

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

U.S. Rockets Kill 12 Afghan Civilians

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP) — Two U.S. rockets slammed into a home Sunday outside the southern Taliban stronghold of Marjah, killing 12 civilians after Afghanistan's president appealed to NATO to take care in its campaign to seize the town.

Inside Marjah, Marines encountered "death at every corner" in their second day of a massive offensive to capture this bleak mud-brick city filled with booby traps, hardcore Taliban fighters and civilians unsure where to cast their loyalty.

Marines confronted a fierce sandstorm as they ducked in and out of doorways and hid behind bullet-riddled walls to evade sniper fire. To the north, U.S. Army troops fought skirmishes with Taliban fighters, calling in a Cobra attack helicopter against the insurgents.

Insurgents littered the area with booby traps and explosives before the offensive, and the sound of controlled detonations — about three every hour — punctuated the day along with mortars and rocket fire.

"Our children are very scared by the explosions. When will it end?" asked Zaher, a 25-year-old poppy farmer who like many Afghans goes by one name.

Family: Ala. Prof Gave No Hint Of Violence

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — An Alabama professor accused of shooting six colleagues was vocal in her resentment over being denied tenure and the looming loss of her teaching post, though relatives and students said she had never suggested she might become violent.

Not even Amy Bishop's husband knew she might turn violent, according to the man's father. Everyone from family and friends to her students at the University of Alabama in Huntsville said the intelligent and at times awkward teacher seemed normal in the hours before police say she opened fire in a faculty meeting Friday afternoon, leaving three dead and another three wounded.

Jim Anderson — the father of Bishop's husband, James Anderson — told The Associated Press on Sunday his son had no idea Bishop was planning the bloodshed she's accused of.

"He knew nothing. He didn't know anything," the father said. He said that the police had spoken with his son at length and that "they are doing a good job."

Indeed, there were many things Bishop apparently did not reveal to those around her.

Southern States brace For More Snow

ATLANTA (AP) — Several areas across the Deep South might soon be glazed with another coating of snow.

The National Weather Service says 2 to 4 inches could fall late Sunday and early Monday across southern Tennessee and north-eastern Alabama, while 1 inch to 2 inches could fall in parts of northern and central Georgia.

Mountainous portions of Georgia and the Carolinas could get up to 3 inches.

Several cities that are ill-equipped to deal with icy roads and piled snow, including Atlanta, were paralyzed by a snowstorm that dropped several inches of snow on the region Friday and Saturday.

Thousands of flights were canceled at the nation's busiest airport in Atlanta, and icy streets caused hundreds of fender-benders in the region.

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U.S. Seeks Support For Tough Iran Stance

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer

DOHA, Qatar — U.S. officials sought to shore up support Sunday for a tougher stand against Iran's nuclear program by saying Tehran had left the world little choice and expressing renewed confidence that holdout China would come around to harsher U.N. penalties.

Even as the Obama administration intensifies its diplomacy, Iran is showing little sign of bending to the will of its critics. Past U.N. sanctions have had little effect. Some outside experts have detected what they believe are new slowdowns in Iran's nuclear advances, but the Islamic republic is believed headed toward having nuclear weapons capability in perhaps a few years — estimates vary as to when.

President Barack Obama's senior military adviser called for more time for diplomatic pressure to work and said from Israel, which has hinted that it might attack if negotiations to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions failed, that such action could have "unin-

tended consequences" throughout the Middle East. Israel views Iran's nuclear program as a threat to its very existence.

While diplomatic patience has its limits, "we're not there yet," U.S. Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in Tel Aviv.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a quick visit to Persian Gulf allies Qatar and Saudi Arabia, told a forum on U.S.-Muslim relations that Iran has not lived up to its nuclear obligations and has rebuffed U.S. and international efforts to engage in serious talks. She said Iran has a right to nuclear power, but only if shown unequivocally it is to be used just for peaceful purposes.

While Iran insists it has no desire to get the bomb, Clinton said it appears otherwise.

"The evidence is accumulating that that is exactly what they are trying to do," she said during a question-and-answer session with her audience at the U.S.-Islamic World Forum, attended by officials and scholars from around the world. She also used pointed language in stressing that after months of failed efforts aimed at

direct talks with Iran, tougher action is now required.

"It's time for Iran to be held to account for its activities," she said, alluding to penalties designed to squeeze Iran's economy.

In her speech, Clinton said the U.S. and others were working on "new measures" to try to persuade Iran to change its course.

She added: "I would like to figure out a way to handle it in as peaceful an approach as possible, and I certainly welcome any meaningful engagement, but we don't want to be engaging while they are building their bomb."

Obama has said that work to broaden economic sanctions in the U.N. Security Council is moving along quickly, but he hasn't given a specific timeline. China, one of five permanent members of the Security Council, has close economic ties to Iran and can block a resolution by itself.

"We have the support of everyone from Russia to Europe. And I believe we'll get the support of China to continue to impose sanctions on Iran to isolate them, to make it clear that in

fact they cannot move forward," U.S. Vice President Joe Biden told NBC's "Meet the Press" from Canada, where he was attending the Olympics.

"We need to work on China a little bit more," added Obama's national security adviser, James Jones. "But China wants to be seen as a responsible global influence in this. On this issue, they can't, they cannot be non-supportive," he told "Fox News Sunday."

Clinton struck a similar tone, saying in Doha that "the weight is maybe beginning to move" toward China supporting sanctions.

Clinton's stops in Qatar and in Saudi Arabia coincided with a string of diplomatic and military contacts in the Middle East, including Mullen's visits to both Egypt and Israel.

Her top three deputies — James Steinberg, Jacob Lew and William Burns — were expected in the region in coming days. So was Gen. David Petraeus, chief of U.S. Central Command with responsibility for U.S. military operations across the Middle East.

U.S. Forces Scale Back Haiti Relief Role

BY JAMES ANDERSON AND JONATHAN M. KATZ
Associated Press Writers

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The biggest U.S. military surge since Iraq and Afghanistan is scaling back a month after the troops arrived in haste to aid victims of Haiti's catastrophic quake.

Great gray ships have been leaving behind Haiti's battered shores as thousands of American troops pack up their tents. The mission, however, is far from over.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates says the U.S. will be in Haiti for the long haul, although troop strength is down to 13,000 from a Feb. 1 peak of 20,000. Those who remain will accompany Haitians in an arduous struggle toward recovery.

Within a broad international relief effort, U.S. forces have provided some of the most visible support to a nation whose government and infrastructure were nearly wiped out in less than a

minute on Jan. 12.

They have shored up the capital's quake-damaged port to operate at several times its pre-quake tonnage, while acting as a security and logistics mainstay for U.N. food distributions. Military choppers have delivered life-sustaining relief to isolated villages.

The flow of injured quake victims to the USNS Comfort hospital ship has eased, but the need for medical facilities remains overwhelming in Port-au-Prince.

"We're pretty saturated. This is the chokepoint," said Air Force Maj. John Mansuy of St. Clairsville, Ohio, the operating room nurse in a tented, full-service unit with zipper doors and a positive air flow to keep out choking dust that blankets a landfill in the teeming Cite Soleil slum.

His medical team takes in people strapped to stretchers — with fractures, open wounds and other life-threatening maladies — before rushing them offshore to the Comfort.

The Haiti aid operation, costing the Pentagon \$234 million and counting, has added a new strain to an already overtaxed military. About seven in 10 members of the Cite-Soleil's modern-day MASH unit are veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — and many are scheduled to return there.

U.S. Southern Command chief Gen. Douglas Fraser would not specify during a weekend visit what U.S. troop levels would be in the coming months.

"Remember that the capability and the capacity the United States military brought in was for immediate relief," he told reporters.

The U.S. military already is turning certain tasks back over to the Haitians, such as daytime air-traffic control at Port-au-Prince's damaged international airport, where commercial flights are expected to resume by Friday.

One day at the gates of the collapsed Hotel Montana, a group of Haitian children greeted soldiers with the 82nd Airborne with a rendition of Michael Jackson's moonwalk. The soldiers replied with a moonwalk of their own. "Hey, you're good!" one of the kids shouted.

"No one is scared of them. They aren't aggressive, they wave hello," said Jacques Michilet, 31, who lost his home and is raising two daughters in roadside shack.

Like many impoverished Haitians, Michilet doesn't just want the soldiers to stay; He wants his country annexed by the United States.

The U.S. military has not always been so welcome in its long history of military involvement in Haiti.

A Marine-led occupation from 1915 to 1934 is widely seen as a high water mark of U.S. intervention. Troops returned repeatedly, paving the way in 1994 for President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to power — and then quelling widespread violence in 2004 after Aristide fled into exile aboard a U.S. plane.

OBITUARIES

Anna Redman

MENNO — Anna M. Redman, 82, of Menno, SD, died on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at Freeman Medical Center, Freeman, SD.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at Grace Lutheran Church, Menno, with Rev. Brad Danielson officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery at a later date.

Visitations will be 5-7 p.m. Monday, February 15, 2010 at Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, SD and will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Anna was born August 8, 1927 to Andrew and Maria (Waldner) Gross, on the family farm near Bridgewater. After her father's death in 1928, her mother and 3 sisters moved to her uncle and aunt's farm near Freeman. She attended country school and graduated from Freeman Academy in 1945. She received her teaching degree from Freeman Jr. College and taught country school in the Freeman and Menno area. Anna was united in marriage to Oliver Redman in Freeman on September 17, 1949. They farmed together with his brother, Herman and his wife, Anna on the family farm southeast of Menno for over 45 years. Anna



Redman

loved farming, gardening, quilting and spending time with her family. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church Women and the Menno Pioneer Power Show Association.

She is survived by two daughters, Jean (Dan) Clarke of Emery and Jennifer (Greg) Starnes of Sioux Falls; 3 step-grand children Doran, Allison and Noelle; a sister-in-law, Anna K. Redman of Menno; two special nieces, Karen (Bob) Rames of Hickory Hills, Illinois and Renee (Mark) Huenemann of Surprise, Arizona, and their families; and many cousins, nephews and nieces.

Anna was preceded in death by her husband Oliver in 2003, her brother-in-law Herman, her parents and sisters, Katherine Sunderman, Pauline Gross and Mary Gross.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 15, 2010

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Schools Face Budget Holes As Stimulus Runs Out

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The nation's public schools are falling under severe financial stress as states slash education spending and drain federal stimulus money that staved off deep classroom cuts and widespread job losses.

School districts have already suffered big budget cuts since the recession began two years ago, but experts say the cash crunch will get a lot worse as states run out of stimulus dollars.

The result in many hard-hit districts: more teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, smaller paychecks, fewer electives and extracurricular activities, and decimated summer school programs.

The situation is particularly ugly in California, where school districts are preparing for mass layoffs and swelling class sizes as the state grapples with another massive budget shortfall.

The crisis concerns parents like Michelle Parker in San Francisco, where the school district is preparing to lay off hundreds of school employees and raise class sizes because it faces a \$113 million budget deficit

over next two years.

"I'm worried they're not going to have the quality education that's going to make them competitive in a global society," said Parker, who has three kids in district elementary schools.

Around the country, state governments are cutting money for schools as they grapple with huge budget gaps triggered by high unemployment, sluggish retail sales and falling real estate prices. A recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that 41 states face midyear budget shortfalls totaling \$35 billion.

"The states are facing a dismal financial picture," said Jack

Jennings, president of the Center on Education Policy.

The Obama administration's \$787 billion federal stimulus package provided roughly \$100 billion for education, including \$54 billion to stabilize state budgets. In October the White House said the stimulus created or saved 250,000 education jobs.

But many states have used most of their stimulus money, leaving little to cushion budget cuts in the coming fiscal year.

Experts say the looming cuts could weaken the nation's public schools, worsen unemployment, undermine President Obama's education goals and widen the achievement gap between students in rich and poor districts.

Wealthier communities are filling school budget gaps with local tax increases and aggressive fundraising, but could worsen inequality and undermine the larger system for paying for public schools, said John Rogers, who heads the UCLA Institute for Democracy, Education and Access.

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Donald Graham
who passed away on
February 16, 2009

Mary K. O'Leary
who passed away on
February 18, 2009

Robert L. Kranig
who passed away on
February 19, 2009

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chooses to
get dirty.



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A meaningful funeral allows you to grieve and say goodbye, as well as remember and laugh. It's a significant celebration that honors Dad. One that in many ways, is also for you.

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