

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Haiti Citizens Fear Upcoming Earthquakes

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Hundreds of houses that survived Haiti's killer quake still stand empty even as quake victims desperate for shelter crowd the streets. The reason is fear: Nobody is quite sure they can withstand another quake.

At least 54 aftershocks have shuddered through Haiti's shattered capital since a Jan. 12 quake killed more than 200,000 people. They have toppled weakened buildings faster than demolition crews can get to them, sending up new clouds of choking dust. On Monday, three children were killed when a school collapsed in the northern city of Cap-Haitien. It wasn't clear what caused the collapse, which occurred after a late-night tremor and heavy rains.

That may be awhile. Seismologists say more, damaging aftershocks are likely and there's even a chance of another large quake following quickly after the initial catastrophe in the capital of 3 million people.

In 1751, a large quake hit the island that Haiti shares with the Dominican Republic. About a month later, another one destroyed Port-au-Prince.

Five People Dead In Small Plane Crash

A small plane trying to land broke apart and tore through a snowy field next to a runway Monday afternoon, killing all five people aboard, including a teenager and a child, and scattering debris over 200 feet.

The crash was reported at 3:45 p.m. at Monmouth Executive Airport, about 35 miles east of Trenton, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters. The weather was overcast, but no precipitation was falling.

Capt. Tim Clayton of the Wall Township police said debris from the crash was scattered over a 200-foot stretch of snowy ground.

Clayton said the victims were three men, a teenager and a young child. The names of the victims were not immediately released, but Clayton said at least three were related. Two were from New Jersey, the other three from elsewhere, he said.

The plane was based at the airport and was returning to land when the crash occurred, Clayton said. It was not immediately clear how long the plane was gone. Relatives of some of the victims were at the airport when the crash occurred, Clayton said, but it was not clear if they had witnessed the crash.

Clinton: Iran Becoming Military Dictatorship

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday Iran is sliding into a military dictatorship, a new assessment suggesting a rocky road ahead for U.S.-led efforts to stop Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

As the first high-level Obama administration official to make such an accusation, Clinton was reflecting an ever-dimming outlook for persuading Iran to negotiate limits on its nuclear program, which it has insisted is intended only for peaceful purposes. The U.S. and others — including the two Gulf countries Clinton visited Sunday and Monday — believe Iran is headed for a nuclear bomb capability.

Clinton also was revealing the logic of the administration's plan to target the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps with a new round of international sanctions intended to compel Iran to curb its nuclear ambitions before it increases the likelihood of a military clash.

Clinton flew to Riyadh, the Saudi capital, where Saudi Arabia's foreign minister expressed doubts about the usefulness of imposing more sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program. In a joint appearance with Clinton, Prince Saud al-Faisal said that the threat posed by Iran's nuclear ambitions demands a more immediate solution than sanctions. He described sanctions as a long-term solution, and he said the threat is more pressing. The Saudi foreign minister didn't identify a preferred short-term resolution.

Clinton was driven in King Abdullah's private bus about 65 miles northeast to Rawdat Khurayim, a secluded royal hunting retreat where the vacationing king hosted her for lunch — and where a large-screen TV was on. Afterward they met privately in his elaborately appointed tent, which includes five crystal chandeliers in the reception room. Clinton also met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal in Riyadh and later was flying to Jeddah on the Red Sea coast.

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AFGHANISTAN

Taliban Step Up Attacks In Conflict

BY ALFREDE DE MONTESQUIOU
Associated Press Writer

MARJAH, Afghanistan — Taliban fighters stepped up counterattacks Monday against Marines and Afghan soldiers in the militant stronghold of Marjah, slowing the allied advance to a crawl despite Afghan government claims that the insurgents are broken and on the run.

Taliban fighters appeared to be slipping under cover of darkness into compounds already deemed free of weapons and explosives, then opening fire on the Marines from behind U.S. lines.

Also Monday, NATO said five civilians were accidentally killed and two wounded by an airstrike when they were mistakenly believed to have been planting roadside bombs in Kandahar province, east of the Marjah offensive.

The airstrike happened one day after 12 people, half of them children, were killed by two U.S. missiles that struck a house on the outskirts of Marjah. Afghan officials said Monday that three Taliban fighters were in the house at the time of the attack.

On the third day of the main attack on Marjah, Afghan commanders spoke optimistically about progress in the town of about 80,000 people, the linchpin of the Taliban logistical and opium poppy smuggling network in the militant-influenced south.

Brig. Gen. Sher Mohammad Zazai, commander of Afghan troops in the south, told

reporters in nearby Lashkar Gah that there had been "low resistance" in the town, adding "soon we will have Marjah cleared of enemies."

Interior Minister Hanif Atmar said many insurgent fighters had already fled Marjah, possibly heading for Pakistan.

In Marjah, however, there was little sign the Taliban were broken. Instead, small, mobile teams of insurgents repeatedly attacked U.S. and Afghan troops with rocket, rifle and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Insurgents moved close enough to the main road to fire repeatedly at columns of mine-clearing vehicles.

At midday at least six large gunbattles were raging across the town, and helicopter gunships couldn't cover all the different fighting locations.

Allied officials have reported only two coalition deaths so far — one American and one Briton killed Saturday. There have been no reports of wounded. Afghan officials said at least 27 insurgents have been killed so far in the offensive.

Nonetheless, the harassment tactics and the huge number of roadside bombs, mines and booby traps planted throughout Marjah have succeeded in slowing the movement of allied forces through the town. After daylong skirmishes, some Marine units had barely advanced at all by sundown.

As long as the town remains unstable, NATO officials cannot move to the second phase — restoring Afghan government control and rushing in aid and public services to win

over inhabitants who have been living under Taliban rule for years.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai approved the assault on Marjah only after instructing NATO and Afghan commanders to be careful about harming civilians. "This operation has been done with that in mind," the top NATO commander, U.S. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, said Monday.

Despite those instructions, NATO said two U.S. rockets veered off target by up to 600 yards and slammed into a home Sunday outside Marjah, killing 12 people. Six children were among the dead, a NATO military official confirmed Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the information had not been formally released.

In London, Britain's top military officer, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, called the missile strike a "very serious setback" to efforts to win the support of local communities, who are from the same Pashtun ethnic group as the Taliban.

"This operation ... is not about battling the Taliban. It is about protecting the local population, and you don't protect them when you kill them," he said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

NATO said the Kandahar airstrike was ordered Monday after a joint NATO-Afghan patrol saw people digging along a path "and believed that the individuals" were planting a roadside bomb. When they realized their mistake, troops flew the wounded to a NATO hospital, the statement said.

Dem. Bayh of Indiana To Retire From Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Evan Bayh, a centrist Democrat from Indiana, announced Monday that he won't seek a third term in Congress, giving Republicans a chance to pick up a Senate seat.

"To put it in words I think most people can understand: I love working for the people of Indiana, I love helping our citizens make the most of their lives, but I do not love Congress," Bayh said at a news conference Indianapolis, where he was joined by his wife and two sons.

The departure of Bayh, who was on President Barack Obama's short list of vice presidential candidate prospects in 2008, continues a recent exodus from Congress among both Democrats and Republicans, including veteran Democrats Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island.

The announcements have sprung up in rapid-fire fashion amid polls showing a rising anti-incumbent fervor and voter anger over Washington partisanship,

high unemployment, federal deficits and lucrative banking industry bonuses.

Obama thanked Bayh for his years of public service.

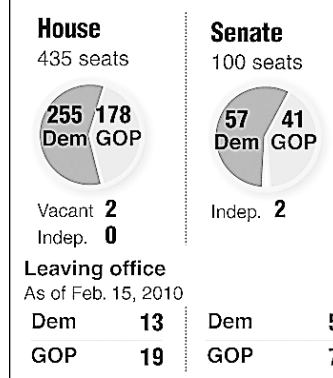
"During that time, he has fought tirelessly for Indiana's working families, reaching across the aisle on issues ranging from job creation and economic growth to fiscal responsibility and national security," Obama said in a written statement. "I look forward to continuing to work with him on these critical challenges throughout the rest of the year."

Bayh, who won the seat to the Senate in 1998, attributed his decision to the bitter partisan divides that have dominated Congress in recent years, though he praised his colleagues as hard workers devoting to serving the public.

"My decision should not be interpreted for more than it is, a very difficult, deeply personal one," he said. "I am an executive at heart. I value my independence. I am not motivated by strident partisanship or ideology."

Changes in U.S. Congress

Current party divisions and the members who have said they are leaving office at the end of the year:



NOTE: Independents caucus with Democrats
Source: House and Senate Press Galleries
Graphic: Judy Treibler © 2010 MCT

Bayh, 54, said he believed he would have been re-elected this November, despite "the current

challenging environment." He said it was time for him to "contribute to society in another way," either by creating jobs with a business, leading a college or university, or running a charity.

His retirement from a Senate seat from Republican-leaning Indiana also adds to the struggle Democrats will face this fall to prevent an erosion of the 59 votes they have in the chamber.

"After all these years, my passion for service to our fellow citizens is undiminished, but my desire to do so by serving in Congress has waned," Bayh said at the news conference.

The Democrats will have to scramble to find a replacement candidate for Bayh's seat. Friday is the filing deadline for the May primary, although the party would have until June 30 to select a replacement candidate.

Bayh declined to say whether he would back anyone as his replacement but said he would support whoever was the Democratic nominee.

OBITUARIES

Roger Hiland

CROFTON, Neb. — Roger McDowell Hiland, 70, of Crofton, Nebraska passed away on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010 at the Golden Living Center in Hartington, after a long battle with cancer.

A private visitation for the immediate family will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 17th at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington, NE.

He is survived by his wife,

Judy; son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Susan Hiland of Hartington; daughter, Maggie Hiland of Mountain View, CA; and granddaughter, Alissa of Mountain View, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Pearl Hiland, Minneapolis, Minn.; sis-



Hiland

ter Phyllis Jean Benson, Minneapolis, Minn. and son, John Hiland, Sunnyvale, CA.
Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 16, 2010

WINTZ FUNERAL HOME, INC.
Hartington • Coleridge • Crofton
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Hartington, Nebraska 68739

Alvin Cap

LESTERVILLE — Alvin Cap, 87, of rural Lesterville died Monday (Feb. 15, 2010) at his residence.

Funeral services are pending under care and direction of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

Julius 'Stub' McGinnis

Julius "Stub" McGinnis, 87, of Yankton died peacefully at home on Monday (Feb. 15, 2010).

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Yankton, with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791.

Visitation is 3-8 p.m. Wednesday at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton, with a vigil service at 7 p.m. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

To post an online sympathy message, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Madonna Blomberg

ELK POINT — Madonna Blomberg, 91, of Elk Point died Monday (Feb. 15, 2010) at Mercy Medical Center, Sioux City, Iowa.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Anderson-Siecker-Kober Funeral Home, Elk Point.

Arnie Royer

MEDORA, Iowa — Funeral services for Arnie J. Royer, 71, who passed away at home Friday, February 12, 2010 will be held 10:30 am

Tuesday, February 16 at Overton Funeral Home in Indianola. Cremation will follow services.

Preceding him in death was his loving wife of 49 years, Karen Rose Royer on January 16, 2010.

Cherishing his life is his immediate family including his children,



Royer

Annette (Steve) McLendon of Excelsior Springs, Mo., Lea Ann (Ron) Hausman of Carroll, Jannifer (Larry) Guthmiller of Yankton, SD; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; brothers, Amos (Marilyn) Royer of Guthrie Center and LaVerne (Doris) Royer of Coon Rapids; sister, Barbara Millard of Dolores, CO; and mother-in-law, Rosella Sipe of Yale; In addition to his wife he was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Hazel Royer; brother, Clinton Royer and sister, Olena Wilson.

Visitation will be held 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, February 15 at Overton Funeral Home where family will be present from 5:30-8 p.m. A Prayer service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday evening at the funeral

home. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be directed to family in loving memory of Arnie. Online condolences may be sent at www.overtonfunerals.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 16, 2010

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Healthy Healing Begins Here...

Rev. Dr. Paul M. Opsahl
After Care Counselor

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory announces a program for those who have lost a loved one and are dealing with grief. Our goal is to assist people through this difficult time. Leading this after care program will be the **Rev. Dr. Paul M. Opsahl**.

Dates:
February 22nd
March 1st
March 8th
March 15th
March 22nd
March 29th

Topics to be covered:
The Meaning of Grief
The Normal Experience & Features of Grief
Constructive Ways of Handling Grief
The Need To Reach Out and Set Goals
Coping with Special Days
Grief, the Latter Stages
What does the Future Hold?

Paul Opsahl is not new to the community as he attended Yankton College and the School of Theology where he earned the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Theology. He earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Conn. His doctoral studies were with McCormick Seminary, Chicago, Ill. He was awarded an honorary degree from Yankton College, where he has served on the Board of Trustees for over 20 years. Rev. Opsahl has 40 years pastoral experience, which reflects his concern and compassion for people.

Anyone who has suffered a loss is welcome to join in this program, which will meet on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory in Yankton.

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