

Aircraft Tracking Method To Be Tested

SYDNEY (AP) — Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia will lead a trial of an enhanced method of tracking aircraft over remote oceans to allow planes to be more easily found should they vanish like Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, Australia's transport minister said Sunday.

The announcement comes one week ahead of the anniversary of the disappearance of Flight 370, which vanished last year during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing with 239 people on board. No trace of the plane has been found.

Airservices Australia, a government-owned agency that manages the country's airspace, will work with its Malaysian and Indonesian counterparts to test the new method, which would enable planes to be tracked every 15 minutes, rather than the previous rate of 30 to 40 minutes, Australian Transport Minister Warren Truss said. The tracking would increase to 5 minutes or less if there is a deviation in the plane's movements.

The trial is expected to use satellite-based positioning technology already on board 90 percent of long-haul aircraft that transmits the plane's current position and its next two planned positions, said Airservices Australia chairman Angus Houston, who helped lead the search for Flight 370.

The trial will boost the frequency with which planes automatically report their position, allowing air traffic controllers to better track them, Houston said.

Samsung Ditches Plastic For New Phone

NEW YORK (AP) — Samsung has unveiled a stylish new flagship phone that ditches its signature plastic design for more stylish metal and glass.

The South Korean phone manufacturer also unveiled a premium model with a display that curves around the left and right edges so that information can be quickly glanced at on the side. The Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge will both include technology for mobile payments, though Samsung isn't unveiling a service to rival the iPhone's Apple Pay until this summer.

Although the resolution of the phones' rear camera remains at 16 megapixels, cameras on both sides will have wider openings to let in more light. The phones also promise better focus and color accuracy — achieved in part by using the infrared capabilities on the phones' heart-rate sensor to detect lighting conditions.

Earlier Sunday, HTC announced a new HTC One smartphone that also sports a better camera, while keeping such previously lauded elements as a metal design and polished finish. HTC Corp. also unveiled a fitness tracker, the Grip. Unlike trackers from Jawbone and Fitbit, the Grip isn't meant for couch potatoes looking to motivate themselves by counting steps. Rather, HTC is partnering with sports clothing maker Under Armour to offer features for those with active lifestyles.

The announcements come on the eve of this week's Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain.

Astronauts Finish A Tricky Cable Job

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Spacewalking astronauts successfully completed a three-day cable job outside the International Space Station on Sunday, routing several-hundred feet of power and data lines for new crew capsules commissioned by NASA.

It was the third spacewalk in just over a week for Americans Terry Virts and Butch Wilmore, and the quickest succession of spacewalks since NASA's former shuttle days.

The advance work was needed for the manned spacecraft under development by Boeing and SpaceX. A pair of docking ports will fly up later this year, followed by the capsules themselves, with astronauts aboard, in 2017.

Once safely back inside, Virts reported a bit of water in his helmet again for the second time in as many spacewalks. He stressed it was "not a big deal" and said there was no need to hurry out of his suit.

Virts and Wilmore installed two sets of antennas Sunday, as well as 400 feet of cable for this new communication system. They unreeled 364 feet of cable on Feb. 21 and last Wednesday.

Couple Celebrates 212th B-Day Together

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. (AP) — A husband and wife thought to be one of the oldest married couples in New York have celebrated their birthdays — and their combined ages will be 212.

The Journal News reports Duranord Veillard turned 108 on Saturday. His wife, Jeanne Veillard, won't turn 105 until May.

The couple celebrated Saturday at the Spring Valley home they share with their daughter.

Veillard is a native of Haiti who was a judge there. He and his wife moved to the United States in 1968, raising five children while he worked as a hospital laboratory technician.

Obama Talks About Civil Rights Struggles

WASHINGTON (AP) — For President Barack Obama, it's a week to invoke America's civil rights struggles from past to present.

The nation's first black president plans a speech Saturday from the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, the site of one of the movement's stirring moments, and will refocus on last year's fatal shooting by a white police officer of a black 18-year-old in Ferguson, Missouri.

Recommendations were expected Monday from the president's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, appointed after Michael Brown's death in August. Attorney General Eric Holder has said he expects to announce results of his department's investigation of the case before he leaves office, and that word could come within days.

Obama's actions are an important gesture toward the black community, which strongly backed him in his two White House races and will be critical for Democrats in the 2016 presidential campaign and their efforts to retake control of Congress.

Former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, also plan to be at the Selma commemoration, and a large bipartisan congressional delegation planned to be a part of a three-day civil rights pilgrimage to the state.

From the bridge on March 7, 1965, white police officers beat civil rights protesters in 1965.

30,000 Marchers Mourn Slain Putin Foe In Moscow

BY LAURA MILLS
Associated Press

MOSCOW — For the tens of thousands bearing flowers and tying black ribbons to railings in honor of slain Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, the solemn march through the Moscow drizzle on Sunday was a time for silence, not slogans.

The marchers occasionally broke into chants of "Russia without Putin," or "Say no to war," but often the only sound was the steady thwack of police helicopters overhead or the hum of police boats patrolling the shores of the Moscow River.

While the killing of Nemtsov has shaken the Russian opposition, which sees the Kremlin as responsible, it is unclear whether his death will be enough to

invigorate the beleaguered movement. Despite the Ukraine conflict and Russia's economic crisis, support for President Vladimir Putin has been above 80 percent in the past year.

Since mass anti-Putin protests brought hundreds of thousands to the streets of Moscow in 2011 and 2012, Putin has marginalized and intimidated his political opponents, jailing some, driving others into exile, and ramping up fines and potential jail time for those detained at protests.

The 55-year-old Nemtsov was among the few prominent opposition figures who refused to be cowed. But while many at the march expressed respect for his long political career and grief at his loss, few believed that his death would spark major change in Russia because of the Kremlin's control over national television, where a vast majority of Russians get their news.

"Maybe if 100 people were to die people would rise up, but I don't really believe in that," said Sergei Musakov, 22. "People are so under the influence of the (TV) box that they will believe anything that television tells them. If it tells them that terrorists from the Islamic State group came to Russia in order to blow up the fifth column, they'll believe it."

The Kremlin had identified Nemtsov as among the leaders of a "fifth column," painting him and other opposition figures as traitors in the service of a hostile West.

About 30,000 people attended the march, making it the largest opposition rally in more than a year. The demonstrators bore Russian flags and signs that read "I am not afraid" or "Propaganda kills." At the site where Nemtsov was killed, a pile of flowers grew by the minute, as mourners tossed down bouquets of every color.



A horse looks for grass underneath the snow and ice in a field in Reno, Texas, west of Fort Worth, on Saturday. The area received almost two inches of snow and freezing rain.

New Round Of Snow Could Push Boston To Season Record

BOSTON (AP) — After cold and snow that set February records, southern New England entered March with another round that could push Boston over its 20-year-old snowfall record.

With 102 inches, Boston needs 5.7 more to break the 1995-1996 record of 107.6.

Snowfall of 4 to 6 inches was expected by early Monday across the area, with up to 8 inches in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Less snow is expected in northern Massachusetts and New York state, and on Cape Cod.

"We have come this far, we might as well break the record," said William Babcock, National Weather Service meteorologist in the Taunton, Massachusetts office. "We have a couple of storms to push us over the record. Once that is done we won't complain if we don't get any more snow."

Since it's early March, "we still have plenty of time," he said.

The snow Sunday into Monday will be wetter than those earlier in the season, continuing the concern about potential roof collapses.

"If you have flat roofs, it is certainly going to add to the weight," Babcock said.

Elsewhere, heavy snow was expected in the central Rockies and Great Basin and heavy rain was predicted in parts of the Southwest. Snow was falling from the Ohio Valley into the Northeast, with freezing rain in the Mid-Atlantic.

RECORD COLD

February 2015 was one for the record books in the Northeast.

The Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University says Buffalo, Syracuse, Binghamton and Ithaca, New

York, shivered through their coldest months ever.

The average temperature was 10.9 degrees in Buffalo, beating the 1934 record of 11.4. The monthly average was 9.0 in Syracuse, 12.2 in Binghamton and 10.2 in Ithaca.

February record lows were also set in Hartford, Connecticut, at 16.1; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at 20.9; and Portland, Maine at 13.8.

BLIZZARD, AVALANCHE WARNINGS

Weather forecasters in Colorado issued blizzard and avalanche warnings as Pacific moisture continued to bring snow and strong winds to the Continental Divide on Sunday. The storm was expected to last through Monday, with another storm expected Tuesday. The National Weather Service issued a blizzard warning for Wolf Creek Pass and the Colorado Avalanche Information Center issued avalanche warnings for the South San Juan, Sangre de Cristo and Gunnison areas. The avalanche danger in southern Colorado has been increased to high.

MISSOURI DEATHS

Authorities reported three people, including one child, died in weather-related incidents in Missouri.

Two people were killed when a driver lost control on a snow-covered highway in Lebanon on Saturday when the car skidded into a tractor-trailer stopped because of an earlier crash on Interstate 44. The 20-year-old driver survived, but both passengers were ejected and killed.

In Nevada, Missouri, a boy died after falling through an ice-covered farm pond. Emergency crews rushed to the scene Saturday morning after a caller said three children were in the pond, according to

fire officials. A bystander pulled one boy from the pond, and another boy was able to get out on his own, *The Joplin Globe* reported.

Illinois and Indiana got 8 inches or more of snow Sunday from the same weather system.

MICHIGAN TOT HOSPITALIZED

A 3-year-old Lansing, Michigan, girl was hospitalized in critical condition after getting stuck overnight outside her family's apartment during frigid weather that marked the end of one of the coldest Februaries on record in Michigan.

According to police, the girl was treated for severe hypothermia. A relative found the girl on a sidewalk in front of the apartment complex about 8:30 a.m. Saturday. Lansing police Sgt. Joe Brown told the Lansing State Journal (<http://on.lsj.com/1M0N4PH>). The temperature was 5 degrees at the time.

CALIFORNIA STORM

Crews worked to clean up a mudslide that shut down a stretch of the Pacific Coast Highway northwest of Los Angeles early Sunday. The area received between a quarter-inch to half an inch of rain overnight, the weather service said. The threat of showers will linger until Monday morning when the cold low-pressure system moves out.

MARATHON CANCELED

Winter weather over the last few days in North Texas prompted organizers of the Cowtown Marathon in Fort Worth to cancel the race. The marathon, along with a 50K ultra marathon — both of which had been set for Sunday — were canceled. The half marathon, however, was held Sunday morning.

Netanyahu To Speak To Congress This Week

BY LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jewish House Democrats personally offered Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a chance to lower the political temperature after he accepted a Republican invitation to speak to Congress this week on Iran — a less provocative, closed-door session.

Netanyahu turned them down, frustrating members of President Barack Obama's party who are caught between the White House and the Israeli leader. Democrats face an unenviable choice on Tuesday:



Netanyahu

Attend the speech and listen to the Israeli leader criticize the president over his effort to negotiate a deal with Iran on its nuclear capability. Or skip it and face complaints that they failed to show solidarity with Netanyahu.

Democrats are largely resigned to the situation although still bitter about being caught in between. They're directing their wrath at House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who invited Netanyahu without consulting with the White House and State Department. And they're publicly disagreeing with the Israeli leader, too.

Rep. Sander Levin, R-Mich., called Boehner's invitation to Netanyahu "a strictly political ploy by the speaker to try to reinforce the Republicans' position on Israel and divide Democrats."

Netanyahu was "mistaken to agree to it," he said. "Speaker Boehner is playing politics with the critical issue of Israel's security. That's beyond pardon as far as I'm concerned."

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who urged Israeli officials to move or postpone the speech, said the temperature "has remained at a simmer for some time. I think the important thing is we not let the critical significance of the Iranian nuclear issue be overshadowed."

Some Democrats will skip the speech, but Schiff will attend.

"My advice is, listen respectfully," said Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., who separately met with Ron Dermer, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.

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