

# United Nations, leader share Nobel Peace Prize

**INTERNATIONAL**  
OSLO, Norway (AP) — The United Nations and its Secretary-General Kofi Annan won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for “their work for a better organized and more peaceful world.”

The Nobel committee said the United Nations and Annan would share the \$943,000 award in equal parts.

It cited the United Nations for being at the forefront of efforts to achieve peace and security in the world. Annan, who has devoted almost his entire working life to the world body, was lauded for “bringing new life to the organization.”

U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard woke Annan and told him the news shortly after 5 a.m. Friday morning. Speaking on CNN, Eckhard called the award “a vote of confidence in our common future.”

Annan, born in 1938 in Ghana, became U.N. secretary-general in 1997. He has been praised for his character, moral leadership, his focus on civil wars in Africa and elsewhere and his efforts to combat AIDS. He was the first leader to be elected from the ranks of United Nations staff. He was the head of U.N. peacekeeping operations.

In an unprecedented vote of confidence, Annan was unanimously reappointed to a second five-year term by the 189 U.N. member states in June, six months before his first term expires on Dec. 31.

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Skeleton remains found on a remote southern island belong to a California

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man abducted in May by Muslim extremists known for kidnapping and beheading their victims, the U.S. Embassy said Friday.

An embassy statement said laboratory exams identified the remains, discovered Monday, as those of Corona, Calif., resident Guillermo Sobero.

Members of the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf abducted Sobero, two other Americans and 17 Filipinos May 27 from a southwestern beach resort. The group has suspected ties to Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaida terrorist network, blamed in the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

On June 12, Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abu Sabaya told local radio that his men beheaded Sobero as an “Independence Day gift” for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. They warned the country’s military to call off its attacks on guerrilla hide-outs.

The rebels claim to be fighting for Islamic independence in the southern region of Mindanao, but the government dismisses them as bandits who thrive on kidnappings.

**NATIONAL**  
NEW YORK (AP) — A Saudi prince who gave the city a \$10 million relief check then said U.S. policies were partly to blame for the World Trade Center attack received a stinging rebuke from the mayor and a rejection of his donation.

During his visit to the wreckage Thursday, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal

called the attack “a tremendous crime” and said the suspected mastermind, Osama bin Laden, “does not belong to Islam.”

But in a written statement handed out by his publicist, the prince said: “At times like this one, we must address some of the issues that led to such a criminal attack. I believe the government of the United States of America should re-examine its policies in the Middle East and adopt a more balanced stance toward the Palestinian cause.”

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who had attended a memorial service with Alwaleed and accepted his \$10 million offer to help victims’ families, had a harsh response when he learned about the statement.

“There is no moral equivalent for this attack,” Giuliani said. “The people who did it lost any right to ask for justification when they slaughtered 5,000, 6,000 innocent people. Not only are those statements wrong, they’re part of the problem.”

Sunny Mindel, the mayor’s communications director, told The Associated Press: “We are not going to accept the check — period.”

NEW YORK (AP) — Public Advocate Mark Green emerged as the Democratic nominee for New York mayor after defeating Fernando Ferrer in a runoff that was overshadowed by terrorist attacks and speculation about incumbent Rudolph Giuliani staying in

office.

Green will face billionaire media mogul Michael Bloomberg next month in the general election as they attempt to guide New York City through a daunting recovery process following the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

Green and Bloomberg are vying for a seat that Giuliani, a two-term Republican whose popularity has soared for his leadership after the attacks, must give up because of term limits.

“I’ll give you a mayor who came back in this campaign and wants to lead a New York comeback,” said Green, who was outpolled during the primary.

Green received 52 percent of the vote Thursday, compared with 48 percent for Ferrer, the Bronx Borough President who was attempting to become New York City’s first Hispanic mayor. With all precincts reporting, Green had 417,329 votes to Ferrer’s 387,523, an especially light turnout.

Polls show Green with a comfortable lead over Bloomberg in the heavily Democratic city.

**WASHINGTON**  
WASHINGTON (AP) — A nearly \$100 billion plan to boost the weak economy crafted by House Republicans would offer millions of lower-income people a new round of tax rebate checks, provide states with grants to tackle unemployment and give businesses several tax breaks.

“We must act to stimulate a slow economy, to help laid-off workers,” President Bush said at his news conference Thursday night.

The House Ways and Means Committee was scheduled to consider the measure Friday, with floor action likely next week. Democrats were countering with their own \$110 billion plan, which also included rebate checks but added \$32 billion for projects aimed at improving security and boosting economic development.

The new round of rebates would be intended for an estimated 30 million workers whose main federal tax liability is the payroll tax that funds Social Security, Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas said Thursday. Those workers did not qualify for the earlier checks included in the recently enacted 10-year, \$1.35 trillion tax relief measure.

The maximum amounts would be \$300 for individuals, \$500 for heads of households and \$600 for married couples filing jointly — identical to the previous checks.

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** Airlines are not complying with government orders issued after last month’s terrorist hijackings to scan checked baggage for bombs, the Transportation Department’s inspector general says.

The Federal Aviation Administration ordered broad and partly secret safety measures be put in place before allowing flights to resume after the Sept. 11 attacks.

But in checks at seven of the nation’s 20 highest-risk airports over the past week, the inspector general found widespread noncompliance with orders to run all bags through sophisti-

cated bomb detection machines.

“At most of the machines we observed no bags were searched,” Kenneth M. Mead told a House subcommittee Thursday.

A spokesman for the Air Transport Association, a trade group for the airlines, disputed the finding. “Our carriers are doing what they are instructed to do by the FAA,” said Michael Wascom.

FAA Administrator Jane Garvey said in an interview she had just learned of the inspector general’s findings and needed to examine them further.

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** India, long known as ardently neutral, is being approached by the Pentagon to play a role in the U.S.-led military coalition against the al-Qaida terrorist network in Afghanistan.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage also told reporters Thursday that India has helped by sharing intelligence with the United States.

“They came forward and said anything the U.S. needs, you got,” Armitage said as he previewed the trip. Secretary of State Colin Powell will take next week to India and Pakistan.

The two nuclear-armed countries have fought two wars over Kashmir and have been at odds for a half-century.

The State Department’s No. 2 official called Kashmir the most dangerous place in the world. He said a main purpose of Powell’s trip would be to ensure that tensions between the two countries do not escalate.

# Washington freezes assets of 39 more terrorists, groups

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration froze the assets of an additional 39 individuals and groups on Friday as it stepped up the effort to choke off funds that support terrorism.

White House aides said the president doubts Afghanistan’s rulers will turn over Osama bin Laden, despite an offer to suspend bombing if they do.

The nation remained on high alert, following what Bush said was a “general threat” of possible additional terrorist strikes in the next several days, and lawmakers labored over legislation to expand the power of law enforcement officials working on anti-terrorism.

“We are determined to deny terrorists the resources to carry out their acts of evil,” Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill said as he announced the latest move to cut off financing. He said the new list includes all 22 men on the FBI’s newly compiled list of “Most Wanted Terrorists, as well as businesses and organizations funneling money to bin Laden’s Al-Qaida network.

On the morning after a prime time presidential news conference, senior White House officials said Bush harbored no illusions that the ruling Taliban regime will turn over bin Laden, the man tagged by administra-

tion officials as the chief architect of the Sept. 11 attacks that killed thousands. These officials said Bush hoped that extending an olive branch will convince skeptical nations, particularly in the Arab world, that the United States is being fair and patient.

“If you cough him up, and his people today ... we’ll reconsider what we’re doing to your country,” the president said in his nationally televised question-and-answer session. “You still have a second chance. Bring him in. And bring his leaders and lieutenants and other thugs and criminals with him.”

He said “it might take a year or two”

to unravel the terrorist network behind the attack but asserted the five-day bombardment in Afghanistan already had put bin Laden’s al-Qaida network on the run.

The president said he did not know whether bin Laden was dead or alive, but it mattered little: “I want him brought to justice.”

The president, at times forceful, emotional and humorous, looked confidently beyond his war with Afghanistan’s Taliban regime and suggested that the United Nations help rebuild the Central Asian country. He urged patience, telling Americans he was “slowly, but surely” tightening the

noose around al-Qaida.

“This particular battlefront will last as long as it takes to bring al-Qaida to justice. It may happen tomorrow; it may happen a month from now; it may take a year or two. But we will prevail,” said Bush, who criticized open-ended military missions as a presidential candidate.

The president said an FBI warning issued earlier in the day was the result of a “general threat” of possible future terrorist acts the government had received. “I hope it’s the last, but given the attitude of the evildoers it may not be,” he said.

The possible threats ranged from

diplomatic sites overseas to possible truck bombs in the United States, a U.S. intelligence official said later, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At the same time, Bush sought to reassure Americans the government was doing all it could to make them safe. The president said he wouldn’t hesitate to close buildings or facilities if there was credible evidence of an attack, and he urged Americans to report anything suspicious to law enforcement authorities.

Above all, he said, don’t let fear prevail. “Their intention was to frighten (Americans) to the point where our nation would not act.

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