

Libya Gov't Shows Reporters NATO Bomb Sites

BY PAUL SCHEMM
Associated Press

ZLITAN, Libya — The Libyan government showed foreign journalists on Monday a destroyed flu clinic and food warehouses it said had been hit earlier in the day by NATO airstrikes, killing eight people.

The attacks took place in the government-held town of Zlitan, 90 miles (140 kilometers) east of the capital Tripoli and not far from the country's front line where rebels are battling Moammar Gadhafi's forces.

NATO denied, however, that it had targeted civilians and said it had only hit a number of military objectives in the area.

A rebel uprising that began in February against longtime Libyan leader Gadhafi escalated into a full-fledged civil war

that threatens to split the country.

The fighting has degenerated into a stalemate for months, despite a U.N.-mandated NATO air campaign targeting government forces in order to protect civilians.

Even as government minders took journalists to what they described as sites of the latest NATO attacks, the distant rumblings of artillery and explosions could be heard to the east of Zlitan.

In late afternoon, on the eastern edge of the city, journalists witnessed two airstrikes, with their distinctive mushroom cloud explosions.

The Libyan government has repeatedly claimed NATO's attacks kill civilians and state television is filled with images of dead children supposedly killed in these operations.

Journalists based in Tripoli have

heard NATO airstrikes almost every night for the past week, included apparent attacks on Gadhafi's nearby compound. They have not been taken to any bombing sites in Tripoli, however, suggesting NATO's gunners are hitting military targets, at least in the capital.

At the scene of the destroyed flu clinic, chest X-rays, medical supplies, flu testing kits and stretchers poked out of the shattered concrete building, and metal reinforcing rods stuck out at crazy angles.

"There were eight people killed," said Ramadan Mohammed, a local official, though journalists were not shown any remains.

"Their bodies were returned to the families who took them away, but they were shown on Libyan TV," he added.

Residents at the scene, where several

bulldozers and earthmovers pawed through the rubble searching for any other bodies, maintained there were no military targets in the area.

They said the hospital was hit at around 8 a.m. local time as people were arriving for work.

A nearby complex of food warehouses were also hit, apparently by missiles, and one was still burning when the journalists arrived.

Each warehouse had a hole torn in the roof, but in only one case did the projectile explode and ignite the supplies inside, including sacks of flour, macaroni, cooking oil and canned tomatoes.

"Is this the protection of civilians?" said local resident Rajab Sharaf, standing outside the burning building as the cinderblock walls buckled outward from the heat. "This is food for the Libyan people,

there are no military forces around."

An officer at NATO's operational command in Naples, Italy said there is no evidence to support Libyan allegations that civilian targets were hit.

"NATO struck a number of targets near Zlitan today that were military in nature. These targets were a command and control node and a vehicle storage facility that contained military vehicles," said the officer, who could not be identified under the alliance's standing rules.

Journalists were not shown any sites that fit such a description.

"This is not the first time that such allegations have been made and, as is the case with all NATO strikes, a thorough damage assessment is conducted afterward," the NATO officer said, adding that NATO takes great care to minimize the risk to civilians.

UN Sets Donors Conference For Somalia Famine

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

ROME — Efforts to save starving Somalis and others suffering from drought in East Africa were ratcheted up Monday, with U.N. agencies pitching for \$1.6 billion from donor countries and private companies being urged to provide trucks, ships and other logistical aid to speed food to the malnourished.

Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization chief Jacques Diouf told an emergency meeting on the Horn of Africa crisis that a pledging conference would be held in Nairobi, Kenya, on Wednesday to seek \$1.6 billion in aid over the next 12 months, with \$300 million of that aid coming in the next three months.

Monday's emergency session was held at the request of France, which is making development of agriculture in poorer countries a priority in international policies.

The speed of the stepped-up efforts appeared to take some by surprise. The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. food agencies, Ertharin Cousin, told reporters she didn't immediately know if her country would be boosting its contribution on top of what it has already given.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced last week that the U.S. will provide an additional \$28 million in aid for Somalis suffering from hunger, on top of more than \$431 million in emergency assistance to the eastern Horn of Africa this year.

The United Nations' top humanitarian and relief official, Valerie Amos, told reporters that so far just under \$1 billion has been received from donors so far, but that "we need another billion."

Germany said Monday it is donating an additional (euro) 15 million (\$22 million) in humanitarian aid for the worsening famine. That doubles the amount pledged

RE-ENACTING HISTORY



CHUCK MYERS/MCT

Union infantry re-enactors drag a "wounded" comrade from the battlefield during the second day of the re-enactment of the Civil War's First Battle of Bull Run, outside Manassas, Virginia, Sunday, July 24, 2011.

Law Opens Private Aid To Illegal College Students

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday signed a bill that will let students who entered the country illegally receive private financial aid at California's public colleges, even as debate continues over a more contentious bill that would allow access to public funding.

The Democratic governor signed AB130 at Los Angeles City College.

It is the first of a two-bill package referred to as the California Dream Act, which is aimed at getting financial aid for college students who entered the country illegally.

"This is one piece of a very important mosaic, which is a California that works for everyone," Brown told a crowd of about 100 students and community leaders gathered inside the city college's library.

Brown said it was important to invest in every person who lives in the state because "people drive the culture, the economy."

The governor did not address the second bill in the package, which is more contentious because it would allow illegal immigrants to receive state-funded scholarships and financial aid.

That bill, AB131, is in the state Senate.

The legislative package authored by state Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, differs from the federal Dream Act, which would include a path to citizenship for those bought to the country illegally as children.

Cedillo said he admired the students without legal status because of the obstacles they have had to overcome.

He said allowing students to qualify for private scholarships and financial aid is one step that will help them get through college.

"Public education in this great state and this great country is a great equalizer of society," he said.

California's community college and public universities systems support the bill, noting that it affects less than 1 percent of their student population.

According to the University of California, fewer than 80 students across its system of more than 220,000 students would be affected by the bill signed Monday.

The California State University estimated that some of the 3,600 students who have permission to pay in-state tuition rates even though they lack legal documentation could be affected by the new law.

The CSU system enrolls about 440,000 students.

More Airlines Raise Fares For Tax Savings

BY DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS — The great tax holiday of 2011 for air travelers is just about over.

By Monday, most U.S. airlines had raised fares to reap the benefit of lower federal taxes on airline tickets.

A few airlines that were passing the savings on to consumers changed their minds.

Several federal taxes on airline tickets expired over the weekend after Congress failed to pass legislation to keep the Federal Aviation Administration running at full speed.

Raising the fares allows the airlines to charge the consumer the same amount as before, while pocketing money previously collected for the government.

It could turn into a windfall for

airlines if the stalemate in Congress drags on. The government estimates that the expiring taxes total \$200 million a week. And with jet fuel prices much higher than last year, airlines can use the cash.

As of midday Monday, nearly all large U.S. airlines had raised prices, but fare watchers said Alaska Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines and Spirit Airlines had not. The CEO of Spirit, a small, low-fare outfit that accounts for less than 1 percent of the market, said the industry looked bad.

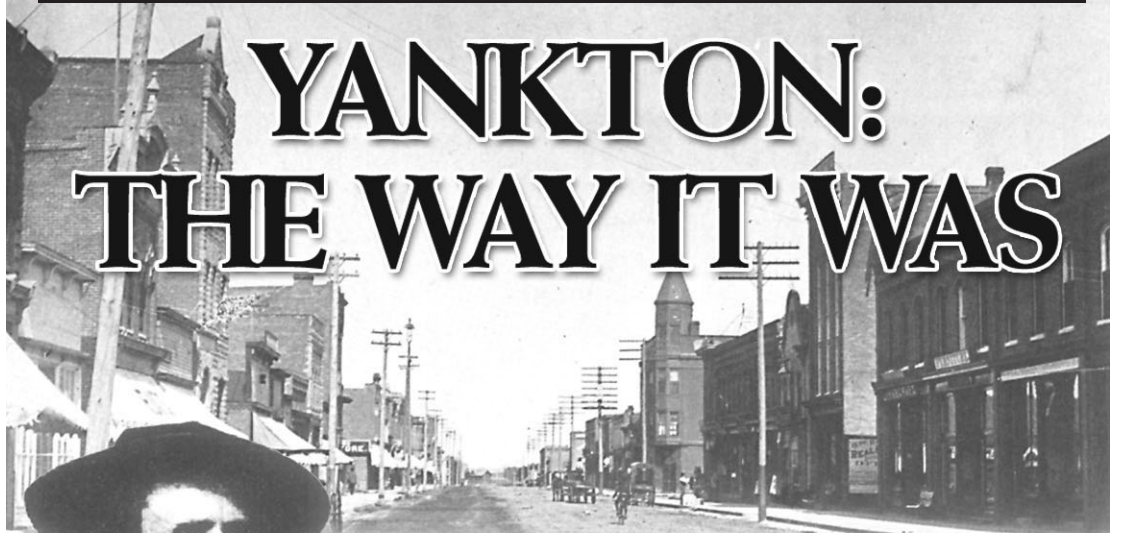
"The taxes that Spirit and all the other airlines collect don't belong to us," Ben Balanza said. "It's the taxpayers' money. It was never Spirit's money. It would be a grab to take that money."

Some travel experts called the fare increases a public-relations mistake.

"One of the major airlines could have said, 'Hey, at least for a week we're going to give this money back to the consumers,'" said Rick Seaney, who tracks prices as CEO of FareCompare.com. "I'm surprised no one made promotional hay over this."

Updated For Yankton's 150th Anniversary

YANKTON: THE WAY IT WAS



By Bob Karolevitz

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