

Kenyan president dissolves parliament, officially starting campaign

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL
NAIROBI, Kenya—Kenyan President Daniel Moi dissolved parliament today, officially starting the campaign for one of the East African country's most competitive general elections and closing his tenure as one of Africa's longest ruling leaders.

The announcement was broadcast this morning by the state-run Kenya Broadcasting Corp. and later confirmed by members of parliament. A general election must be held within 90 days, although no date has been announced yet.

The election will be the third since the return of multiparty politics in 1991.

"Now people will be going to the field. We'll be campaigning everywhere," said Foreign Affairs Minister Marsden Madoka, a ruling party leader.

Kenya's elections come as the nation of 30 million faces its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1963. Critics blame government corruption and mismanagement for the ailing economy, the largest in East Africa.

Moi, 78, is only Kenya's second president and has ruled for 24 years. He came to power when Jomo Kenyatta died in 1978.

NATIONAL
BOSTON — Henry Alfonso was arrested for allegedly dealing the prescription painkiller OxyContin. But he's in prison now because a small adhesive patch on his arm tested positive for traces of cocaine.

Alfonso's case is the first in Massachusetts to challenge the reliability of the sweat patches, which are used by

federal courts across the country to test for various drugs, including cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamines.

Alfonso, 32, insists he has never used cocaine. He claims the six positive test results he has had since April were caused either by cocaine residue left in his apartment by a previous tenant or traces of the drug that may have been on cash his wife brought home from her job as a stripper.

Alfonso was arrested in December for allegedly attempting to buy OxyContin from an undercover agent and mailing OxyContin from Florida. After he was released on bail, probation officials began applying the patch on Alfonso each week to test him for drug use. Three months ago, after one of the patches tested positive for cocaine, Alfonso was sent to jail.

DALLAS (AP) — As one deadline passed for Halliburton Co. and Vice President Dick Cheney, its former chairman and chief executive, to respond to a lawsuit filed by self-described government watchdog group, a second loomed today in another lawsuit.

It was unclear whether Cheney and the company met the midnight Thursday deadline to answer the charges brought in July by Judicial Watch in a lawsuit accusing them of accounting fraud. The group accused Halliburton of using a change in accounting practices to overstate revenue from 1999 through 2001 by \$445 million.

By late afternoon Thursday, neither Halliburton nor Cheney had filed their responses at the federal district court in Dallas.

A Halliburton spokeswoman said

the company would meet the deadline. Calls to the vice president's office were not immediately returned.

The vice president's private attorney, Terrence O'Donnell of the Washington law firm Williams & Connally, did not immediately return a phone call Thursday night to his office.

Even if the responses were filed before the midnight deadline, it was not clear when they would be entered into the case docket and become available to the public.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — After being pounded by three tornadoes that killed a college instructor and injured at least 14 people, residents may get little time to pick up the pieces before more storms hit.

The National Weather Service said heavy rains were expected for this city of 275,000 people for at least two more days. The weather service has forecast 70 percent chance of thunderstorms today, tonight and Saturday.

A tornado hit the west campus of Del Mar College between 2:45 p.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday, causing a roof to collapse. The storm, part of a large line of storms moving eastward across Texas, upended cars and trucks and downed utility poles and power lines. About 13,000 customers of American Electric Power lost their electricity.

"We have extensive damage along the path of the tornado," Corpus Christi Mayor Loyd Neal said. Neal said within an hour and a half of the tornado's strike he had spoken with Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

"He has offered us any assistance we need," Neal said.

The death and six of the injuries occurred at Del Mar College.

James R. Gillis of Rockport, an instructor of math and industrial education, was killed by a collapsing wall, Assistant Police Chief Ken Bung said. None of the injuries was serious, officials said.

WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON — Amtrak is increasing patrols of its trains and stations because of an FBI warning about a possible al-Qaida attack soon against passenger railroads.

Officials said the warning, based on information obtained from al-Qaida prisoners in mid-October, suggested that terrorists may try to destroy bridges or key sections of tracks.

"The group has considered directly targeting U.S. passenger trains, possibly using operatives who have a Western appearance," the FBI said Thursday in a statement issued to state and local law enforcers.

Captured al-Qaida photographs of U.S. railroad engines, cars and crossings raised concern about the threat, the FBI said.

The warning is the second this month. On Oct. 9, the FBI and several federal agencies overseeing high-risk sectors such as transportation, energy and agriculture sent warnings urging extra precautions.

Gordon Johndroe, Homeland Security spokesman, said the agency is coordinating efforts to tighten security with the Department of Transportation and other federal agencies, as well as the private sector and state and local governments.

WASHINGTON — For foreigners living in the Washington area after surviving hot zones around the world, America had been seen a safety zone.

Robinson's attorneys begin his defense in murder trial

OLATHE (AP) — More than two years after his arrest, defense attorneys have begun telling jurors their side of the multiple-murder charges facing John E. Robinson Sr.

It was expected that the defense would finish its portion of the case as soon as Friday afternoon, with closing arguments and jurors getting the case early next week. Robinson was not expected to take the stand.

Johnson County District Attorney


Paul Morrison and his assistant, Sara Welch, rested their case Thursday after presenting witnesses and evidence since Oct. 7.

Robinson, 58, of Olathe, is charged in Kansas with capital murder in the deaths of Suzette Trouten, 27, who moved to Kansas from Michigan in early 2000, and Izabela Lewicka, 21, a Polish immigrant and former Purdue University student. Their bodies were found in barrels on Robinson's 16.5-

acre tract of land in Linn County, about 60 miles south of Kansas City.

He also is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Lisa Stasi, 19, who disappeared in 1985 and has never

been found. Morrison is seeking the death penalty, alleging that six murders, including three in Missouri, were part of a scheme that involved financial gain, sadomasochistic sex or both.

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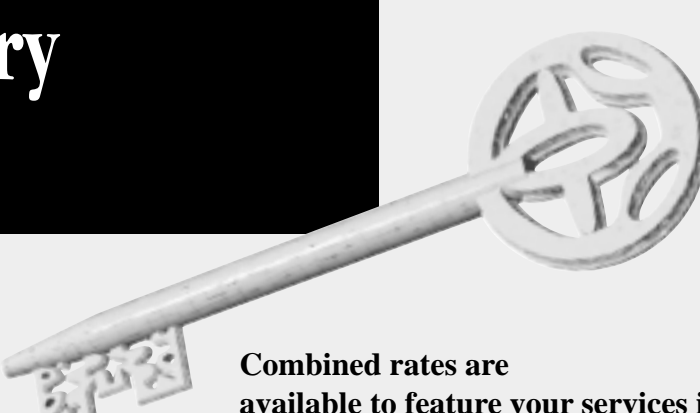
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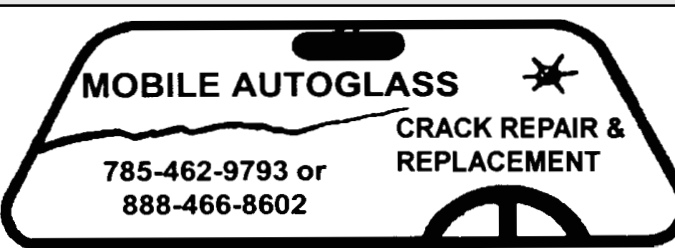


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