

NATO will collect last weapons in Macedonia

INTERNATIONAL
SKOPJE, Macedonia — NATO will start collecting the last weapons being surrendered by ethnic Albanian insurgents on Thursday, reflecting rebel readiness to fulfill their part of a peace deal, an alliance spokesman said Wednesday.

U.S. Maj. Barry Johnson suggested the last stage of NATO's Essential Harvest mission would begin even if parliament delays its part of the bargain — agreeing on the text of draft amendments to the constitution giving the country's ethnic Albanians more rights.

"They're prepared to turn in weapons, with the full expectation that parliament will do its part," said Johnson. He said collection sites to gather the last of 3,300 weapons being surrendered by the rebels will be set up in two days.

The Western-brokered peace deal, adopted last month, envisions ethnic Albanian rebels of the National Liberation Army handing over their weapons to NATO in three separate phases, followed by parliament action to amend the constitution to grant ethnic Albanians more rights.

NATIONAL
PORT ISABEL, Texas — Two more

ap news capsules

vehicles have been hoisted from water next to a collapsed bridge damaged in a barge crash that killed at least five people.

One of the vehicles retrieved Tuesday contained the body of 32-year-old Hector Martinez of Port Isabel, the fifth victim identified so far, said Trooper Adrian Rivera, a Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman.

Police divers are now using sonar to search for three people and two vehicles still missing since Saturday's barge collision.

Crews in boats and helicopters have panned the area to no avail. The search was to resume Wednesday morning.

The barge wreck closed the Queen Isabella Causeway, the only bridge to South Padre Island.

It will take up to four months to clear the channel bottom, build new bridge supports, lay beams and repave the roadway in a project that could cost \$5 million, Texas Department of Transportation engineer Amadeo Saenz said.

BECKLEY, W. Va. — The case of a chemist accused of misrepresenting test results used in trials has ended in a

mistrial, after jurors were unable to reach a verdict.

After deliberating for about seven hours, the jury deadlocked Tuesday in Fred Zain's felony fraud case and told the judge they could not decide if the state crime lab chemist is guilty of committing fraud.

Prosecutor Jim Lees said he will seek a new trial as soon as possible. Zain and his attorneys refused to comment.

The former state police officer was tried on four counts of obtaining money from West Virginia — including his salary — under false pretenses. If he had been convicted on all four counts, he would have faced up to 13 years in prison.

The problems with the tests led to dozens of challenged convictions. His work also came under fire in Texas, where he worked after leaving West Virginia.

No one knows precisely how many people were convicted on the basis of Zain's testimony, or how many of them are still imprisoned in West Virginia, Texas and the 10 other states where he served as a consultant.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — Ford Motor Co. said it's reached a settlement in a lawsuit involving a rollover accident of a Ford Explorer, just as the suit was about to go to trial.

Ford declined to discuss details of Tuesday's settlement, citing the family's right to privacy. A family spokesman said he did not know specifics of the agreement.

Margarita Gonzalez, 59, died last year when the Explorer she was in rolled over after a tread separated on one of the vehicle's Firestone tires.

Gonzalez's son, Alfredo, was driving the vehicle at high speed. He was left brain damaged.

Surviving family members had been seeking damages for wrongful death, malice and gross negligence. The family had already settled with Bridgestone/Firestone.

Ford spokeswoman Kathleen Vokes said a trial would have allowed the company to present evidence that the Ford Explorer "is one of the safest vehicles on the road." Still, she said, the company preferred to settle the case.

The trial had been scheduled to begin Wednesday.

SEATTLE — Reacting to commer-

cial airlines that are cutting workers and eliminating routes, Boeing Co. announced plans to lay off up to 30,000 commercial airplane employees by the end of next year.

The decision, announced late Tuesday by the aerospace giant, comes amid expectations that orders for commercial aircraft will drop in the aftermath of last week's terrorist attacks.

"We profoundly regret that these actions will impact the lives of so many of our highly valued employees," Alan Mulally, president and chief executive officer of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, said in a statement. "It is critical that we take these necessary steps now ... to support the difficult and uncertain environment faced by our airline customers."

The company will likely start handing out pink slips within three weeks, with layoffs to begin about two months later, he said.

The layoffs, expected to be between 20,000 and 30,000, will be made across the board, he said.

Roughly 93,000 people work for Boeing's commercial airline sector, much of which is centered on the company's former headquarters in Seattle. Boeing's corporate headquarters is now in Chicago.

SEATTLE — Mayor Paul Schell, whose four years in office were tarnished by riots and the departure of Boeing's headquarters for Chicago, fell short in his bid for a second term with a third-place finish in the mayoral primary.

Schell is the first Seattle mayor to lose a re-election bid in 45 years.

With 97 percent of precincts reporting late Tuesday, King County Council member Greg Nickels had 21,715 votes, or 34 percent.

City Attorney Mark Sidran had 20,647 votes, or 33 percent, and Schell had 13,803 votes, or 22 percent.

Nine other candidates trailed the top three finishers.

By getting the two highest vote totals, Sidran and Nickels advanced to the general election Nov. 6. Schell, Nickels and Sidran are all Democrats in this liberal city of 563,000.

"We've got a lot done these last four years," Schell said as he conceded the race.

"I'm thankful for having the chance to serve and look forward to planning another way to have an interesting life."

Schell, 63, a former developer, knew he faced an uphill re-election battle.

Kansas lawmakers say attacks call for new rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — From easing trade with Pakistan to creating uniform security measures at U.S. airports, Kansas lawmakers are lining up their priorities for coping with last week's terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Already, Congress and the Bush administration are working to speed multibillion-dollar relief to the nation's airlines to help them recover from last week's terrorist attacks.

Beyond that, action is expected on several fronts, particularly as Congress delves into U.S. intelligence capabilities one week after four airliners were hijacked and crashed seemingly without warning.

Sen. Pat Roberts, who serves on the Intelligence and Armed Services committees and chairs a special panel on potential terrorist threats, said work begins this week.

"We've done a lot to increase funding for intelligence, but the analytical ability, I think we have to shake that up," Roberts, R-Kan., said. "We have not been thinking out of the box; we have not been thinking like terrorists."

"We need to see what red flags came up and how we can change the analytical mission and capability of the intel-

ligence community and the military," he said.

Kansas Rep. Todd Tiahrt, a Republican member of the House Appropriations Committee, is in hearings this week on the defense and transportation spending subcommittees to focus on more funding for intelligence.

"We need to look at all avenues of gathering intelligence to make sure we are not caught unaware in the future," Tiahrt said Tuesday, adding that the intelligence community needs to change how it refuses to deal with or pay informants "who are in some cases the dregs of society."

His fellow Republican, Rep. Jerry Moran, bowed out of contention for Kansas governor Monday, saying he nearly joined the race but abandoned the idea after terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Every generation has an opportunity to leave a legacy," he said in an interview Monday. "If we can leave a legacy that the world is a safer place, that would be a good thing for the generation I'm part of."

He added: "What efforts we make at trying to combat terrorism seem to me to be an awfully important thing."

Meanwhile, Sen. Sam Brownback said Tuesday the United States should lift trade sanctions on Pakistan and back World Bank loans for economic development in Pakistan, "so the population can see a positive reason to engage with the United States."

Pakistan's government has pledged "full support" to the United States in the event of a strike against Afghanistan — which is likely given the haven that the Taliban have given to Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Many Pakistanis say they are ready to join a holy war against America, and possibly their own government, if the United States attacks Afghanistan.

"There is a fair amount of empathy on the ground in Pakistan for the Taliban leadership and Osama bin Laden," said Brownback, top Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee panel on the region. "The United States is going to have to show the people in Pakistan that it's good to be in a good relationship with the United States."

In particular, Brownback said, he hopes that efforts to build relations will include shipments of U.S. wheat and flour to Pakistan, which would have an indirect but positive effect on producers in his home state of Kansas.

Rep. Dennis Moore, D-Kan., is focused on airport security.

"I know many of the European na-

tions have government-operated security agencies or personnel working with airlines," Moore said. "I think there needs to be some discussion about whether we federalize airport security."

Republican Rep. Jim Ryun, an Armed Services Committee member, said a main priority of his is for Congress to find a way to freeze assets of bin Laden and others like him, "and perhaps even somehow affect coun-

tries that harbor terrorists."

"We're looking at a number of ways to try and slow that down," Ryun said.

He also hopes Congress will try to streamline coordination among agencies that patrol U.S. borders.

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