

## NATION/WORLD DIGEST

### Reported Death Of Taliban Man Investigated

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Pakistani army said Sunday that it was investigating reports that Pakistani Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud died from injuries sustained in a U.S. drone missile strike in mid-January.

The militant leader's death would be an important success for both Pakistan, which has been battling the Pakistani Taliban, and the U.S., which blames Mehsud for a recent deadly bombing against the CIA in Afghanistan.

The army's announcement came shortly after Pakistani state television, citing unnamed "official sources," reported that Mehsud died in Orakzai, an area in Pakistan's northwest tribal region where he was reportedly being treated for his injuries.

"We have these reports coming to us," army spokesman Gen. Athar Abbas told The Associated Press. "We are investigating whether it is true or wrong."

A tribal elder told the AP that he attended Mehsud's funeral in the Mamuzai area of Orakzai on Thursday. He said Mehsud was buried in Mamuzai graveyard after he died at his in-laws' home. The elder spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the Taliban.

Pakistani intelligence officials have said that Mehsud was targeted in a U.S. drone strike in South Waziristan on Jan. 14, triggering rumors that he had been injured or killed. The strike targeted a meeting of militant commanders in the Shakto area of South Waziristan.

### Obama Tries To Save Climate Bill, Lure GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is endorsing nuclear energy like never before, trying to win over Republicans and moderate Democrats on climate and energy legislation.

Obama singled out nuclear power in his State of the Union address, and his spending plan for the next budget year is expected to include billions more dollars in federal guarantees for new nuclear reactors. This emphasis reflects both the political difficulties of passing a climate bill in an election year and a shift from his once cautious embrace of nuclear energy.

He's now calling for a new generation of nuclear power plants. During the campaign, Obama said he would support nuclear power with caveats. He was concerned about how to deal with radioactive waste and how much federal money was needed to support construction costs. Those concerns remain.

His administration has pledged to close Yucca Mountain, the planned multibillion-dollar burial ground in the Nevada desert for high-level radioactive waste. Energy Secretary Steven Chu has been criticized for his slow rollout of \$18.5 billion in loan guarantees to spur investment in new nuclear power plants, and the administration killed a Bush-era proposal to reprocess nuclear fuel.

### Financial Crisis Response Puts U.S. At Risk

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's response to the financial meltdown has made it more likely the United States will face a deeper crisis in the future, an independent watchdog at the Treasury Department warned.

The problems that led to the last crisis have not yet been addressed, and in some cases have grown worse, says Neil Barofsky, the special inspector general for the trouble asset relief program, or TARP. The quarterly report to Congress was released Sunday.

"Even if TARP saved our financial system from driving off a cliff back in 2008, absent meaningful reform, we are still driving on the same winding mountain road, but this time in a faster car," Barofsky wrote.

Since Congress passed \$700 billion financial bailout, the remaining institutions considered "too big to fail" have grown larger and failed to restrain the lavish pay for their executives, Barofsky wrote. He said the banks still have an incentive to take on risk because they know the government will save them rather than bring down the financial system.

Barofsky also said his office is investigating 77 cases of possible criminal and civil fraud, including crimes of tax evasion, insider trading, mortgage lending and payment collection, false statements and public corruption.

### Economic Forum Addresses Global Economy

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — The state of the world's economy, and keeping it on a course of recovery, is the focus of the last day of the World Economic Forum.

The five-day conference, which draws to a close Sunday, has seen much spirited debate on whether more regulation is needed for the financial industry, boosting sagging global employment and finding ways to ensure the nascent recovery is kept on course through 2010.

Keeping that idea in the forefront of the conference Sunday are Deutsche Bank chief Executive Josef Ackermann and Wipro Chairman Azim Premji who will examine what industry and government can do to increase job growth this year before the forum's annual meeting is declared closed.

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## OBITUARIES

### Dorothy Holzwarth

SIoux FALLS — Dorothy Holzwarth, 91, died Saturday, January 30, 2010, at McKennan Hospital.

Funeral service will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. The committal service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, February 1 at George Boom Funeral Home in Sioux Falls. The family will be present for visitation from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church with a prayer service beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Survivors include her children, Ella May Kelly, Sioux Falls, Betty (Fred) Helmich, Lawton, IA, Allen (Mary) Holzwarth, Denver, CO, Donald (Diana Lund) Holzwarth, Minnetonka, MN, and Ramona (Bob) Adams, Yankton, SD; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; sister, Leona Janda; and brother, Harold Diede, both of Yankton, SD.

A complete obituary and online registry is available at www.georgeboom.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
February 2, 2010

### Richard Boehmer

NEWCASTLE, Neb. — Richard J. Boehmer, 69 of Newcastle, Neb., died Saturday (Jan. 30, 2010) at Faith Regional Health Center, Norfolk, Neb.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Peter's

Catholic Church, Newcastle, with the Rev. Mark Beran officiating. Burial will be in the Calvary Cemetery in Newcastle with the Newcastle American Legion Post 62 providing military services.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m. today (Monday) at the church with a vigil service and video tribute at 7 p.m. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Tuesday at the church.

Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington, is in charge of arrangements. To send on line condolences or to view the video tribute, visit www.wintzrayfunerhome.com.



Haitian President Rene Preval visited the Haitian National Palace to see the damage after the January 12th earthquake that devastated his country. Preval also made time to talk with the displaced citizens living in a tent city in front of the palace in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Saturday.

## Haiti Detains Ten Americans

### Police Hold U.S. Baptists Trying To Take Orphans To Dominican Republic

BY FRANK BAJAK  
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Ten Americans were detained by Haitian police on Saturday as they tried to bus 33 children across the border into the Dominican Republic, allegedly without proper documents.

The Baptist church members from Idaho called it a "Haitian Orphan Rescue Mission," meant to save abandoned children from the chaos following Haiti's earthquake. Their plan was to scoop up 100 kids and take them by bus to a rented hotel at a beach resort in the Dominican Republic, where they planned to establish an orphanage.

Whether they realized it or not, these Americans — the first known to be taken into custody since the Jan. 12 earthquake — put themselves in the middle of a firestorm in Haiti, where government leaders have suspended adoptions amid fears that parentless or lost children are more vulnerable

than ever to child trafficking.

"In this chaos the government is in right now we were just trying to do the right thing," the group's leader, Laura Silsby told The Associated Press at the judicial police headquarters in the capital, where the Americans were being held pending a Monday hearing before a judge.

Silsby said they only had the best of intentions and paid no money for the children. She said her group obtained them through a well-known Haitian pastor named Jean Sanblin of the Sharing Jesus Ministries.

Silsby, 40, of Boise, Idaho, was asked if she didn't consider it naive to cross the border without adoption papers at a time when Haitians are so concerned about child trafficking. "By no means are we any part of that. That's exactly what we are trying to combat," she said.

Social Affairs Minister Yves Cristallin told reporters the Americans were suspected of taking part in an illegal adoption scheme.

## Swift, Beyonce Shine At Grammys

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Taylor Swift's "Fearless" has been named Grammy album of the year.

Swift also won three other awards Sunday night, including best country album.

Beyonce was the night's big winner, collecting six awards including song of the year for her anthem "Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)."

Beyonce's six wins are the most by a female in one night in the Grammys' 52 years.

The multihyphenate entertainer won her sixth trophy with best female pop vocal for her soaring ballad "Halo." Perhaps she was not aware of her record-setting feat; her acceptance speech was decidedly low key.

"Thank you so much. This has been such an amazing night for me and I'd love to thank the Grammys," Beyonce said in her brief remarks. "I'd like to thank all of the fans for their support over the years."

The Kings of Leon, whose "Use Somebody" trumped her "Halo" to win record of the year,

were a bit more entertaining when they picked up their trophy, the family quartet's third of the night.

"I'm not going to lie, we're all a little drunk. But we're happy drunks," said lead singer Caleb Followill.

Beyonce, who in 2004 won five Grammys on the strength of her debut album "Dangerously In Love," a mark tied by the likes of Alicia Keys, Norah Jones and Lauryn Hill, Amy Winehouse and Alison Krauss, reached that milestone again Sunday en route to the new record. She is the first to reach that mark twice.

She won the songwriting trophy along with three writers for her omnipresent anthem "Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)." The superstar also won best R&B contemporary album for "I Am ... Sasha Fierce" among her other awards, and still had the opportunity to win the evening's remaining top award — album of the year.

Lady Gaga, who won two Grammys during the pre-telecast ceremony, kicked off the night with a sequined green leotard with massive shoulders as she sang her Grammy-nominated hit "Poker Face" amid an elaborate stage that included dramatic choreography and pyrotechnics.

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## Egypt Questions Suspects Of New Militant Group

BY SALAH NASRAWI  
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO — Some 25 Egyptians arrested in November are being questioned by prosecutors for allegedly planning terrorist attacks, a security official and a lawyer said Sunday.

The security official said the suspects were arrested on charges of stockpiling weapons and explosives to be used in "attacks against targets inside Egypt." The men were arrested in Mansoura, northeast of Cairo, two months ago and are believed to be members of a new Islamic militant group.

The official and lawyer both spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigations.

"They are accused of forming a new Islamic militant group based on ideas of Sayyid Qutb," said the lawyer referring to an Egyptian ideologue executed in 1966 whose ideas provide much of the intellectual basis for today's militant groups.

The Egyptian independent daily Al-Masry Al-Youm reported Sunday that the group was planning to attack U.S. ships in the Suez Canal and the tomb of revered Jewish holy man, Abu Hatzira in the Nile Delta.

Quoting security officials, the paper also said the group was planning to ship weapons and explosives to Hamas for use in their rockets.

The report added that some of the suspects have received training in the troubled Sudanese region of Darfur.

Egypt security forces have recently reported the arrest of several new militant groups looking to carry out attacks against Egyptian and foreign targets, mainly U.S. and Israeli interests.

**HONORING THEIR MEMORY**  
*Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them*

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

**Dorothy Claire Nedved**  
who passed away on February 1, 2009

**Allen D. Cowling**  
who passed away on February 2, 2009

**William K. Miller**  
who passed away on February 2, 2009

**Betty J. Branaugh**  
who passed away on February 4, 2009

**John M. Garvey**  
who passed away on February 4, 2009

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