

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Suspected Terror Plot Prompts Drone Strike

LONDON (AP) — Security officials said Wednesday a terror plot to wage Mumbai-style shooting sprees or other attacks in Britain, France and Germany is still active and that recent CIA strikes in Pakistan were aimed at al-Qaida operatives suspected in the threat.

The plot was still in its early stages and not considered serious enough to raise the terror threat level, officials said. Still, the Eiffel Tower in Paris was briefly evacuated Tuesday — the second time in two weeks because of an unspecified threat — and French police were on alert.

A heavy police presence was seen Wednesday around Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and Big Ben. Victoria Station was briefly evacuated after an unusual smell was reported.

"This plot was in its embryonic stages," a British government official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his work. He said the plot had preoccupied the security community more than other recent threats, but did not merit changing the security threat level from severe to critical.

Some details about the plot came from Ahmed Siddiqui, a German citizen of Afghan background who was captured in Afghanistan in July, a U.S. official said.

Mexican Marines Seize Arms In Border State

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican marines captured 30 suspected Gulf cartel members and seized an arsenal of weapons during two days of raids in a northern border state torn by drug gang battles, officials announced Wednesday.

The marines, acting on intelligence obtained by the navy and other agencies, conducted the raids in Matamoros and Reynosa, two cities across the border from Texas in the state of Tamaulipas, Rear Adm. Jose Luis Vergara said.

The troops seized more than 50 guns, two shoulder-fired rocket launchers, 21 grenades and ammunition.

The 30 suspects, including one woman, were paraded before reporters at an air base in Mexico City, handcuffed and flanked by masked marines in black-and-white combat gear. They were lined up in front of a helicopter, the arsenal of weapons laid out in front of them.

Despite the display, the navy gave no indication of how significant the arrests were in the government's efforts to destroy the Gulf cartel, which is waging a bloody turf war in Tamaulipas with its former ally, the Zetas gang of hit men.

Maine Republican Candidate Tells Off Obama

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Republican gubernatorial candidate Paul LePage told a group of fishermen at a GOP forum that he won't be afraid to tell President Barack Obama to "go to hell."

LePage, a favorite of tea partiers, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he regretted the words he chose Sunday in the small coastal town of Brooksville but that he wasn't backing down in his criticism of the administration for what he describes as free-spending, antibusiness policies.

A Democratic Party official said it showed LePage is hotheaded and ill-suited to govern.

LePage was responding to a question when he made the remark about Obama, which was captured by a Democratic Party aide who was videotaping the event.

Gates Chides America For Apathy To War

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Defense Secretary Robert Gates says most Americans have grown too detached from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and see military service as "something for other people to do."

In a speech Wednesday at Duke University, Gates says it is this kind of disconnect that has steeply driven up the costs of maintaining an all-volunteer force.

Because fewer Americans see military service as their duty, Gates says troops today shoulder too heavy a burden and the Defense Department has to spend more money to keep them from quitting.

Gates said the nation needs a more equitable system of military service that "reflects the realities of this century." The Pentagon chief did not propose a solution.

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Tropical Storm Nicole Soaks Jamaica

BY DAVID MCFADDEN
Associated Press Writer

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Tropical Storm Nicole caused flooding and mudslides across Jamaica on Wednesday, leaving two confirmed dead and at least 12 more missing, even as the drenching system moved north and dissipated over the Florida straits.

The outer bands of the storm hammered Jamaica, toppling bridges and knocking out power to thousands. Many streets were filled with gushing brown torrents of water, prompting Prime Minister Bruce Golding to urge people to stay indoors.

Floodwaters battered squatter communities perched uneasily on the slopes of gullies that crisscross the sprawling capital of Kingston. One slide toppled a house and killed a 14-year-old boy, known to his neighbors as Buju, who was found in a pool of muddy water. The rest of his family — including four sisters, the youngest just 3-years-old — had not been found by Wednesday evening.

"He was a fun boy. He loved to sing, he loved to play football. It's not right, the whole family lost,"

said Munchie Fuller, a 23-year-old neighbor who watched terrified as a chunk of her own concrete house in Sandy Gully was swept into the raging waters before dawn.

Another resident, Lyndon Bennett, said the people in the shantytown who live along the gully are warned repeatedly to move for their own safety but most refuse to relocate.

"There's not a proper foundation there, the gully is just stone and dirt. People are told not to live there, but when you've got no other options you've just got to make ends meet. It's a real tragedy," said Bennett, who stood behind yellow police tape with about 60 onlookers.

The storm, which had sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph) earlier in the day, broke apart over the Atlantic, though the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami warned that there were still large areas of heavy rain.

Jamaican Information Minister Daryl Vaz said two people were confirmed dead but warned that the toll could be higher from the flash floods and mudslides. He said 12 people were missing. Emergency shelters were



DAVID SANTIAGO/MIAMI HERALD/MCT
Cars move through the flooded roads caused by Tropical Storm Nicole in Miami Beach, Florida, Wednesday.

opened and schools closed across the island. Major hospitals were treating only emergency cases. Officials said about 30 percent of the power utility's customers were without power. Some bridges collapsed in the rushing water.

"All in all, there has been a lot of damage done to infrastruc-

ture," Vaz said. "It's a serious blow to the country." In a rural area of St. Elizabeth parish, people told government officials that two farmers in the town of Flagman were washed away by murky floodwaters and presumed dead. Another man was reportedly swept away while trying to cross rushing Hope River in Kingstons.

Congress Adjourns Without A Budget

BY ANDREW TAYLOR AND LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — A deeply unpopular Congress is bolting for the campaign trail without finishing its most basic job — approving a budget for the government year that begins on Friday. Lawmakers also are postponing a major fight over taxes, two embarrassing ethics cases and other political hot potatoes until after the Nov. 2 elections.

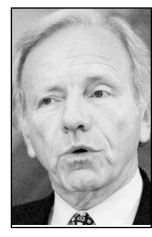
With their House and Senate majorities on the line, Democratic leaders called off votes and even debates on all controversial matters.

"It would be one thing if you have a chance to pass something, then by all means have a vote," Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., said Wednesday. "But it was pretty clear that it was going to be mutually assured destruction."

It was a messy end to a session fraught with partisan fire.

One foot out the door, the House and Senate convened just long enough to vote on a "continuing resolution," a stopgap measure to keep the government in operating funds for the next two months and avoid a pre-election federal shutdown. Even that, along with passing a few minor agreed-upon bills, was expected to take into the night and possibly into Thursday.

Staying or going might seem an equally unpleasant prospect for some embattled Democrats, who are facing more than four weeks of defending unpopular votes in favor of President Barack Obama's economic stimulus measure, health care law and uncompleted legislation for curbing global warming. They also head home without what was supposed to be their closing argument of the



Lieberman

campaign, an extension of Bush-era tax cuts for families making less than \$250,000.

Republicans and a few Democrats urged Congress to preserve the tax cuts for all Americans, even the wealthiest. Democratic leaders opted to avoid the risk of being branded tax hikers and punted the matter until after the elections.

Republicans applied the label anyway, scolding Democrats for folding the tent without voting on extending former President George W. Bush's tax cuts beyond their Dec. 31 expiration. A motion to adjourn upon completing routine business passed by a single vote, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's, after 39 Democrats joined Republicans in protest.

"If Democratic leaders leave town without stopping all of the tax hikes, they are turning their backs on the American people," said House Minority Leader John Boehner.

Pelosi has vowed that the middle class tax cuts will be passed this year.

Republicans also denounced Democrats for delaying the ethics trials of Reps. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., and Maxine Waters, D-Calif., until after the elections. Both lawmakers had said they wanted trials as soon as possible.

House leaders also appeared unlikely to call a vote on a Senate-passed school nutrition bill favored by first lady Michelle Obama. The bill is opposed by liberals because it would cut food stamp benefits to find the money to pay for better school lunches. The Senate passed the \$4.5 billion legislation in August, and many of the child nutrition programs it includes are to expire on Thursday, the last day of the fiscal

year. They'll be temporarily extended under the stopgap bill.

In the waning hours before adjournment, Democrats moved what smaller legislation they could.

The House was advancing to Obama's desk a bill setting NASA policy and legislation aimed at strengthening congressional oversight of sensitive spy operations. But a House measure to provide free health care and additional compensation to World Trade Center workers sickened in the towers' crumbled ruins was stalling in the Senate.

A single GOP senator, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, was blocking a bipartisan effort on a separate bill to provide \$1.2 billion to remedy discrimination claims against the Agriculture Department by black farmers and \$3.4 billion to settle claims that the Interior Department mismanaged Indian trust funds.

The stopgap spending measure was kept clean of a host of add-ons sought by the Obama administration, including money for "Race to the Top" grants to better-performing schools and more than \$4 billion to finance settlements of long-standing lawsuits by black farmers and American Indians against the government.

Negotiations continued, however, on a separate bill to provide \$1.2 billion to remedy discrimination by the Agriculture Department against black farmers and \$3.4 billion to settle claims that the Interior Department mismanaged Indian trust funds. Prospects were being helped by the addition of several measures — favored by western Republicans — to resolve Indian water claims.

The stopgap bill is a reminder of the dismal performance by Congress in doing its most basic job — passing an annual budget and the spending bills for agency operations.

OBITUARIES

Claudius Schulte

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Claudius Henry Schulte, age 90 of Hartington, Nebraska died on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at the Golden Living Center in Hartington.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, October 1, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Family (Sts. Peter & Paul) Catholic Church in Bow Valley, Nebraska with the Rev. Eric Olsen officiating. Burial will be at Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Bow Valley.

Visitation will be on Thursday at church from 5:00 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue on Friday at church one hour prior to service time.

Services are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home of Hartington. To send an online sympathy card go to www.wintzfuneralhome.com.

Pallbearers will be Eric Schulte, Scott Weatherill, Deon Thoenen, Randy Ankeny, Nathan Kathol, and Marc Schulte.

Claudius Henry Schulte was



Schulte

born on December 1, 1919 to Robert and Frances (Bruening) Schulte on the farm near Bow Valley, NE. He grew up on the farm and in his younger days worked for various farmers. Claude married Loretta Jansen on October 24, 1944 in Menominee, NE. After working and saving for many years they proudly bought their farm south of Bow Valley. Here they raised 7 children. One of Claude's priorities was the pursuit of a higher education for his children and grandchildren. He was a hard worker, enjoyed farming especially at harvest time. When he was younger he coached the Bow Valley little league baseball team. He also loved playing cards, having coffee at the local coffee shop and keeping in touch with relatives. Claude was a member of Holy Family Parish his whole life and a member of the Catholic

Order of Foresters.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Loretta of Bow Valley; 6 children and their spouses, Dennis and Ruth of Lincoln, NE; Linda and Al Crane of Madison, SD; Leane and Sylvan Thoenen of Bow Valley, NE; Claudette and Kevin Ankeny of Yankton, SD; Don and Laurie Schulte of Bow Valley, NE; Lori and Alvin Kathol of Bow Valley, NE; 21 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren.

Claude was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter Karen Ann in 1971 at the age of 20 years; 2 brothers, Francis and Art Schulte; one sister, Theresa Schulte; and step-sister Betty.

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Gary Mettler

SIoux FALLS — Gary Mettler, 60 of Sioux Falls and formerly of Yankton, died unexpectedly Tuesday (Sept. 28, 2010) at McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Arrangements are pending under the direction of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

Johanna Jerke

TABOR — Johanna Jerke, 87, of Tabor died Monday (Sept. 27, 2010) at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Scotland, with the Rev. David Ellis officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery, Menno.

Visitations are 5-8 p.m. Monday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral

and Crematory, Yankton, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the services at the church.

Lola Lubbers

Lola B. Lubbers, 90, of Yankton died Tuesday (Sept. 28, 2010) at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with

the Rev. Dan Smith officiating. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Visitations are 1-9 p.m. Friday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a 7 p.m. rosary followed by a 7:30 p.m. Scripture service.

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