

Tech Fixes May Keep Trial On Track

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — The Pentagon's chief technology officer says his office can resolve computer issues that threaten to derail the military trial of five Guantanamo Bay prisoners charged in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Ronald Bechtold told a military court Friday that defense concerns can be addressed with what he called "relatively low cost" solutions.

Defense lawyers have asked to put the long-stalled case on hold because they don't trust the Pentagon computer network to protect confidential work. They say data has been lost, emails have gone astray and their work has been monitored as they prepare a defense for the men charged in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Bechtold offered measures that include encryption and segregating the defense teams' server. It's not clear when the judge will rule on the requested postponement.

American Who Resisted Nazis Honored

BERLIN (AP) — An American teacher who resisted Adolf Hitler and was executed by the Nazis has been honored in a ceremony attended by U.S. diplomats and German officials.

At an event Friday in Berlin, an artist placed small commemorative paving stones in front of the last home of Mildred Fish-Harnack, who grew up in Milwaukee, and her German husband Arvid Harnack.

The couple was part of a German group known as the "Red Orchestra" that tried to encourage resistance against the Nazis and fed information to the Soviets.

They were arrested Sept. 7, 1942, and sentenced to death. Fish-Harnack was executed by guillotine on Feb. 16, 1943.

Some 40,000 so-called stumbling stones with brass plaques commemorating people persecuted by the Nazis have been placed in more than a dozen countries.

Iraq Denies Holding 7 Iranian Dissidents

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq is denying holding seven missing members of an Iranian dissident group following a deadly attack on its compound north of Baghdad earlier this month.

The group accuses Iraq of detaining the Camp Ashraf residents and of planning to transfer them to Iran against their will.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki denied holding the seven on his official website Friday. His statement also reiterated officials' claims that Iraqi forces were not behind the Sept. 1 shooting at the camp that killed 52 Mujahedeen-Khalq members.

Iraq has pledged to investigate the killings. It is impatient with efforts to resettle more than 2,800 former camp residents abroad.

Group spokesman Shahriar Kia blasted al-Maliki's statement as a "ridiculous claim" and charged that the government is blocking an investigation into the killings.

150 Syrian Refugees Detained In Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A human rights group says 150 refugees from Syria are being detained under poor conditions by Egyptian authorities and are in danger of being deported back to the war-torn country.

Amnesty International says the refugees are Syrian and Palestinian nationals and were arrested after their boat, headed for Italy, was seized by Egyptian authorities on Tuesday. The refugees are being detained at a police station in Alexandria.

The group is urging Egyptian authorities to release them and not send them back to Syria.

BlackBerry to lay off 4,500 employees

BY ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO — BlackBerry says it will lay off 4,500 employees, or 40 percent of its global workforce, as it reports a nearly \$1 billion second-quarter loss in a surprise early release of earnings results.

The stock dropped 19 percent to \$8.50 after reopening for trading. Shares had been halted pending the news.

BlackBerry had been scheduled to release earnings next week. But the Canadian company said late Friday afternoon it expects a loss of about \$950 million to \$995 million for the quarter, including a massive inventory charge due to increasing market competition.

The BlackBerry, pioneered in 1999, was the dominant smartphone for on-the-go business people and other customers before Apple debuted the iPhone in 2007. Since then, BlackBerry Ltd. has been hammered by competition from the iPhone as well as Android-based rivals like Samsung.

House Votes To Derail Obamacare, Fund Govt.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The GOP-controlled House voted Friday to cripple President Barack Obama's health care law as part of a risky ploy that threatens a partial shutdown of the government in a week and a half.

The fight is coming on a stopgap funding measure required to keep the government fully running after the Oct. 1 start of the new budget year. Typically, such measures advance with sweeping bipartisan support, but tea party activists forced GOP leaders — against their better judgment — to add a provision to cripple the health care law that is the signature accomplishment of Obama's first term.

Republicans welcomed the vote, saying the new health care law is a disaster that is forcing cutbacks in workers' hours, raising health insurance premiums and being implemented unfairly. House Republicans have voted more than 40 times to disable all or part of the health care law.

"There's no reason the American people should have to face this train wreck," said Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga.

The partisan 230-189 vote sets the stage for a confrontation with the Democratic-led Senate, which promises to strip the health care provision from the bill next week and challenge the House to pass it as a simple, straightforward funding bill that President Barack Obama will sign.

"Republicans are simply postponing for a few days the inevitable choice they must face: Pass a clean bill to fund the government, or force a shutdown," said Majority



TAMMY LJUNGBLAD/KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT
President Obama admires a Ford truck as he is greeted by workers gathered to hear him speak during a visit to the Ford Stamping Plant in Liberty, Mo., on Friday.

Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. The White House promises Obama will veto the measure in the unlikely event it reaches his desk.

At a post-vote rally by House Republicans, Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, called the measure's approval "a victory today for the American people" and turned the spotlight to the Democratic Senate.

"Our message to the United States Senate is real simple: The American people don't want the government shut down, and they don't want Obamacare," he said to cheers from his GOP colleagues. "The House has listened to the American people. Now it's time for the United

States Senate to listen to them as well."

The temporary funding bill is needed because Washington's longstanding budget stalemate has derailed the annual appropriations bills required to fund federal agency operations.

The fight over the must-do funding bill comes as Washington is bracing for an even bigger battle over increasing the government's borrowing cap to make sure the government can pay its bills. Democrats say they won't be held hostage and allow Republicans to use the must-pass measures as leverage to win legislative victories that they otherwise couldn't.

The No. 2 House Democrat,

Steny Hoyer of Maryland said the GOP ploy is a "blatant act of hostage-taking" fueled by Republicans' "destructive obsession with the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and its unrestrained hostility towards government."

Republicans countered that the measure is required to prevent a government shutdown that would delay pay for federal workers, send non-essential federal workers home, close national parks and shutter passport offices. Essential programs like air traffic control, food inspection and the Border Patrol would keep running, and Social Security benefits, Medicare and most elements of the new health care law would continue.

US, Iran Talk Nicely, Nuke Progress Uncertain

BY JULIE PACE AND LARA JAKES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran and the United States are making plenty of friendly gestures, but real progress is going to be harder. A notable first meeting between the two nations' presidents suddenly seems possible, but without nuclear concessions the U.S. is unlikely to give Tehran what it wants: an easing of punishing sanctions that have resulted in soaring inflation and unemployment.

President Barack Obama and Iran's new president, Hasan Rouhani, both will be in New York next week for the U.N. General Assembly. And a recent flurry of goodwill gestures has raised the prospect that they will meet face to face.

As part of the effort to cast a promising outlook on Iranian diplomacy, Rouhani touted his commitment to

"constructive engagement" in a column published Friday in *The Washington Post*. He wrote that nations spend a lot of time, perhaps too much, discussing what they don't want rather than what they do want.

"This approach can be useful for efforts to prevent cold conflicts from turning hot. But to move beyond impasses, whether in relation to Syria, my country's nuclear program or its relations with the United States, we need to aim higher," Rouhani said.

"Rather than focusing on how to prevent things from getting worse, we need to think — and talk — about how to make things better. To do that, we all need to muster the courage to start conveying what we want — clearly, concisely and sincerely — and to back it up with the political will to take necessary action."

The nuclear issue may be the most difficult challenge. The U.S. and other world

powers are seeking reductions in Iran's uranium enrichment, real-time monitoring of its nuclear facilities and scaled-back production at its underground Fordo facility. Not likely, Iran experts say. At least not yet.

"I'm a bit skeptical that we'll see those kinds of concessions this early in the game," said Gary Samore, who until earlier this year was Obama's top arms control adviser.

The Obama administration has welcomed the election of Rouhani, a moderate cleric who achieved a stunning victory in Iran's June presidential elections. But U.S. officials are still skeptical of whether Rouhani's more palatable rhetoric will be followed by actual shifts in Iran's longstanding refusal to curb its nuclear program. The U.S. and its allies suspect Iran is trying to produce a nuclear weapon, though Tehran insists its nuclear activities are only for producing energy

and for medical research.

Obama has been testing the waters through an exchange of letters with his Iranian counterpart. U.S. officials say Obama used his correspondence to convey urgency in resolving the nuclear dispute through diplomacy before that option is cut off.

Rouhani, in an interview with NBC News, said he thanked Obama for his outreach and "expressed Iran's viewpoint on the issues raised in his letter and some other issues."

Rouhani has made other overtures that have grabbed the Obama administration's attention. He included Iran's only Jewish lawmaker in his delegation to the U.N. meeting. And the Iranian government this week released a dozen prominent political prisoners, including a human rights lawyer who defended opposition activists and was imprisoned for three years.

OBITUARIES

Shirley Jenkins

ALCESTER — Shirley Jenkins, 87, died Sept. 19, 2013, at Morningside Care Center in Alcester.



Jenkins

Funeral services will be held 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 24 at the United Church of Christ in Alcester.

Visitation will be Monday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a prayer service at 7 p.m. at Wass Funeral Home in Alcester.

Survivors include her niece Pat (Rick) Merkel, Crofton, NE, nephew Mark (Linda) Trandahl, Winner, SD; and many other relatives.

For a full obituary please visit www.wassfuneral-home.com/.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 21, 2013

Maxine Larsen

SIoux FALLS — Maxine I. Larsen, 81, died Friday, Sept. 20, 2013 in Sioux Falls.

Her funeral service will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, with burial at Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, rural Menno, SD.

Visitation begins at 5:00 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23 at George Boom Funeral Home,



Larsen

Sioux Falls, where the family will greet friends from 5-7:00 p.m. and a prayer service begins at 7:00 p.m.

Survivors include three children, John (Karla) Larsen and Cheryl (Bob Hunter) Ingalls, both of Hartford, SD; Kathy Black, Brandon, SD; 11 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be directed to the Our Savior's Lutheran Television Ministry or the Bethlehem Cemetery Fund.

Obituary and on-line registry available at www.georgeboom.com.
Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 21, 2013

Marjorie Triplett

Marjorie Ann Triplett, 75, of Yankton died Friday, Sept.

20, 2013 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 23, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with the Rev. Michael Hecht officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Private nonsectarian cemetery offering earth burial plots, mausoleum crypts and niches.

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