Lee touches the name of her friend, John Dickey, at the Katrina Memorial at the Town Green in Biloxi, Miss., Sunday. The Katrina monument is 12-feet tall representing the height of the storm surge that hit the town.

people unemployed and "too many New Orleanians who have not been able to come home." The recession and the Gulf oil spill have made it even tougher for the area to bounce back, he said.

"My administration is going to stand with you and fight alongside you until the job is done," Obama pledged.

Ceremonies also were held in Mississippi, where at least 175 people were killed by the storm. In Biloxi, U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor compared the Gulf Coast to the area's oak trees — scarred by the storm but strong enough to survive.

At a marble wall in Shell Beach, La., honoring the 163 people killed in coastal St. Bernard Parish, more than 100 people braved Sunday's soggy weather as parish officials read aloud the victims' names.

Diane Phillips, who lost two cousins and several friends in the storm, volunteered to lay a wreath in the bayou. Some wiped away tears as the wreath floated away.

"You think of the whole entire parish and everything that we lost that day and everything that we've brought back since then," said Phillips, 51, of Hopedale.

D.C. Rallies Offer Competing Messages

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT AND NAFEESSA SYED
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Conservative commentator Glenn Beck and tea party champion Sarah Palin appealed Saturday to a vast, predominantly white crowd on the National Mall to help restore traditional American values and honor Martin Luther King's message. Civil rights leaders who accused the group of hijacking King's legacy held their own rally and march.

While Beck billed his event as nonpolitical, conservative activists from around the nation said their show of strength was a clear sign that they can swing elections across the country and much of the country is angry with what many voters call an out-of-touch Washington. Palin told the tens of thousands who

stretched from the marble steps of the Lincoln Memorial to the grass of the Washington Monument that calls to transform the country weren't enough. "We must restore America and restore her honor," said the former Alaska governor, echoing the name of the rally, "Restoring Honor."

Palin, the GOP vice presidential nominee in 2008 and a potential White House contender in 2012, and Beck repeatedly cited King and made references to the Founding Fathers. Beck put a heavy religious cast on nearly all his remarks, sounding at times like an evangelical preacher. "Something beyond imagination is happening," he said. "America today begins to turn back to God."

A group of civil rights activists organized by the Rev. Al Sharpton held a counter rally at a high school, then embarked on a three-mile

march to the site of a planned monument honoring King. The site, bordering the Tidal Basin, was not far from the Lincoln Memorial where Beck and the others spoke about two hours earlier.

Sharpton and the several thousand marching with him crossed paths with some of the crowds leaving Beck's rally. People wearing "Restoring Honor" and tea party T-shirts looked on as Sharpton's group chanted "reclaim the dream" and "MLK, MLK." Both sides were generally restrained, although there was some mutual taunting.

One woman from the Beck rally shouted to the Sharpton marchers: "Go to church. Restore America with peace." Some civil rights marchers chanted "don't drink the tea" to people leaving Beck's rally.

GULF

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achieved, including helping move residents out of temporary housing, streamlining money for schools and restoration projects, and working to rebuild the poorly maintained levee system that failed the city when Katrina struck.

He promised that work on a fortified levee system would be finished by next year, "so that this city is protected against a 100-year storm. Because we should not be playing Russian roulette every hurricane season."

Implicit in Obama's remarks was an indictment of sorts against former President George W. Bush's administration for its handling of the crisis. Obama called Katrina and its aftermath not just a natural disaster but "a manmade catastrophe — a shameful breakdown in government that left countless men, women and children abandoned and alone."

But Obama has faced questions of his own about how his administration handled the Gulf spill, including accusations officials moved too slowly and deferred too much to BP. The White House has scrambled repeatedly to right the response, pleasing Gulf Coast residents with a \$20 billion victims' compensation fund Obama pushed BP to establish. But there is still plenty of skepticism among Gulf Coast residents about government promises, and Obama sought to alleviate that.

Wright: Obama Muslim Myth Believers Are 'Sycophants'

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — President Barack Obama's controversial former pastor says people who wrongly believe Obama is Muslim are catering to political enemies.

The Rev. Jeremiah Wright delivered a fiery sermon Sunday at the New Millennium Church in Little Rock that largely criticized supporters of the Iraq war. Wright also defended the church's pastor, former Arkansas Court of Appeals Judge Wendell Griffen, for speaking out against the war.

Wright's only reference to Obama came when he compared Griffen's opponents to those who incorrectly think Obama is Muslim. The president is Christian.

Wright says the enemy "will surround you with sycophants who will criticize you ... and say 'you ain't really a Baptist' and say 'the president ain't really a Christian, he's a Muslim.'"

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