

### Al-Qaida Considered Attacking U.S. Trains

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some of the first information gleaned from Osama bin Laden's compound indicates al-Qaida considered attacking U.S. trains, but U.S. officials say they have no recent intelligence indicating such a plot is active.

A Homeland Security intelligence warning sent to law enforcement officials around the country says as that of February 2010, the terror organization was considering tampering with an unspecified U.S. rail track so that a train would fall off the track at a valley or a bridge. The warning was obtained by The Associated Press and marked for official use only.

This information appears to be the first widely circulated intelligence pulled from the May 1 raid on bin Laden's secret compound. After killing bin Laden, Navy SEALs took computers, DVDs and documents from his house.

### Gadhafi Regime Claims Support From Elders

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Several hundred tribal elders gathered Thursday in the Libyan capital in what a government official said was a show of widespread support for Moammar Gadhafi. Rebels dismissed the claim as bogus.

In Rome, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the best way to protect Libya's people is to get Gadhafi to leave power. "This is the outcome we are seeking," she told representatives from 22 nations and organizations.

Gadhafi has tried to crush an 11-week-old armed rebellion against his rule, including by shelling rebel positions, particularly in the western part of the country that largely remains under his control. Rebels hold most of eastern Libya.

On Thursday, Libyan troops fired Grad rockets toward the outskirts of the rebel-held town of Nalut in a remote western mountain area. A day earlier, Gadhafi loyalists shelled the port area of the city of Misrata, the biggest rebel stronghold in the west, killing four people, including two children, from a migrant workers' camp as an aid ship was docked there.

Asked about Wednesday's shelling, Libyan government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim said the port area is within the range of fire of the Libyan forces and that "we won't allow any ship of any kind to come in unless it has our permission."

### The Mighty Mississippi Continues To Swell

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Mud Island, which juts into the mighty Mississippi, pays homage to the Big Muddy with an elaborate scale model of the river, a museum about its history, and a paddlewheel steamboat that looks like something straight out of "Huckleberry Finn."

But now Mud Island is getting too much of the Mississippi. Rising waters practically lapped at the back porches of some of the island's expensive houses Thursday, and homeowners weighed whether to stay or go.

Up and down Ol' Man River, from Illinois to Louisiana, thousands faced the same decision as high water kept on rolling down the Mississippi and its tributaries, threatening to swamp communities over the next week or two. The flooding is already breaking high-water records that have stood since the 1930s.

"I'm going to sleep thinking, 'I hope they don't evacuate the island and we wake up and we're the only ones here,'" said Emily Tabor, a first-year student at the University of Tennessee's College of Pharmacy in Memphis who lives on Mud Island.

### UN Panel: Renewable Energy Will Play Key Role

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The world's top scientific body concluded that renewable energy in the coming decades will be widespread and could one day represent the dominant source for powering factories and lighting homes, according to a draft report obtained by The Associated Press Thursday.

But the report also warned that such expansion will be costly and policy changes will have to be enacted to ensure that renewable energy can achieve its potential in helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It called for better balancing competing demands for land, addressing "institutional barriers" that prevent the installation of solar energy as well as overcoming the constraints to transmitting renewable energy to users.

The four-day meeting of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which began Thursday in Abu Dhabi was largely bullish on replacing fossil fuels.

"It is likely that renewable energy will have a significantly larger role in the global energy system in the future than today," said the report. "The scenarios indicate that even without efforts to address climate change, renewable energy can be expected to expand."

# GOP Won't Push Medicare Vouchers

BY ANDREW TAYLOR AND RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The GOP plan to replace Medicare with vouchers will have to wait, party leaders acknowledged Thursday as lawmakers and the White House bowed to political realities in pursuing a deal to allow more government borrowing in exchange for big spending cuts.

Both sides hinted at movement and Vice President Joe Biden reported progress from an initial negotiating session.

Spending cuts and increasing the amount of money the government can keep borrowing to pay its bills are "practically and politically connected," Biden said at the start of budget meetings with lawmakers at Blair House, the guest residence across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House.

The House Republican whose committee oversees Medicare said he's open to other approaches besides the voucher plan that recently passed the House after a contentious debate that appears to have hurt the party with older voters. Republicans got an earful from their constituents on Medicare during a recent congressional recess.

Michigan Rep. Dave Camp, the House Ways and Means Committee chairman, said he supports the GOP approach, but isn't willing to go to the mat for legislation that has no prospects of becoming law.

"I'm not interested in laying down more markers," said Camp. "I'm interested in solutions. ... Let's figure out where there is common ground and let's get there as soon as we can."

Asked about Camp's comments, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said they are "a recognition of the political realities that we face." Nonetheless, Boehner said the GOP Medicare remake remains on the table.

"Let me make this clear," Boehner said. "When it comes to increasing the debt limit and the need to have reductions in spending, nothing is off the table except raising taxes."

President Barack Obama and lawmakers of both parties face an Aug. 2 deadline to enact legislation that permits the government to increase its borrowing authority and meet its obligations to lenders. Failure to raise the debt limit beyond the current \$14.3 trillion would call into question the creditworthiness of the U.S. government and trigger an economic crisis.

"All of us understand we have got to achieve results," House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said after the meeting. The two sides agreed "to find commonality" and there was "general agreement things have to change," he added.

"You're not going to get to the big nuclear political issues," said a Democratic official in the room. "But there's going to have to be enough give and take on the other pieces that you get enough of a deal to be credible." The

Democrat required anonymity to speak more frankly about the negotiations.

"Knowing that we are very far apart between the president, the Senate and where we are, we are not under any illusion that we're going to get some grand slam agreement," House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan told reporters Thursday morning. "Let's get a single or a double, let's get a down payment, let's get some spending cuts, some spending controls as part of this."

With the government borrowing more than 40 cents of every dollar it spends, Republicans see the need to increase the debt limit as an opportunity to make deep spending cuts. Benefit programs such as Medicare and Medicaid could face some cuts, but not the overhaul called for in the House GOP budget plan.

Cantor came to the talks with \$715 billion in proposed savings — culled from a GOP budget plan that passed the House last month — from other benefit programs, including cuts to farm subsidies, loan subsidies for college and graduate students, and food stamps, according to an aide.

Camp said Obama's debt commission pointed to cuts that can be made in Medicare. One big item would involve revamping Medicare's rules so beneficiaries pay a greater share of everyday medical expenses but gain more protection from catastrophic costs. The bipartisan plan also would squeeze savings from drug makers, hospitals and home health agencies.

### Pakistan's Army Warns U.S. Not To Stage More Raids

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT  
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's army broke its silence Thursday over the U.S. commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden, acknowledging its own "shortcomings" in efforts to find the al-Qaida leader but threatening to review cooperation with Washington if there is another similar violation of Pakistani sovereignty.

The tough-sounding statement was a sign of the anger in the army. It also appeared aimed at appeasing politicians, the public and the media in the country over what's viewed by many here as a national humiliation delivered by a deeply unpopular America.

While international concerns are centered on suspicions that elements of the security forces sheltered bin Laden, most Pakistanis seem more upset that uninvited American soldiers flew into the country, landed on the

ground and launched an attack on a house — and that the army was unaware and unable to stop them. That it happened in an army town, next door to a military academy and close to the capital has added to the embarrassment.

Ties between the two countries were already strained before the raid because of American allegations that Islamabad was failing to crack down on Afghan Taliban factions sheltering on Pakistani soil. Pakistan was angered over stepped-up U.S. drone strikes and the case of Raymond Davis, a CIA contractor who killed two Pakistanis in January.

While U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Washington would continue engaging with Pakistan, the fallout from Monday's raid has added a new layer of tensions to a relationship that is crucial to stabilizing Afghanistan and allowing American troops to begin withdrawing this year.

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