

FBI: Spy Agency Spent Millions To Influence US

WASHINGTON (AP) — For years, the Pakistani spy agency funneled millions of dollars to a Washington nonprofit group in a secret effort to influence Congress and the White House, the Justice Department said Tuesday in court documents that are certain to complicate already strained relations between the U.S. and Pakistan.

FBI agents arrested Syed Ghulam Nabi Fai, the executive director of the Kashmiri American Council, on Tuesday and charged him with being an unregistered agent of a foreign government. Under the supervision of a senior member of Pakistan's spy agency, Inter-Services Intelligence, Fai donated money to political campaigns, wrote newspaper op-eds, organized congressional trips and met with White House and State Department officials.

"I believe that Fai has received approximately \$500,000 to \$700,000 per year from the government of Pakistan," FBI agent Sarah Webb Linden said in documents filed in federal court in Alexandria, Va.

Officially, the Kashmiri American Council had a much smaller budget and told the U.S. government that it received no foreign grants, according to Internal Revenue Service documents. Pakistan was financing similar operations in London and Brussels, the Justice Department said.

Security Handed Over To Afghans In Mehterlam

MEHTERLAM, Afghanistan (AP) — NATO handed over responsibility for the security of the capital of an eastern province to Afghan forces Tuesday, the latest step in a transition process that will lead to the withdrawal of all foreign combat troops by the end of 2014.

The U.S.-led coalition has started a process of transferring security in parts of the country where they feel Afghan forces are strong enough to take control, although so far that has largely been restricted to provincial capitals as much of the country remains lawless and unstable after a decade of war.

U.S. forces turned over control of Mehterlam, the capital of Laghman province, but they'll retain responsibility for the other areas in the predominantly Pashtun province that remain under the influence of the Taliban and other insurgent groups.

NATO officials said the handover sent a powerful signal that progress is being made.

Bachmann Says Headaches Won't Impede Bid

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Republican Michele Bachmann moved swiftly Tuesday to address questions about her history of severe headaches, saying they wouldn't affect her ability to serve as president.

The Minnesota congresswoman and White House contender rejected suggestions that migraines would prevent her from waging a rigorous campaign or from running the country if she wins.

"Let me be abundantly clear — my ability to function effectively has never been impeded by migraines and will not affect my ability to serve as commander in chief," Bachmann said in a statement issued through her campaign.

She insisted that her symptoms are controlled with prescription medication and have not gotten in the way of a packed presidential campaign schedule or impaired her service in Congress.

Bachmann's statement followed a report published late Monday by The Daily Caller saying Bachmann's past migraines have led to hospitalizations and left her "incapacitated." The online publication granted anonymity to former aides who described specific instances where Bachmann was reportedly sidelined by severe headaches.

Copy Of Magna Carta From 1297 Treated

WASHINGTON (AP) — A painstaking conservation effort to remove old patches and repair weak spots in a 714-year-old copy of the Magna Carta has revealed that the full text of that English declaration of human rights remains intact even though some words are faded and illegible to the eye, the National Archives said Tuesday.

A \$13.5 million gift from philanthropist David Rubenstein — owner of the handwritten document — is funding the conservation effort as well as preparations for an upcoming exhibit.

Thanks to the gift, the largest cash donation to the National Archives, the copy of the Magna Carta eventually will be shown as a forerunner to the freedoms imagined in the U.S. Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Plans call for exhibiting it along with documents showing the struggle for rights of African Americans, women, immigrants and others.

The Magna Carta bears the seal of King Edward I and is dated 1297. It is one of 17 known handwritten copies of the text that established a tradition for the rule of law that even kings would honor. It is the only original version in the Americas, while 15 are held by British institutions and one is held by Australia's Parliament.

Democratic Officials Looking At Utah Race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic officials sense a rare opportunity to win a U.S. Senate race in Utah and are laying the groundwork to help if Rep. Jim Matheson runs for the seat now held by Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch.

The Democratic committee that coordinates the efforts of Senate candidates generally doesn't pay much attention to Utah. It makes little sense to devote resources to a state where the GOP candidate typically wins in a landslide.

But the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee's interest in Utah has picked up in recent weeks, exemplified by a series of press releases and the purchase of online ads. It's a small investment that nevertheless signals a shift in thinking.

The emphasis on Utah comes as two polls showed Matheson running virtually even with Hatch in a hypothetical matchup.

'Gang Of 6' Pushes Deficit Plan

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The bipartisan "Gang of Six" senators on Tuesday offered a major plan to cut the deficit by almost \$4 trillion over the coming decade, but whether it can break through the budget debate will depend on whether Republican lawmakers can find a way to endorse well over \$1 trillion in new tax revenues reaped as Congress overhauls the loop-hole-choked U.S. tax code.

The plan would also repeal a new long-term care program established under last year's health overhaul and force an additional \$500 billion in cuts from federal health care programs over the upcoming decade, according to documents provided to senators but not publicly released.

It also appears that the revenue increases are significantly higher than advertised by plan proponents because the measure assumes that the more than \$1 trillion cost of repealing the alternative minimum tax over the coming decade will be offset by curbing tax breaks as tax reform is debated. The minimum tax was enacted in 1969 to make sure taxpayers pay at least some income tax, but it was never indexed for

inflation it and now threatens more than 20 million tax filers with big tax increases unless extended next year.

The Gang of Six plan is separate from a politically freighted effort to lift the nation's borrowing cap and avoid a first-ever default on U.S. obligations. President Barack Obama and Capitol Hill Republicans, however, have failed to reach an accord on what kind of spending cuts to pair with any increase in the borrowing cap.

The six senators are Tom Coburn, R-Okla., Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., Kent Conrad, D-N.D., Mark Warner, D-Va., and Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

Their plan calls for an immediate \$500 billion "down payment" on cutting the deficit as the starting point toward cuts of more than \$4 trillion over the coming decade that would be finalized in a second piece of legislation. Most of those savings would come from four years of caps imposed on the day-to-day budgets of Cabinet agencies set by the annual appropriations bills.

It would also curb the growth of Social Security benefits by moving to a lower inflation adjustment for annual cost-of-living updates.

Depending on how one keeps score, the measure would save \$3.7 trillion to \$4.7 trillion over the coming decade. The lower figure is

measured against a lower spending "baseline" based on a fiscal 2011 budget law enacted earlier this year. But if measured against Obama's request for the current 2011 budget year — the standard used by Obama's deficit commission last year — the plan would save the higher figure.

The tax reform outline would set up three income tax rates — a bottom rate of 8-12 percent; a middle rate of 14-22 percent; and a top rate of 23-29 percent — to replace the current system that has a bottom rate of 10 percent with five additional rates, topping out at 35 percent.

It would reduce but not eliminate tax breaks on mortgage interest, higher-cost health plans, charitable deductions, retirement savings like individual retirement accounts and tax-free savings accounts known as 401(k)s and tax credits for families with children.

Like the president's deficit commission, the Senate group's plan calls for a fundamental overhaul of the tax code that would slash special tax preferences and deductions as a way to lower tax rates — along the lines of the 1986 tax reform measure signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. It would skim more than \$1 trillion of the revenue to reduce the deficit and, advocates say, spur the economy and further fill federal coffers because of growth.

Murdoch Rejects Blame For Scandal

BY PAISLEY DODDS
Associated Press

LONDON — Summoned by lawmakers to answer for a phone hacking and bribery scandal at one of his tabloids, Rupert Murdoch said he was humbled and ashamed Tuesday but accepted no responsibility for wrongdoing as a widening investigation threatened to ensnare Britain's prime minister.

In a three-hour grilling, the 80-year-old media tycoon insisted he was at fault only for trusting the wrong people at the now-defunct News of the World, and noted that the paper made up a tiny portion of his vast media empire.

The scandal has rocked Murdoch's News Corp. and embroiled Britain's top police, many journalists and politicians. Prime Minister David Cameron cut short his Africa trip to appear before a special parliamentary question session on Wednesday.

Murdoch appeared confused and flustered in the beginning of Tuesday's parliamentary hearing, turning frequently to his son James for answers. But he soon regained his trademark cool.

He said he had known nothing of allegations that staff at the News of the World tabloid hacked into cell phones and bribed police to get information on celebrities, politicians and crime victims, and that he never would have approved such "horrible invasions" of privacy.

In the face of lawmakers' suggestions that his organization encouraged such behavior, he was unflappable — even after a pro-



PA PHOTOS/ABACA PRESS/MCT
Rupert Murdoch, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, News Corporation gives evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee in the House of Commons in central London on the News of the World phone-hacking scandal, on July 19, 2011.

tester rushed at him in the middle of the hearing.

He stayed seated when the man tried to throw a foam pie at him. A News Corp. attorney partially blocked the attack and Murdoch's 42-year-old wife slapped the prankster. After the protester was arrested, the billionaire simply shed his splattered suit jacket and

continued answering questions.

The scandal has captivated audiences from America to Murdoch's native Australia, and there's more to come — only a fraction of the nearly 4,000 people whose information was hacked are known and the police investigation appears to be widening. Murdoch has already shut the News of the

World, given up on buying a major British satellite television company and accepted the resignations of two top executives because of the scandal.

He said he had no plans to resign but expressed contrition on behalf of News Corp.'s British newspaper division, News International.

Tea Party Groups Attack Potential Candidate Perry

BY STEVE PEOPLES
AND APRIL CASTRO
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — In spite of his thundering speeches against big government, Texas Gov. Rick Perry has a troubled relationship with the tea party, a rift increasingly obvious as he gets closer to a presidential bid.

Tea party groups from New Hampshire to Texas are collaborating to criticize Perry's record on immigration, public health and spending and his former affiliation with the Democratic Party.

"It's real easy to walk into church on Sunday morning and sing from the hymnal. I saw a guy that talked

like a tea party candidate but didn't govern like one," said Debra Medina, a Texas tea party activist who challenged Perry in the 2010 Republican gubernatorial primary. "I still don't think he governs like the conservative he professes to be."

Texas conservatives recently shared material on Perry's record with the New Hampshire Tea Party Coalition, which dedicated a section of its website to the Texas governor. The coalition offers links to negative media coverage and videos about the man who it says "was Al Gore's Democrat chairman" in 1988. Perry switched to the Republican Party in 1989, around the same time as other conservative Democrats.

The organization also distributed a series of emails to supporters, including one obtained by The Associated Press warning, "We should be aware there is more to him than meets the eye."

The attacks are quietly promoted by other Republican presidential contenders, who view Perry as a growing threat as he inches closer to a late entrance into the Republican presidential primary. Many of the candidates are competing for the hearts of tea party activists who have generated passion, campaign cash and armies of volunteers from GOP voters nationwide.

A key Perry strategist dismissed the tea party criticism as isolated to

a handful of conservative groups in a fragmented movement.

"There's no candidate running on either side of the aisle that has his record and relationship with tea party members," said David Carney. "But the tea party is not one monolithic group."

Carney concedes that Perry has work to do in early voting states like New Hampshire.

"We have reached out to some members of the tea party leadership. But until we get the campaign going, if we have a campaign, and they have an opportunity to talk to the governor, they're not going to know who he is and they're going to be somewhat skeptical," he said.

OBITUARIES

Curt Christensen

FAIRMOUNT, Minn. — Services for Curt J. Christensen, 66, of Fairmont, MN, will be 2:00 p.m. Thursday, July 21, 2011, at the Grace Lutheran Church in Fairmont. Burial will be following the service in the Lakeside Cemetery in Fairmont.

Visitation will be 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, 2011, at the Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont.

Curt passed away Sunday morning, July 17, 2011, at the Immanuel-St. Joseph Hospital in Mankato, MN.

The Lakeview Funeral Home of Fairmont is assisting the family with arrangements.



Christensen

Together the couple made their home in Yankton and Sioux Falls, SD, before moving to Fairmont in 1970. They were married for forty-eight years, until Linda's passing on June 27, 2010. To this union three children were born, Craig, Dawn and Tari.

Curt was employed at the Fairmont Senior High School as the Vocational Automotive Mechanic Instructor. He also taught welding and small engines before retiring in June 2007, after thirty-seven years as an educator.

Curt was a life member of the Blizzard Snowmobile Club in Fairmont and also served on the board of the Fairmont Employee Credit Union. He was extremely active attending his grandchildren's activities and looked forward to camping trips, snowmobiling, and racing.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Craig Christensen and wife, Sherri; Dawn Christensen and fiancé, Tim Bur-saw; and Tari Stradtman and husband, Bob; the twinkle of his eyes, four grandchildren, Logan, Mikayla, Kinze, and Jesse; one brother, Dave Christensen and wife, Louise; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Curt was preceded in death by his loving wife, Linda Christensen; parents, Christian and Lorena Christensen; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Vernon and Fern Kirschenmann as well as many aunts and uncles.

www.lakeviewfuneralhome.net.
Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 20, 2011

Marilyn Siecke

VERMILLION — Marilyn JoAnn Siecke, 72, of Vermillion died Monday, July 18, 2011, at Touchstone Living Center, Sioux City, Iowa.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church. Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery in Norfolk, Neb., at 3 p.m.

Visitation will be held at 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Rohde Funeral Home, Kingsley, Iowa. Visitation will resume at 5-7 p.p.m. Friday at Iverson-Siecke-Kober Funeral Home, with a prayer service to begin at 7 p.m. followed by an Eastern Star service.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Joe and Dian Bergman Memorial Service

11:00 AM, Saturday
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