

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Refugees Flee Ethnic Violence In Kyrgyzstan

JALAL-KUDUK, Uzbekistan (AP) — Standing behind barbed wire with other Uzbek refugees, the woman tearfully raised her hands in a Muslim prayer Monday for her dead husband. She had left his body at their burned-down house in southern Kyrgyzstan while fleeing ethnic riots that reduced much of a major city to ruins.

"He's lying there unburied," lamented the woman, who identified herself only as Khadicha, a doctor in her 50s, as she waited in a no-man's land to cross into Uzbekistan.

She is among tens of thousands of minority Uzbeks who have fled the deadliest violence Kyrgyzstan has seen since the two ethnic groups fought over land 20 years ago as Moscow lost its grip on the former Soviet republic in Central Asia.

In the southern Kyrgyz city of Osh, three miles (five kilometers) from the border with Uzbekistan, gunfire pierced the air and fires raged for a fourth day. Officials said 138 people were killed and nearly 1,800 wounded since the violence began last week, but an Uzbek community leader said at least 200 Uzbeks had already been buried, and many bodies had not been recovered from charred homes and businesses.

The United States and Russia, which both have military bases in northern Kyrgyzstan — away from the violence — worked on humanitarian aid airlifts, as did the United Nations.

Search Continues For Bodies In Ark. Floods

LANGLEY, Ark. (AP) — Crews on Monday found the body of a young girl who was the 20th victim of a flash flood that devastated a popular Arkansas campground, but they continued searching because it wasn't clear whether the girl was the last person reported missing.

Officials had said earlier that they still were looking for a young girl missing from the Albert Pike Recreation Area campground. But State Police Capt. Fletcher said searchers weren't sure if the girl whose body they found was the same one reported missing by her family.

Police will wait to announce the girl's name until her identity is confirmed by dental records or DNA, Fletcher said.

Dozens of people were feared missing after the pre-dawn Friday flood, but authorities narrowed their search Sunday to just one person known to have been camping at the Albert Pike Recreation Area. They said they believe many others first feared missing were camping in other parts of the state, without cell phone coverage.

State police and other agencies were to decide Monday night whether to continue the search Tuesday, spokesman Bill Sadler said.

WWII Italian Ship Wreckage Believed Found

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — Using undersea scanning devices, archaeologists from the U.S. and Albania believe they have found the wreckage of an Italian ship that British forces torpedoed during World War II when Albania was occupied by Mussolini's Fascists.

The remnants — found just off Albania's coast last weekend — probably were part of the 8,000-ton Rosandra freighter, which was hit by a British submarine on June 14, 1943, the team said on Monday, the 67th anniversary of the sinking.

The vessel was located 260 feet (80 meters) beneath the surface of the Ionian Sea near Albania's Karaburun Peninsula, 90 miles (140 kilometers) southwest of Tirana, the capital, during a survey of the country's seabed that began four years ago.

Expedition coordinator Auron Tare of Albania said the size of the wreck, and sonar images of two holes apparently caused by torpedo explosions, matched information from Italian and British sources on the Rosandra.

"If the data coincide with the conclusions of the further study of that archaeological relic, then we may say the expedition has discovered the Italian Rosandra ship," Tare told The Associated Press.

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SEVERE WEATHER

Flash Floods Soak Oklahoma City

BY SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Firefighters helping a 17-year-old girl escape swift floodwaters were forced to cling to treetops and await rescue themselves after 10 inches of rain deluged parts of the Oklahoma City area Monday.

The boat carrying the rescuers sank just as it reached the teen along a North Canadian River tributary that had topped its banks. A second boat was able to safely recover the girl, the firefighters and the boat owner who lent his craft to the effort, which included more than 50 rescues of residents and stranded motorists.

No fatalities or major injuries were reported. The Oklahoma State Department of Health received 136 reports of mainly cuts, scrapes and exposure to flood water, but none required hospitalization.

When the rescuers' boat sank, they put a flotation vest on the teen and joined her in the tree, Cpl. Kyle Templeton said. The girl had waded into the fast-moving water to help a stranded motorist, who was able to get out of her vehicle safely, Templeton said.

"She was nervous, of course, but she was calm. For 17 years old, she was really calm," Templeton said. "I just stood there and hugged the tree. We were all just hanging out there together."

Slow-moving thunderstorms developed just south of the Oklahoma City area early Monday and dropped between 6 and 10 inches over most of the city by 11 a.m., inundating neighborhoods and stranding morning commuters. Several interstates were shut down, but reopened Monday afternoon.

About 6,700 homes and businesses lost power, according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Waters had largely receded by Monday afternoon, but flash flood warnings remained in effect for several counties in southern and southwestern Oklahoma, and forecasters said more thunderstorms were likely.

"It certainly will aggravate the situation," said Daryl Williams, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Norman. "At this point, anything that falls in those areas will just run off and won't soak into the ground."

Lt. Jeff Cooper, a police

spokesman, said officers patrolling the streets would be looking for trouble spots and, if more heavy rain falls, "we'll be blocking off streets and roads as the water rises."

Dozens of motorists had to be rescued from stalled vehicles in the northern Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond, where residents also were displaced. A temporary shelter was set up at a local elementary school, said police spokeswoman Glynda Chu.

"We had one officer who came in and rescued three carloads of people with families, including children and their pets," Chu said.

Aerial footage showed one northside Oklahoma City neighborhood where water tinged brick red from nearby Chisholm Creek sat hip-deep in some places and reached the tops of garages in others. Crews ferried families from their homes on small boats and jet skis. At least one person floated his way around on an inner tube and other residents gathered in a garage as water worked its way up the driveway.

Fire crews went door-to-door in the northwest neighborhood of Ski Island, asking residents whose homes back up to Spring Creek to

voluntarily evacuate while a nearby dam was evaluated.

Nearby, a group of bystanders watched Silver Lake overflow a road and dam complex. Two boats were upended against a guardrail at the dam, lodged there by the force of the debris-filled water.

"I've never seen it like this," said resident Jan Tipton. "This is incredible."

Norman Cobb shook his head as he surveyed his flooded garage in the Silver Lake neighborhood.

"This is the most flooding that I've had since I've lived here," said Cobb, who moved into the house in 1987.

The main roadway into Will Rogers World Airport was shut down for more than an hour early Monday, and airport officials said several flight delays were reported throughout the day because of the weather.

"Planes are coming and going, but they're playing a bit of catch up," said airport spokeswoman Karen Carney.

With Gov. Brad Henry out of state, Lt. Gov. Jari Askins on Monday declared a state of emergency for 59 Oklahoma counties affected by the storms.

FBI Files: Kennedy Was Death Threat Magnet

WASHINGTON (AP) — For decades after gunmen shot down his brothers, Sen. Edward Kennedy lived under constant assassination threats of his own, sometimes chillingly specific, as he became a target for extremist rage, previously private FBI documents disclosed Monday.

Five years after President John F. Kennedy was killed and shortly after Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot, one letter warned that the third brother was next: "Ted Kennedy number three to be assassinated on Oct. 25, 1968. The Kennedy residence must be well protected on that date."

Nearly two decades later, in 1985, the threats continued, this time including the Republican president as well as the liberal Democratic senator: "Brass tacks, I'm gonna kill Kennedy and (President Ronald) Reagan, and I really mean it."

Releasing 2,352 pages from Kennedy's FBI file, many of them concerning threats over the years, the agency said on its website: "These threats originated from multiple sources, including individuals, anonymous persons and members of radical groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, 'Minutemen' organizations and the National Socialist White People's Party."

Some of the threats prompted investigations, some resulted in warnings to Kennedy or local law enforcement authorities. There is no indication any attempts were carried out.

In 1977, the FBI even looked into allegations that Sirhan Sirhan — the man who assassinated Robert Kennedy — had attempted to hire a fellow prisoner to kill Edward Kennedy. The prisoner, who was housed next to Sirhan for 18 months, told the FBI he was offered \$1 million and a car but declined.

President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Robert Kennedy died on June 6, 1968, a day after he was shot at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Their deaths cast a long shadow on the youngest brother's life, and prompted fears he, too, would be targeted by an assassin's bullet. Indeed, Kennedy wrote in his memoir "True Compass" that after his brothers were killed he was easily startled by loud sounds and would hit the deck whenever a car backfired.

He died last year at 77 after fighting brain cancer. Kennedy's widow, Victoria Reggie Kennedy, declined comment on the document release through a spokesman.

Most of the documents released Monday are about death threats and extortion

attempts against the Massachusetts Democrat.

There is relatively little on a major controversy, Kennedy's car accident on Chappaquiddick Island off the coast of Massachusetts that killed Mary Jo Kopechne, a young woman who had been a worker in Robert Kennedy's campaign.

The files do show that the FBI was told almost immediately of the accident and Kennedy's involvement, but authorities kept his identity quiet at the start.

The Boston FBI office relayed word to Washington headquarters at 2:45 p.m. EDT on July 19, 1969, after being notified by Police Chief Dominick Arena in Edgartown, Mass. The advisory said that Kennedy — the vehicle's driver — was uninjured.

It also said, "Stated fact Senator Kennedy was driver is not being revealed to anyone."

Kopechne drowned after Kennedy drove the car in which she was riding off a bridge into a pond. He swam to safety, leaving Kopechne in the car. Kopechne, 28, was found dead in the submerged car's back seat 10 hours later. Kennedy, then 37, pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident and got a suspended sentence and probation.

House Dems Yield To NRA On Financial Disclosure Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bowing to pressure from the National Rifle Association, House Democrats agreed Monday to exempt the powerful gun owners' lobby from key portions of legislation imposing new disclosure requirements on campaign advertising and other political activity.

The legislation is designed to roll back a recent Supreme Court ruling and generally requires organizations to disclose their top donors if they sponsor political television commercials or pay for mass mailings in the months leading to an election.

Democratic attempts to bring the measure to the floor faltered last month when the NRA objected, and hurried negotiations on a compromise resulted.

Under a change negotiated over the weekend, the NRA would be exempt based on its length in existence, size of membership and other factors — a concession demanded by the powerful lobby and sought by Democratic allies in the House led by Rep. Heath Shuler, D-N.C. Other organizations meeting the same set of criteria would also be exempt, but officials said late Monday they were not immediately able to name any.

Democratic aides said the leadership hoped the revised legislation could be brought to a vote before the end of the week.

The developments marked the second time the NRA has forced House Democrats to change plans on key legislation this year. In April, a bill to grant the District of Columbia full voting rights in the House was shelved after the organization demonstrated it had the votes to require the repeal of local gun control ordinances at the same time.

This time, the NRA set out its objections in a May 26 letter to members of Congress saying the initial legislation would permit the Federal Election Commission to require the NRA "to reveal private, internal discussions with our four million members about political communications."

In addition, it said the legislation laid out a series of "byzantine disclosure requirements that have the obvious effect of intimidating speech," said the letter.

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