

## Russia Offers To Mediate Exit For Gadhafi

DEAUVILLE, France (AP) — Russia abandoned one-time ally Moammar Gadhafi and offered Friday to mediate a deal for the Libyan leader to leave the country he has ruled for more than 40 years.

The striking proposal by a leading critic of the NATO bombing campaign reflects growing international frustration with the Libyan crisis and a desire by the Kremlin for influence in the rapidly changing Arab landscape.

With Gadhafi increasingly isolated and NATO jets intensifying their attacks, Russia may also be eyeing Libya's oil and gas and preparing for the prospect that the lucrative Libyan market will fall into full rebel control.

"He should leave," Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said of Gadhafi. "I proposed our mediation services to my partners. Everyone thinks that would be useful."

The proposal thrust Medvedev into the spotlight at a summit in France of Group of Eight rich nations. Talk of this year's Arab world uprisings has dominated the summit.

## Obama Honors Holocaust Victims

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — President Barack Obama on Friday honored the memories of those slain in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising against Nazis, telling one elderly man that the memorial was a "reminder of the nightmare" of the Holocaust in which 6 millions Jews were killed.

The president also helped place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, dedicated to all unidentified soldiers who have given their lives to Poland in past wars. By paying homage to Poles who fell in World War II at two symbolically potent sites, Obama's gestures were sure to carry great weight in a country whose identity is still profoundly shaped by the death and destruction inflicted on it by Nazi Germany.

In the final phase of his European trip, the president greeted Holocaust survivors and leaders of Poland's Jewish community at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes. He smiled, shook hands and hugged those gathered under a light rain, including some who shared memories of having met Obama at earlier times.

"What a wonderful visit. I'll have to bring my daughters," Obama said as he exited the memorial. The monument in the former Jewish ghetto commemorates the tens of thousands of Jews killed in a 1943 uprising against the Nazis during Germany's brutal occupation of Poland during World War II.

## Gas Prices Squeezing The Family Budget

NEW YORK (AP) — There's less money this summer for hotel rooms, surfboards and bathing suits. It's all going into the gas tank.

High prices at the pump are putting a squeeze on the family budget as the traditional summer driving season begins. For every \$10 the typical household earns before taxes, almost a full dollar now goes toward gas, a 40 percent bigger bite than normal.

Households spent an average of \$369 on gas last month. In April 2009, they spent just \$201. Families now spend more filling up than they spend on cars, clothes or recreation. Last year, they spent less on gasoline than each of those things.

Jeffrey Wayman of Cape Charles, Va., spent Friday riding his motorcycle to North Carolina's Outer Banks, a day trip with his wife. They decided to eat snacks in a gas station parking lot rather than buy lunch because rising fuel prices have eaten so much into their budget over the past year that they can't ride as frequently as they would like.

"We used to do it a lot more, but not as much now," he said. "You have to cut back when you have a \$480 gas bill a month."

## Clinton Tells Pakistan To Act On Militants

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The killing of Osama bin Laden is a watershed moment for Pakistan's confrontation with homegrown terrorism, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday. She sought to patch relations rocked by knowledge that the terror mastermind lived for years in a country receiving billions in U.S. counter-terror aid and that the U.S. didn't trust its ally enough to alert Pakistani leaders that the raid was coming.

"We have reached a turning point" following the long hunt for bin Laden, Clinton said after intensive meetings in the Pakistani capital under tight security.

"It is up to the Pakistani people to choose what kind of country they wish to live in," Clinton said, "and it is up to the leaders of Pakistan to deliver results."

## Homes

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therefore, into the river.

"I think there is a good chance it will reach the lagoon," Olson said.

As of Friday afternoon, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was set to host a public meeting in Niobrara that night to provide information about upcoming record releases out of Fort Randall Dam in Pickstown, South Dakota. Knox County Emergency Management, the Nebraska Department of Roads and the National Parks Service officials were also scheduled to attend.

Olson hoped the meeting would provide some answers to area residents.

"There is a lot of uncertainty," he said. "We're going into what would be our busy season because of the (Niobrara State Park). It's probably going to put a damper on it. People are probably just accepting that and doing what they can."

# Mladic Could Be Extradited Monday

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC AND JOVANA GEC  
Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia — Ratko Mladic is eating strawberries and receiving family visits in a Serbian jail, but as early as Monday the ex-general could be on his way to face a war-crimes tribunal in The Hague, possibly joining his former ally Radovan Karadzic on trial for some of the worst horrors of the Balkan wars.

The former Bosnian Serb army commander known for his cruelty and arrogance began issuing demands from behind bars Friday, calling for a TV set and Tolstoy novels, and regaining some of his trademark hubris after a pre-dawn raid in a Serbian village the day before ended his 16 years on the run.

Now a disheveled old man, his family claim he's too ill to stand up to the rigors of a genocide trial and that he's not guilty of crimes including his alleged role in the worst atrocity in Europe since World War II, the massacre that left 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the Srebrenica enclave in Bosnia dead.

Serbia's war crimes court ruled that the 69-year-old is fit to stand trial and that condi-

tions have been met for him to be handed over to the U.N. tribunal in The Hague. A defense lawyer said Mladic would appeal the decision on Monday. The former fugitive could be extradited within hours if that appeal is rejected.

His defense is demanding that an "independent medical commission" examine Mladic — preferably one from Russia, a historical friend of the Serbs. Instead the government dispatched the health minister, a former friend, who deemed him stable.

Serbian war crimes prosecutors argue that the defense was simply trying to delay the extradition, and the tribunal promises it is capable of dealing with any health problems.

The U.N. Security Council on Thursday congratulated Serbian authorities on Mladic's arrest, which it called "a clear demonstration of cooperation" with the U.N. tribunal, and welcomed Serbia's intention to ensure his "swift transfer" to The Hague.

Expressing "deepest sympathy" for all those who lost loved ones in former Yugoslavia during the conflicts of the 1990s, council members said they share the hope that Mladic's transfer to the court "will help to bring the Western Balkans region closer to

reconciliation and to their European perspective."

The Security Council agreed with the Serb government that the search for the tribunal's last fugitive, Goran Hadzic, a former leader of Serbs in Croatia, should remain "a key priority" for the government.

Mladic was in command of the Bosnian Serb army during the country's 1992-95 war, which left more than 100,000 people dead and drove another 1.8 million from their homes. Thousands of Muslims and Croats were slain, tortured or expelled in a campaign to purge the region of non-Serbs.

Mladic's ruthlessness was legendary: "Burn their brains!" he once bellowed as his men pounded Sarajevo with artillery fire. So was his opinion of himself: He nicknamed himself "God," and kept goats which he was said to have named after Western leaders he despised.

He eluded the net of war crimes investigators for years after his 1995 indictment by the U.N. war crimes court on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity — until going out into his garden for a pre-dawn walk.

# Texas Gov. Will Consider Running For President

BY APRIL CASTRO  
AND PHILIP ELLIOTT  
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — After months of resisting calls to join the race, Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Friday he would consider seeking the Republican presidential nomination, potentially reshaping the GOP field.

At the same time, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani is heading to New Hampshire next week, further stirring speculation that he will jump into the still-gelling field of GOP candidates to take on President Barack Obama.

Perry, the longest serving governor in Texas history, would bring conservative bona fides, a proven fundraising record and a fresh voice to the field. Even as Perry's closest advisers say he has no intention of getting in the race, he

has methodically raised his profile, fanning interest.

"I'm going to think about it," Perry said Friday. "I think about a lot of things."

That was enough to set off speculation Perry would jump into a campaign that lacks a clear front-runner.

Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, is the closest to a favorite at this point. Like Giuliani, he ran for the nomination in 2008, losing out to Arizona Sen. John McCain.

Romney will formally kick off his campaign in the early primary state of New Hampshire next Thursday, the same day that Giuliani is now scheduled to headline a fundraiser for the state Republican Party and have lunch with several GOP activists.

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin

also has sent a jolt through the contest with the announcement of a campaign-style bus tour along the East Coast, the latest possible contender to stand up since Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels announced last weekend that he would not run.

As for Perry in Texas, Mark McKinnon, a veteran political consultant who advised President George W. Bush's campaigns, said, "The only real question is: Why wouldn't he run?"

Social conservatives are still shopping for a candidate. Tea party activists want one of their own. Establishment Republicans remain unsettled on a choice.

That has opened the door for Perry, who has never lost an election. Still, he has for months insisted he had no interest in running for the White House.

"I don't want to be the president of the United States," Perry flatly said in November.

With those refusals, he took the reins of the Republican Governors Association for a second term as chairman earlier this year, a signal he was serious about sitting 2012 out; he told fellow Republicans he wouldn't split his time between the RGA and a White House bid.

Since then, Perry's refusal seems to have softened, albeit ever so slightly. Asked Tuesday whether he would rule out a presidential run, Perry expertly left the door open.

"I've got my focus on where it is supposed to be and that is the legislative session," he told reporters. "Like I've said multiple times, I'm not going to get distracted from my work at hand, I'm not going to get distracted by that."

## 11 Words Still Classified In Pentagon Papers

BY PETE YOST  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Forty years after they hit front pages, the Pentagon Papers will be released by the government next month. But wait! Eleven words of the finally declassified history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam will remain secret.

The National Declassification Center will only say that the 11 words are all on one of the work's 7,000 pages.

Set for the week of June 13, the hard copy and online release comes 40 years after excerpts

from the study first appeared in The New York Times.

The resulting public uproar led to a major legal victory for press freedom when the Supreme Court upheld the right of newspapers to publish the papers. The upcoming release will be the complete study, unlike the version leaked by former Defense Department special assistant Daniel Ellsberg.



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