

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Bomb Plot Suspect Cites 'Martyrdom' Plan

NEW YORK (AP) — A former airport shuttle driver accused of buying beauty supplies to make bombs for an attack on New York City subways pleaded guilty Monday, admitting he agreed to conduct an al-Qaida-led "martyrdom plan" because of U.S. involvement in his native Afghanistan.

Najibullah Zazi told a judge the terror network recruited him to be a suicide bomber in New York, where he went to high school and once worked a coffee car just blocks from the World Trade Center site.

"I would sacrifice myself to bring attention to what the U.S. military was doing to civilians in Afghanistan," Zazi said in court.

The Associated Press learned earlier this month that the jailed Zazi had recently volunteered information about the bomb plot in the first step toward a plea deal. His cooperation suggests prosecutors hope to expand the case and bring charges against other suspects in one of the most serious terrorism threats in the U.S. since Sept. 11, 2001.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the terror investigation is ongoing.

U.S. General: 2nd Iraq Escape Plan Possible

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top U.S. general in Iraq said Monday he could slow the exit of U.S. combat forces this year if Iraq's politics are chaotic following elections this spring. Gen. Ray Odierno said there are no signs that will be necessary, but he says he has a Plan B and told his superiors about it during Washington meetings over the past week.

The U.S. has about 96,000 troops in Iraq nearly seven years after the American-led invasion that overthrew dictator Saddam Hussein. That's the lowest number of American forces in the country since the invasion.

Under an agreement negotiated under former President George W. Bush, all combat troops are to leave the country by Aug. 31 although some 50,000 will remain behind to help train Iraqi security forces.

The remaining support troops are to be gone by the end of 2011.

Mullen: Military Has 'Progress' In Marjah

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top defense leaders said Monday that U.S.-led forces were making steady progress in their efforts in a Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan but faced stiffer resistance than expected and the operation would take longer than hoped.

Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters at the Pentagon the efforts against the Taliban were "messy" and "incredibly wasteful," as was war in general. "But that doesn't mean it's not worth the cost."

Mullen said the battle and the broader war can be won with the proper resources and strategy.

"As you've all been seeing, we're making steady, if perhaps a bit slower than anticipated, progress," Mullen said.

Mullen also expressed regret for a NATO airstrike that killed at least 27 Afghan civilians. It was the third coalition strike this month to kill noncombatants and drew a sharp rebuke from Afghanistan's government about endangering civilians.

NYC Officers Acquitted In Sodomy Case

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City police officer accused of sodomizing a drug suspect in a subway station was acquitted Monday after defense attorneys spent weeks chipping away at the credibility of the accuser, a self-professed gang member who admitted to smoking pot regularly. Two colleagues were acquitted of a cover-up.

Officer Richard Kern had faced as many as 25 years in prison if convicted of aggravated sexual abuse, while Officers Andrew Morales and Alex Cruz could have gotten up to four years on charges of hindering prosecution.

The defendants' families sighed loudly and cried softly as the verdict was read. After jurors were dismissed, the officers hugged their attorneys and families, and representatives from their union clapped each other on the back.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

Tour Bus Rollover
In Fla. Kills 2

LAKE PLACID, Fla. (AP) — The Florida Highway Patrol says a tour bus carrying senior citizens has rolled over, killing two people.

The crash happened Monday afternoon in Lake Placid, about 100 miles south of Orlando.

Florida Highway Patrol spokesman Chris Miller says it is unknown how many people were hospitalized. Several people were flown to nearby hospitals.

Miller says the bus originated from South Florida, but he was unsure where it was headed.

KYNT Yankton's Home Team!

AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS 7:40 AM MONDAY-FRIDAY

Wednesday, Feb. 24
7:40 ABS Fundraiser, Rich Wright

Thursday, Feb. 25
7:40 Chamber, Carmen Schramm; 8:15 CVB, Lisa Scheve

Friday, Feb. 26
7:40 P&D, Nathan Johnson; 8:15 YAAA, Pam Meylor

Yankton's Home Team!

We'll Get the Spots out for YOU!

Satisfaction Guaranteed

Steamway CLEANING IICRC CERTIFIED FIRM Since "1968"

BEFORE AFTER

www.steamwaycleaning.com • 665-5700 • 1-800-529-2450

"THE AREA'S LARGEST CLEANING & RESTORATION COMPANY"

Time is on your side at

ROGER'S FAMILY PHARMACY

"A tradition of trust"

When it's time to get a prescription we'll get it done on time — with prompt careful service and we guarantee to fill your prescription in 15 minutes — or less — or you'll get a \$2.00 credit.

218 West 4th Street • Yankton, SD 57078 (605) 665-8042

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Obama Unveils Plan Ahead Of Summit

10 Year, \$1T Bill Would Serve As Start During Televised Bipartisan Event Thursday

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a final effort to achieve historic health care changes, President Barack Obama unveiled his most detailed plan yet on Monday. Realistically, he's just hoping to win a big enough slice to silence the talk of a failing presidency.

The 10-year, \$1 trillion plan, like the current Democratic version in the Senate, would bring health insurance to more than 31 million Americans who now lack it. Government insurance wouldn't be included, a problem for Democratic progressives. Republicans are skeptical about where the money would come from — and about Obama's claim that the plan wouldn't raise the federal deficit.

Striking out in one fresh direction that should have wide appeal, Obama would give federal regulators new powers over the insurance industry, a reaction to a rash of double-digit premium hikes that have infuriated policy holders in California and other states.

The plan is supposed to be the starting point for Obama's televised, bipartisan health care summit Thursday — a new beginning after a year of wrangling and letting Congress take the lead. Yet Republicans were quick to dismiss it as a meld of two Democratic bills the public doesn't want. Democrats, while reaffirming their commitment to major

changes, reacted cautiously, mindful that Obama is asking them to stake their political fortunes in the fall elections.

In the end, Americans who have listened to a year of talk about big changes in their health care, may see much smaller changes, if any. The president is likely to have to settle for much less than he wants — small-bore legislation that would smooth the rough edges of today's system but stop well short of coverage for nearly everyone.

Still, any kind of win on health care would be good for Obama right now. For a president, victory often begets victory, defeat spawns defeat. A modest achievement would allow Obama to move on to other pressing issues, claiming credit for getting something done despite the harshest partisan environment in years.

White House spokesman Dan Pfeiffer called the proposal "an opening bid" for Thursday's summit. "One thing I want to be very clear about is that the president expects and believes the American people deserve an up-or-down vote on health reform," he said.

But privately, a senior White House official sought to lower expectations, saying a solid single is better than striking out swinging for the fences. He spoke on condition of anonymity

because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Liberal Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., one of the rank-and-file lawmakers who would have to close ranks to pass Obama's proposal, questioned what's left in it for him after the president decided to dump a government insurance option sought by progressives.

"For many of us, the House bill represented a series of difficult compromises, and if the president is going to ask us to compromise further to go toward the Senate, I have to ask who's vote we're getting," Weiner said.

That means the plan is unlikely to pass without an all-out effort by Obama to muster votes from anxious Democrats. "I think all of us are going to have to sell this," said Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., the third-ranking Democrat in the House. "The devil is in the details."

If Obama ultimately settles for a pared-down plan, the final bill could look a lot like what Republicans have been calling for over many years. It would include federal funding for high-risk pools that would extend coverage to people denied because of medical problems, a new insurance marketplace for small employers and individuals buying their own policies, as well as tax credits for small businesses.

Jobs Bill Advances Past GOP Filibuster

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan jobs bill cleared a GOP filibuster on Monday with critical momentum provided by the Senate's newest Republican, Scott Brown of Massachusetts.

The 62-30 tally to advance the measure to a final vote on Wednesday gives both President Barack Obama and Capitol Hill Democrats a much-needed victory — even though the measure in question is likely to have only a modest boost on hiring.

Brown and four other Republicans broke with GOP leaders to advance the measure. Most other Republicans voted in favor of the filibuster because of strong-arm tactics by Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. The bill is likely to enjoy far broader GOP support on Wednesday when it's put to an up-or-down vote.

The bill featured four provisions that enjoyed sweeping bipartisan support, including a measure exempting businesses hiring the unemployed from Social Security payroll taxes through December and giving them another \$1,000

credit if new workers stay on the job a full year.

Though employers seldom make hiring decisions based on tax breaks, economist Mark Zandi says the measure could potentially create 250,000 new private-sector jobs. That's less than 4 percent of the 8.4 million jobs lost in the recession.

Joining Brown in voting to break the filibuster were two moderate New England Republicans, Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine, and two retiring GOP senators, Kit Bond of Missouri and George Voinovich of Ohio. Democrat Ben Nelson of Nebraska voted "nay" and Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., was absent.

Reid's bill is a far smaller measure than Obama's \$862 billion economic stimulus bill enacted a year ago. It's also significantly smaller than a rival bipartisan bill unveiled earlier this month by two senior senators.

The legislation also would renew highway programs through December and deposit \$20 billion in the highway trust fund.

"I came to Washington to be an independent voice, to put politics aside and to do everything in my power to help create jobs for

Massachusetts families," said Brown, whose election last month gave Republicans the 41st vote that could sustain GOP filibusters. "This Senate jobs bill is not perfect ... but I voted for it because it contains measures that will help put people back to work."

For his part, Reid was clearly pleased. "I hope this is the beginning of a new day here in the Senate," he said. "Whether this new day was created by the new senator from Massachusetts or some other reason I'm very happy."

Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, said he voted for the bill because the highway spending will create jobs and help states pay for important projects.

"If we don't do this we're going to miss the construction season, and this is an area where you absolutely create jobs," Voinovich said.

After the vote, Obama thanked the Senate. "The American people want to see Washington put aside partisan differences and make progress on jobs, and today the Senate took one important step forward in doing that," Obama said, adding that more needs to be done.

Lawmaker:
Documents
Show Toyota
Deception

WASHINGTON (AP) — House investigators believe Toyota intentionally resisted the possibility that electronic defects caused unintended acceleration, and then misled the public into thinking its recall would fix all the problems.

Rep. Bart Stupak, who will conduct a hearing Tuesday, also said documents and interviews demonstrate the company relied on a flawed engineering report in its statements to reassure the public.

In a letter to the company, the Michigan Democrat said a review of consumer complaints produced by Toyota shows that company personnel identified sticking pedals or floor mats as the cause of only 16 percent of the unintended acceleration reports.

THREE DAY FACTORY DIRECT SALE!
Fri., Sat. & Sun. • Feb. 26th–27th–28th
Factory Representative will be here Friday, Feb. 26th

Safely and Comfortably Heat 400-1000 Sq. Ft. For Pennies A Day!

With An Energy Saving Infrared Heating System!!

HUGE SAVINGS

Factory Direct Sale Save Up To \$200!

MONTH AFTER MONTH WITH NEW INFRARED HEATING SYSTEM!

Over 350,000 Satisfied Customers!

SALE PRICE \$299
Other Models Ranging from \$299-\$497

Supplement Other High Cost Electric & Gas Heat Sources

Local Sales & In-House Service

- Local Service (not shipped out)
- Portable 110V
- Superior Design & Quality
- Safe for Children and Pets
- Flawless Oak Cabinets (Available in Black, Cherry, and Tuscan Walnut Finishes)
- Cannot Start Fires
- Doesn't Remove Oxygen or Humidity From The air
- Reduces Energy Usage's by 35% TO 50%
- Heats Multiple Rooms
- 3 Year Extended Factory Direct Warranty
- Digital Thermostat "No more guessing the temperature, like you have to do with other brands"

NEVER BE COLD AGAIN!

Larry's HEATING & COOLING
920 Broadway • 665-9461