

## Bernanke Says Congress Should Do More

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo. (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has a message for Congress: Do more to stimulate hiring and growth — or risk delaying the economy's return to full health. Bernanke held out the prospect Friday that the Fed may take further steps later to help the economy. But he offered no new plans for now.

At a time when Congress has focused on shrinking budget deficits, Bernanke agreed that doing so is important for the long term. But he warned lawmakers not to "disregard the fragility of the current economic recovery."

Investors had hoped Bernanke would use his much-anticipated speech at an economic conference in Jackson Hole to unveil some aggressive measure to jolt the economy.

He didn't. But he did say the Fed's September policy meeting will be extended to two days, instead of the scheduled one, to permit a "fuller discussion" of the central bank's options.

## AP-GfK poll: Field Looking Better To GOP Voters

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans party elders are still grousing about the GOP choices for president — but the voters who will choose the nominee are growing more satisfied with the possibilities with Texas Gov. Rick Perry now in the race.

Party leaders have been looking for a new contender who is strong enough to take on President Barack Obama. As recently as this week, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush — again — insisted they weren't running for president despite urging from supporters.

But an Associated Press-GfK poll released Friday found that Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are coming around to the choices already on the table: About two-thirds are pleased with the party's presidential field, compared with just half in June. And they're paying more attention, with 52 percent expressing a "great deal" of interest in the GOP nomination fight — compared with 39 percent earlier this summer — after a period that saw Perry enter the race and Michele Bachmann win a test vote in Iowa, the lead-off caucus state, threatening Mitt Romney's standing at the top of the pack.

The poll shows Perry, who has never run a national campaign and is just now introducing himself to most people, benefiting from wall-to-wall news coverage over the past few weeks as he became a candidate and jostled the until-then sleepy contest. Just 12 percent of Republicans and GOP-leaning independents have a negative impression of the Texas governor. And 63 percent of Republicans view him in a positive light, compared with 33 percent in June.

Beyond that, Republicans didn't change their impressions much about Romney. Nearly 2 in 3 still view the former Massachusetts governor positively, while just under a quarter see him negatively as he runs a cautious, methodical campaign that's facing its first true test in Perry.

## Deadly Casino Attack Shocks Mexico

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — Mexicans have endured plenty of horrific crimes during their country's bloody five-year war against drug gangs: bodies hanging from overpasses, beheadings, mass slayings of migrants and gunfights on crowded streets.

The torching of the casino that killed at least 52 people on Thursday, however, was a shocking new low for many.

In a nationally televised speech, an angry President Felipe Calderon declared three days of mourning on Friday and labeled the attack on the Casino Royale in Monterrey the worst against civilians in the nation's recent history.

"We are not confronting common criminals," he said. "We are facing true terrorists who have gone beyond all limits."

The attack was different than others in recent years in that the victims weren't cartel foot soldiers or migrants resisting forced recruitment by gangs. They were part of the middle class, working or gambling in an affluent part of a city that was once considered one of Mexico's safest.

## Cuban Man Considers His Extra Digits Blessing

BARACOA, Cuba (AP) — They call him "Twenty-Four." Yoandri Hernandez Garrido's nickname comes from the six perfectly formed fingers on each of his hands and the six impeccable toes on each foot.

Hernandez is proud of his extra digits and calls them a blessing, saying they set him apart and enable him to make a living by scrambling up palm trees to cut coconuts and posing for photographs in this eastern Cuban city popular with tourists. One traveler paid \$10 for a picture with him, Hernandez said, a bonanza in a country with an average salary of just \$20 a month.

"It's thanks to my 24 digits that I'm able to make a living, because I have no fixed job," Hernandez said.

Known as polydactyly, Hernandez's condition is relatively common, but it's rare for the extra digits to be so perfect. Anyone who glanced quickly at his hands would be hard-pressed to notice anything different unless they paused and started counting.

Hernandez said that as a boy he was visited by a prominent Cuban orthopedist who is also one of Fidel Castro's doctors, and he declared that in all his years of travel he had never seen such a case of well-formed polydactyly.

## Bachmann Says She'd Consider Wage Changes

JACKSONVILLE BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann won't rule out changes to the federal minimum wage as a way to attract corporations back to the United States.

She told supporters who packed a sub shop Friday that corporate taxes need to be reduced to lure companies back to the United States.

She was asked by a reporter afterward whether changes to the minimum wage should also be considered to balance the cost of labor here and overseas.

Bachman said she's "not married to anything," but she didn't rule it out.

She said she would ask advisers from labor, manufacturers, services industries and financial services for advice on how to create jobs.

## JUST A PREVIEW



Carl Montalvo and his son, Matthew, look at the high surge generated in advance of Hurricane Irene on Pawleys Island, South Carolina, on Friday, August 26, 2011.

## Irene Takes Aim At Coast

### 2 Million Ordered To Flee To Safety

BY MICHAEL BIESECKER  
AND JENNIFER PELTZ  
Associated Press

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. — Whipping up trouble before ever reaching land, Hurricane Irene zeroed in Friday for a catastrophic run up the Eastern Seaboard. More than 2 million people were told to move to safer places.

As the storm's outermost bands of wind and rain began to lash the Outer Banks of North Carolina, authorities in points farther north begged people to get out of harm's way. The hurricane lost some strength but still packed winds of almost 100 mph, and officials in the Northeast, not used to tropical weather, feared it could wreak devastation.

"Don't wait. Don't delay," said President Barack Obama, who decided to cut short his summer vacation by a day and return to Washington. "I cannot stress this highly enough: If you are in the projected path of this hurricane, you have to take precautions now."

Hurricane warnings were issued from North Carolina to New York, and watches were posted farther north, on the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard off Massachusetts. Evacuation orders covered at least 2.3 million people, including 1 million in New Jersey, 315,000 in Maryland, 300,000 in North Carolina, 200,000

### Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale

Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale is used to estimate potential damage and flooding expected along a coast from a hurricane landfall.

**CATEGORY 1** Winds 74-95 mph (119-153 kph)

Storm surge 4-5 ft. (1.2-1.5 m)

Damage Minimal; signs, tree branches and power lines blown down; damage to mobile homes

**CATEGORY 2** Winds 96-110 mph (154-177 kph)

Storm surge 6-8 ft. (1.8-2.4 m)

Damage Moderate; some damage to roofs, windows; some downed trees

**CATEGORY 3** Winds 111-130 mph (178-209 kph)

Storm surge 9-12 ft. (2.7-3.7 m)

Damage Extensive; minor damage to buildings, homes; large trees blown down

**CATEGORY 4** Winds 131-155 mph (210-249 kph)

Storm surge 13-18 ft. (4.0-5.5 m)

Damage Extreme; almost total destruction of doors, windows; mobile homes destroyed

**CATEGORY 5** Winds more than 155 mph (250 kph)

Storm surge Higher than 18 ft. (5.5 m)

Damage Catastrophic; buildings, roofs, structures destroyed; all trees, shrubs downed

Source: U.S. National Hurricane Center

Graphic: Melina Yingling

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in Virginia and 100,000 in Delaware.

"This is probably the largest number of people that have been threatened by a single hurricane in the United States," said Jay Baker, a geography professor at Florida State University.

National Hurricane Center meteorologist David Zelinsky said earlier Friday that he expected the storm to arrive as a Category 2 or 3 hurricane. Later in the day, other forecasts showed it would strike most of the coast as a Category 1. The scale runs from 1,

barely stronger than a tropical storm, to a monstrous 5. On Friday afternoon, Irene was a Category 2.

Regardless of how fierce the storm is when it makes landfall, the coast of North Carolina was expected to get winds of more than 100 mph and waves perhaps as high as 11 feet, Zelinsky said.

"This is a really large hurricane and it is dangerous," he said. "Whether it is a Category 2 or 3 at landfall, the effects are still going to be strong. I would encourage people to take it seriously."

## UN Headquarters Car Bombing In Nigeria Kills 18

BY BASHIR ADIGUN  
AND JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — A car loaded with explosives crashed into the main United Nations' building in Nigeria's capital and exploded Friday, killing at least 18 people in one of the deadliest assaults on the international body in a decade. A radical Muslim sect blamed for a series of attacks in the country claimed responsibility for the bombing, a major escalation of its sectarian fight against Nigeria's weak central government.

The brazen assault in a neighborhood surrounded by heavily

fortified diplomatic posts represented the first suicide attack to target foreigners in oil-rich Nigeria, where people already live in fear of the radical Boko Haram sect. The group, which has reported links to al-Qaida, wants to implement a strict version of Shariah law in the nation and is vehemently opposed to Western education and culture.

While police officers and local officials have primarily borne the brunt of Boko Haram's rage, now everyone seems to be a target in a nation often divided by religion and ethnicity.

"It is an attack on the global community," said Viola Onwuliri, a junior Nigerian foreign minister, as she looked at the bomb site.

A sedan loaded with explosives crashed through two gates at the exit of the United Nations compound Friday morning as guards tried in vain to stop it, witnesses told The Associated Press. The suicide bomber inside drove

the car through the glass front of the main reception area of the building and detonated the explosives, inflicting the most damage possible, a spokesman for the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency said.

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