

## NATION/WORLD DIGEST

## AP: Blair To Resign, Tenure Lit By Turf Wars

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dennis Blair, President Obama's national intelligence director, is resigning after a 16-month tenure marked by turf wars among the country's spy agencies.

Blair, a retired admiral, is the third director of national intelligence, a position created in response to the failure to prevent the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Blair intends to offer his resignation Friday, one of the two officials said, adding that several candidates have been interviewed for the job. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement had not yet been made.

His oversight of the nation's 16 intelligence agencies was marked by turf battles with the CIA director and controversial public comments in the wake of the abortive Christmas Day jetliner bombing.

CIA Director Leon Panetta and Blair squared off in May over Blair's effort to choose a personal representative at U.S. embassies to be his eyes and ears abroad, instead of relying on CIA station chiefs, as had been past practice.

## BP Admits Spill Is Bigger Than Estimate

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — BP conceded Thursday that more oil than it estimated is gushing into the Gulf of Mexico as heavy crude washed into Louisiana's wetlands for the first time, feeding worries and uncertainty about the massive monthlong spill.

Mark Proegler, a spokesman for oil giant BP PLC, told The Associated Press that a mile-long tube inserted into a leaking pipe over the weekend is capturing 210,000 gallons a day — the total amount the company and the Coast Guard have estimated is gushing into the sea — but some is still escaping. He would not say how much.

Several professors who have watched video of the leak have said they believe the amount spewing out is much higher than official estimates.

Proegler said the 210,000 gallons — 5,000 barrels — has always been just an estimate because there is no way to measure how much is spilling from the seafloor.

"I would encourage people to take a look at the changing amount of oil coming from the ocean floor," said Steve Rinehart, another BP spokesman. "It's pretty clear that now that we're taking 5,000 barrels of oil a day, there's a significant change in the flow reaching the sea."

## Mexico Pushes Congress For Fair Immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mexican President Felipe Calderon took his opposition to a new Arizona immigration law to Congress Thursday, saying it "ignores a reality that cannot be erased by decree."

Calderon's comments on the Arizona law and his request that Congress do something about the availability of high-powered weapons along the border drew criticism from several lawmakers saying he was interfering in U.S. internal matters.

The Mexican leader also told lawmakers reluctant to take up the immigration issue this year that comprehensive immigration reform is crucial to securing the two countries' common border.

Calderon, the first foreign national leader to address Congress this year, said he strongly disagrees with the Arizona law that requires police to question people about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they are in the country illegally.

"It is a law that not only ignores a reality that cannot be erased by decree but also introduces a terrible idea using racial profiling as a basis for law enforcement," he said to cheers, mainly from the Democratic side of the chamber.

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## Bangkok Counts Losses After Riot

BY VIJAY JOSHI  
Associated Press Writer

BANGKOK — A turquoise sash on a wedding dress was the only streak of color visible in the blackened and charred shops housed inside a giant movie theater complex in downtown Bangkok. Acrid smoke rose past the cinema's large mural of the masks of comedy and tragedy.

Summoning any emotion was difficult for the owner of a gutted clothing store as he looked at the destruction.

"I can't even cry. I don't even know how I feel," said Viroj Sindhaveelert, standing on a carpet of broken glass inside the burned shell of the Siam Cinema building, which was torched by rioters on Wednesday. "This is the biggest shock of my life."

Peace was largely restored in the city Thursday, a day after a military crackdown on anti-government protesters triggered rioting in which 39 buildings were burned.

Among them were high-end properties like the Siam Cinema and the CentralWorld shopping mall, where Thais loved to bring their families.

Thursday was a day for counting what was lost in the mayhem — and what it will take to rebuild and return that special buzz that made Bangkok one of Southeast Asia's favored destinations for shoppers, tourists and business travelers.

Officials at Center One, another gutted mall of 300 shops, estimated damage of at least 1 billion baht (about \$31 million) and said 1,000 people were unemployed.

Fire damaged the first floor of the Stock Exchange of Thailand, and the damage to municipal public property was estimated at 100 million baht (about \$3 million).

Viroj, 33, lost hundreds of thousands of dollars when his store, which was named "About" and catered to fashionable Thai teenagers, went up in flames with the cinema.

"It's all gone. My entire stocks, all clothes on display. Nothing remains," Viroj said. He had brought some bags with him, hoping to fill them with clothes salvaged from the fire, but he left with the sacks empty. Nothing could be saved.

Hairdresser Yanathorn Nathanya retrieved a stool, tow-

els, a water cooler, some perm chemicals and a half-dozen tubes of dye from her salon, named "Jack," on the Siam Cinema's second floor.

A half-burned sign was all that remained of a Dunkin' Donuts shop at the movie complex.

Inside the movie theater, the roof had collapsed and only metal frames of the 800 seats remained. It had closed May 13 because of the protests, so it never got to replace "Iron Man 2" with "Bounty Hunter."

When it opened in 1966 with "Battle of the Bulge," starring Henry Fonda and Robert Shaw, the Siam Cinema was one of the most modern theaters of its day, featuring an escalator that carried patrons up to a mezzanine-level box office.

Perhaps Wednesday's biggest property loss was the destruction of CentralWorld, one of Southeast Asia's largest shopping malls. One end of the long building had caved in where the fire was fiercest, and the site continued to smolder Thursday.

For many Bangkok residents, the 21-year-old CentralWorld was more than a shopping center. It had recently undergone a multi-million-dollar facelift and boasted more than 500 shops, including a Gap and the Japanese department store Isetan.

Larger than the Mall of America in Minnesota, CentralWorld also had a public library and what was touted as the biggest food court in Asia.

"Our hearts sank when we saw on TV what was happening to CentralWorld," said Mathurawan Deo-isares, a 31-

year-old lawyer. "It was a week-end home for a lot of people. That's where they went to meet with friends, family, to dine."

"I have grown up with it. I have been going there since I was a high school student," she said. "It had a special place in our hearts."

Thawanrat Immathara-angkul, owner of a watch boutique in the complex, was in tears.

"I didn't carry anything out because I didn't expect this to happen," she said, adding that firefighters couldn't fully battle the blaze because gunmen were shooting at them.

The military assault followed six days of clashes between troops and protesters that left 39 people dead. The Red Shirt demonstrators had built a barricaded encampment on some of Bangkok's most fashionable streets, shutting off access to malls, offices, theaters and luxury hotels like the Four Seasons and the Hyatt for weeks.

The army smashed the camp, a 1-square-mile (3-square-kilometer) area that at one time held as many as 20,000 people.

Sporadic violence continued

Thursday. A branch of Siam City Bank was set afire and a firefighter was shot and wounded while trying to douse the flames at a shopping center.

The protest leaders surrendered over the past two days, and their supporters — mostly poor rural Thais who felt the current government was illegitimate and had forgotten them — were taken by buses to their villages.

Many downtown streets remained closed as soldiers searched the debris- and garbage-filled camp for weapons left behind, and they found a cache of explosives and assault rifles.

Red Shirt supporter Bun-aueer Panatsri, a 53-year-old widow from the northeastern province of Maharakam, said she didn't see anything wrong in the arson attacks.

"I think that was legitimate. It was reasonable. This was the people's way of expressing their feelings" against the government, she said as she hurriedly got into her bus, her meager belongings in a knapsack. She added that she was "saddened" by the military's crackdown.

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## South Dakota Needs Dave Knudson

### Dear South Dakota Voter:

We are writing this letter to you because of our concern for South Dakota's financial future.

South Dakota is at a crossroads. We desperately need proven leadership that will guide us through the deepest economic recession since the Great Depression.

In our opinion, Dave Knudson is the candidate for governor who will provide that leadership.

As former Chiefs of Staff and State Budget Directors for the four most recent South Dakota Republican Governors, we have held the two highest administrative positions in state government for more than 25 years over four different decades.

Today we face a budget crisis unlike any other in the past forty years. This year state government faced a budget with a proposed \$40 million deficit, and next year's budget will have a deficit in excess of \$100 million.

The coming years will be the most challenging economic times in our history. Given these dynamics, it's critical that we hire the most qualified CEO to manage our state's limited resources. The strongest candidate we have is Dave Knudson.

Dave has a plan to eliminate deficit spending. He has actually created jobs in the private sector. Along with the Republican majority, he proposed the necessary spending cuts this past legislative session in order to balance our budget and eliminate the \$40 million deficit.

It's impossible to call our current state economic environment anything other than a crisis.

South Dakotans are feeling the pinch. To assume this economic crisis will just go away is short-sighted.

- Ask the 8,500 South Dakotans who have lost their jobs in the past year if they think we have a crisis.
- Ask small or large business owners if they think we have a crisis.
- Ask state employees, teachers, school districts or medical providers who have not received a salary or aid increase in the last one or two years if they think we have a crisis.
- Ask South Dakotans who have seen their personal income drop if they think we have a crisis.

We need bold leadership with new ideas to get our state on sound financial footing once again and to get our economy moving in a positive direction.

This is why we feel compelled to encourage South Dakotans to support the candidacy of Senate Majority Leader Dave Knudson for Governor because he has a proven record of solving South Dakota's problems.

When our state has faced big challenges, Dave has been there with solutions. As a Governor's Chief of Staff, he was the architect of Governor Janklow's 30% property tax cut; as Senate Majority Leader, he led the fight in the 2010 session to eliminate the \$40 million deficit and deliver a balanced budget that used none of our reserves and did not raise taxes.

At this critical time in our history, we need a strong, conservative problem solver to tackle our state's budget crisis.

**Please join us in supporting Dave Knudson. He will be an outstanding Governor for South Dakota.**

**Rob Skjonsberg**



Chief of Staff – Governor Rounds, 2003 – 2007

**Frank Brost**



Chief of Staff – Governors Mickelson and Miller, 1987 – 1994

**Ron Williamson**



Chief of Staff – Governor Janklow, 1979-1983

**Jim Hill**



Budget Director – Governors Mickelson, Miller and Janklow, 1988 – 1995

**Steve Zellmer**



Budget Director – Governors Janklow and Mickelson, 1980 – 1988

**www.knudsonforgovernor.com**