

# Indian rioters kill Muslims in rioting, fire

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

AHMADABAD, India — Rampaging mobs set fire to homes, burning to death five members of a Muslim family in western India, where the worst religious rioting in a decade has killed 815 people over the past five weeks, police said today.

A Hindu mob burned three houses in Abhasana village, 50 miles south of Ahmadabad, Gujarat state's commercial hub, last night. Two men, two women and a child from one family were killed and 42 other Muslims were hospitalized with burns, said Superintendent of Police Vikas Sahay.

Firefighters fought the blazes through the night, and the bodies were recovered yesterday morning, Sahay said.

In Gujarat's Sabarkantha district, seven houses were set ablaze in the Vadali village last night. Five people were injured, said police, who did not immediately give the religion of the attackers and victims.

The new violence was reported a day before Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was to visit Gujarat, where the violence began Feb. 27 when a Muslim mob burned a train, killing 60 Hindus.

PORT COQUITLAM, British Columbia — An "inch-by-inch" search of a pig farm turned up evidence that brought three more first-degree murder charges against a man already charged with killing two of 50 women missing in the Vancouver area.

Robert Pickton, 52, now faces five counts of first-degree murder in the case that raised fears of a serial killer stalking Vancouver's east end, an area populated by prostitutes and drug addicts.

The new charges yesterday named

## ap news capsules

the victims as Jacqueline McDonell, who disappeared in January 1999; Heather Bottomley, who went missing a year ago; and Diane Rock, who was last seen in October.

Police said the investigation of the farm outside Vancouver owned by Pickton and his siblings remains in its initial stage. For the first time, though, police officials made clear that the combing of the 10-acre property 20 miles east of Vancouver was yielding results.

"I think we all realize we're there at the site, we're looking for certain things, and I can say we're finding certain things" that help the investigation, Vancouver Det. Scott Driemel told a news conference.

"We are going through the site on a slow, inch-by-inch process," he said. "As we uncover new evidence that supports additional charges, there will be additional charges."

### NATIONAL

CHICAGO — Federal prosecutors say they are far from finished with the investigation that produced corruption charges against Gov. George Ryan's campaign committee and two of his former top aides.

"The investigation has been vigorous, is vigorous and will continue to be vigorous," U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said yesterday in announcing a 10-count racketeering indictment.

The case marks the biggest indictment to come out of a federal investigation into a licenses-for-bribes scheme when Ryan was secretary of state. The 4-year-old investigation thus far has resulted in charges against 48 individuals and the conviction of 42.

The latest indictment portrayed a

powerful political machine that operated as a "criminal enterprise" for seven years. It allegedly used secret payments and bribes to organize elections, then fired investigators, shredded and burned documents and lied to a grand jury to cover the trail.

Bribes paid by unqualified truck drivers and others for Illinois driver's licenses in part fueled the machine, the indictment alleges. Prosecutors have said some \$170,000 in bribe money ended up in Ryan's campaign fund.

Ryan has not been charged with wrongdoing, but his standing in the polls has dropped sharply over the course of the investigation and he declined to run for a second term as governor.

GEORGETOWN, Colo. — Mayor Koleen Brooks, a former stripper accused of baring her breasts in a bar and mishandling her job, was ousted by a landslide vote in a recall election yesterday.

The final tally to recall the mayor passed 339-176, or by a margin of 66 percent to 34 percent. Brooks said she accepted the results but will ask for a recount to ensure they were accurate.

Lynn Granger, elected to finish the year remaining in Brooks' two-year term, said she hopes for a quiet tenure.

"I think boring after the last year maybe isn't a bad thing," she said.

Brooks said she might run for mayor or another town office again next year. She said she wasn't disappointed over losing the position after a contentious year in office.

"It probably just saved me 10 years on my life," she said.

Brooks, 37, was elected mayor of this old mining town 45 miles west of

Denver last April. Zoning changes are the stated reason for the recall, but people are also angry about Brooks' actions — allegedly baring her breasts in a bar and telling reporters she smoked pot. She also faces criminal charges for faking an attack.

Four members of the town Board of Selectmen survived recall votes Tuesday after being criticized for approving new zoning regulations without a public referendum.

MUSKEGON, Mich. — The Bush administration announced a new plan to clean up and restore the Great Lakes, setting specific goals and calling for federal, state and local officials to work more closely together.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman said the plan addresses the most serious problems facing the five lakes, including sediment contamination, the proliferation of non-native species, loss of habitat and the production of fish unsafe for eating.

It includes monitoring contaminants in fish, requiring factories that discharge into the lakes to limit contaminants, enlisting cooperation from corporations and tracking cleanup efforts implemented by state and local agencies.

"Everyone who enjoys the Great Lakes can appreciate the goals the partnership has set to ensure that the Great Lakes basin is a healthy, natural environment for wildlife and people," Whitman said yesterday in announcing the plan at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes field station in Muskegon.

### WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — Muscling a critic out of the way, Enron Corp. executives got Arthur Andersen LLP to remove an accountant who objected to

some of the deals that eventually sent Enron into bankruptcy, new reports show.

Internal Andersen e-mails detail the strenuous objections of Andersen partner Carl Bass to Enron's financial practices, and handwritten notes by an Andersen executive reveal that Enron silenced him.

"Client sees need to replace Carl," state the notes, dated March 12, 2001. Andersen's management took Bass off the Enron case.

The notes were released yesterday by the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

An attorney for David Duncan, the chief auditor on the Enron account in Andersen's Houston office, confirmed that Duncan passed along a complaint from Enron about Bass.

"Mr. Duncan was relaying a request from the client and the decision on how to proceed was made by Andersen management," said attorney Robert Giuffra.

WASHINGTON — President Bush's plan to improve the nation's early childhood education system is being criticized as misguided and insufficient, even as he vows to train thousands of teachers to teach preschoolers to read.

Today Bush was scheduled to present a booklet compiled by the first lady, Laura Bush, on early childhood education. Advisers said Bush would concentrate on a "major public awareness campaign" for parents, caregivers and teachers across the country.

Sarah Greene, president and chief executive of the National Head Start Association, said Bush's plan to train 50,000 Head Start teachers in reading techniques may be duplicating what they've already learned. She and others also said Bush's proposed \$130

million increase to Head Start won't help its teachers keep up with increased living costs nor help the program expand.

Margaret Spellings, Bush's domestic policy adviser, told reporters yesterday that findings of new research on the way the brain learns often are at odds with techniques used in preschools.

Spellings, who helped develop Bush's education plan, said there's "very little connection between Head Start and other early childhood programs and the kindergarten-through-12th grade public school world."

WASHINGTON — Poor women with breast cancer are three times more likely to die of the disease than are other patients, according to a study that found it was poverty, not race, that determined the outcome of their medical care.

In a report appearing today in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, researchers said other studies have shown that black women are more likely to be diagnosed with late stage breast cancer and to have a shorter survival time than white women. It has not been clear if this is because of race or poverty.

In a new study, Cathy J. Bradley of Michigan State University and her co-authors show that the answer is poverty. They found that a lower socioeconomic status is more important than race in determining the medical care for women with breast cancer.

"Poor persons, regardless of their race, are likely to have undesirable cancer outcomes," the study found.

The poor outcome of the Medicaid patients suggests that they are not receiving the routine medical care that might cause breast cancer to be discovered at an earlier, more treatable stage, said Bradley.

# Sheep ranchers are weaving historical Morino blankets

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Some Montana sheep ranchers are weaving history into business, hoping a line of wool blankets similar to those Lewis and Clark carried across the West will boost their profits.

"We wanted to take advantage of a naturally occurring marketing avenue and build a following for our wool," said Jane Lambert of Montana Shepherd's Market, a group of four family producers that is turning the soft wool from about 750 sheep raised in the Bitterroot Valley into long, luxurious

blankets. Lambert said the idea came from both necessity — business has been hurt by a drop in lamb and wool prices — and an interest in the Lewis and Clark expedition as the bicentennial of the journey approaches.

"I know we're on the Lewis and Clark trail. So I figured they'd have to have had wool blankets," she said.

Lambert took her idea to Billy Maxwell of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Mont. Maxwell was able to give her details of col-

ors and sizes of the explorer's blankets, gleaned from their journals and inventories.

In a little more than a year, the producers have developed a relationship with an established mill and an online business.

They plan to market their blankets along the Lewis and Clark trail and to expand the product line to larger blankets that can be used as bedspreads.

"We are, in a way, still finding our legs," Lambert said. "It's very satisfying to have a dream turn to an idea

turn to reality."

Lambert searched the Internet for mills that could turn the shorn wool from their Targhee/Merino sheep into blankets.

She found one in Minnesota, about 50 miles south of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

About 6,000 pounds of wool were sent to Faribault Woolen Mill Co. last year to make about 450 blankets.

Catherine Meyer, the mill's director of product development, said the Merino wool is known for its soft, luxuri-

ous feel. And she said the blankets, thin but warm, could serve as something of a sleeping bag.

Sales of the blankets, priced at about \$350, were strong until Sept. 11, Lambert said. Since then, prices have been cut to revive interest.

Lambert plans to contact museums, interpretive centers and businesses along the Lewis and Clark trail to generate interest in the blankets, which already are being sold in some stores.

Montana Shepherd's Market is among a growing number of busi-

nesses in the area that have been trying to find new ways to market their products.

Agriculture officials have been encouraging such efforts lately, in part through a state program that offers marketing guidance and financial assistance.

"If you're doing business the way you did in the '50s and '60s, you're not going to be here long," said Richard Everett, a producer with Montana Shepherd's Market.

## County wants strong security for national golf event set for July

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP) — Reno County officials are scrambling to decide how to provide the increased security requested for the Ladies Professional Golf Association U.S. Women's Open championship in July.

And, perhaps more importantly, they want to know who's going to pay for it.

The U.S. Golf Association has asked for 50 security officers a day, four bomb-sniffing dogs and a no-fly zone over Prairie Dunes Country Club during the tournament.

Former Sheriff Larry Leslie budgeted \$10,000 to pay overtime for nine sheriff's officers. The Hutchinson Police Department also plans to supply 10 men.

But that was all planned before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Since then, the security requests have increased dramatically, Reno County Sheriff Randy Henderson said.

"We can provide (what they want), but we can't pay for it," Henderson told Reno County Commissioners Tuesday. "Security really has gone up because of 9-11."

Henderson said he can find an additional \$6,000 in his budget for security. But that's nowhere near the amount needed to accommodate USGA requests.

Henderson said he will write a letter to tournament officials saying they will have to pay for the extra protection.

Commission Chairman Larry Sharp said the county had already made a \$100,000 contribution to support the golf tournament.

Commissioner Francis Schoepf urged Henderson to stand firm with tournament organizers.

"Take a stand with 'em, Randy," Schoepf said. "I'm not in favor of giving them any more money than we already have."

The USGA's request for a "no-fly zone" while the world's top women golfers compete also raised some concerns.

"I don't see how a no-fly zone would work," Henderson said. "NBC will have a blimp there. And in the summer the wind blows from the south. Since airplanes land into the wind, they'll be coming in right over the golf course when they land at Hutch airport."

Sheryl Bredfelt, a member of the airport advisory committee, said the no-fly decision would be made by the Federal Aviation Administration. She said a meeting has been scheduled in mid-April to work out many such security issues.

Tournament co-chairwoman Lori Cook North said security will be a collaborative effort between the USGA and city, county and state officials. Private security also will be involved.

## Scams clean out seniors' accounts

By Rick Callahan Associated Press Writer

Evelyn Barber walked into the Ocala, Fla., car dealership to claim the free gift she thought she'd won. An hour later, the 81-year-old drove away, dazed and near tears, in a car she didn't want or need.

Barber will always remember Jan. 19 as the day she fell prey to three fast-talking salesmen who, in a whirlwind of words, smiles and reassuring pats, sold her a 1998 Oldsmobile Regency — price tag \$26,000.

"They ganged up on me, just badgered me," recalls Barber, a retired medical secretary. "I really felt like a lamb in a slaughterhouse, because I was pushed into something I didn't want. They targeted me because I was an elderly woman alone, naive and alone."

Like millions of older Americans each year, Barber fell for a high-pressure pitch — a well-honed, intimidating act bordering on fraud that exploits some seniors' trust in others.

Fraud, in its many forms and degrees, is an age-old problem, but experts say older Americans are being increasingly targeted by predators who

view them as easy marks.

Telemarketing fraud alone costs Americans an estimated \$40 billion annually — and about 37 percent, or \$15 billion, of that is bilked from people age 50 or older, according to the AARP.

Seniors lose untold billions more through mail fraud — deceptive mailings with carefully placed small print — home improvement scams and dozens of other swindles designed to deceive or mislead.

And with the nation's population of people 65 or older forecast to grow to 70 million by 2030 — twice their number in 1998 — the losses are expected to mount accordingly.

Scam artists' growing interest in older Americans arises largely from the fact that, unlike previous generations, seniors now have nest-eggs thanks to better retirement plans, said Monroe Friedman, a professor of psychology at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Mich.

"It used to be that to be old was to be poor, but older people now typically

have greater resources than their own children and certainly more than the generation or two before them," said Friedman, who has studied fraud against seniors for more than a decade.

Aside from their money, there are a number of other factors that make seniors prime targets for swindlers.

For one, they are likely to be at home, where they can be reached by telephone or in person. And often, they are lonely and more than willing to talk at length to someone in person or on the phone. To them, the person pushing this or that scam is a form of "company," Friedman said.

But it's not just the naive or unsophisticated who fall prey to scams. Many schemes are so well laid-out and presented with such attention to detail that there is no reason to doubt them.

"Sometimes, the victims don't even know what happened to them until you explain it to them," said Jean Constantine-Davis, an attorney for AARP Foundation Litigation, which represents fraud victims.

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