

Mexico: 49 Bodies Found Near U.S. Border

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — Forty-nine decapitated and mutilated bodies were found Sunday dumped on a highway connecting the northern Mexican metropolis of Monterrey to the U.S. border in what appeared to be the latest blow in an escalating war of intimidation among drug gangs.

Mexico's organized crime groups often leave multiple bodies in public places as warnings to their rivals, and authorities said at least a few of the latest victims had tattoos of the Santa Muerte cult popular among drug traffickers.

The bodies of 43 men and six women were found in the town of San Juan on the non-toll highway to the border city of Reynosa about 4 a.m., forcing police and troops to close the highway.

Nuevo Leon state security spokesman Jorge Domene said at a news conference that a banner left at the site bore a message with the Zetas drug cartel claiming responsibility for the massacre.

Domene said the fact the bodies were found with the heads, hands and feet cut off will make identification difficult. The bodies were being taken to Monterrey for DNA tests.

Afghan Peace Negotiator Is Assassinated

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A gunman in a car assassinated a former high-ranking Taliban official working to end the decade-long war in Afghanistan, dealing a powerful blow Sunday to the fragile, U.S.-backed effort to bring peace to the country.

Arsala Rahmani, a top member of the Afghan peace council and a senator in Parliament, was killed a week before a key NATO summit and just hours before President Hamid Karzai announced the third stage of a five-part transition that is supposed to put Afghan security forces in control of their country by the end of 2014.

Police said an assassin with a silenced-equipped pistol shot Rahmani, who was in his 70s, as he was riding in his car in one of the capital's most secure areas, near Kabul University. The gunman fired from a white Toyota Corolla that pulled up alongside Rahmani's vehicle at an intersection. Rahmani's driver rushed him to a hospital, but he died on the way, police said.

Rahmani was a former deputy minister of higher education in the Taliban regime that was ousted by the U.S.-led invasion in 2001. He eventually reconciled with the government and was trying to set up formal talks with the insurgents.

The killing was another setback to efforts to negotiate a political resolution to the war. In September 2011, former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, who was head of the peace council, was assassinated in his Kabul home by a suicide bomber posing as a peace emissary from the Taliban.

Yahoo Names Ross Levinsohn Interim CEO

NEW YORK (AP) — Yahoo says it is appointing Ross Levinsohn as interim CEO and Fred Amoroso as chairman of its board, effective immediately.

Yahoo says CEO Scott Thompson has left the company. Thompson has been under fire for more than a week over mentions in his resume and company filings of a computer science degree he did not earn.

Amoroso was the board member leading the investigation into inaccuracies on Thompson's resume. Levinsohn is Yahoo's head of global media.

Third Point, the hedge fund that owns a 6 percent stake in Yahoo, has pushed for the changes. Third Point CEO Dan Loeb and two of his nominees will join Yahoo's board. Four directors who had planned to retire at the annual meeting will step down immediately.

AP: Drawing Sheds Light On Iran's Nuke Work

VIENNA (AP) — A drawing based on information from inside an Iranian military site shows an explosives containment chamber of the type needed for nuclear arms-related tests that U.N. inspectors suspect Tehran has conducted there. Iran denies such testing and has neither confirmed nor denied the existence of such a chamber.

The computer-generated drawing was provided to The Associated Press by an official of a country tracking Iran's nuclear program who said it proves the structure exists, despite Tehran's refusal to acknowledge it.

That official said the image is based on information from a person who had seen the chamber at the Parchin military site, adding that going into detail would endanger the life of that informant. The official comes from an IAEA member country that is severely critical of Iran's assertions that its nuclear activities are peaceful and asserts they are a springboard for making atomic arms.

A former senior IAEA official said he believes the drawing is accurate. Olli Heinonen, until last year the U.N. nuclear agency's deputy director general in charge of the Iran file, said it was "very similar" to a photo he recently saw that he believes to be the pressure chamber the IAEA suspects is at Parchin.

He said even the colors of the computer-generated drawing matched that of the photo he had but declined to go into the origins of the photo to protect his source.

Search On For Missing Calif. FBI Agent

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) — Law enforcement officers in Southern California searched in rugged mountain terrain for a second day on Sunday for a missing FBI agent who was said to be despondent and possibly suicidal.

About 100 FBI agents, 40 sheriff's department rescuers and a dozen local police officers participated in the search for Los Angeles-based Special Agent Stephen Ivens. He was described as an avid hiker and runner.

FBI Special Agent Steve Gomez said dogs had tracked Ivens' scent toward the Verdugo Mountains, east of Burbank, but searchers have fanned out throughout Los Angeles County.

Ivens, 35, was last seen by family members Thursday evening, authorities said. He left his Burbank home the next morning on foot and had not been seen since, FBI officials said at a news conference. His wife reported him missing Friday at 7:30 a.m.

Ivens was distraught and authorities fear he may have harmed himself, according to KABC-TV. Officials did not say why Ivens was distraught.

Greece

Coalition Is In Serious Trouble

BY ELENA BECATOROS AND DEMETRIS NELLAS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Critical talks to form a governing coalition in crisis-struck Greece foundered once more, leading the country one step closer to new elections — and bringing its continued presence in the euro into serious doubt.

Last-ditch efforts by President Karolos Papoulias to broker a deal between wrangling party leaders ended with no deal in sight late Sunday, a week after national elections produced a deadlock, with no party winning enough seats to form a government.

State television said talks would continue Monday evening between the heads of the parties that came in the top three spots in the elections, the conservative New Democ-

racy, radical left-wing Syriza and socialist PASOK, plus the head of the small Democratic Left party, which is in a king-maker position.

But Syriza said it would not attend the talks, state television said, throwing the entire meeting into question.

Syriza head Alexis Tsipras campaigned on a platform for Greece to pull out of its commitments in the international bailout agreement, which has given the country billions in rescue loans. He has insisted he can't back a government that won't overturn the harsh austerity measures taken in return for the bailout.

"Syriza refuses to be a left-wing alibi for a government that will continue the policies the people rejected on May 6," NET state television quoted Tsipras as saying.

Spokesmen for the three other parties said they would attend Monday's meeting.

Voters furious at the handling of Greece's financial crisis and two years of harsh austerity measures taken in return for the bailout loans punished the formerly dominant PASOK and New Democracy, which saw their support crumble to historic lows. Syriza made big gains, more than tripling its popularity to come in second place after campaigning on an anti-bailout platform.

New Democracy head Antonis Samaras, PASOK leader Evangelos Venizelos and Democratic Left head Fotis Kouvelis, agree a coalition must be formed that will work to guarantee Greece's continued presence in the euro, but have insisted it must have the participation or at least the support of Syriza.



TAKAAKI IWABU/RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER/MCT
New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's commencement in Chapel Hill, N.C., Sunday.

Bloomberg Says North Carolina Marriage Vote Sets Back Civil Rights

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has told University of North Carolina graduates that last week's gay marriage vote shows there is still a lot of work to be done for civil rights in this country.

Bloomberg spoke Sunday to thousands of graduates at Kenan Memorial Stadium.

Bloomberg told them Americans have slowly understood since this country was founded that if the government can deny freedom to one

person, it can deny freedom to everyone. The mayor says every generation has brought more freedom to this country, and he expects the latest generation to continue the work, especially after last Tuesday's vote approving a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in North Carolina.

Bloomberg also says the university's motto, "Light and Liberty," should be the defining spirit of this century.

AP: JPMorgan Exec To Resign

BY PALLAVI GOGOI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — JPMorgan Chase is expected to accept the resignation of one of the highest-ranking women on Wall Street after the bank lost \$2 billion in a trading blunder, a person familiar with the matter said Sunday.

The bank will accept the resignation of Ina Drew, its chief investment officer, the person told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss the decision publicly.

Drew, 55, one of the highest-paid officials at JPMorgan Chase, had offered to resign several times since CEO Jamie Dimon disclosed the trading loss on Thursday, the person said. Pressure built on the bank over the weekend to accept.

At least two other executives at the bank will be held accountable for the mistake, the person said.

The casualties come as JPMorgan, the largest bank in the United States, seeks to minimize the damage caused by the \$2 billion loss. Investors shaved almost 10 percent off JPMorgan's stock price on Friday.

Dimon has said the mistake will complicate the efforts of banks to fight certain regulatory changes three years after the financial crisis.

JPMorgan's disclosure has led lawmakers and critics of the banking industry to call for stricter regulation of Wall Street. Many post-crisis rules governing risk-taking by banks are still being written.

Drew oversaw the division of the bank responsi-

ble for the loss. She was paid \$15.5 million last year and almost \$16 million in 2010, making her one of the highest-paid officials at JPMorgan, according to a regulatory filing.

Drew declined comment through a bank spokeswoman. Kristin Lemkau, a spokeswoman for JPMorgan Chase, also declined comment. The Wall Street Journal reported earlier Sunday that Drew and two other executives were expected to resign soon.

The Journal also reported that Bruno Iksil, the JPMorgan trader identified as the "London whale" because of the giant bets he placed, was also likely to leave, but the paper reported that it was not clear when that would happen.

The surprise loss has been a black eye for the bank and for Dimon, who is known in the industry both as a master of risk management and as an outspoken opponent of some proposed regulation since the crisis.

Dimon said in a TV interview aired Sunday that he was "dead wrong" when he dismissed concerns about the bank's trading last month.

"We made a terrible, egregious mistake," Dimon said in an interview that was taped Friday and aired on NBC's "Meet the Press." "There's almost no excuse for it."

Dimon said he did not know the extent of the problem when he said in April that the concerns were a "tempest in a teapot."

The loss came in the past six weeks. Dimon has said it came from trading in so-called credit derivatives and was designed to hedge against financial risk, not to make a profit for the bank.

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States Crack Down on Strangulation Attempts

BY ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — By the time the late-night argument ended, Jacqi Galles had been hoisted off the ground in a tight stranglehold and choked so vigorously that she says she nearly passed out. She fled her home and called the police on her then-boyfriend, who was charged with a misdemeanor and spared a prison sentence after pleading guilty.

Moved by that case and others like it, South Dakota this year joined a growing list of states that have made non-fatal choking a felony crime, which is more serious and can carry stiffer penalties. Anti-domestic violence groups behind the effort say the laws are intended not only to secure tough prison sentences for domestic abusers but also to promote awareness of a crime they say often precedes homicide — yet is chronically under-prosecuted.

"For decades, we've simply lumped it into assault or battery or causing injury to another," said Scott Burns, executive director of the National District Attorneys Association. "But there's a heightened awareness that this is something different. This is far more serious."

Attempted strangulation cases have long vexed police and prosecutors seeking stiff penalties for attacks. The act can leave victims close to death, but unlike blows that produce a black eye or broken nose, it often leaves few, if any, external signs of injury needed to prove a felony assault charge. An attempted murder charge is also hard to sustain in cases where suspects intend to frighten rather than kill their victim. As a result, advocates say, suffocation cases have historically been handled as misdemeanors that don't reflect the act's severity or carry meaningful punishment.

About 30 states have passed laws, most in the past decade, making it a felony under certain conditions to knowingly impede someone's breathing. Iowa, South Dakota, California and Tennessee are among recent states to act, and Virginia's governor signed a law just last week. A New York law that took effect in 2010 added three classifications, from a misdemeanor requiring no proof of physical injury to a Class "C" felony, and yielded more than 11,000 charges in its first 14 months, according to the office on Domestic Violence Prevention.

The laws, part of a multi-pronged effort to draw attention to strangulation attempts, come as advocates train police on identifying the more nuanced signs — including a raspy voice, blood-red eyes from burst capillaries, difficulty breathing and involuntary urination.

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