

# Pakistani troops block escape

FIGHTING, from Page 1

tars.

One of the commanders, Haji Zahir, said his fighters had driven al-Qaida forces out of the valley except for one or two mortar positions, which he expected to fall soon.

The pro-bin Laden forces had retreated to the main Tora Bora complex, a mile to the southwest, and tribal fighters seized 15 caves in Milawa, some still with ammunition in them, he said.

Pakistani troops on the other side of the nearby border deployed to block al-Qaida fighters' escape.

Afghanistan's interim prime minister, Hamed Karzai, said al-Qaida must be eliminated as the country tries to build a stable post-Taliban government.

"What Afghanistan needs is the full establishment of a national state, but first we must root out all the terrorists. We are going after all of al-Qaida's safe houses," he told journalists in the former house of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar in Kandahar. "We must burn out all these

roots."

Afghan forces are hunting for Mullah Omar and other Taliban leaders who disappeared after the former ruling militia fled its last stronghold, Kandahar, on Friday.

U.S. Marines from Camp Rhino base in the deserts southwest of Kandahar stepped up their search for al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in the region today, when a column of armored vehicles and helicopters set up a new "staging area" about 12 miles from the city.

The staging ground was located at the base of a rocky mountain overlooking at least one main highway. From the site, Marines can move quickly against fleeing fighters, spokesman Capt. Stewart Upton said.

The hunter-killer teams have LAV-25s — fast-moving armored vehicles with a 25mm turret gun — and Humvees armed with TOW anti-tank missiles. They are backed by Huey command and control helicopters and Cobra attack helicopters.

"If the Taliban hold their weapons, they will die," Upton said. Another

spokesman, Capt. David Romley, said the Marines would not enter Kandahar.

The Marines at the new staging ground included both fresh troops and members of a "raid task force" that had already been patrolling areas outside Kandahar in recent days.

"Things are going very well," said Major Tom Impellitteri, 32, of Pennsylvania, a member of the raid team. While out in the field in recent days, "one of our guys took a New York firefighter bumper sticker and put it right on one of the bridges out here," he said.

Helicopters ferried food, claymore mines, claymore mines, mortar shells and other equipment to the new staging area, kicking up dust in the desert landscape.

"We sat on the ship (in the Arabian Sea) for two and a half to three months ... and it was killing us. Now we get out here.

There isn't anything else we'd rather do," said Sgt. Corey, who declined to give his last name.

Back at Camp Rhino, other Marines set up a temporary prisoner of war fa-

cility. Romley said captives would be fed, given medical care and allowed visits by the international Red Cross until their status was determined.

So far, John Walker, an American who fought with the Taliban, is the only detainee held at Camp Rhino. Upton said Walker, 20, of Fairfax, Calif., was in good condition and was recovering from dehydration and a gunshot wound in the leg.

Walker has been providing useful information, and no final decision had been made on his fate, officials say.

U.S. officials today were weighing whether to make public a videotape of bin Laden that the Bush administration says makes clear that the al-Qaida leader was behind the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

"We'd like to be able to release it," Wolfowitz said, adding that officials were making sure that doing so would compromise intelligence sources.

On the tape, bin Laden recalls tuning in to news shows hours before the attacks, waiting to hear reports about the destruction, a U.S. official said. Bin Laden also says that after the first plane

# County to review insurance bids

The Sherman County commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday to hear competing insurance proposals for the coming year.

Tom Job of the Kansas Counties Insurance Pool will present a proposal for the county package at 9:45 a.m., to be followed at 10:30 a.m. by a presentation from Eklund Insurance of Goodland by Jack Eklund and Janette Ruddell.

The presentations will include the bids from the two companies which the commissioners will compare before making a decision. The county insurance comes up for renewal next year, and this will give the commissioners a chance to see the proposals before the renewal date.

The commissioners will also hold a special hearing to amend this

year's budget for adjustments to the Road and Bridge, Soldier's Memorial Park and Noxious Weed budgets.

A new budget has to be created for the sheriff's commissary, which sells items to prisoners, including toiletries, candy and writing supplies. It was started this year.

Commissioners will also gather the letters of support and review the names for the support group for the Sherman County part of the enterprise grant proposal. The material has to be sent this week to Leoti to be part of the regional grant effort that has to be sent to the state by Wednesday, Dec. 19.

The commissioners meet in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, on Broadway south of Eighth Street.

# School board to discuss ap news capsules lease for Head Start

The Goodland School Board will discuss leasing land behind West Elementary School to the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center for a modular building for the Headstart program at its meeting today.

Members will gather at 5:45 p.m. today at the administration building on Main to take the annual board picture and will start their regular meeting at 6 p.m., an hour earlier than usual.

The board will not meet again until Monday, Jan. 14, skipping the second meeting of the month so members can celebrate the holidays.

Member Mike Campbell, the district representative on the service center board, has been keeping the board updated on the progress of the building, which the Oakley-based center will own but will be on school property.

At the last meeting, Campbell said the center board accepted a \$78,450 bid to build a 27-foot-by-84-foot building behind West. He said they want to start as soon as possible. The building will be used by Headstart, a program to prepare children from low-income

families for school.

The board will also hear reports from Superintendent Marvin Selby; member Ron Schilling, district representative on the Northwest Kansas Technical College board; and junior high Principal Jim Mull, Professional Development Council representative.

Members will approve payment to Don Vaughn Inc., a contractor working on the remodeling project at Goodland High School, and may go behind closed doors to talk about personnel matters.

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*By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL*

OSLO, Norway — The United Nations and its Secretary-General Kofi Annan receive the Nobel Peace Prize at a centennial presentation that comes in the midst of global terrorism and conflict.

Annan was to deliver the traditional Nobel lecture on Monday, while the president of the U.N. General Assembly, South Korean Foreign Minister Han Seung-soo, was to accept on behalf of the organization in a ceremony at Oslo City Hall, followed by a torchlight parade and a banquet.

On Sunday, Annan dismissed concerns about accepting a peace prize — worth \$950,000 — in the shadow of escalating violence in the Middle East and a global fight against terrorism after Sept. 11 attacks.

"What is important is that we don't lose hope," Annan said at a news conference.

The prize was to be presented to the two men in the presence of Norway's royal family and several laureates from previous years who were invited for a week of centennial celebrations.

The awards in literature, medicine, physics, chemistry and economics

were to be presented the same day in Stockholm, Sweden, where some 160 laureates from those categories were gathered.

MOSCOW — Secretary of State Colin Powell cites little change in Russia's opposition to rewriting a landmark arms-control pact to allow a U.S. missile defense.

He doesn't rule out a breakthrough, however, and hopes Russia will give more specifics on its response to a U.S. promise to slash nuclear missiles.

"There is still a difference of opinion" on the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, Powell told reporters in advance of meetings Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

President Bush wants the treaty, which prohibits either nation from putting a national missile defense system in place, scrapped or modified.

But Russian officials want to keep the 1972 pact intact, viewing it as an essential arms-control document. "We haven't been able to persuade them otherwise," Powell said.

NATIONAL SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Work in the linked space shuttle En-

deavour and international space station was temporarily halted as the astronauts and cosmonauts aboard honored the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Preparations for a spacewalk on Monday to perform some maintenance outside space station Alpha were stopped as three astronaut crews gathered inside.

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