

## NATION/WORLD DIGEST

## Dems Say Health Care Likely To Pass

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top House Democrat said Sunday he believes Congress will pass a health care bill, but three fellow Democrats who opposed overhaul legislation last fall aren't committing themselves to backing President Barack Obama's late push.

The House and the Senate approved different version of the legislation by narrow margins. Merging the bills became more complicated when Senate Democrats lost their filibuster-proof majority in January. House members are reluctant to approve the Senate plan on the promise that senators will tinker with provisions House members find objectionable.

Still, that wobbly bridge appeared to be the clearest path to meeting Obama's goal of Congress passing a health care bill by March 18, when he leaves on a trip to Asia. Central to success is persuading some of the House members who voted against the original legislation to go along with the Senate bill.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., who heads the House Democrats' campaign team, said House members are waiting to see the final plan and how the Congressional Budget Office analyzes its budget implications before deciding to support it.

"I believe it will pass. Do we have a mortal lock? No," Van Hollen said. "But I think the trend is in the right direction because people see that the status quo is absolutely broken."

## Iran Defies Sanctions, Begins Missile Making

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran announced Sunday that it has started a new production line of highly accurate, short range cruise missiles, which would add a new element to the country's already imposing arsenal.

Gen. Ahmad Vahidi told Iranian state TV that the cruise missile, called Nasr 1, would be capable of destroying targets up to 3,000 tons in size.

The minister said the missile can be fired from ground-based launchers as well as ships, but would eventually be modified to be fired from helicopters and submarines.

Western powers are already concerned about Iran's military capabilities, especially the implications of its nuclear program. The U.S. and some of its allies, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency, fear Iran is trying to produce nuclear weapons, a charge Iran denies.

The West is considering stiffer sanctions against Tehran to try to force it to halt uranium enrichment, a process that has civilian uses but can be also used for nuclear arms if the uranium is enriched over 90 percent.

## AIDS Virus In Bone Marrow Avoids Drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The virus that causes AIDS can hide in the bone marrow, avoiding drugs and later awakening to cause illness, according to new research that could point the way toward better treatments for the disease.

Finding that hide-out is a first step, but years of research lie ahead.

Dr. Kathleen Collins of the University of Michigan and her colleagues report in this week's edition of the journal *Nature Medicine* that the HIV virus can infect long-lived bone marrow cells that eventually convert into blood cells.

The virus is dormant in the bone marrow cells, she said, but when those progenitor cells develop into blood cells, it can be reactivated and cause renewed infection. The virus kills the new blood cells and then moves on to infect other cells, said.

"If we're ever going to be able to find a way to get rid of the cells, the first step is to understand" where a latent infection can continue, Collins said.

## No Bond For Pair Charged In 3 Ill. Deaths

WHEATON, Ill. (AP) — Two men charged in the shooting deaths of three members of a suburban Chicago family have been denied bond.

Prosecutors say 28-year-old Johnny Borizov persuaded 23-year-old alleged shooter Jacob Nodarse to kill the mother of his 1-year-old son, her parents and brother over a custody dispute.

The woman, Angela Kramer, escaped injury. But the bodies of her mother, father and brother were found at their Darien home on Tuesday. A funeral mass for all three victims was scheduled for Monday.

Prosecutors claimed in court Sunday that Nodarse broke into the house using a hammer. They also allege Borizov planned an alibi by going to the Empress Casino in Joliet during the killings.

Defense attorneys say the allegations are false. Both men are due in court March 29.

## Bus Firm Ordered To Stop Interstate Service

PHOENIX (AP) — A federal judge has ordered a bus company involved in an Arizona crash that killed six people and injured more than a dozen others to cease interstate operations.

U.S. District Judge George King of the Central District of California in Los Angeles issued the order Saturday against Tierra Santa Inc. and its owner, Cayetano Martinez.

Martinez earlier signed a consent decree prohibiting him or any affiliated company from hauling passengers without U.S. Department of Transportation authority, which is required to take passengers from one state to another.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration demanded Van Nuys, Calif.-based Tierra Santa stop operating Friday, the day of the crash south of Phoenix. The judge's order makes the shutdown enforceable by the court.

"They knew they were running illegally," Duane DeBruyne, a Department of Transportation spokesman in Washington, D.C., said Sunday.

A federal complaint to be filed against the company Monday says the motor carrier administration previously shut down Martinez, who then attempted "to reincarnate himself as a new carrier" that unsuccessfully sought Department of Transportation operating authority, the department said in a news release Sunday.

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## American-Born al-Qaida Detained In Pakistan

BY ASHRAF KHAN  
Associated Press Writer

KARACHI, Pakistan — Two Pakistani officers and a government official said Sunday that an American charged with treason for working with al-Qaida had been captured, a development that could deliver another significant blow in the U.S.-led battle against the terror network.

U.S. defense, intelligence and law enforcement officials could not immediately verify the reported detention of Adam Gadahn, a 31-year-old spokesman for al-Qaida who has appeared on videos threatening the West, including one that emerged earlier Sunday.

The reported arrest of Gadahn follows the recent detention of several Afghan Taliban commanders in Karachi, including the group's No. 2. Those detentions have been seen as a sign that Pakistan, which has been criticized as an untrustworthy ally, was

cooperating more fully with Washington.

Some observers were cautious about giving credence to the claim that Gadahn was in custody as reports emerged that the man arrested might instead be a Taliban militant leader. There was no way of independently verifying the arrest or identity, and detentions of terror suspects in Pakistan are often surrounded by conflicting reports.

"If this is him, it's a big capture and a morale-booster," said Patrick Rowan, the former top anti-terrorism official in the Bush Justice Department.

Gadahn, the first American to face treason charges in more than 50 years, has appeared in more than half a dozen al-Qaida videos, taunting the West and calling for its destruction. The video that surfaced Sunday showed him urging American Muslims to attack their own country.

"It's a blow to al-Qaida and a boost to the U.S. when a guy that has been taunting the

U.S. for years has been captured," Rowan said.

Gadahn was arrested in the sprawling southern metropolis of Karachi in recent days, two officers who took part in the operation said. A senior government official also confirmed the arrest, but said it happened Sunday. The discrepancy could not immediately be resolved.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

The intelligence officials said Gadahn was being interrogated by Pakistani officials. Pakistani agents and those from the CIA work closely on some operations in Pakistan, but it was not clear if any Americans were involved in the operation or questioning.

In the past, Pakistan has handed over some al-Qaida suspects arrested on its soil to the United States.

## Iraqi Voters Undaunted By Attacks That Kill 36

BY REBECCA SANTANA  
Associated Press Writers

BAGHDAD — Iraqis defied insurgents who lobbed hand grenades at voters and bombed a polling station Sunday in an attempt to intimidate those taking part in elections that will determine whether their country can overcome deep sectarian divides as U.S. forces prepare to leave.

The conclusion of the vote, however, did not spell an immediate end to political uncertainty. It could be days until results come in and with the fractured nature of Iraqi politics, it could take months to form a government.

Sunnis and Shiites seemed united in one way Sunday — defiance in the face of violence. Many came out of polling booths waving fingers dipped in purple ink in a now-iconic image synonymous with Iraq's democracy. In one Baghdad neighborhood, relatives who had just lost a family member in a bombing walked down to the polling booth to vote.

The violence was a direct challenge to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki who has gained popularity as violence across the country has plummeted.

"I voted for Nouri al-Maliki because I trust him as a man who succeeded in getting rid of militias and building a strong state," said Saadi Mahdi, a 43-year old engineer in the southern oil city of Basra. It was there



HANNAH ALLAMMCT

An Iraqi voter laughs as she tries to cast a ballot with wet ink on her hands at a polling station in Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday. Despite a concerted campaign of attacks, many Iraqi voters defiantly made their way to polling stations.

that al-Maliki first established himself as a leader willing to go against his fellow Shiites when he routed militias aligned with anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

It was an election day that demonstrated starkly how far the country, a rare democracy in the Middle East, has come since the last nationwide parliamentary vote in December 2005 and how much still holds it back.

Instead of unified sectarian parties playing strictly to their Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish voters, the political blocs contesting the election were much more fractured and made at least some effort to cross over into other

sects. Whereas only party names were known in the 2005 ballot — in order to protect candidates from assassination — this time cities were plastered with candidates' faces on posters as Iraqis voted for individual people.

And the American military presence so prominent in 2005 was limited on election day to helicopters buzzing over head as a massive deployment of Iraqi forces took the lead on the ground.

Still the violence that shook Baghdad served as a reminder of the insurgency's persistence and adaptability.

Insurgents used mostly rockets, mortars and explosive-filled

plastic bottles hidden under trash to terrorize voters on their way to the polls. With those tactics, they managed to get around a vehicle ban in place across the capital for most of the day and killed 36 people, almost all of them in Baghdad.

Al-Maliki faced a double challenge at the polls. Al-Sadr has aligned with another Shiite religious party — the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council — to seek the prime minister's job. On the other side, al-Maliki is being challenged by former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, whose nonsectarian stance and criticism of the current government has won him secular Shiite followers as well as Sunni supporters.

"They symbolize the unity of Iraq," Hasan Aziz, a Sunni Turkoman, in the northern city of Tal Afar, in Nineveh province, who voted for Allawi's Iraqya alliance. "It will bring us together."

No one coalition is expected to win an outright majority in the 325-seat parliament so the coalition that gets the largest number of votes will be tasked with cobbling together a government with other partners — possibly a tough task for al-Maliki who has angered parties across the political spectrum during his nearly four years in office. But in Iraq's free-wheeling democracy, no one believes that any political alignment is off the negotiating table.

## Student Found Dead At Frat House

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A man who had been celebrating a friend's birthday by drinking and socializing was found dead Sunday in a Carnegie Mellon University fraternity house, police said.

The 22-year-old man "likely drank too much" while celebrating Saturday night, police Detective Christine Williams said.

The man, whose identity wasn't disclosed because his parents hadn't been notified, was found Sunday afternoon by one of the friend's roommates at the Pi Kappa Alpha house, police said. He was a student at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, about 30 miles southeast of Carnegie Mellon.

His cause of death hasn't been determined.

Carnegie Mellon, a top-ranked university recognized for its arts and technology programs, has more than 11,000 students and 4,000 faculty and staff.



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**Wednesday, March 10**  
Hangman, Uno  
**Thursday, March 11**  
Dominos, Paul Bemton Day  
**Friday, March 12**  
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