Suicide bomber in Israel kills himself and four others

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

NETANYA, Israel — A suicide bomber set off explosives at the entrance to a shopping mall in this seaside city today, killing himself and at least four others and wounding up to 40 people, witnesses and Israel radio

Netanya is about 6 miles from the West Bank and has been the scene of several bomb attacks by Palestinian militants in the past. There were no immediate claims of responsibility.

Witnesses said the bomber tried to get into the mall but was stopped by

The shopping mall was crowded at midday today, as people prepared for the Jewish Sabbath. After the explosion, police cleared people out of the mall and closed off the area.

GOUMOIS, France — Rescuers made contact today with eight Swiss vacationers trapped in a flooded French cave and reported that all of them were alive, an official said.

The group was located about 300 feet from the entrance of the narrow, winding cave, Herve Tonnaire, a top aide to the prefect of the Doubs region, said by telephone.

There was no indication of the condition of the five men and three women, trapped since Wednesday as rescuers struggled to gain access to the cave and frantically pumped wa-

The news that the eight were alive came after rescue workers reached one of two known air pockets in the cave known locally as the "Bief-du-Paroud" and found it empty, officials

ap news capsules

Thomas Arbenz of the Swiss Society for Cave Research, which has 30 specialists at the site, said Thursday ing to court papers. The arrest came that the only hope for the group was two days after he won the Demoto find a pocket of air.

Divers were unable to get into the cave until late Thursday, after rescuers used explosives to widen its entrance. Gehain said rescuers were making slow progress.

NATIONAL

YORK, Pa. — In the 32 years since the York race riots, Charlie Robertson has gone from an angry young police day that the deal would be a nearly officer yelling "white power!" at a rally to a twice-elected mayor who appeared well on his way to another term.

summer threaten to end Robertson's lion. career — and possibly land him in

On Thursday, Robertson was charged in the 1969 murder of Lillie Belle Allen, a black woman who was shot to death after driving into a white gang's neighborhood. Six others have been charged in the attack.

Robertson, 67, maintains his innocence. He said Thursday that he has no plans to resign or give up his campaign for re-election.

When a white rookie police officer which Robertson admits he velled 'white power!" Prosecutors now say Robertson also gave hunting-rifle bullets to white gang members and told them to kill blacks.

since 1994, was handcuffed, booked sale of Lucent's fiber optic cable

day. He was charged with both murder and criminal homicide, accordcratic mayoral primary.

NEW YORK — French telecommunications equipment maker Alcatel SA is reportedly in advanced talks to buy U.S. rival Lucent Technologies for slightly more than \$40

The New York Times reported toall-stock transaction representing about a 20 percent premium over Lucent's current value of \$33.5 bil-Now, events from that turbulent lion. Alcatel is valued at \$39.5 bil-

> The talks have reached a critical stage and a decision about whether to proceed with formal negotiations is expected within the next week, the Times reported, citing sources close to the deal.

> If the companies decide to move forward, a deal could be announced by early June, the sources said. The chances of the deal going through were described as 50-50.

Lucent, spun off from AT&T Corp. in 1996, is among the most widely was fatally shot trying to patrol the held stocks in the country, but it has city, other officers attended a rally in fallen on hard times in the last year. A string of strategic missteps and profit disappointments led to the ouster of Lucent's chief executive and a major restructuring.

Discussions about a sale of Lucent Robertson, who has been mayor to Alcatel grew out of talks about the

that business if it does not acquire all collecting investigative documents, test" of the measure's bipartisan balof Lucent, the sources said.

PARKLAND, Wash. — An assistant music professor at a small Lutheran university was fatally shot on campus by a man who apparently chose his victim at random before turning the gun on himself, authorities said.

The gunman died of his injuries about seven hours after the shooting Thursday afternoon.

Authorities identified the shooter as 55-year-old Donald Cowan and said his last known address was in Tacoma, just north of the Pacific Lutheran University. He had no affiliation with the school, university spokesman Greg Brewis said.

The shooter apparently didn't know his victim, James D. Holloway, but was angry with a female employee of the university, Pierce County Sheriff's Lt. Dave Hall said. Hall said the gunman selected his

victim at random, shot him four times with a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol, placed a 16-page note by his body and then shot himself. The 16-page note, handwritten on yellow legal paper, said the gunman intended to kill an innocent person, Hall said.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — The FBI agent who first knew of a foul-up with Oklahoma City bombing documents did not inform his superiors about it for months because he was trying to determine how bad the problem was, a memo on his meeting with senators

Danny Defenbaugh, the lead investigator of the Oklahoma City

said the FBI had an inkling that ance, one that should signal to the something was amiss as early as House and Bush that major alter-January, according to a summary of ations will be difficult in a Senate a briefing Defenbaugh gave to members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The summary was obtained Thursday by The Associated Press.

Defenbaugh briefed lawmakers on Tuesday. The next day, former FBI Director Louis Freeh gave a similar account before Congress of the gap in time between Defenbaugh's discovering the documents and alerting his superiors.

Citing the unreliability of the FBI's bureau-wide computer system, Defenbaugh said he opted in 1995 to enter all the bombing documents into a separate database in Oklahoma. As it turns out, 254 of the items actually had been entered in the bureau-wide

According to the memo, Defenbaugh told lawmakers that in hindsight he should have checked the FBI computer system for any documents.

WASHINGTON—A compromise 11-year, \$1.35 trillion tax cut package remained unscathed in the Senate, paving the way for Congress next week to negotiate the final shape of President Bush's legislative center-

Most Senate Republicans, allied with a band of Democratic moderates, voted down amendments Thursday by Democratic critics that would have trimmed the estate and income tax cuts in favor of tax breaks for college tuition and married couples.

man Charles Grassley called the esand released on \$50,000 bail Thurs- business. Alcatel still plans to bid for bombing case who was in charge of tate tax vote in particular a "critical" the floor.

divided between 50 Democrats and

50 Republicans. "It preserves the basic elements of the bipartisan compromise," Grassley told reporters.

A final Senate vote on the bipartisan package was set for late Monday. but no votes on amendments were planned today. That would set up a showdown conference next week with the House, which has passed tax cuts closer to Bush's original 10year, \$1.6 trillion plan.

WASHINGTON — After a committee deadlock along party lines on the nomination of Theodore Olson as solicitor general, Republican leaders said they would attempt to put the matter before the full Senate.

It was the first time this procedure has been used under a power-sharing agreement in the 50-50 Senate. The move would force a showdown over the lawyer who argued George W. Bush's Florida election case to the Supreme Court.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott pulled Olson's nomination from the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday and will try to bring it straight to the Senate floor. The solicitor general is the administration's advocate before the high court.

The Judiciary Committee split 9-9 along party lines on Olson's nomination. The chairman, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, then asked Lott, R-Senate Finance Committee Chair- Miss., to take Olson's nomination from the committee and move it to

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