

Government Sues 17 Banks Over Mortgages

NEW YORK (AP) — The government has sued the nation's largest banks, along with a handful of other financial institutions and executives, for violating federal and state laws in the sale of home mortgage-backed securities.
Among the 17 institutions targeted by the lawsuits were Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., JP Morgan Chase & Co., Goldman Sachs.

Turkey Expels Israeli Ambassador

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey expelled Israel's ambassador and cut military ties on Friday over Israel's refusal to apologize for last year's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, further straining a relationship that had been a cornerstone of regional stability.
The dramatic move came hours before the release of a U.N. report that called the Israeli raid that killed nine pro-Palestinian activists "excessive and unreasonable." The U.N. panel also blamed Turkey and flotilla organizers for contributing to the deaths.
The rupture between the Jewish state and what was once its most important Muslim ally raised concerns Egypt and Jordan might follow, increasing Israel's isolation in the region.

U.N. Nuclear Agency Concerned About Iran

VIENNA (AP) — The U.N. nuclear agency said Friday it is "increasingly concerned" about a stream of intelligence suggesting that Iran continues to work secretly on developing a nuclear payload for a missile and other components of a nuclear weapons program.
In its report, the International Atomic Energy Agency said "many member states" are providing evidence for that assessment, describing the information it is receiving as credible, "extensive and comprehensive."
The restricted 9-page report was made available Friday to the Associated Press, shortly after being shared internally with the 35 IAEA member nations and the U.N. Security Council. It also said Tehran has fulfilled a pledged made earlier this year and started installing equipment to enrich uranium at a new location — an underground bunker that is better protected from air attack than its present enrichment facilities.

Reactors Could Be Vulnerable To Earthquakes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The risk that an earthquake would cause a severe accident at a U.S. nuclear plant is greater than previously thought, 24 times as high in one case, according to an AP analysis of preliminary government data. The nation's nuclear regulator believes a quarter of America's reactors may need modifications to make them safer.
The threat came into sharp focus last week, when shaking from the largest earthquake to hit Virginia in 117 years appeared to exceed what the North Anna nuclear power plant northwest of Richmond was built to sustain.
The two North Anna reactors are among 27 in the eastern and central U.S. that a preliminary Nuclear Regulatory Commission review has said may need upgrades. That's because those plants are more likely to get hit with an earthquake larger than the one their design was based on.
Just how many nuclear power plants are more vulnerable won't be determined until all operators recalculate their own seismic risk based on new assessments by geologists, something the agency plans to request later this year.

Hiring Standstill Points To Recession Risk

BY PAUL WISEMAN AND CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON — Employers added no jobs in August — an alarming setback for the economy that renewed fears of another recession and raised pressure on Washington to end the hiring standstill.
Worries flared Friday after the release of the worst jobs report since September 2010. Total payrolls were unchanged, the first time since 1945 that the government reported a net job change of zero. The unemployment rate stayed at 9.1 percent.
The dismal news two days before Labor Day sent stocks plunging. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 253 points, or more than 2 percent.
Analysts say the economy cannot continue to expand unless hiring picks up. In the first six months of 2011, growth was measured at an annual rate of 0.7 percent.
Companies are mostly keeping their payrolls intact. They're not laying off many workers. But they're not hiring, either. Without more jobs to fuel consumer spending, econo-

mists say another recession would be inevitable. Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of economic growth.
Like a wobbling bicycle, "you either reaccelerate or you fall over," said James O'Sullivan, chief economist at MF Global. "Something has to give."
When growth is slow and unemployment high, companies feel little pressure to increase pay and benefits. In August, for instance, hourly wages fell.
And when unemployment is chronically high, even many people who have jobs worry about losing them. So they're less likely to spend.
Eventually, as consumers cut back, corporate sales decline. Companies scale back hiring even more. Weak spending and hiring can feed on each other and edge the economy closer to recession.
When the economy is barely growing, it's also vulnerable to shocks like natural disasters and political upheavals. An economy growing 5 percent a year can absorb more punishment than one growing at 1 percent before it would slip into recession.
Consumer and business confidence was

shaken this summer by the political standoff over the federal debt limit, a downgrade of long-term U.S. debt and the financial crisis in Europe. Tumbling stock prices escalated the worries.
Even before it stalled last month, job growth had been sputtering. The economy added 166,000 jobs a month in the January-March quarter, 97,000 a month in the April-June quarter and just 43,000 a month so far in the July-September period.
"Underlying job growth needs to improve immediately in order to avoid a recession," said HSBC economist Ryan Wang.
The dispiriting job numbers for August will heighten the pressure on the Federal Reserve, President Barack Obama and Congress to find ways to stimulate the economy.
So far, the Fed has been reluctant to launch another round of Treasury bond purchases. Its previous bond-buying programs were intended to force down long-term interest rates, encourage borrowing and boost stock prices.
On Thursday, Obama will give a televised speech to a joint session of Congress to introduce a plan for creating jobs and spurring economic growth.

Obama Yields On Smog Rule In Face Of GOP Demands

BY JULIE PACE AND DINA CAPPILLO Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a dramatic reversal, President Barack Obama on Friday scrubbed a clean-air regulation that aimed to reduce health-threatening smog, yielding to bitterly protesting businesses and congressional Republicans who complained the rule would kill jobs in America's ailing economy.
Withdrawal of the proposed regulation marked the latest in a string of retreats by the president in the face of GOP opposition, and it drew quick criticism from liberals. Environmentalists, a key Obama constituency, accused him of caving to corporate polluters, and the American Lung Association threatened to restart the legal action it had begun against rules proposed by President George W. Bush.

Smog alert

Angering environmentalists, the Obama administration scrapped plans to toughen smog standards.

Why stricter standards were proposed

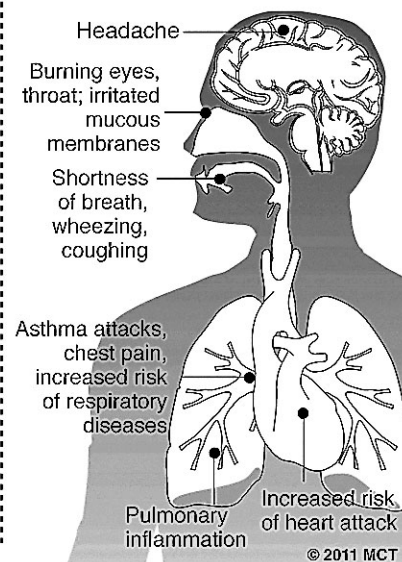
EPA estimates of the number of illnesses that could have been avoided were the allowable levels of ozone, smog's main and most dangerous component, lowered from the current standard of 0.075 parts per million

Table with 3 columns: Condition, To 0.070 parts per million, To 0.060 parts per million. Rows include Chronic bronchitis, Acute bronchitis, Nonfatal heart attack, Respiratory symptoms, Aggravated asthma, and Premature death.

Where does ozone come from? Forms when nitrogen oxides and other emissions from industrial plants, electric utilities, motor vehicles and similar places "cook" in the sun

Source: Environmental Protection Agency, American Lung Association Graphic: Pat Carr

How smog harms the body



However, the Clean Air Act bars the EPA from considering the costs of complying when setting public health standards.
Obama said his decision was made in part to reduce regulatory burdens and uncertainty at a time of rampant questions about the strength of the U.S. economy.
The regulation would have reduced concentrations of ground-

level ozone, the main ingredient in smog, a powerful lung irritant that can cause asthma and other lung ailments. Smog is created when

emissions from cars, power and chemical plants, refineries and other factories mix in sunlight and heat.

Yankton American Legion Post 12 wishes to thank the following organizations and individuals for their generous support for Boy's State: Matt Michels, St. John's Lodge, Knights of Columbus, Yankton Morning Optimists, Hy-Vee Store, First Dakota National Bank, Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home, Kolberg-Pioneer, Wells Fargo Bank, Yankton Medical Clinic, Yankton Kiwanis Club, M.T. & R.C. Smith Insurance, Lewis & Clark Optimists, Jackie Simonsen

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Clinic Closed Labor Day, September 5th. The Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. and ConvenientCare will both be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 5th so that our staff may enjoy the holiday with their families. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, September 6th. Regular ConvenientCare hours are Monday-Friday, 5PM to 9PM and Saturday-Sunday, 12PM to 5PM. So Much Care, So Close to Home. ConvenientCare

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