

Christie, Huckabee Relegated To Undercard

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Chris Christie and Mike Huckabee have been bumped from the main stage at next week's GOP presidential debate, while George Pataki and Lindsey Graham have been cut from the lineup altogether.

Debate sponsor Fox Business Network announced the moves Thursday evening, dealing a blow to Christie and Huckabee as they struggled to stand out in the crowded Republican field amid signs of momentum in states where the first primary contests will be held.

The decision underscores concerns about the pivotal role that national opinion surveys have been playing in shaping the contest for the GOP nomination. Statistically, pollsters say, there is no significant difference between candidates lumped together near the bottom of the pack in national polls, which typically have a margin of error of 3 percentage points or more.

"I tell people, 'Ignore the national polls and just follow those early states,'" said Republican pollster Frank Luntz, who argues that early opinion surveys are notoriously unreliable. "Except that now national polls drive the debates, and debates drive the polling."

According to debate criteria issued by Fox Business last week, candidates must score 2.5 percent or higher in an average of the four most recent major polls conducted through Nov. 4 to be featured in the prime-time debate. They must hit the 1 percent mark to qualify for an undercard debate airing before the main event.

'Hero' Officer Inquired About Murdering

FOX LAKE, Ill. (AP) — Months before an Illinois police officer staged his suicide to make it seem like he died in the line of duty, subjecting his community to an expensive and fruitless manhunt, he apparently sought a hit man to kill a village administrator he feared would expose him as a thief, a detective told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Det. Chris Covelli said Lt. Charles Joseph Gliniewicz sent a text in April asking a woman to set up a meeting with a "high ranking gang member to put a hit on the village manager."

Gliniewicz sent another message in May saying he had thought of "planting things," which made more sense after investigators found small packages of cocaine in Gliniewicz's desk after he died, Covelli said.

The drugs were "not linked to any case that we could find," raising the possibility that the lieutenant sought to frame the manager, Anne Marrin, as a drug criminal before she could expose him as an embezzler, the detective said.

"We never found any explanation why those drugs were in his desk at the police station," Covelli said.

Netanyahu Appointee Forced To Apologize

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's newly appointed spokesman on Thursday apologized for a series of insulting comments about U.S. President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, days before his boss heads to Washington on a fence-mending mission.

The apology from Ran Baratz, issued by Netanyahu's office, cast a cloud over Monday's visit. Netanyahu and Obama have had a chilly relationship over the years, and the meeting is meant in part to repair ties after repeated clashes over the U.S.-led nuclear deal with Iran. In Washington, the State Department called Baratz's comments "troubling and offensive," and claimed the prime minister had promised to "review" the appointment.

Netanyahu announced Baratz's appointment as his chief spokesman late Wednesday, and soon after, old Facebook posts had emerged in which Baratz suggested that Obama is anti-Semitic and Kerry cannot be taken seriously. He also derided Israel's popular president as "marginal."

Baratz's appointment still needs Cabinet approval. A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue, said a vote had not yet been scheduled, and that Baratz would not be joining Netanyahu on the trip to Washington.

"I have just read Dr. Ran Baratz's posts on the Internet, including those relating to the president of the state of Israel, the president of the United States and other public figures in Israel and the United States," Netanyahu said in a statement. "Those posts are totally unacceptable and in no way reflect my positions or the policies of the government of Israel. Dr. Baratz has apologized and has asked to meet me to clarify the matter following my return to Israel."

Carson's Belief About Pyramids Dismissed

MIAMI (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson on Thursday stood by his belief that Egypt's great pyramids were built by the biblical figure Joseph to store grain, an assertion dismissed by experts who say it's accepted science they were tombs for pharaohs.

Video posted online Wednesday by Buzzfeed News shows Carson explaining his theory 17 years ago at a Michigan college affiliated with his Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In the video, Carson says: "My own personal theory is that Joseph built the pyramids in order to store grain." He was referring to the Old Testament story of Joseph predicting famine and advising the pharaoh to store surplus food.

Carson said that's more likely than the accepted archaeological conclusion that the massive structures were built as tombs for pharaohs.

At a book signing Thursday in Florida, Carson stood by his statement.

Missing Child Found After 13 Years

VESTAVIA HILLS, Ala. (AP) — An Ohio teenager applying to college discovered some startling things about himself because of a discrepancy involving his Social Security number: His real name. And that he was allegedly snatched from his mother in Alabama by his father when he was 5.

Father and son were discovered living under assumed names this week in Cleveland, where by all accounts 18-year-old Julian Hernandez was an excellent student and had been well cared for. The father, Bobby Hernandez, 53, was arrested and faces charges that could send him to prison for a decade or more.

Authorities are still trying to piece together what happened to the boy over the 13 years he was missing. But some of the bare facts are known: He vanished from his mother's home in the Birmingham area in 2002, his father leaving a note saying he had taken the child, according to authorities. The couple was not married.

Over the years, police investigated hundreds of possible sightings across the country. The break in the case didn't come until the son started applying to college.

Some kind of problem was found with his Social Security number, and so he approached a school counselor, who discovered that Hernandez was listed as missing by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, District Attorney Brandon Falls in Jefferson County, Alabama, told the local media.

Egypt Opens Ancient Tombs To Spur Interest

LUXOR, Egypt (AP) — Egypt opened three tombs in the ancient city of Luxor to the public for the first time on Thursday, hoping to spur interest in tourism despite the shadow of last weekend's airline crash in the Sinai Peninsula.

The most significant tomb was that of Huy, Viceroy of Kush under the famed King Tutankhamun. Inside the tomb, wall paintings depict a great festival with southerners from Nubia paying tribute, confirming Egypt's domination and the authority of local rulers.

"The tomb also shows Huy receiving the seal of his office, and other unparalleled details regarding the administration of Egypt's most important foreign holdings," said John Darnell of Yale University. "In many ways the tomb of Huy gives us one of the most detailed and colorful glimpses into the interactions of Egyptians and Nubians during the high noon of imperial Egypt."

Antiquities Minister Mamdouh Eldamaty said the newly opened tombs, in the Qurnat Marey area of Luxor, are among the most important ones built for nobles of the New Kingdom period, which ended over 3,000 years ago. The opening, planned before the airline disaster, is part of government plans to highlight new archaeological sites to encourage tourism.

IS Bomb On Russia Plane Would Herald New Phase In Conflict

BY ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT — At this stage, there is no hard evidence. But reports from the U.S. and Britain suggesting an Islamic State group bomb may have caused the Russian plane crash in Egypt are raising the alarm among experts, who say such an act would be a frightening change in tactics by the extremist group.

It would also underscore the failure so far of the U.S.-led coalition to deter the jihadis — despite the recent addition of Russia to the seemingly formidable forces arrayed against them.

Russian and Egyptian officials say any talk about a bomb is premature, and aviation authorities are working on all possible theories as to why the Airbus A321-200 crashed Saturday in Egypt's chaotic Sinai Peninsula, 23 minutes after takeoff.

Still, British Prime Minister David Cameron said Thursday it was "more likely than not" that an explosive device brought the jetliner down. If that proves to be true, and if the Islamic State group was responsible, it would be the Sunni extremists' largest act of transnational terrorism by far.

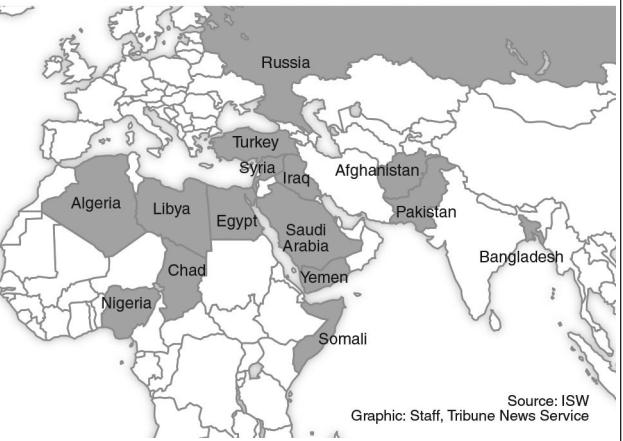
While the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for deadly attacks that struck tourists in Tunisia and Shiite mosques in oil-rich Sunni Gulf countries — claims that have not been proven — it has so far refrained from spectacular al-Qaida-style attacks on airliners. It has focused instead on seizing and expanding territory it already holds in Syria and Iraq, and establishing branches in other countries like Egypt and Libya.

And while some attacks in the West may have been inspired by the group, there has been no clear evidence that any of them was planned or directed by the group itself.

"The Sinai attack would be a first, and would signal that the Islamic State has become both capable of — and interested in — joining the dreadful ranks of global terrorism," concluded an analysis by the Soufan Group, a private

Regional ISIS activity

Areas with Islamic State linked activities and countries with one or more ISIS Governorates: October 2015



geopolitical risk assessment company.

Given the Islamic State militants' success in creating mayhem in the region through its brutal tactics and ferocious fanaticism, such a metamorphosis would be a major challenge for security services around the world.

IS has claimed responsibility for bringing the Russian plane down in written statements, as well as video and audio messages posted on the Internet this week. It said the attack was retaliation for Russia's air campaign against IS — and other groups — in Syria, where Moscow wants to preserve the rule of President Bashar Assad. The group warned Putin that they would also target him "at home."

But IS has not offered any details to back its claim. While releasing specifics would add credibility, the group may be withholding either because its claim is false, or because doing so would undermine plans for similar attacks in the future — or because the aura of mystery might deepen its mystique among die-hard followers.

A U.S. official briefed on the matter said that intercepted communications played a role in the tentative conclusion that the Islamic State group's Sinai affiliate planted an explosive device on the plane.

However, the official added that if it was a bomb, intelligence analysts don't believe IS leaders in Syria ordered the

operation, but rather that it was planned and executed by the group's Sinai affiliate, which operates autonomously.

The Islamic State group's insistent series of responsibility claims suggests it is trying to boost its global credentials.

Until now, the main advantage it has claimed over al-Qaida is its hold over a significant chunk of territory in Iraq and Syria.

Aymenn al-Tamimi, an expert on rebel and Islamic extremist groups and a fellow at the Middle East Forum think tank, said bombing a jetliner becomes a significant "one-up" in the rivalry with al-Qaida.

"If the Islamic State is capable of conducting attacks like this — particularly against a target now widely reviled (Russia) — this could bolster their appeal in the jihadi world," he said.

If a bomb brought down the plane, it would not be the first time a Russian jetliner was targeted by Islamic militants. Two suicide attackers brought down two Russian planes over Russia in 2004, killing 89 people — attacks claimed by Chechen rebels. Chechens and other militants from the northern Caucasus still have lots of reason to strike at Russian targets.

IS regularly uses high-tech propaganda videos, including those showing the beheadings of foreign hostages, as a form of psychological warfare. Those gruesome videos

have sent shockwaves across the globe and appear to have succeeded in instilling terror outside their base territory without having to actually attack — although there have been some gruesome killings around the region, including beheading a group of Ethiopian laborers in Libya.

In recent days, IS for the first time explicitly threatened Israel, in videos featuring a militant speaking fluent Hebrew. If they make good on this threat, the potential for escalation is huge.

Such ambition underscores the extreme challenge facing the U.S.-led coalition. Part of the challenge is the group's geographic dispersal: It has branched out from its base in Syria and Iraq, adding affiliates in Egypt's Sinai, Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen.

The U.S. and its allies have been bombing IS in Iraq since August 2014, extending the campaign to Syria a month later. Russia recently joined the fray, launching an aerial campaign against the group in Syria on Sept. 30. Iranian-backed militias in both countries are fighting the group on the ground. Yet IS has not been pushed back an inch in its strongholds of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria.

In another incremental step, Obama announced last week the U.S. would deploy up to 50 U.S. special operations troops into northern Syria to assist in the fight against IS.

The question now becomes whether a bomb planted by IS on an airliner will spur more serious and decisive action to destroy the group.

An official with the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq said a bomb on an aircraft is a somewhat isolated incident and would be hard to replicate, adding that it wouldn't necessarily demand a change in coalition tactics.

The attack will play into Putin's narrative that IS needs to be fought in Syria now, before it poses an even bigger threat to Russia.

Putin has regarded Syria as an opportunity to promote Russia's world standing at relatively low cost and risk, but will now be keeping a close eye on public opinion at home.

Mexico Seeks To Boost Economic Ties With Raul Castro Visit

BY E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexicans are looking to increase trade with Cuba as President Raul Castro makes his first state visit to Mexico, and the first such trip since relations between the two countries went cold in the early 2000s.

With Cuba experiencing some limited economic opening in recent years and renewing diplomatic ties with the United States, Mexico sees an opportunity to expand its economic interests in Cuba and other larger economies of the Caribbean.

"We believe we are in a privileged position to have more presence on the island because it's close, we share the Caribbean Sea and because of many things," said Socorro Flores, Mexico's deputy foreign minister for Latin America.

Castro was scheduled to arrive in the Yucatan peninsula city of Merida early Friday and meet with his Mexican counterpart, Enrique Pena Nieto, later that day.

For some experts, Mexico's interest runs parallel with what many consider Cuba's plans to increase ties with the out-

side world before the U.S. ends its 50-year embargo against the island.

"The strategy of Cuba, before the embargo is lifted and U.S. can reach everything, (is) to diversify its foreign economic relationships, and Mexico can be a good partner," said Ana Covarrubias of the College of Mexico.

After chilly relations under Mexico's two previous conservative governments, Pena Nieto has made clear he wants to renew historically close ties with Cuba. His Institutional Revolutionary Party, which ruled for 71 years before losing the presidency in 2000, always had a respectful relationship with Cuba's communist government despite U.S. pressure to cut off ties.

Cuban President Fidel Castro was in Mexico in 2002 to attend a United Nations conference in Monterrey, where he said then-Mexican President Vicente Fox told him to leave. Raul Castro, who assumed Cuba's presidency from his brother in 2006, participated in a Latin America summit in the Mexican resort city of Cancun in 2010.

According to official statistics, total trade between Mexico and Cuba in 2014

amounted to about \$374 million, a small sum against the \$500 billion in two-way business last year between Mexico and its main trading partner, the United States.

Two of the seven companies that received approval to develop the Cuban port of Mariel are Mexican. The Mexican government has said the signing of some bilateral agreements in areas such as tourism and education are expected during Raul Castro's visit.

Experts said there are some sensitive issues between Cuba and Mexico, such as migration. Mexico has seen an increase in the arrival of Cuban migrants in recent months, in what analyst Covarrubias said is a reflection of Cuba's new relationship with the United States.

Normalizing relations between Cuba and the United States will get rid of the automatic refugee status that Cubans enjoy as soon as they reach U.S. soil. Many are trying to get in before that ends.

Migration statistics show that from January to September this year, 6,447 Cubans were stopped for not having proper documentation to be in Mexico, twice the number for all of 2014.

Chinese Official: Parties Must Agree How To Resolve Disputes

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — A Chinese official praised the U.N. International Court of Justice on Thursday and called the Chinese government "an active advocate for peaceful settlement of disputes" — but he stressed that all parties must agree on the means to settle differences.

The comments by Xu Hong, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Treaty and Law, were made as China is embroiled in disputes with several of its neighbors over its claims of sovereignty to almost all of the South China Sea.

Last week, over Chinese objections, another international tribunal, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, ruled it had jurisdiction in a case brought by the Philippines against China over competing maritime claims.

China has declared that it will not take part in arbitration with the Philippines, insisting on one-on-one negotiations with smaller rival claimants which analysts say would give Beijing the advantage because of its sheer size and clout.

Xu told a U.N. General Assembly meeting on the International Court of Justice — the U.N.'s primary judicial branch — that "China stands for proper settlement through negotiations, dialogue and consultations."

But he said the means of settling disputes should be based on "sovereign equality and in full respect for the wish of the states concerned."

China, the Philippines and four other governments have overlapping claims across the vast South China Sea. Some disputed areas are believed to sit atop vast undersea deposits of oil and gas and straddle some of the world's busiest sea lanes.

Massive land reclamation by China over the past 18 months in the South China Sea has rattled countries in the region and caused concern in the United States, which supports the freedom of navigation and overflight in the area.

Last week, a U.S. Navy destroyer, the USS Lassen, challenged China's claim to a 12-mile (19-kilometer) territorial limit around Subi Reef in the Spratly Islands.

While the Permanent Court of Arbitration has taken up the Philippines dispute with China, there have not been any cases yet at the International Court of Justice or ICJ, whose main function is to settle legal disputes submitted by countries.

Noting recent ICJ reports citing difficulties in terms of "human and financial resources," Xu told the General Assembly that China believes the court should have the resources it needs to carry out its "effective" and "high-quality judicial activities."

"China is consistently committed to settling disputes through friendly consultations and will as always support the ICJ in fulfilling its mandate," he said.

Yet China has not made a statement recognizing the ICJ's jurisdiction.



AM 1450
MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Friday, November 6
7:40 am Start Up Yankton (Tony Maibaum)
8:20 am Yankton Area Arts (Julie Amsberry)