

Table of Contents

<u>Remembrance Day deserves higher status.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Canadians celebrate Afghan army victory.....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Canuck-trained Afghan soldiers seize weapons caches.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Letters.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Letters Vets, widows need VIP benefit.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Taliban free German, four Afghans.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Canadian military mentors celebrate Afghan army win.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>An opportunity for an easy win?.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Canadian mentors celebrate; Afghan army victory in Zhari district.....</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Shelling heard in northwest Pakistan where clashes have killed 250.....</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Energy stocks help send TSX higher;NY mainly lower on earnings, warnings.....</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Stephane Dion says an unreasonable throne speech could force an election.....</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Afghan parents arrange marriages for children as young as three.....</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Allen-Vanguard gets \$25-million order for electronic counter measures equipment.....</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>The World at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday.....</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Indonesia says 'soft approach' yields dividends in Southeast Asia's war on terror.....</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>INDEX:Advisories.....</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>The Canadian Press World News Budget – Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007.....</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>Kidnapped German, 4 Afghans freed in exchanges for 5 `criminals'.....</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Canadian military mentors celebrate Afghan army victory in Zhari district.....</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>The Canadian Press Entertainment–Life News Budget, Wednesday, Oct. 10.....</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Business staffing plans for Wednesday, Oct. 10.....</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Prep–LifeWatch.....</u>	<u>56</u>

Table of Contents

<u>US–Cda–Khadr.....</u>	58
<u>---Twelfth NewsWatch---</u>	59
<u>INDEX:Defence, International.....</u>	61
<u>INDEX:Defence, International, Politics.....</u>	62
<u>INDEX:Defence, International, Politics.....</u>	63
<u>Ottawa firm wins U.S. order.....</u>	64
<u>Popular poet's 800th anniversary.....</u>	65
<u>PM again stokes election fire; Ball in Liberals' court, Harper says as he ends revenue dispute with Nova Scotia premier.....</u>	67
<u>For soldiers' sacrifice, let them eat cakes.....</u>	69
<u>Islamic rock anthem sends message of peace; Eight Pakistani singers join forces to try to root out misconceptions that most Muslims support terror.....</u>	70
<u>At Queen's Park and in Ottawa, inept Opposition let focus stray.....</u>	72
<u>Keep pressure on Karzai.....</u>	74
<u>Security improving, Canadian visitors say; Two cabinet ministers in Kabul try to reassure journalists as UN says insurgency is growing.....</u>	75
<u>Bush battles 'genocide' resolution; Motion to declare 1915 killings of Armenians by Turks a genocide threatens U.S. relations with Turkey, president says.....</u>	77
<u>Caption Only.....</u>	79
<u>'Genocide' puts Turkey, U.S. at odds.....</u>	80
<u>Taliban free German hostage held for two months.....</u>	81
<u>Afghan army unit takes Canadian lessons into field.....</u>	82
<u>Genocide vote risky, Bush says.....</u>	84
<u>Earle proves to be ultimate survivor; The singer/songwriter has endured addiction, homelessness, prison, numerous divorces and has come back stronger than ever, writes Michael Franco.....</u>	86
<u>William's military career follows path of Prince of Wales; Plans to add RAF, navy to army experience.....</u>	89

Table of Contents

<u>Turkey, U.S. clash over 'genocide'; Ankara threatens to block key access to Iraq over resolution on Armenian slaughter.....</u>	90
<u>'Great success' for Afghan forces; Unit mentored by Canadians seizes several weapons caches.....</u>	92
<u>Around the world in 2,555 days, and counting; Ontario teacher sold it all to begin cycling trip that has lasted six-plus years.....</u>	94
<u>U.S. torture tactics shame all Americans; Luckily there are some officials brave enough to call the Bush administration on this.....</u>	98
<u>Afghan army solo mission 'great success'; Combat operation planned, weapons seized without aid of Canadian military mentors.....</u>	100
<u>U.S. vote on Armenia touches nerve in Turkey; 'Genocide' resolution angers Turks; U.S wants to keep access to airbase.....</u>	102
<u>PM's Afghan stand bad for NATO: Dion; Extension of Canada's combat role would weaken the alliance, Liberal leader warns.....</u>	104
<u>People like Walter Gretzky and Kris King can empathize with Jason Blake and offer some words of comfort.....</u>	106
<u>Letters to the Editor Column.....</u>	109
<u>Canuck-trained Afghan army success.....</u>	111
<u>Nathan's name gets permanent home.....</u>	113
<u>MORATORIUM LIFTED Afghan ambassador defends executions Resumption of death penalty a response to growing crime, not a return to religious fanaticism, envoy says.....</u>	115
<u>THE AFGHAN MISSION Taliban release German in latest prisoner swap Despite Karzai's promise not to deal with terrorists, Afghan government negotiates release of engineer and four others seized in July.....</u>	117
<u>PUBLIC SECURITY: 'WE HAVE ONLY RIFLES, HANDCUFFS' Police pay, resources lag far behind military's, Panjwai chief says.....</u>	119
<u>Canadian soldier faced death threat from Afghan platoon.....</u>	121
<u>Abductions in Afghanistan.....</u>	123
<u>FEDERAL COURT Montreal terror suspect loses bid to revoke bail conditions.....</u>	125
<u>With friends like these ... I.....</u>	127

Table of Contents

<u>THRONE SPEECH PM rejects discussions with Dion.....</u>	128
<u>ELECTION SCENARIOS.....</u>	130
<u>IN BRIEF Marines seek to swap role in Iraq for an Afghan one.....</u>	132
<u>Mission to Kandahar; The Canadian mission in Afghanistan represents the largest combat campaign our military has waged since the Korean War. A new book explains how it came to be.....</u>	133
<u>Genocide Motion Harmful: Bush; Armenian Slaughter; Relations with Turkey in jeopardy, Congress warned.....</u>	135
<u>Security worries, reprisal fears threaten Afghan food aid; Agencies, convoys under increased attack.....</u>	137
<u>A long but just war; Viewpoint: The Sydney Morning Herald (Australia);.....</u>	139
<u>EDITORIAL – The fog of war polls.....</u>	141
<u>Bush against calling slaughter genocide.....</u>	142
<u>World Report.....</u>	144
<u>Artists hold annual show and sale.....</u>	148
<u>Genocide bill risks harm, Bush says; Turkey is an ally; Legislation has enough votes to pass.....</u>	149
<u>5 Minute Herald; Breaking news at calgaryherald.com.....</u>	150
<u>No dishonour in leaving: Dion; Troops should pull out of Afghanistan, says Liberal leader.....</u>	155
<u>Last words to father: 'I love you too, Dad'; fallen soldier's name added to Wall of Honour.....</u>	157
<u>Last words to father: 'I love you too, Dad'; Calgary soldier's name added to wall of honour.....</u>	160

Remembrance Day deserves higher status

IDNUMBER 200710110041
PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: A10
BYLINE: Wilma McNeill
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 160

I was pleased to read the very positive letter in your paper written by Linda Bugarsky (Remembrance Day Rates Holiday Recognition -- Sept. 17) supporting Remembrance Day as a statutory holiday, instead of a February family day holiday. I agree completely.

The provincial government can designate Nov. 11 as a day of remembrance, and give our veterans what they truly deserve. The day that was taken away many years ago by the Ontario government should be reinstated this year, in time for Nov. 11. Our men and women lost in Afghanistan deserve this honour, too.

A private member's bill introduced by Joe Tascona, the MPP for Barrie-Simcoe-Bradford, on April 12 passed first reading to make Remembrance Day a retail business and school holiday. This could have been passed, but Premier Dalton McGuinty closed the legislature three weeks early to go out on the campaign trail.

With family members at the cenotaph, Nov.11 could be a real family day.

Wilma McNeill

Sarnia

Canadians celebrate Afghan army victory

IDNUMBER 200710110029
PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Front
PAGE: A9
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 128

Canadian soldiers mentoring the Afghan National Army celebrated a victory yesterday, after watching their Afghan counterparts carry out a successful anti-insurgency operation.

It's a significant step for the fledgling force and for the Canadians whose eventual exit from this war-torn land, in theory, depends on the Afghan army's ability to take on the responsibility for security.

"It's definitely very important," said Maj. Sylvain Gagnon, plans officer for the Canadian Operational Mentor Liaison Teams, which are working with the Afghan army.

Based on intelligence gathered by the Canadians, a company of Afghan infantry crept into the bazaar area of Howz-e-Madad, a village located in the dangerous Zhari district west of Kandahar city, at about 8 a.m. yesterday.

By noon the Afghan soldiers had uncovered weapons and ammunition as well as electronic devices meant for building deadly roadside bombs.

Canuck-trained Afghan soldiers seize weapons caches

SOURCETAG 0710110979
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 35
BYLINE: DENE MOORE, CP
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
WORD COUNT: 290

Canadian soldiers mentoring the Afghan National Army celebrated a victory yesterday after watching their Afghan counterparts carry out a successful anti-insurgency operation.

It's a significant step for the fledgling force and for the Canadians whose eventual exit from this wartorn land, in theory, depends on the Afghan army's ability to take responsibility for security.

"It's definitely very important," said Maj. Sylvain Gagnon, plans officer for the Canadian Operational Mentor Liaison Teams, which are working with the Afghan army.

"Every step we take toward having them take responsibility of the operation area is a big success for us. Maybe this one operation is not significant for the Canadians back home, but every operation that they go forward and plan and execute on their own is a big success."

Based on intelligence gathered by the Canadians, a company of Afghan infantry crept into the bazaar area of Howz-e-Madad, a village located near a Canadian strongpoint in the dangerous Zhari district west of Kandahar city, around 8 a.m., looking for suspected insurgent weapons caches.

By noon the Afghan soldiers had swept through 22 buildings, uncovering weapons and ammunition as well as electronic devices meant for building deadly roadside bombs.

"We have seized two weapons caches with ammo and some electronic components used to build IEDs," Gagnon said. "We've also re-established the freedom of movement along Highway 1 in that area."

There were no arrests.

It's the first significant operation planned and led by Afghan soldiers during the current rotation. There was feedback from the Canadian mentors and backup available, but the ANA conducted this operation.

Canadian forces hope to hand over security in the dangerous Zhari and Panjwaii districts to Afghan national security forces by the end of the year.

"If we have done that, and our plan is successful, then we can use most of our security assets, the battle group troops, to move into other areas of the country," said Maj. Eric Landry, chief plans officer for Canada's Joint Task Force Afghanistan. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Letters

IDNUMBER 200710110051
PUBLICATION: Times & Transcript (Moncton)
DATE: 2007.10.11
SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: D8
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Times & Transcript
(Moncton)
WORD COUNT: 1004

Why do we pay for no results?

To The Editor:

It's a shame and a complete waste of taxpayers' money when a doctor is paid for a visit by a patient in which the doctor accomplishes nothing.

I recently visited a doctor and told him that I had an infection in my mouth that was obvious due to the swelling in the gum area around a tooth. He said the tissue looked healthy and that I was mistaken and gave me painkillers for the sore area.

I asked him to double check, so he reached for another over-sized popsicle stick to take a second look and he declared no infection.

Over the next 48 hours the pain and swelling increased. I went to my dentist who told me that I had an infection and prescribed antibiotics.

It is sad when the patient diagnoses a problem that a qualified medical practitioner misdiagnoses, yet the practitioner receives full payment from medicare for his/her blunder.

Don Coleman,

Hillsborough

(Via e-mail)

A whiff of bias in air

To The Editor:

It has been over a month now since The Canadian Pediatric Society (along with the Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine) released a study on the risks of trampoline use.

According to their statistics, trampoline injuries serious enough to cause hospitalization rose by 56 per cent from 1990 to 2001. They concluded that the risk was so great, in fact, they recommended they not be used in backyards or playgrounds. Yet there has been no response from the Department of Public Safety.

Where is the new Bill? Where is Dr. Yanchar?

Interesting, since it only took about two weeks for Bill 17 to be introduced in New Brunswick after last year's ATV accidents involving children and adult machines.

This government had an agenda from the day they were elected. In an Oct. 5 article "Doctor wants ATV Safety assessed after injury spike", Dr. Yanchar was quoted as saying "There has to be an examination as to whether these are safe products for recreational activities in Canada."

"Federally, we have to look at this. Is it an acceptable risk?"

They have already stripped our kids of their rights, and it would appear they are coming after the adults next.

Today its ATVs; I wonder which sport they will demonize next?

I smell bias in the air . . . well, I think that's bias I smell.

Nancy Daamen,

Hardwood Ridge

(Via e-mail)

Volunteers give much to town

To The Editor:

I was recently looking back and thinking of my childhood and my teenage years in Shediac, and like so many other adults I have many fond memories from my younger years playing sports: baseball under the leadership of Joe Belliveau and the Mullins brothers; hockey under the influence of the late George Cormier, Lee Mullins, Pete (Sparky) Belliveau and Maurice (a Valerie) Boudreau, the late Leo Pellerin; basketball with Robert (Bob) LeBlanc, the late Albert (Bar) LeBlanc at LJR and the staff at the local Boys and Girls Club under the leadership of Odule LeBlanc and Ronald Bourque.

All these people and other volunteers of our community have contributed to the foundation of so many people who became responsible and productive members of today's society.

Like Pete and Maurice and many more have done in the past, this summer a young man from our community got extremely involved in revamping a baseball league. Kevin Caissie first got a handful of volunteers and resurrected a recreation program that was badly needed in our community, with the help of Paul Boudreau, Recreation Director, and Emery Bourque, Director of installations.

The program has flourished and two of our community ambassadors of the sport stepped up to the plate and gave it their 125 per cent and professionalism to make sure the program worked. These two are the Cormier brothers, Donald and Rheal.

I have seen first-hand their dedication to the cause. They coached one of my sons and when work did not allow me to follow his games, they picked him up at home and returned him safely with a sense of achievement and pride.

For that, I thank you Kevin, Donald, Rheal and all the other volunteers that made it possible for our children and our grandchildren to be able to play ball again.

For all the other volunteers and coaches of soccer, hockey, track and field, basketball and all the other

programs, thank you for taking the time and energy to make Shediac a better place to live and bring up children.

When they reach adulthood, they also will look back at the previous chapters of their life and remember the fond memories that you all planted.

Leo J. Doiron,

Deputy Mayor,

Town of Shediac

(Via e-mail)

First year proves a great start!

To The Editor:

Sept. 9 was memorable as New Brunswick became the ninth province to join Ovarian Cancer Canada in the "Walk of Hope."

At Mapleton Park sunflowers (compliments of Riverview and friends) were tied on trees to mark the trail. A sunflower is the OCC symbol.

For New Brunswick's first Walk of Hope upwards of 100 participants enjoyed a stroll through the beautiful park on a perfect September day.

Toastmasters from N.B. and P.E.I. came out in full force.

Riverview Canusa team won first prize for the largest donation, raising \$2, 000.

Many other people volunteered and walked. It was a wonderful way to meet friends and support a worthy cause.

The main thrust in this first year endeavour was to bring a vibrant awareness to ovarian cancer thereby improving early detection of this "silent killer."

Through this walk New Brunswick raised \$11,500.

Many thanks to all the supporters in so many areas. To the organizers and volunteers, congratulations!

You took on a mammoth event in an effort to help the health of our community and beyond.

Norma Kelly,

Moncton

Shameful silence

To The Editor:

Mr. Jean Zeagler's book, "L'Empire de la Honte (The Empire of Shame)" is deeply disturbing.

According to this author, who is a special reporter for the United Nations, worldwide hunger is the biggest scandal of our century.

In 2003 alone 36 million people died from hunger or from lack of proper food and clean drinking water. In 2007 a child under 10 dies from hunger or malnutrition every five seconds.

What about basic human rights?

Despite the fact that we have all the resources needed to stop this barbaric scandal, the situation has become increasingly worse.

The United States and its allies are engaged in shameful wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, costing the world thousands of civilian lives as well as those of the militia forces; all this financed to the tune of over a thousand billion dollars a year.

It does not bode well for our only living planet.

However, an annual \$80 billion dollar budget over a 10-year period would allow us to win the war against poverty and hunger, to guarantee basic education, basic health care, adequate food supply and drinking water for every human being on Earth.

Would not this kind of war against hunger and thirst be a better way to bring about peace, hope and happiness to our disturbed world?

Reflecting on the immensity of such a human catastrophe, how can we explain the inaction of our governments and of our religious leaders?

On Oct. 17 — The United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty — let us stand up and speak out to make poverty history.

And if you would like to send this letter to your MLA, to your premier, to your MP, to the prime minister or to others holding important positions, just sign your name and forward it.

Fernand Arsenault, Cap-Pelé,

Normand Vautour, Moncton

(Via e-mail)

Letters | Vets, widows need VIP benefit

IDNUMBER 200710110008
PUBLICATION: The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
DATE: 2007.10.11
SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: C7
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner
(Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 1073

For a government that was going to grant the Veterans Independence Program benefit to the veterans and veterans' widows back to the Second World War and Korean War immediately when they were elected 19 months ago, the Conservative government has had more than ample time to do that but has not.

Dr. Norah Keating was quoted in the Royal Canadian Legion magazine saying, "There are 2,000 Second World War and Korean veterans dying every month. We simply can't wait for some lengthy process."

I agree with Keating, and I am certain most Canadians also agree.

How many of these veterans who are dying every month were not receiving the VIP benefit, or other benefits they were entitled to before their death? Many of them may have been living yet if they had received those benefits.

Veterans and veterans' widow not receiving VIP benefits, their health deteriorating daily, find it very hard to survive from one day to the next.

It is very sad that the federal government would neglect their veterans and veterans' widows until they have to be institutionalized simply because the help they need now to be able to stay in their own homes is being denied them until the next budget, nine long months away.

This is outrageously inhumane. Where is the government's compassion? It needs to stop purposely avoiding the issue which is unforgivable and act immediately on giving the veterans and veterans widows the help they should have been receiving since Feb. 6, 2006.

Joyce Carter

St. Peter's, N.S.

Real reasons for war complex

I noticed most letters to the editor opposed to the Fredericton Peace Coalition campaign regarding the support-our-troops yellow ribbons suggest Canadian troops in Afghanistan have the best intentions.

Whether this is true or not is irrelevant since soldiers are not the ones who set the agenda. Soldiers are required to express unconditional loyalty to the flag and obey orders, including those they do not understand.

The military is not a democratic institution. It is the government who determines when and where Canadian troops are sent and why they must go.

Freedom and democracy find their way into official speeches in the ramp-up of and during war. They are concepts vague and general enough to generate some sympathy in anybody.

However, it would be naive to believe that we actually go to war to promote these lofty ideals. If we really care about the welfare of our men and women in uniform, we must scrutinize the legitimacy of the motives and objectives of military campaigns.

And if we disagree with these justifications, we must not shy away from criticizing government policies. This is exercising our democratic rights and duties.

The problem with the support-our-troops ribbon is that it implies uncritical support for the government and provides cover for the contradictions in its policies. Every argument seems to fall under the umbrella of support-our-troops. We want to build a democracy, we want to establish freedom, we are on a feminist mission, etc.

Obviously, these arguments have a flavour of cold war propaganda, and don't withstand serious scrutiny. We should show that we are not fooled by them. If we sincerely support the soldiers and their families while questioning the government's policies in Afghanistan, we can make that clear by, for example, placing a sign for peace next to the yellow ribbon.

Luc Walhain

Fredericton

Thanks for many responses

On Sept. 29, you published my letter enquiring about my friend, Faye Hanna.

The response was overwhelming, and the news devastating.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the people who were good enough to call.

You are all true examples of the kind and caring people who make up the Maritimes.

Melli Macpherson

Moncton, N.B.

Yellow ribbons support troops

Reading the Daily Gleaner article about the Fredericton Peace Coalition's campaign to question yellow ribbons brought me back to Canada Day celebrations when we saw the Fredericton Peace Coalition entry in the parade.

My children, aged 12 to 19, were upset to see this. I allowed them that. I noticed however, how our honourable soldiers paraded, heads held high, knowing they were the reason the other group could parade, give their opinion and not be silenced.

I explained that to my children it is soldiers who fight for the rights that allow this freedom.

My children have been brought up knowing Nov. 11 is a day of reflection, remembrance and gratitude for the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who fought for these rights.

Could I be as brave? I don't believe so. I think it takes a special person to do that job. But I do support, wholeheartedly, the courageous men and women who do it. I thank them each time I get the chance.

Last year, at this time we, as a family, were preparing to send our 18-year-old daughter, Casey LeBlanc, to Afghanistan, to take part in a Task Force Show Tour Smiles from Home.

We were asked different times if we were worried, scared or concerned about her safety. We gave it some thought, of course, but, there is no way my husband or I would not have let her go. She wanted to go and show her support. She did it in honour of her grandfather, a veteran of the Second World War, she did it for our troops serving in this mission, but oddly enough, she also did it for herself.

Upon leaving, she told me, she had no idea what God had in store for her over there, especially she who is such a peaceful person, but she was open to the call and was curious as to what the result.

When she returned, she knew. She told us the heartwarming stories of the good work our men and women in the forces do in Afghanistan, unfortunately, go so often unnoticed and unreported. In the short two weeks she spent there, she witnessed many of these wonderful moments.

Of course there is devastation. It is war, and the devastation seems to be the main focus of the media. It is the stories of death and sadness that are published. She was there during a period when Canada lost two soldiers, one from Bathurst, NB, so she definitely had the full experience.

Since her return it has been one of her missions to uphold and encourage the Support Our Troops campaigns.

To the Fredericton Peace Coalition, please know no one would uphold the devastation that goes on in war torn countries. We do however stand up straight and tall for those who try to bring the tiniest shred of dignity to a world which otherwise would never know the feeling and would never know there is another way of life.

That is why we wear the yellow ribbon and red on Fridays. We strongly support our troops.

Connie LeBlanc

Upper Queensbury, N.B.

Seeking stories about market

I'm looking for old stories about the old farmers' market held Saturdays at Fredericton City Hall, as far back as the 30s, 40s and 50s.

I am writing a project on the old market.

Were you a vendor at the old market? Do you have any memories of buying there? How about the wooden boxes of smoked herring? The dulse? The live animals? Have you any old pictures?

I would love to hear from you. Please e-mail me at maritimer@shaw.ca. Include your address and I will write you, or phone number and I will call.

Edith Kirby

Edmonton, Alta.

Taliban free German, four Afghans

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.10.11
SECTION: World
PAGE: A8
WORD COUNT: 188

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) – A German engineer and four Afghans taken hostage in July were freed Wednesday in exchange for what an Afghan official described as five imprisoned criminals.

The German, Rudolf Blechschmidt, and the four Afghans were handed over by local elders to officials of Afghanistan's intelligence service in the Jaghato district of Wardak province, said the district chief, Mohammad Nahim.

Nahim at first said that six Taliban had been released in the swap. He later said no Taliban had been released and that it was five criminals who had been freed.

One of the criminals was the father of the Taliban commander who had taken the German and Afghans, he said.

Nahim said the exchange had been arranged by Afghan elders. An Interior Ministry spokesman confirmed the release but said he didn't have further details about how it was arranged.

In Germany, Foreign Minister Frank–Walter Steinmeier confirmed that Blechschmidt had been freed, and the former captive told Spiegel magazine on his release that he was "doing well."

"I'm just a little tired," he told the magazine in a short telephone interview posted on its website.

Blechschmidt had also talked with the German ambassador by telephone and confirmed he was safely in the custody of Afghan security forces, Steinmeier said in a statement.

"We are all pleased and relieved," Steinmeier said.

Canadian military mentors celebrate Afghan army win

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2007.10.11

SECTION: Deaths/World

PAGE: B7

SOURCE: THE CANADIAN PRESS

BYLINE: Dene Moore

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 314

Canadian soldiers mentoring the Afghan National Army celebrated a victory Wednesday, after watching their Afghan counterparts carry out a successful anti-insurgency operation.

It's a significant step for the fledgling force and for the Canadians whose eventual exit from this war-torn land, in theory, depends on the Afghan army's ability to take on the responsibility for security.

"It's definitely very important," said Maj. Sylvain Gagnon, plans officer for the Canadian Operational Mentor Liaison Teams, which are working with the Afghan army.

"Every step we take toward having them take responsibility of the operation area is a big success for us. Maybe this one operation is not significant for the Canadians back home but every operation that they go forward and plan and execute on their own is a big success." Based on intelligence gathered by the Canadians, a company of Afghan infantry crept into the bazaar area of Howz-e-Madad, a village located near a Canadian strongpoint in the dangerous Zhari district west of Kandahar city, around 8 a.m. Wednesday. They were looking for suspected insurgent weapons caches.

By noon the Afghan soldiers had swept through 22 buildings, uncovering weapons and ammunition as well as electronic devices meant for building deadly roadside bombs.

"We have seized... two weapons caches with ammo and some electronic components used to build IEDs," Gagnon said. "We've also re-established the freedom of movement along Highway 1 in that area."

There were no arrests.

It's the first significant operation planned and led by Afghan soldiers during the current rotation, and that is not insignificant. Like the Afghan National Police today, at one time the Afghan army was mostly feared by the local population.

Untrained, under-staffed, corrupt and out-gunned by the Taliban, they were of little help to NATO efforts, if not an outright hindrance.

Wednesday's mission in Howz-e-Madad was "a significant operation and it was very successful," Gagnon said.

There was feedback from the Canadian mentors and backup available, but the ANA conducted this operation, he said.

An opportunity for an easy win?

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2007.10.11

SECTION: Opinion

PAGE: A7

COLUMN: National Affairs

BYLINE: Travers, James

DATELINE: Ottawa

WORD COUNT: 550

In opposition, Stephen Harper was Preston Manning. In power, he's Jean Chrétien.

Of the two comparisons, the second is the greater compliment. That shouldn't belittle Manning's underappreciated contribution. As well as preaching for the same democratic reforms Harper now finds inconvenient, Manning pressed hard for economic discipline and the tough love that later became the Liberal sovereignty strategy.

But these are partisan times and no recent prime minister is more admired than Chrétien for a singular fixation on winning.

Central to capital folklore is that as he called the election, Chrétien predicted to then-governor general Adrienne Clarkson the size of his majority down to the last seat. Even more remarkable than his prescience was the former prime minister's skill in playing a weak hand.

Well-liked as a politician but not highly regarded as a minister, Chrétien worked ruthlessly to wrest the leadership from John Turner and then as "yesterday's man" laid a fearsome 1993 licking on the remains of Brian Mulroney's Tories.

Even if the parallels are imperfect – Chrétien left details to ministers and most policies to others while Harper is controlling and a wonk – the similarities are unmistakable as the PM pushes Parliament towards the precipice. He sees in Stéphane Dion what Chrétien saw in Stockwell Day: an opportunity for an easy victory and, yes, a majority.

Forget the prime minister's second reassurance in two weeks that the next government will almost certainly be another minority. Liberals aren't just in deep doo-doo in Quebec, in once-secure Ontario they must now avoid the meltdown that only the determined 11th hour work of David Herle's war room prevented 19 months ago.

Rising NDP fortunes and the fellow traveller of vote splitting puts seats saved then in more jeopardy now, while stronger and richer Conservatives are an increasing danger where the 416 area code slides into the 905.

Less apparent and equally important is how much Harper stands to gain from so little. Power isn't making Conservatives significantly more popular. As well, the party is out of sync with public opinion on two issues likely to become ballot-box questions – Afghanistan and the environment. The litter of broken Harper promises includes income trusts, equalization payments, iron-clad accountability, appointing a pal to the Senate and, of course, treating Parliament with respect.

Arguably, the last reversal best reflects how much Harper is now like Chrétien and how little he fears Dion. Chrétien treated his backbenchers and cabinet ministers as focus groups. Harper is extending that dismissive

pattern to all of Parliament by essentially discounting the results of the last election while preparing the ground for the next.

In theory, last week's demand that all MPs rubber stamp his agenda should make Conservatives vulnerable by reinforcing the impression that the prime minister is a one-man band and a bully. In practice, the ruling party is confident the Liberal leader won't find the messages or words needed for an effective counterattack.

That and Harper's higher leadership ratings are persuasive indicators that a campaign will shake the stasis out of public opinion to considerable Conservative advantage. As self-evident to Harper as it would have been to Chrétien, the softness of Liberal support makes the coming election less about winning and losing and more about seizing a promising moment for a majority.

James Travers is a national affairs columnist. Copyright 2007 Torstar Syndication Services

Canadian mentors celebrate; Afghan army victory in Zhari district

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.10.11

SECTION: News

PAGE: D7

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Dene Moore

DATELINE: Kandahar, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 486

Canadian soldiers mentoring the Afghan National Army celebrated a victory Wednesday, after watching their Afghan counterparts carry out a successful anti-insurgency operation.

It's a significant step for the fledgling force and for the Canadians whose eventual exit from this war-torn land, in theory, depends on the Afghan army's ability to take on the responsibility for security.

"It's definitely very important," said Maj. Sylvain Gagnon, plans officer for the Canadian Operational Mentor Liaison Teams, which are working with the Afghan army.

"Every step we take toward having them take responsibility of the operation area is a big success for us. Maybe this one operation is not significant for the Canadians back home but every operation that they go forward and plan and execute on their own is a big success." Based on intelligence gathered by the Canadians, a company of Afghan infantry crept into the bazaar area of Howz-e-Madad, a village located near a Canadian strongpoint in the dangerous Zhari district west of Kandahar city, around 8 a.m. Wednesday. They were looking for suspected insurgent weapons caches.

By noon the Afghan soldiers had swept through 22 buildings, uncovering weapons and ammunition as well as electronic devices meant for building deadly roadside bombs.

"We have seized... two weapons caches with ammo and some electronic components used to build IEDs," Gagnon said. "We've also re-established the freedom of movement along Highway 1 in that area."

There were no arrests.

It's the first significant operation planned and led by Afghan soldiers during the current rotation, and that is not insignificant. Like the Afghan National Police today, at one time the Afghan army was mostly feared by the local population.

Untrained, under-staffed, corrupt and out-gunned by the Taliban, they were of little help to NATO efforts, if not an outright hindrance.

Wednesday's mission in Howz-e-Madad was "a significant operation and it was very successful," Gagnon said.

There was feedback from the Canadian mentors and backup available, but the ANA conducted this operation, he said.

This group has been in the mentoring program since it began, first under another country and with the Canadians since last May.

Gagnon said he expects to see continued improvements over the next few months. There will have to be.

Canadian forces hope to hand over security in the dangerous Zhari and Panjwahi districts to Afghan national security forces by the end of the year.

"If we have done that, and our plan is successful, then we can use most of our security assets, the battle group troops, to move into other areas of the country," said Maj. Eric Landry, chief plans officer for Canada's Joint Task Force Afghanistan.

"Right now what we're doing, is we're doing reconnaissance in other districts away from Zhari and Panjwahi to figure out where we will extend."

The last time Afghan security forces were left on their own in Zhari and Panjwahi, during the change over of Canadian troops last summer, it did not go well.

Army and police were quickly overrun by Taliban and the two districts hard-fought and hard-won by Canadians in Operation Medusa last autumn were lost. Canadian troops have had to re-establish control this fall.

But the soldiers working with the Afghan army are optimistic.

"We're getting there, we're getting there," Gagnon said. "It's small steps. The ANA is still a young army, as per our standards."

Shelling heard in northwest Pakistan where clashes have killed 250

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 411

MIRAN SHAH, Pakistan _ Shelling resumed early Wednesday in an area of northwest Pakistan where battles between troops and militants have killed up to 250 people and sent thousands more fleeing, witnesses said.

The five days of clashes in the North Waziristan region near the Afghan border are the deadliest since Pakistan threw its support behind the U.S.-led war on terror in 2001.

An Associated Press reporter in Miran Shah, the region's main town, heard a burst of artillery or mortar fire before dawn on Wednesday. Farid Ullah, a resident of nearby Mir Ali, said the shells had hit houses in that town.

"I have not dared to go outside, so I don't know if there anyone was hurt," Ullah said by telephone.

Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad said while artillery may have been fired, no major incidents took place overnight.

On Tuesday, residents said Pakistani aircraft bombed the nearby village of Epi, killing dozens of militants and civilians and injuring many more, including shoppers in a packed bazaar.

The army said the planes were targeting militant hideouts near Mir Ali and that local tribesmen reported about 50 militants were killed.

Arshad said Tuesday the air strikes might have killed some civilians, but he had no exact numbers.

The army has reported the deaths of up to 200 militants and 47 troops.

Ullah said some 10,000 people from Mir Ali and surrounding villages had abandoned their homes and, with the army blocking the roads, walked through the mountains to safer towns.

He said 60 of his relatives were among them, but that he was staying behind along with his aging mother.

The violence comes as Musharraf tries to secure another term as president, vowing to shore up Pakistan's effort against Islamic extremism, particularly in its border regions where Osama bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahri are suspected to hide.

A bomb destroyed ten shops selling music discs _ frowned on by fundamentalists _ in the town of Kohat before dawn on Wednesday, police said. No one was hurt. A similar attack in the city of Peshawar on Tuesday wounded a dozen people.

Pakistan struck a controversial ceasefire deal with militants in North Waziristan last year. U.S. officials criticized the pact, claiming it provided a safe haven for al-Qaida and a rear base for Taliban guerrillas fighting NATO troops in Afghanistan.

In July, Pakistan's army redeployed troops at key checkpoints in the region, sparking fresh hostilities. Security forces have since suffered more than 250 casualties, many of them in suicide bombings, and more than 230 soldiers have been kidnapped.

The escalating clashes have sparked debate in Pakistan on whether military action _ widely perceived as done at the bidding of the United States despite Musharraf's insistence it is in the national interest _ can curb Islamic extremism or only serves to inflame it.

Energy stocks help send TSX higher;NY mainly lower on earnings, warnings

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: BUSINESS FINANCE
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 846

TORONTO _ A late session improvement in energy stocks helped send the Toronto stock market to a higher close Wednesday.

In New York, a day after major indexes closed at record highs, markets closed mainly lower as investors were disappointed with the kickoff to the third-quarter corporate earnings season.

Toronto's S&P/TSX composite index started the day off negative but ended closing up 14 points to 14,276.19.

The TSX Venture Exchange added 27.04 points to 2,899.24 and the Canadian dollar rose 0.28 cent to 102.02 cents US, its highest close since Nov. 17, 1976.

In New York, the Dow Jones industrials came back from a 155-point deficit to close down 85.48 points from Tuesday's latest record-high close to 14,078.69. The Nasdaq composite index moved up 7.7 points to 2,811.61.

The S&P 500 eased 2.68 points to 1,562.47 after also hitting a record-high close Tuesday.

After a late summer shock caused by a crisis on credit markets, stock markets have roared back to life with year-to-date returns for all major indexes in double-digit territory.

Last month's interest rate cut has been largely responsible for recent gains, along with the hope that the U.S. Federal Reserve will continue to cut rates to ensure damage from the U.S. housing industry doesn't leach into the rest of the economy.

But investor attention is swinging over to earnings reports and the start of the third-quarter reporting season persuaded investors to take some profits.

However, analysts suggest it's a bit too early to try and establish a trend for the quarter's earnings.

"I don't think you get a better feel until you see a lot more companies report and bigger companies that are the more benchmark type companies, (for example) Microsoft or IBM," said Paul Harris at Avenue Investment Management.

"I think you need more and more of those companies to get a better idea where earnings are going to go. First-quarter earnings were good, second-quarter earnings were good, better than expected and I think third-quarter earnings, outside of the financial services area in the U.S., will be good too."

Alcoa Inc. reported late Tuesday that quarterly earnings came in at US\$555 million, or 63 cents per share, two cents shy of what analysts had expected.

Quarterly revenue slid more than three per cent and the company foresees a six per cent decrease in growth in the United States, due in part to weakness in the North American automotive market. Its shares lost 2.57 per

cent to US\$38.70.

And Chevron Corp. warned that third-quarter net earnings will be "significantly below" the record US\$5.4 billion it posted in the previous quarter. Chevron shares declined 0.78 per cent to US\$92.08 as the company blamed "a sharp decline in refined product margins for the downstream business and the impact of non-recurring items."

There was better news on the consumer front as discount retailer Costco Wholesale Corp. met expectations as it said its fourth-quarter profit climbed five per cent on increased membership fee revenue and higher same-store warehouse sales and its shares shot up 9.2 per cent to US\$69.13.

On the TSX, the energy sector erased early losses to move ahead 0.44 per cent as oil prices advanced. The November crude contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange gained \$1.04 to US\$81.30 a barrel in a late rally driven by news that workers at Chevron Corp. facilities in Nigeria had staged a surprise strike and by a report that demand for gasoline is up.

Suncor Energy (TSX:SU) moved up \$2.17 to C\$95.17.

The base metals sector was ahead just over two per cent as Teck Cominco Ltd. (TSX:TCK.B) moved ahead 73 cents to \$50.99.

The gold sector gained 0.85 per cent as the December bullion contract in New York rose \$2.90 to US\$746 an ounce. Kinross Gold (TSX:K) climbed 33 cents to C\$15.38.

The industrial sector was off 0.46 per cent with Canadian National Railway (TSX:CNR) down 99 cents to \$53.74.

On the TSX, advances beat declines 867 to 742 with 234 unchanged as 470.6 million shares traded worth \$7.5 billion.

In other news:

_ Thousands of United Auto Workers members employed by Chrysler LLC walked off the job Wednesday after the automaker and the union failed to reach a tentative contract agreement before a union-imposed deadline. Shares in auto parts maker Magna International (TSX:MG.A) declined \$1.11 to \$93.09.

_ Brookfield Power, part of Brookfield Asset Management Inc. (TSX:BAM.A), has acquired two hydroelectric generating facilities in northeast British Columbia from East Twin Creek Hydro Ltd. Financial details were not disclosed. Brookfield shares dropped 14 cents to \$39.11.

_ Natus Medical Inc. (NASDAQ:BABY) of San Carlos, Calif., has struck a \$62.5-million deal to acquire Oakville, Ont.-based Excel-Tech Ltd. (TSX:NRV), a developer of electro-diagnostic systems used in monitoring neurological problems and sleep disorders. Natus said Wednesday it is offering \$3.25 per share; Excel-Tech shares jumped 81 per cent to \$3.24.

_ Red Back Mining Inc. (TSX:RBI) shares were unchanged at \$6.75 after the firm announced it is selling about \$100 million worth of its common stock to an underwriting syndicate for resale to the public. Red Back said it will use the funds to eliminate all obligations outstanding under the current gold hedge book.

_ Ineos Nova, a joint venture between Nova Chemicals (TSX:NCX) and Ineos, plans to shut down Montreal polystyrene production by end of 2007, cutting six per cent of polystyrene production capacity. Nova shares dipped 18 cents to \$37.70.

_ Allen-Vanguard Corp. (TSX:VRS) shares rose 11 cents to \$9.50 after the Ottawa company received \$25-million order to supply electronic counter measures equipment for a type of armoured vehicle that the Pentagon has ordered for the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Stephane Dion says an unreasonable throne speech could force an election

DATE: 2007.10.10

KEYWORDS: BUSINESS EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT FINANCE INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 673

EDMONTON _ Liberal Leader Stephane Dion says he's hoping Prime Minister Stephen Harper doesn't take a hard line with next week's throne speech or the Opposition could force a federal election.

Dion says he doesn't want to bring down the minority government unless the prime minister takes positions in the throne speech that are so ``intransigent" that no Liberal can support it.

``We don't expect a liberal throne speech, but one that will be reasonable enough for us to keep the government and the Parliament going ahead," Dion told reporters following a speech Wednesday to a business luncheon.

Canadians don't want a third election in less than four years, partly because setting up an election costs taxpayers \$300 million, he said.

Dion said the Liberals want to see four key issues covered in the throne speech: a revival of the Clean Air Act shelved by the Tories; Canadian troops pulled out of Afghanistan within 18 months; a real plan to fight poverty; and a plan to improve Canada's productivity.

``It would be very responsible for the government to notify NATO that the combat mission in Kandahar will end in February 2009," he said. ``The prime minister in his press conference last week did not mention a word about that."

But Dion said if Harper uses the throne speech to force an election, the Liberals will bring forward a ``very ambitious, courageous and generous platform."

Dion's speech to a crowd of 100 at an Edmonton Chamber of Commerce luncheon was an election-style pitch for votes in Tory-dominated Alberta. He promised to help the province catch up with much-needed building projects if his party wins the next election.

``You can count on a Liberal government led by me to help you address these challenges with significant infrastructure investment," he told the crowd, which included Liberal politicians and candidates.

He also offered help for Alberta's severe shortage of skilled workers, while offering repeated assurances that his party's environmental policies would not put a drag on the province's current energy boom.

``Let me give you the two bottom lines of this plan: there will be no carbon tax and the money will stay in Alberta," he said. ``If there is a place in the world where there is much to gain in bringing the environment and the economy together, it is Alberta."

While the Liberal environment policy would penalize industries that don't reduce emissions, the money would remain in the province to pay for research, Dion explained.

“High-calibre research institutions like the University of Alberta and the Edmonton Research Park have the potential to become ground zero for a revolution in environmental innovation.”

Alberta companies and universities could also make money by creating new ways to reduce emissions, he said.

“If we make Fort McMurray sustainable, we can export that know-how to the world, and by cutting megatonnes of emissions, we are going to make megatonnes of money.”

Dion estimated the overall impact of his party's environmental plan would add only about \$1 to the cost of a barrel of oil.

The Liberal leader also used the election-style speech to promise new workforce and immigration policies to bring workers to Alberta. In the last quarter of 2006, 62,000 jobs went unfilled in the province.

He also slammed the Tory government for having weak environmental policies and for allowing many of Alberta's strongest companies to be taken over by foreigners.

“Last May, we urged the government to do something about foreign takeovers and they completely ignored our call, accusing us of being protectionist,” he told the crowd.

“Finally, yesterday they started to move because they know we were right.”

The Liberals were shut out in Alberta in the last federal election, in which the Conservatives won all 28 of the province's seats.

Deirdra McCracken, press secretary for Industry Minister Jim Prentice, issued a written response to Dion's comments, noting that an agreement was signed last May between Alberta and Ottawa to deal with the labour shortage in the province.

She said the deal facilitates the entry of temporary foreign workers, expedites the entry of foreign health-care professionals, and helps immigrants get settled.

“We're making it faster for the employers who need it most to hire temporary foreign workers in the construction, hospitality and tourism industries,” she said.

As for the environment, McCracken accused Dion of flip-flopping on the issue.

“Today he's telling Albertans there would be no carbon tax,” aid McCracken. “Albertans don't want a party leader who can't take and stick with a position, much like they don't want a party leader who finds it difficult to set priorities.”

Afghan parents arrange marriages for children as young as three

DATE: 2007.10.10

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 892

KABUL, Afghanistan _ When asked about her engagement party this summer, little Sunam glanced blankly at her family, then fiddled with her gold-sequined engagement outfit _ a speechless response not out of shyness, but because she does not yet talk much. Sunam is three.

The toddler was engaged to her seven-year-old cousin Nieem in June, in a match made by their parents.

Despite the efforts of the government and rights groups, the engagement and marriage of children still persists in this country, especially among poor, uneducated families or in the countryside.

About 16 per cent of Afghan children are married under the age of 15, according to recent data from UNICEF. And there is evidence that the poverty of recent years is pushing down the marriage age further in some areas.

The practice can force couples into a miserable union and sometimes expose the girl to violence if she resists.

Sunam's father committed her in marriage as a gift to his sister, Fahima, who does not have a daughter and desperately wants one. Marriage between first cousins is common in Afghanistan because families believe it is better to know their in-laws well. The two families live in the same modest housing compound in Kabul.

“It's a very common problem. I know people in my own family who were engaged this way,” said Orzala Ashraf, founder of Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan. “The engagement happens before birth in some cases.”

In an unhappy forced marriage, the man can take a woman he loves as a second wife in Islamic and Afghan culture. But the girls are trapped. Some commit suicide _ in Kapisa province, just north of Kabul, an 18-year-old girl shot and killed herself because her family would not break off her three-year engagement to a drug addict, Afghanistan's Pajhwok News Agency reported in August.

Others run away, sometimes falling into drugs or prostitution.

“Many girls who want to marry as they wish run away as a threat tactic to their family,” Ashraf said. “There is no law that forbids running away, but it is a matter of honour.”

The tactic sometimes works. Ashraf helped shelter one 17-year-old girl who ran away from home for a few days, humiliating her parents into letting her marry the man she loved.

The minimum legal age of marriage in Afghanistan is 16 for girls and 18 for boys. Yet child marriages account for 43 per cent of all marriages, according to the United Nations. The reasons are often economic: The girl's family gets a “bride price” of double the per capita income for a year or more, according to the World Bank.

In March, the women's ministry and rights group Medica Mondiale started a campaign to encourage marriage registration before a judge, which they hope will cut down on forced and child marriages. Marriage

registration is already mandated but rarely practised.

The families of Sunam and Nieem are convinced that if the two grow up together knowing they will be married, they will be happy to wed in the future. The plan is for them to marry when Sunam is 14 or 15.

Nieem's mother, Fahima, said if the children grow up to dislike each other, the families will break off the arrangement. ``It's their whole lives. If they don't like each other they will have problems their whole lives," she said.

But according to the children's aunt, Najiba, the match is unbreakable.

``We are Pashtun people. If we engage them, there is no way to separate them. They will marry," Najiba said. ``In our tribe, it is like this. When they get engaged, they cannot divorce."

Many engaged couples do not meet until after they are married. In some cases, two pregnant women _ either sisters or good friends _ agree to make a match if one has a boy and the other a girl.

Girls from fatherless families _ there are many in war-torn Afghanistan _ often are forced into the worst engagements. Jamila Zafar, a social worker for rights group Women for Afghan Women, says it took 2 1/2 months of negotiations to free 14-year-old Mudira in Paghman province outside Kabul from her engagement.

Mudira had lost her father, and her uncle forced the girl into an engagement with his son, a handicapped amputee. When the son died, the uncle engaged her for a second time to another handicapped son.

When Zafar's colleagues talked with the uncle and his family, the relatives threatened to kill them and went to Mudira's house to beat her stepfather. Only under pressure from Paghman police and officials was the engagement called off.

It is nearly impossible to break engagements ``because you're considered the other family's property. You're theirs now. You've been given away," said Manizha Naderi, director of Women for Afghan Women. ``It's obviously barbaric. It's going to take generations to change this custom."

One 22-year-old woman from Kabul has tried to break off her engagement for eight years. Her 36-year-old fiance _ whom she describes as uneducated, conservative and cruel, ``like a Taliban" _ has threatened to kill her if she refuses him. His father has also beaten her.

``I have told my mother for eight years that I don't accept this man," the engaged woman said, asking that her name be withheld for fear his family would attack her. ``My mother said, 'What can I do? You don't have any brothers, you don't have a father.'"

Her father died in a car accident when she was six months old, so a close friend of her father took it upon himself to find her an appropriate husband _ his son.

She is educated and works for a prominent international organization. Her fiance is a tailor with a high school diploma.

``I'm young. I want to go to school," she said, at a coffee shop in a Kabul shopping mall. Her voice was full of desperation and resignation.

``This is Afghanistan. That's why I don't like Afghanistan. I will leave Afghanistan."

Allen–Vanguard gets \$25–million order for electronic counter measures equipment

DATE: 2007.10.10

KEYWORDS: BUSINESS DEFENCE MANUFACTURING

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 134

OTTAWA _ Allen–Vanguard Corp. (TSX:VRS) has received \$25–million order to supply electronic counter measures equipment for a type of armoured vehicle that the Pentagon has ordered for the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Ottawa–based company said it has been contracted to supply 573 additional ECM systems and ancillary equipment for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles.

Allen–Vanguard didn't identify the customer. However, last month U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates and Gen. Peter Pace told a U.S. Senate committee that they were seeking US\$11 billion to buy another 7,000 mine–resistant, ambush–protected vehicles on top of the 8,000 vehicles already on order.

Allen–Vanguard's ECM equipment is designed to remotely detonate terrorist devices.

The company's shares traded at \$9.15, down 24 cents or 2.6 per cent, at the Toronto Stock Exchange after a trading half was lifted Wednesday afternoon.

The World at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 1956

with more frequency

_ Study: kids who already do see doctors get recommended care less than half the time

_ Fewer middle-class blacks invest in stocks, mutual funds than whites

_ Alaska drama: Prosecutors say stripper followed script to get lover to kill husband

MULTIMEDIA:

Notable Photos:

_AUTO TALKS: MIPS101, United Auto Workers members carry strike signs outside the Chrysler Warren Stamping facility in Michigan.

_AFGHANISTAN KIDNAPPED GERMAN: KAB104, An Afghan security man patrols the street in front of the German embassy, in Kabul, where the released German hostage Rudolf Blechschmidt was believed to be staying.

_BUSH US ARMENIA GENOCIDE: WHRE105, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, accompanied by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, speaks to reporters, outside the White House.

_ IRAQ CHRISTIAN FUNERAL: BAG109, A sibling of Marou Awanis, one of two Christian women killed Tuesday by members of a private security firm, mourns during a funeral service in Baghdad.

_RUSSIA SPACE: BAIK123, The Russian Soyuz-FG rocket booster with Soyuz TMA-11 space ship carrying a new crew to the international space station lifts off from the Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan.

_RUSSIA FRANCE: MOSB126, Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Nicolas Sarkozy at a news conference in the Kremlin.

_ BRITAIN ART SALE: LON816, Press officer Zoe Schoon examines Olafur Eliasson's 'Fivefold Eye', at Christies auction house in London.

Interactives:

_ REPUBLICANS DEBATE: wdc/08issues folder; wdc/2008money folder; wdc/2008primaries folder; wdc/early2008 folder.

_ SCOTUS: wdc/scotus0708 folder.

_ IRAQ: _international/iraq_troop_increase folder.

_ DIET CHILDHOOD OBESITY: wdc/obesity folder.

_ NFL SEASON OVERVIEW: _sports/nfl07/regular_season.

ALSO GETTING ATTENTION:

_ DRAFT GORE _ Draftgore.com, which describes itself as a group of grass-roots Democrats, underwrote a full-page open letter to Al Gore in Wednesday's New York Times, imploring the former vice president to enter the presidential campaign.

_ 911 OFFICER LAWSUIT _ A police officer who slipped and injured a knee during a rescue call has sued the family who phoned 911 after their 1-year-old boy nearly drowned.

_ PEOPLE-THERON _ Charlize Theron has an Oscar, a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild award. Now she's Esquire magazine's ``sexiest woman alive." AP Photo LA113.

HEADLINES: _ Chrysler strike could be long one because company is seeking better deal than GM

_ Iraq clamping down on private security firms as Blackwater appears headed for reorganization

_ Nooses _ powerful symbol of racist lynchings _ start showing up

_ PEOPLE-JAYCEE CHAN _ Jackie Chan's son doesn't want to be an action star like his father. AP Photo NY116.

_ JOY RIDE _ A hungry 6-year-old grabbed his grandmother's car keys, positioned his child seat behind the steering wheel and tried to drive himself to an Applebee's restaurant.

_ BATMAN COMIC _ Holy collectibles, Batman! A near-mint copy of Detective Comics No. 27, a pre-World War II comic featuring Batman's debut, was recently found in a Pennsylvania attic and sold to a local collector.

_ WIDE STANCE _ Sen. Larry Craig's contention that he has a ``wide stance" _ made just after his arrest in a restroom sex sting _ has permeated the public consciousness, showing up as more than just the punch line to late-night talk show jokes. AP Photo NY107.

_ VATICAN-POPE-SOCCER _ Pope Benedict XVI blessed a third-division Italian soccer team Wednesday, praising the club for signing onto a program by a Christian sports organization that seeks to promote ethics in the game. AP Photo XPL103.

TOP STORIES:

AUTO TALKS

DETROIT _ A strike by the United Auto Workers against Chrysler LLC could go long because the company's new owners want more concessions from the union on health care and outsourcing than it gave to General Motors Corp. Chrysler also has more inventory, though it could quickly run out of a few hot products. By Auto Writers Tom Krisher and Dee-Ann Durbin.

Eds: Optional planned.

AP Photos MICO101-108, INMC101-104, OHJY101-110. AP Graphic AUTO TALKS.

With:

_ AUTO TALKS-PLANTS

IRAQ

BAGHDAD _ A second security company operating in Iraq goes under the microscope and the Iraqi government appears determined to curb perceived excesses by heavily armed guards who stand accused of killing nearly 20 Iraqis in less than a month. The company at the heart of the probes, Blackwater USA, appears to move toward a major reorganization and possible downsizing in Iraq. By Steven R. Hurst.

AP Photos.

NOOSE INCIDENTS

ATLANTA _ The noose _ a powerful symbol of racist lynchings of decades ago _ is turning up in racial incidents around the country in recent weeks: In a black Coast Guard cadet's bag and in the office of a white officer who conducted race relations training after the incident. And most recently, on the office door of a black professor. Could these be copycat incidents prompted by the Jena Six case in Louisiana? By Errin Haines.

AP Photos NYPM101, NYDB101-103.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH, HFR

UNDATED _ As Congress debates expanding children's health insurance, a troubling study finds that kids who already do see doctors get recommended care less than half the time, ranging from vaccines to chlamydia tests for teen girls. By Linda A. Johnson.

Eds: Hold for release at 5 p.m.

RETIREMENT-RACE DIFFERENCES, HFR

NEW YORK _ Employers are beginning to discover troubling racial differences within their 401(k) retirement plans, a gap they say could leave today's black workers far less financially prepared for retirement than whites. A survey shows that four in 10 blacks from households earning more than \$50,000 a year say they do not own stocks or stock mutual funds, compared with just one-quarter of whites. By Business Writer Daniel Sorid.

Eds: Hold for release 12:01 a.m.

AP Photos CX102-106. AP Graphic INVESTING RACE

LAST SEDUCTION TRIAL

ANCHORAGE, Alaska _ In the 1994 movie ``The Last Seduction," a femme fatale uses her sexual wiles to coax her lover into killing her husband for money. Prosecutors say a stripper obsessed with the film followed the script to its murderous end. Now she is on trial in a case that has transfixed the Pacific Northwest. By Dan Joling.

AP Photos AKAG101-102.

CAMPAIGN 2008:

ROMNEY–GIULIANI–TAXES

WASHINGTON _ It's a classic argument for a Republican presidential candidate: I'm a big tax–cutter, and the other guy isn't. That doesn't quite sum up Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney, who clashed over taxes in the latest debate. By Libby Quaid and Steve LeBlanc.

AROUND THE NATION:

FLORIDA GOVERNOR

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. _ Florida's new Republican governor, Charlie Crist, is tackling so many issues important to blacks that one black Democratic legislator calls him the state's first black governor. His agenda is a marked change from previous GOP governors, who had declined even to attend the state's NAACP convention. By Brendan Farrington.

AP Photo MH101.

AROUND THE WORLD:

MYANMAR–SANCTIONS QUANDARY

BANGKOK, Thailand _ The argument for broad economic sanctions against the repressive military regime in Myanmar seems clear–cut. Yet critics argue such moves proposed by the U.S. and others would only drive the impoverished populace further into misery, boost the influence of China in the country and harden the junta even more against negotiations for a democratic opening. By Joseph Coleman.

With:

_ UN–MYANMAR–DRUGS, from UNITED NATIONS _ After six straight years of dramatic declines, opium cultivation in Myanmar surges in the past year, driven in part by corruption and weak border security, a U.N. drug report says. Myanmar remains the world's second–largest opium producer behind Afghanistan.

RUSSIA–SPACE

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan _ A Russian spacecraft soars from the Kazakh steppes toward the international space station, carrying a Malaysian, a Russian, and Peggy Whitson, the American who will become the first woman to command the orbital outpost. By Mansur Mirovalev.

AP Photos BAIK108, BAIK111, BAIK121.AP Video.

With:

_ RAMADAN IN SPACE, from KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia _ A Malaysian surgeon becomes the first Muslim to reach space during the holy fasting month of Ramadan, vowing to adhere to Islamic rituals even as he hurtles around the earth at 17,000 miles per hour.

PAKISTAN–WAR WEARY?

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan _ Violence linked to growing Islamic militancy in Pakistan kills more than 1,000 people in little over three months, fanning opposition to the country's close alliance with the United States.

The carnage raises questions about how long this Muslim nation can sustain its six-year military effort against pro-Taliban and al-Qaida militants along the Afghan border. By Stephen Graham.

AP Photos PES101, PES103. AP Graphic PAKISTAN VIOLENCE.

POLAND-REBEL EX-NUNS

KAZIMIERZ DOLNY, Poland _ Police evict 65 rebellious ex-nuns from a convent in Poland that they took over for two years after defying a Vatican order to replace their mother superior, a charismatic leader with religious visions. The defeated nuns walk out in their black habits _ some carrying guitars, drums and tambourines _ after a locksmith opens the gate and police arrest the mother superior. By Marcin Zoltowski.

AP Photos XCS153, XCS155.

IRAQ & THE MIDDLE EAST:

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS

ABU DIS, West Bank _ The Palestinians are ready to yield parts of the West Bank to Israel if compensated with an equal amount of Israeli territory, the top Palestinian negotiator tells The Associated Press. Ahmed Qureia, the 71-year-old former prime minister who has dealt with five Israeli leaders during 14 years of failed peace attempts, is trying again with No. 6, Ehud Olmert. By Karin Laub.

AP Photos.

Also:

_ IRAQ-PRISONER RELEASE: Sixty prisoners, some of them children, raise their hands and pledge to live a peaceful life. In return, U.S. authorities set them free. More than 25,000 Iraqis still in American custody haven't been so lucky.

_ TURKEY-IRAQ: Turkish warplanes bomb suspected positions of Kurdish rebels as Turkey's prime minister says preparations for a military mission against separatist fighters in Iraq are under way. Turkey detains 20 Kurds with suspected rebel links at a border crossing. AP Graphic TURKEY MILITARY.

WASHINGTON:

SCOTUS-MEXICAN NATIONALS

WASHINGTON _ In a case mixing Bush administration claims of executive power with the role of international law in state court proceedings, the Supreme Court considers whether Texas must abide by an international court ruling that says the rights of 51 Mexicans on death row were violated by not informing them of possible legal help from their embassy. By Mark Sherman.

Also:

_ TERRORIST SURVEILLANCE: President Bush says he will not sign a new eavesdropping bill if it does not grant retroactive immunity to U.S. telecommunications companies that helped conduct electronic surveillance without court orders. AP Photos WHRE109-111, DCPM109-110.

HEALTH & SCIENCE:

BREAST CANCER—CHEMO, HFR

UNDATED _ The widely used chemotherapy drug Taxol does not work for the most common form of breast cancer and helps far fewer patients than has been believed, surprising new research suggests. If further study bears this out, half of women who get chemo now could skip the drug without risking a recurrence. By Medical Writer Marilyn Marchione.

Eds: Hold for release at 5 p.m.

NOBEL—CHEMISTRY

NEW YORK _ A German scientist receives a startling present on his 71st birthday: a \$1.5 million Nobel Prize to honor his groundbreaking studies of how chemical reactions take place on surfaces. By Science Writer Malcolm Ritter.

AP Photos. AP Video.

BUSINESS:

_ BOEING—787: Boeing Co. is delaying initial deliveries of the 787 Dreamliner by six months due to continued challenges in completing assembly of the first airplanes, the company says. AP Photo.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

BOOKS—PATTIE BOYD

LONDON _ Pattie Boyd is the A-list musicians' muse. A convent schoolgirl turned swinging London model, Boyd was married to George Harrison, then to Eric Clapton _ and the relationships live on in song, including Clapton's scorching classic "Layla." When Boyd left Harrison and married Clapton, he serenaded her with "Wonderful Tonight," also the title of her new memoir. By Jill Lawless.

AP Photos NY331-334.

AP ON TV—DREW CAREY

LOS ANGELES _ Drew Carey's gig as the new host of "The Price is Right" is leading the comedian to a surprising realization: He was born to be a game-show host. By Entertainment Writer Sandy Cohen.

AP Photos LA301-305. AP Video.

Also:

_ NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS: Should Christopher Hitchens win a National Book Award, you can be sure he won't thank any higher powers. The author, columnist and commentator is nominated for "God Is Not Great," a polemic with a self-evident theme. AP Photos.

SPORTS:

FBN—COWBOYS—ROMO'S FIRST YEAR

IRVING, Texas _ A large painting of Tony Romo was moved into the executive offices of the Dallas Cowboys late last week, which may not be much of a surprise considering all the thrills he's provided. Here's

the surprising part: When the Cowboys play Tom Brady and the New England Patriots on Sunday, Romo will be making only his 16th career start, which means he'll be capping the equivalent of his first full season in charge. By Jaime Aron.

Indonesia says 'soft approach' yields dividends in Southeast Asia's war on terror

DATE: 2007.10.10

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE JUSTICE

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 965

al-Qaida-linked bombing on the Indonesian resort island of Bali stoked fears of a sustained terror campaign throughout the region.

“We approach the terrorists with a pure heart,” Brig. Gen. Surya Dharma, the head of Indonesia's anti-terror unit and host of the party, said in a rare interview. “We are all Muslims. We make them our brothers, not our enemy.”

On Oct. 12, 2002, two bombs ripped through Bali nightclubs, killing 202 people. Most of the victims were foreign tourists. This first major strike by Islamic extremists on westerners in Asia thrust Southeast Asia onto the front lines of the war on terror.

Indonesia has since suffered three smaller attacks, the last also on Bali in 2005, and the U.S. and many other western governments still urge citizens to avoid travel to Indonesia and the southern Philippines.

But foreign diplomats, analysts and authorities agree that the threat level is significantly lower today.

Police have detained most of the key figures in the region's main militant network, Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah, and rounded up hundreds of other sympathizers and lesser figures.

The few terrorist leaders remaining on the run are still believed to be attempting more attacks, but they have few skilled accomplices

JAKARTA, Indonesia _ Indonesia's anti-terrorism chief was relaxed as he mingled with the guests on his lawn. Muslim hardliners swapped tales of al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan and the Philippines. Convicted Bali nightclub bombers feasted on kebabs.

The unusual gathering late last month was a striking example of what has emerged as a key plank in Indonesia's anti-terror campaign: co-opting former militants as informers or preachers of moderation.

The evening party also underscored Southeast Asia's progress in the fight against al-Qaida, five years after a devastating left and are likely unable to communicate with them or get their hands on funds, officials said.

“The Indonesian police got their head out of the sand after 2002 and addressed it finally,” said Ken Conboy, an American security analyst and author of a book on Jemaah Islamiyah. “They came in a little bit late, but they came in hard.”

Muslim insurgencies fester in outlying districts of Thailand and the Philippines, though for now the militants appear mostly focused on local concerns rather than on western targets.

Still, Asian security officials note they are up against an extremist ideology with deep roots in the region, especially in Indonesia where an Islamic rebellion first broke out 70 years ago.

“Even with their last ounce of energy and last dollar of funds, they will do something to prove they're not completely gone,” said Philippine anti-terror official Ric Blancaflor.

The Philippines is battling the Abu Sayyaf militant group, which has been blamed for deadly bombings, high-profile ransom kidnappings and beheadings. At least two top Indonesian terrorists are also believed to be on the run in the country.

In Indonesia, the turnaround followed intense pressure from western governments, which repeatedly warned that al-Qaida militants fleeing Afghanistan could find safe haven in the country.

The U.S. and Australia poured millions of dollars into training, high-tech surveillance and forensic equipment for Indonesia's security forces.

Regional authorities boosted co-operation. Thai police arrested Hambali, an Indonesian terror leader with strong links to al-Qaida, in 2003. Philippine police picked up another Indonesian militant, Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, in 2002, along with dozens of other suspects.

The Indonesian government also ended three years of fighting between Muslim and Christians in eastern Indonesia that had killed thousands and served as a training ground and recruitment tool for militants.

Also playing a role is what the Indonesian government calls a “soft approach” used in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, building up an extensive web of paid informants and former militants working to persuade hardliners to change sides.

The party at Brig. Gen. Dharma's house brought together more than 20 hardliners and former terrorists who had shown a commitment to helping authorities and expressed regret for their actions.

In engaging the terrorists, Indonesian authorities often exploit a long-standing rift in the militant movement over the morality and strategic benefit of bombing soft targets such as the Bali nightclubs.

“We were made into a demolition crew,” said Mubarak, a guest at the party who is serving a life sentence for planning and carrying out the Bali bombings. “We did not stop to think, what if one of our family was caught up in the blasts? Now we are aware what we did was wrong,” said Mubarak, who goes by a single name.

He and several other guests had been temporarily released from prison to attend the party, and the Indonesians were apparently so confident of their approach that no armed guards were seen at the house.

Those co-operating with authorities can expect shorter sentences, cash payments and medical care for themselves or relatives.

Few hardliners will admit to assisting police and many still hold views that mainstream Muslims would consider extreme. Several appear to be motivated as much by financial reward as anything else.

“We learn who can be turned and look after them,” said Col. Tito Karnavian, the head of intelligence at the anti-terrorism unit. “And they then recruit people. We call it ‘creeping de-radicalization.’ We should not treat terrorists all the same. We should learn their culture and then exploit it.”

A few work publicly with authorities; one former Jemaah Islamiyah regional leader, a Malaysian named Nasir Abbas, occasionally briefs the media alongside police. Most remain behind the scenes, identifying a voice recording or photo of a suspect or meeting detainees in jail to challenge their views.

“It has paid dividends,” said Sidney Jones, a leading expert on Indonesia's militant movements from the

International Crisis Group. ``There is an effort to engage them (the militants) in discussions, not just put them under surveillance."

The party at Dharma's house was timed to coincide with the breaking of the fast during the holy month of Ramadan. The prayers were led by Mubarak.

Ali Imron, another former militant serving life for the Bali bombings, said friends told him an unnamed cleric had issued an edict calling for his death because of his close links with police.

``Everything has a risk, but I have chosen my path," he said. ``I am doing what is right."

Associated Press writers Niniek Karmini in Indonesia, Jim Gomez in the Philippines, Gillian Wong in Singapore and Vijay Joshi in Malaysia contributed to this report.

INDEX:Advisories

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 2218

CHRYSLER STRIKE:

DETROIT _ The United Auto Workers union says it has a tentative four-year contract agreement with Chrysler LLC after a daylong strike that sent thousands of workers to the picket lines. Details of the agreement aren't yet available. But UAW President Ron Gettelfinger says the strike will end immediately and workers should report for their next available shift. 750 words. By Dee-Ann Durbin and Tom Krisher. See AP Photos MICO101-104. BC-US-Auto-Talks, 5th Writethru. Moved. Will be Updated.

TORONTO _ The settling of a short strike by Chrysler workers in the United States was good news for the company's operations in Ontario, where plants were on the verge of shutdown because of a lack of parts supplies. 550 words. By Gary Norris. BC-US-Auto-Talks-Canada, 4th Writethru. Moved. Will be Updated

OTHER BUSINESS:

TORONTO _ The Toronto company at the centre of a massive pet food recall sparked by the deaths of several animals earlier this year is cutting jobs and paring salaries of its senior management as it tries to rebuild operations following the high-profile scandal. Menu Foods Income Fund (TSX:MEW.IN), the largest maker of wet cat and dog food in North America, said Wednesday it will cut 10 to 15 per cent of its 900-plus workforce, or 90 to 140 employees _ victims of its business disruption since the massive mid-March recall. 900 words. By Romina Maurino. BC-Menu-Foods, 6th Writethru. Moved General (G) AND BUSINESS (B).

MONTREAL _ A joint venture petrochemical partnership that created Ineos Nova is closing its Montreal polystyrene facility as part of efforts to save \$50 million in cost efficiencies. The move announced Wednesday will affect 40 employees who work at the plant. 550 words. By Ross Marowits. BC-Nova-Chemicals, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ Canadian manufacturers are asking for corporate tax cuts and other benefits to help the battered sector acquire new technology to become more productive. 400 words. By Julian Beltrame. BC-Throne-Speech-Manufacturers.

TORONTO _ Corel Corp. (TSX:CRE) slid to a loss of US\$6.8 million in its fiscal third quarter as the software company took a one-time non-cash tax charge and put a time delay on its optimistic outlook for high-definition BluRay and HD DVD technology. Chief executive David Dobson said in the company's quarterly earnings call late Wednesday that slower adoptions of both formats had dampened the quarterly results. 487 words. By David Friend. BC-Corel, 2nd Writethru.

CALGARY _ More than 30,000 jobs could be lost in the oil and gas industry if the Alberta government adopts a proposal to hike royalty rates, says a report from First Energy Capital. The report says about 3,500 jobs are likely already on the line due to low natural gas prices, but another 8,100 jobs could be cut in the sector if royalties rise, analyst Kevin Lo says. 453 words. BC-Alberta-Royalty-Jobs, 1st Writethru.

CALGARY _ PrimeWest Energy Trust (TSX:PWI.UN) says shareholders will vote Nov. 21 in Calgary on the controversial \$5-billion proposed takeover by Abu Dhabi state energy firm TAQA. The agreement requires

66.3 per cent approval of shareholders, as well as court and regulatory agreement. 282 words.
BC–PrimeWest–Energy.

SEATTLE _ Discount retailer Costco Wholesale Corp. said Wednesday its fourth-quarter profit climbed five per cent on increased membership fee revenue and higher same-store warehouse sales. Shares jumped nearly 10 per cent on the news. By Elizabeth Gillespie. See Associated Press Photos. BC–Costco–Wholesale, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

NEW YORK _ Oil futures traded in a narrow range Wednesday, with some traders collecting profits from the previous session's rally while others bet on whether an upcoming inventory report will show an increase in crude stockpiles. 650 words. By John Wilen. BC–Oil Prices, 3rd Writethru. Moved

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. _ Valero Energy Corp., the largest independent oil refiner in the United States, said Wednesday it expects to report third-quarter earnings far short of Wall Street estimates because the cost of refined products hasn't kept up with rapidly rising crude costs. 500 words. By Michelle Roberts.
BC–Valero–Warning, Bgt, 1st Writethru. Moved.

HOUSTON _ Waste Management Inc., the largest garbage hauler and landfill operator in North America, plans to spend hundreds of millions of dollars over the next dozen years to make its operations more environmentally friendly. By John Porretto. BC–Waste–Management–Environment, Bgt. Moved.

CHICAGO _ Boeing Co. is delaying initial deliveries of the 787 Dreamliner by six months due to continued challenges in completing assembly of the first airplanes, the company said Wednesday. 700 words. By Dave Carpenter. With Photos. BC–Boeing–787, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. _ MGM Mirage Inc. plans to build an up to \$5 billion casino resort whose three towers would dominate the skyline in Atlantic City, as it tries to lift the level of luxury in a city hit hard by slots parlors in the northeastern U.S. 650 words. By Wayne Parry. See AP Photo NJATL202.
BC–MGM–Mirage–Resort, 2nd Writethru. Moved

LONDON _ Cadbury Schweppes PLC said Wednesday that it will separate its U.S. drinks division rather than sell it, as the company announced a 10-per-cent rise in confectionary sales. Cadbury said it would list the business, whose brands include Dr Pepper, 7-Up and Snapple, on the New York Stock Exchange through a share issue to existing shareholders. That dashes the hopes of Toronto-based Cott Corp. (TSX:BCB), which reportedly had wanted to buy the business. 850 words. By Jane Wardell. BC–Cadbury–Schweppes, 3rd Writethru. Moved. Will be updated with closing Cott Corp. stock price.

The Canadian Press is also following:

TORONTO _ The Toronto stock market was slightly higher mid-Wednesday afternoon thanks to higher mining sector gains. In New York, indexes were off sharply a day after major indexes closed at record highs as investors were disappointed with the kickoff to the third-quarter earnings season. By Malcolm Morrison. BC–Dollar–Markets, 5th Writethru. Moved. Will be Updated.

HALIFAX _ A Halifax business accounting firm acting as financial advisor for TrentonWorks is seeking offers for the idle railcar plant. Ernst and Young has issued a call for proposals for the business assets, which it describes as the largest industrial metal fabrication facility in Atlantic Canada. 144 words.
BC–NS–Trentonworks.

HALIFAX _ Corridor Resources Inc. (TSX:CDH) said Wednesday that preliminary results from the New Harmony 1 well near Souris in northeastern Prince Edward Island show natural gas below 2,700 metres. However, porosity is lower than at the Green Gables 3 well near Cavendish, indicating that fracture

stimulation _ high-pressure fluid injection _ will be necessary. BC-Corridor-P.E.I.

QUEBEC _ Shares in junior biotech firm Advitech Inc. (TSXV:AVI) charged ahead 21 per cent Wednesday as company announced positive preclinical results from its XP-828L wound-healing technology. BC-Advitech, 1st Writethru. Moved Datafile only.

MONTREAL _ Dick Evans has been named chief executive of Rio Tinto Alcan, the new company formed from Anglo-Australian giant Rio Tinto's \$38.1-billion takeover of Montreal-based Alcan Inc (TSX:AL). The companies announced their executive management team in a statement early Wednesday, but the changes won't take effect until the deal is completed, likely in the fourth quarter of this year. 145 words. BC-Rio-Tinto-Alcan.

MONTREAL _ Velan Inc. (TSX:VLN) says Q1 net earnings were \$1.4 million or six cents per share compared to \$900,000 or four cents per share last year due to record quarterly sales of \$94.1 million, an increase of 18.4 per cent. BC-Velan.

MONTREAL _ Murgor Resources Inc. (TSXV:MUG) has announced drilling results interpreted as expanding the mineralized zone at the Wim property in northern Manitoba. The featured showing from two fully processed holes was 2.83 per cent copper, 3.3 grams per tonne gold, 12.49 grams per tonne silver and 0.25 per cent zinc over 11.1 metres. 207 words. BC-Murgor.

GATINEAU, Que. _ Brookfield Power has acquired two hydroelectric generating stations totalling 7.4 megawatts in northeast British Columbia. BC-Brookfield-Power.

RIMOUSKI, Que. _ Shares of Quebec oil and gas explorer Petrolia Inc. (TSXV:PEA) rose nearly a quarter Wednesday after the company said it has received conditional approval from the TSX Venture Exchange for a private placement of nine million share and warrant units at \$1 each to raise \$9 million. BC-Petrolia, 1st Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ C-COM Satellite Systems Inc. (TSXV:CMI) reports Q3 profit rose to record \$570K from year-earlier \$207K on higher revenue. BC-C-COM-Satellite.

OTTAWA _ The federal government is expected to announce several hundreds of millions of dollars in new funding for Via Rail on Thursday, the first significant injection of new money to the cash-strapped Crown passenger rail corporation in years. BC-Via Rail-Funding. Moved Business (B) and General (G).

OTTAWA _ Canadian Mint survey suggests that most retailers and a plurality of Canadians wish the penny just disappeared. BC-Mint-Penny. Moved Business (B) and General (G).

OTTAWA _ Allen-Vanguard Corp. (TSX:VRS) has received \$25-million order to supply electronic counter measures equipment for a type of armoured vehicle that the Pentagon has ordered for the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan. BC-Allen-Vanguard. Moved.

OTTAWA _ International Datacasting Corp. (TSX:IDC) says it has received new orders totalling US\$1.7 million for Internet Protocol TV (IPTV) products and related services from three separate customers. BC-International-Datacasting.

TORONTO _ Nevoro Inc. (TSX:NVR), a Toronto-based junior miner, has acquired the Monarch and Boulderfield gold projects in Nevada. BC-Nevoro. Moved

TORONTO _ Route1 Inc. (TSXV:ROI), a Toronto-based supplier of security and identity management software and equipment, has won a distribution deal with Novatel Wireless, a global provider of 3G wireless

broadband systems. BC–Route1. Moved.

TORONTO _ Noront Resources Ltd. (TSXV:NOT) is expanding drilling and land acquisitions at its Double Eagle project in the James Bay Lowlands of northeastern Ontario, based on results at an "exciting" nickel, copper and platinum group discovery reported in August. BC–Noront–Resources, 1st Writethru. Moved Datafile only.

TORONTO _ Guyana Goldfields Inc. (TSX:GUY) releases initial resource estimate for three mineralized zones at its Aurora project in Guyana, estimating 4.4 million indicated and inferred ounces of gold. BC–Guyana, 1st Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO _ Bank of Montreal (TSX:BMO), Royal Bank (TSX:RY) and TD Bank (TSX:TD) raise residential mortgage rates as much as a quarter point. BC–Mortgage–Rates.

OAKVILLE, Ont. _ Natus Medical Inc. (NASDAQ:BABY) of San Carlos, Calif., has struck a \$62.5–million deal to acquire Oakville–based Excel–Tech Ltd. (TSX:NRV), a developer of electro–diagnostic systems used in monitoring neurological problems and sleep disorders. BC–Natus–Excel–Tech, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

CALGARY _ Deliverability of Canadian conventional natural gas will decline by seven to 15 per cent during 2007–2009, National Energy Board report says. BC–Gas–Decline.

VANCOUVER _ Maximizer Software Inc. (TSX:MAX) has appointed a special committee to assess a previously announced going–private transaction proposed by a company indirectly controlled by family members of Terence Hui, Maximizer's chairman. Under the proposal announced in late September, minority shareholders would be paid 13.5 cents a share, valuing the firm at \$8.5 million. On Tuesday, the firm's shares closed at 11.5 cents. 211 words. BC–Maximizer–Software.

VANCOUVER _ Meridex Software Corp. (TSXV:MSC) has settled on terms for its all–share acquisition of privately held video surveillance firm Savicon Inc. at 3.9 million shares. The deal values Savicon at about \$446,410, with Meridex shares trading at 11.5 cents on the TSX Venture Exchange Wednesday. 84 words. BC–Meridex.

VANCOUVER _ New Cantech Ventures Inc. (TSXV:NCV) settles legal proceedings against past president of the company which claimed damages for breach of a written consulting agreement; settlement says New Cantech will receive half of any benefit Dupasquier will derive from any disposition of related to a mineral licence in Manitoba. BC–New–Cantech.

VANCOUVER _ Bayfield Ventures Corp. (TSXV:BYV) said Wednesday that it will not be proceeding with a proposed acquisition "in a highly visible mining area." BC–Bayfield–Ventures. Moved Datafile only

VANCOUVER _ Petromin Resources Ltd. (TSXV:PTR), a Vancouver company involved in coal bed methane exploration, says it has entered into a technical services deal with Enviro Energy International Holdings Ltd., a Hong Kong Stock Exchange–listed company focused on coal bed methane, enhanced oil recovery and other energy businesses. BC–Petromin–Resources. Moved.

VANCOUVER _ A former B.C. stock picker who admitted to defrauding investors after raising \$1.4 million from 49 clients has been banned for life from the province's capital markets. BC–BC–Securities–Ban.

NEW YORK _ Wall Street regulators fine RBC Capital Markets (TSX:RY) US\$225,000 for inaccurate reporting of short positions in NYSE–listed securities. BC–RBC–Fined.

OAK PARK, Mich. _ Azure Dynamics Corp. (TSX:AZD), a Toronto company that makes hybrid electric and

electric powertrains for commercial vehicles and shuttle buses, says it has signed a supply deal with Kidron Inc. to sell Azure's low-emission electric power systems through the North American refrigerated truck body market. Financial terms of the deal, announced Wednesday, were not revealed. BC–Azure–Dynamics. Moved.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand _ Auckland International Airport Ltd. said Thursday it is still in talks with Canada Pension Plan Investment Board over its bid for a sizable minority stake in the New Zealand company. The airport company move was seen as seeking to quell speculation that discussions with CPPIB over acquiring part of the company are on the rocks. 295 words. BC–CPP–New–Zealand–Airport.

AURORA, Ont. _ Magna Entertainment Corp. (TSX:MEC.A) says it has pulled out of the consortium bidding to operate three New York Thoroughbred racetracks. The group, Empire Racing Associates, bid for the racetracks after the State of New York put out a request for proposals seeking groups to run the franchise. 216 words. BC–Magna–Entertainment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadian Press World News Budget – Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007.

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 500

Here are the budgeted stories as of 23:00 EDT. The editor handling World news in Toronto can be reached at 416-507-2165.

CLEVELAND _ A 14-year-old suspended student opened fire in a downtown high school Wednesday before killing himself. Five people _ three teens and two adults _ were taken to hospitals. After the shooting, shaken teens called their parents on cellphones, most to reassure but in at least one case with terrifying news: "Mom, I got shot." The shooter was enrolled at the SuccessTech Academy alternative school but was reportedly suspended Monday for fighting. 725 words. BC-School-Shooting, 6th Writethru.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan _ Canadian soldiers mentoring the Afghan National Army are celebrating after watching their Afghan charges carry out a successful anti-insurgency operation. It's a significant step for the fledgling force and for the Canadians whose eventual exit from this war-torn land depends on the Afghan army's ability to take on the responsibility for security on their own. 600 words. By Dene Moore. BC-Afghan-Cda-Army, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

See also:

BC-Afghanistan-German, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

WASHINGTON _ Hillary Clinton's tour bus, dubbed the Middle Class Express, is picking up speed on the U.S. campaign trail. She's pulling further ahead of Barack Obama in the Democratic race for the 2008 presidential nomination and she's even beating his fundraising records. It's an enviable position for a woman whom many Americans still view as a cold, polarizing figure. 950 words. By Beth Gorham. See Photo. BC-US-Clinton. Moved.

WASHINGTON _ Turkey made a direct appeal to U.S. legislators to reject a congressional resolution that would declare the First World War-era killings of hundreds of thousands of Armenians a genocide. The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee was voting on the measure that is opposed by the Bush administration, and which Turkey has insisted could severely damage U.S. relations with a NATO ally that has been a major portal for U.S. military operations in the region. 725 words. By Desmond Butler. BC-US-Armenia-Genocide. Moved.

See also:

BC-Turkey-Kurds, 1st Writethru. Moved.

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan _ A Russian rocket blasted off from a launch facility in Kazakhstan on Wednesday, carrying an American, a Russian and a Malaysian to the international space station. Peggy Whitson of Beaconsfield, Iowa, will be the first woman to command the international space station. 740 words. By Mansur Mirovalev. See Photo. BC-Russia-Space, 1st Writethru. Moved.

See also:

BC–Ramadan–in–Space. Moved Datafile only.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden _ Gerhard Ertl of Germany won the 2007 Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for studies of chemical reactions on solid surfaces, which are key to understanding questions like how pollution eats away at the ozone layer. Ertl's research has also helped explain how fuel cells produce energy without pollution, how catalytic converters clean up car exhaust and even why iron rusts. 450 words. By Karl Ritter and Matt Moore. See Photos. BC–Nobel–Chemistry, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

Kidnapped German, 4 Afghans freed in exchanges for 5 `criminals'

DATE: 2007.10.10

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 378

service in the Jaghato district of Wardak province, said the district chief, Mohammad Nahim.

Nahim at first said that six Taliban had been released in the swap.

He later said no Taliban had been released and that it was five criminals who had been freed.

One of the criminals was the father of the Taliban commander who had taken the German and Afghans, he said.

Nahim said the exchange had been arranged by Afghan elders. An Interior Ministry spokesman confirmed the release but said he didn't have further details about how it was arranged.

In Germany, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier confirmed that Blechschmidt had been freed, and the former captive told Spiegel magazine on his release that he was ``doing well."

``I'm just a little tired," he told the magazine in a short telephone interview posted on its website.

Blechschmidt had also talked with the German ambassador by telephone and confirmed he was safely in the custody of Afghan security forces, Steinmeier said in a statement.

``We are all pleased and relieved," Steinmeier said.

Blechschmidt arrived at the German Embassy in Kabul about three hours after he was released.

The release came two days after Blechschmidt appeared on a videotape, appealing to the Afghan and German governments to make a deal with the militants for his release before winter.

Blechschmidt said in the video that he was in poor health but that an Afghan doctor had helped him.

Blechschmidt is one of two German engineers and five Afghans taken hostage on July 18 in Wardak province in central Afghanistan. The other German was found dead of gunshot wounds on July 21, while one of the Afghans apparently managed to escape.

Four Red Cross employees were taken hostage by the Taliban on Sept. 27 while trying to win the German's release. The four were released in good health two days later.

On the video, Blechschmidt said the German Embassy had refused to engage in talks for a time, but that negotiations had restarted recently and that ``we hope we will become free."

Kidnappings by Taliban insurgents and criminal gangs have risen in Afghanistan in recent months. A string of high-profile kidnappings have led to ransom payments and prisoner releases, which some officials say has fuelled the rise in the abductions.

The governments of Italy and Afghanistan came under criticism earlier this year when five imprisoned rebels were freed in exchange for a kidnapped Italian journalist. At the time, Afghan President Hamid Karzai called the exchange a one-time deal.

KABUL, Afghanistan _ A German engineer and four Afghans taken hostage in July were freed Wednesday in exchange for what an Afghan official described as five imprisoned criminals.

The German, Rudolf Blechschmidt, and the four Afghans were handed over by local elders to officials of Afghanistan's intelligence

Canadian military mentors celebrate Afghan army victory in Zhari district

DATE: 2007.10.10

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 481

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan _ Canadian soldiers mentoring the Afghan National Army celebrated a victory Wednesday, after watching their Afghan counterparts carry out a successful anti-insurgency operation.

It's a significant step for the fledgling force and for the Canadians whose eventual exit from this war-torn land, in theory, depends on the Afghan army's ability to take on the responsibility for security.

"It's definitely very important," said Maj. Sylvain Gagnon, plans officer for the Canadian Operational Mentor Liaison Teams, which are working with the Afghan army.

"Every step we take toward having them take responsibility of the operation area is a big success for us. Maybe this one operation is not significant for the Canadians back home but every operation that they go forward and plan and execute on their own is a big success."

Based on intelligence gathered by the Canadians, a company of Afghan infantry crept into the bazaar area of Howz-e-Madad, a village located near a Canadian strongpoint in the dangerous Zhari district west of Kandahar city, around 8 a.m. Wednesday. They were looking for suspected insurgent weapons caches.

By noon the Afghan soldiers had swept through 22 buildings, uncovering weapons and ammunition as well as electronic devices meant for building deadly roadside bombs.

"We have seized... two weapons caches with ammo and some electronic components used to build IEDs," Gagnon said. "We've also re-established the freedom of movement along Highway 1 in that area."

There were no arrests.

It's the first significant operation planned and led by Afghan soldiers during the current rotation, and that is not insignificant.

Like the Afghan National Police today, at one time the Afghan army was mostly feared by the local population.

Untrained, under-staffed, corrupt and out-gunned by the Taliban, they were of little help to NATO efforts, if not an outright hindrance.

Wednesday's mission in Howz-e-Madad was "a significant operation and it was very successful," Gagnon said.

There was feedback from the Canadian mentors and backup available, but the ANA conducted this operation, he said.

This group has been in the mentoring program since it began, first under another country and with the Canadians since last May.

Gagnon said he expects to see continued improvements over the next few months. There will have to be.

Canadian forces hope to hand over security in the dangerous Zhari and Panjwaii districts to Afghan national security forces by the end of the year.

“If we have done that, and our plan is successful, then we can use most of our security assets, the battle group troops, to move into other areas of the country,” said Maj. Eric Landry, chief plans officer for Canada's Joint Task Force Afghanistan.

“Right now what we're doing, is we're doing reconnaissance in other districts away from Zhari and Panjwaii to figure out where we will extend.”

The last time Afghan security forces were left on their own in Zhari and Panjwaii, during the change over of Canadian troops last summer, it did not go well.

Army and police were quickly overrun by Taliban and the two districts hard-fought and hard-won by Canadians in Operation Medusa last autumn were lost. Canadian troops have had to re-establish control this fall.

But the soldiers working with the Afghan army are optimistic.

“We're getting there, we're getting there,” Gagnon said. “It's small steps. The ANA is still a young army, as per our standards.”

The Canadian Press Entertainment–Life News Budget, Wednesday, Oct. 10

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 1503

Here are coverage plans from The Canadian Press as of 18:00 EDT. Please note plans may change as circumstances warrant.

Entertainment questions may be directed to Andrea Baillie at 416–507–2162. Health and Lifestyles questions go to Anne Tobin at 416–507–2141. Copy moves by 18:30 unless otherwise noted; all times ET.

ENTERTAINMENT

TORONTO _ Entertainment power couple Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony bring their Spanglish concert tour to Toronto on Wednesday, when celebrity watchers will be on full “bump alert” to determine for themselves whether J.Lo is pregnant, as rumoured. 500 words. By Cassandra Szklarski.

BC–MUSIC–JLo–Anthony, 2nd Writethru. Story will be updated after show begins, by about 9:30 p.m. A writethru will move after the show, by 12:00 a.m.

TORONTO _ Canada's beloved songbird Anne Murray was entertaining Wednesday _ in her home. The veteran singer invited about two dozen media and music industry friends to her sprawling home north of Toronto to hear a preview of her duets disc, “Friends and Legends”. 400 words. By Cassandra Szklarski. BC–MUSIC–Anne–Murray. Moved.

TORONTO _ The CBC's got “Little Mosque on the Prairie.” CTV's got “Corner Gas.” Could “Da Kink in My Hair” be Global's chance at a breakout home–made situation comedy? “Da Kink” creator and star Trey Anthony doesn't want to focus on that kind of pressure, saying she's simply delighted that she got the network to greenlight the show, based on her beloved stage play of the same name about a boisterous hair salon in Toronto's Caribbean community. 660 words. By Lee–Anne Goodman. See Photo. BC–TV–Da–Kink. Moved.

TORONTO _ Michael Caine would not have been interested in an update of “Sleuth” if all he'd done is move up to the role Laurence Olivier played opposite him in that 1972 classic battle of wits. For both him and Jude Law, who takes on the character Caine created in the original, it needed to be something different. 800 words. By David Germain. See Photo NYET350, NYET351. BC–FILM–Sleuth. Moved.

BERLIN _ At first glance, the letter carefully printed in a child's hand seems innocuous, nothing more than the expression of a young crush: “I love you so much. Write me _ please. Many greetings. Your Gina.” But the note takes on a more sinister tone when its recipient is known: Adolf Hitler. 835 words. By David Rising. See Photo PRO110. BC–BOOKS–Hitler–Letters. Moved.

LOS ANGELES _ Drew Carey spent his entire career preparing to be a game–show host, only he didn't know it. It wasn't until the 49–year–old comedian became the new face of “The Price Is Right” that he realized game shows were his true calling. Carey makes his “Price” debut on Monday. 775 words. By Sandy Cohen. See Photo. BC–TV–Drew–Carey. Moved.

NEW YORK _ Kid Rock considers his sixth studio album, “Rock N Roll Jesus,” a make–or–break record for him. When he first broke onto the national scene in 1998, the Detroit native sold 12 million records with his

album ``Devil Without a Cause." With the success came fame and fortune and more hit records. But these days, Rock is known more for his made-for-tabloids antics than for his music. As anyone who keeps up with pop culture knows, he married Pamela Anderson last year, a union that ended quickly and disastrously. He recently accused her of being a manipulator, and Anderson has already remarried. 967 words. By Alicia Quarles. See Photo. BC-MUSIC-Q&A-Kid-Rock. Moved.

WASHINGTON _ Three official portraits of the Queen will be displayed alongside Annie Leibovitz's signature celebrity photography in a 15-year retrospective exhibition of her work that opens Saturday at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The Corcoran is the third of seven stops for the show titled ``Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005" and the first gallery to include the Queen's portraits, which were commissioned to mark her visit to the United States in May. 808 words. By Lubna Takruri. See Photos DCJM101-105. BC-ART-Leibovitz-Exhibit. Moved.

NEW YORK _ They've been called weirdos, freaks and Satanists. Animal Collective's otherworldly song structures, deconstructed harmonies and tribal rhythms aren't always met with receptive ears, but there might not be a more progressive band in indie music. 934 words. By Jake Coyle. See Photo. BC-MUSIC-Animal-Collective. Moved datafile only.

LIFESTYLES

Eds: In addition to the following budgeted copy moving Lifestyles, a story slugged BC-Steroid-Users is highlighted in BC-Budget-Canadian and is moving both General (G) and Lifestyles (L).

UNDATED _ The widely used chemotherapy drug Taxol does not work for the most common form of breast cancer and helps far fewer patients than has been believed, surprising new research suggests. If further study bears this out, more than 20,000 women each year in the United States alone might be spared the side effects of this drug or similar ones without significantly raising the risk their cancer will return. That would be roughly half of all breast cancer patients who get chemo now. 740 words. By Marilynn Marchione. BC-Breast-Cancer-Chemo. Moved.

TORONTO _ ``Odd Job Jack" has come full circle with its Gemini Award nomination for best cross platform project, a category that's only into its second year. Ten years ago, when the series creators thought up the storyline of a hapless temp worker, it was to be a Sit.Com _ their trademarked term for an animated web sitcom with interactive elements. 770 words. By Victoria Ahearn. See Photo. BC-Cyberfile-Cross-Platforms. Moved.

NEW YORK _ As lives get increasingly busier with careers, kids, commutes and other chaos, a growing number of people are turning to personal chefs to make sure that there's a hot meal on the table at the end of a long day. Hiring a professional to cook for you isn't a whole lot different than hiring someone to clean your house or walk the dog, and it's not just for the wealthy, said John Moore, executive director of the United States Personal Chef Association. 1,060 words. By Bree Fowler. See CP Photos CPT313-317. BC-Personal-Chefs. Moved.

UNDATED _ Need help eating your (or your kid's) share of this year's payload of Halloween candy? You're probably not alone. Americans readily shell out some \$2 billion a year for all those sweet treats, but it doesn't take many mini chocolate bars, Tootsie Roll Pops and ghost Peeps for sugar fatigue to set in. But rather than dump your excess in the office candy jar or let it go stale under your child's bed, consider some creative and seriously sweet ways of overindulging just a little bit more. 670 words. By Annmarie Timmins. With Recipes. See Photos CPT311-312. BC-FOOD-Candy-Creations. Moved.

See also other Halloween food stories:

BC-FOOD-Sausage-Polenta. See CP Photos CPT300-301. Moved.

BC-FOOD-Butter-Boulders. See CP Photos CPT302-303. Moved.

BC-FOOD-Halloween-Brews. See CP Photo CPT304. Moved.

BC-FOOD-Pumpkin-Martini. See CP Photo CPT305. Moved.

BC-FOOD-Cookie-Pops. See CP Photos CPT306-307. Moved.

BC-FOOD-Pumpkin-Cookies. See CP Photos CPT308-310. Moved.

KABUL, Afghanistan _ When asked about her engagement party this summer, little Sunam glanced blankly at her family, then fiddled with her gold-sequined engagement outfit _ a speechless response not out of shyness, but because she does not yet talk much. Sunam is three. The toddler was engaged to her seven-year-old cousin Nieem in June, in a match made by their parents. 959 words. By Alisa Tang. See Photos NY434-437. BC-Afghan-Child-Bride, Advance. Moved.

RICHMOND, Texas _ Killer-turned-artist Manny Hernandez on the prison where he's finishing an eight-year term: ``It's a blessing to be here."Fellow murderer and inmate Raymond Hall likens it to heaven.They're praising the Carol Vance Unit, founded in 1997 on the outskirts of Houston. It's the oldest of a rapidly growing number of faith-based prison facilities across the United States. 1,850 words. By David Crary. See AP Photos NY311-318. BC-RELIGION-God-Behind-Bars. Moved.

TOKYO _ Yuichiro Miura has an unusual routine for a man who just turned 75. At dawn, the veteran adventurer wakes after a night in a private low-oxygen chamber. He straps weights onto his ankles, hoists a 20-kilograms backpack onto his shoulders and hikes for hours around Tokyo. Sometimes he adds a stroll on his treadmill. Ask Miura why he isn't on the golf course or puttering around a vegetable garden, and he has a simple answer _ Mount Everest. 900 words. By Chisaki Watanabe. See AP Photos NY438-440. BC-Japan-Old-Men-and-the-Mountain. Moved.

JAKARTA, Indonesia _ Indonesia's anti-terrorism chief was relaxed as he mingled with the guests on his lawn. Muslim hardliners swapped tales of al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan and the Philippines. Convicted Bali nightclub bombers feasted on kebabs. The unusual gathering late last month was a striking example of what has emerged as a key plank in Indonesia's anti-terror campaign: co-opting former militants as informers or preachers of moderation. 1,100 words. By Chris Brummitt. See AP Photos NY441-450. BC-Asia-Rolling-Back-Terror. Moved.

Business staffing plans for Wednesday, Oct. 10

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES BUSINESS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 2114

BUSINESS EDITORS: Here are Canadian Press Business staffing plans as of 4:30 p.m. ET. Plans may change as circumstances warrant.

Queries should be addressed to business editor John Valorzi at 416-507-2146 or to Brenda Bouw on the business desk at 416-507-2138. To contact Canadian Press Business by e-mail, send messages to business(at)thecanadianpress.com. distribution deal with Novatel Wireless, a global provider of 3G wireless broadband systems. BC-Route1. Moved.

TORONTO _ Noront Resources Ltd. (TSXV:NOT) is expanding drilling and land acquisitions at its Double Eagle project in the James Bay Lowlands of northeastern Ontario, based on results at an ``exciting" nickel, copper and platinum group discovery reported in August. BC-Noront-Resources, 1st Writethru. Moved Datafile only.

TORONTO _ Guyana Goldfields Inc. (TSX:GUY) releases initial resource estimate for three mineralized zones at its Aurora project in Guyana, estimating 4.4 million indicated and inferred ounces of gold. BC-Guyana, 1st Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO _ Bank of Montreal (TSX:BMO), Royal Bank (TSX:RY) and TD Bank (TSX:TD) raise residential mortgage rates as much as a quarter point. BC-Mortgage-Rates.

OAKVILLE, Ont. _ Natus Medical Inc. (NASDAQ:BABY) of San Carlos, Calif., has struck a \$62.5-million deal to acquire Oakville-based Excel-Tech Ltd. (TSX:NRV), a developer of electro-diagnostic systems used in monitoring neurological problems and sleep disorders. BC-Natus-Excel-Tech, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

CALGARY _ Deliverability of Canadian conventional natural gas will decline by seven to 15 per cent during 2007-2009, National Energy Board report says. BC-Gas-Decline.

VANCOUVER _ Maximizer Software Inc. (TSX:MAX) has appointed a special committee to assess a previously announced going-private transaction proposed by a company indirectly controlled by family members of Terence Hui, Maximizer's chairman. Under the proposal announced in late September, minority shareholders would be paid 13.5 cents a share, valuing the firm at \$8.5 million. On Tuesday, the firm's shares closed at 11.5 cents. 211 words. BC-Maximizer-Software.

VANCOUVER _ Meridex Software Corp. (TSXV:MSC) has settled on terms for its all-share acquisition of privately held video surveillance firm Savicon Inc. at 3.9 million shares. The deal values Savicon at about \$446,410, with Meridex shares trading at 11.5 cents on the TSX Venture Exchange Wednesday. 84 words. BC-Meridex.

VANCOUVER _ New Cantech Ventures Inc. (TSXV:NCV) settles legal proceedings against past president of the company which claimed damages for breach of a written consulting agreement; settlement says New Cantech will receive half of any benefit Dupasquier will derive from any disposition of related to a mineral licence in Manitoba. BC-New-Cantech.

VANCOUVER _ Bayfield Ventures Corp. (TSXV:BYV) said Wednesday that it will not be proceeding with a proposed acquisition ``in a highly visible mining area." BC–Bayfield–Ventures. Moved Datafile only

VANCOUVER – Petromin Resources Ltd. (TSXV:PTR), a Vancouver company involved in coal bed methane exploration, says it has entered into a technical services deal with Enviro Energy International Holdings Ltd., a Hong Kong Stock Exchange–listed company focused on coal bed methane, enhanced oil recovery and other energy businesses. BC–Petromin–Resources. Moved.

NEW YORK _ Wall Street regulators fine RBC Capital Markets (TSX:RY) US\$225,000 for inaccurate reporting of short positions in NYSE–listed securities. BC–RBC–Fined.

OAK PARK, Mich. _ Azure Dynamics Corp. (TSX:AZD), a Toronto company that makes hybrid electric and electric powertrains for commercial vehicles and shuttle buses, says it has signed a supply deal with Kidron Inc. to sell Azure's low–emission electric power systems through the North American refrigerated truck body market. Financial terms of the deal, announced Wednesday, were not revealed. BC–Azure–Dynamics. Moved.

THURSDAY BUSINESS CALENDAR:

SAN FRANCISCO _ BIO Investor Forum; Calgary's Oncolytics Biotech presents. Webcast at www.oncolyticsbiotech.com (12 p.m. at Palace Hotel)

MONTREAL _ The University of Montreal hosts the International Forum of Public Universities. Through Oct. 12. (Hyatt Regency Montreal, 1255 Jean–Mance, Salon Ete des Indiens/University of Montreal amphitheatre)

OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases August international merchandise trade . (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

x–OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases August new housing price index. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases October economic observer with an article on the new underground resource economy. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

x–OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases 2005 family violence report. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

TORONTO _ Teknion third–quarter earnings conference call. Dial 416–340–2216. (8 a.m.)

x–TORONTO _ Transport Minister Lawrence Canon, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Via Rail Canada Chairman Donald Wright make special announcement. (2:30 p.m. at The Great Hall, Union Station, 65 Front St. West)

TORONTO _ State Street Global Advisors opens new offices. (5 p.m. at 45th floor, TD Canada Trust Tower, 161 Bay St.)

TORONTO _ E.D. Smith Income Fund special meeting. (TSX Gallery, 130 King St. West)

All copy moves by 6 p.m. ET unless otherwise specified.

CHRYSLER STRIKE:

DETROIT _ Thousands of Chrysler LLC employees walked off the job Wednesday after the automaker and

the United Auto Workers failed to settle on a contract agreement before a union-imposed deadline. It is the first UAW strike against Chrysler since 1997, when one plant was shut down for a month, and the first strike against Chrysler during contract talks since 1985. 600 words. By Dee-Ann Durbin and Tom Krisher. See AP Photos MICO101-104. BC-US-Auto-Talks, 3rd Writethru Bgt. Moved. Will be Updated.

TORONTO _ A strike by Chrysler workers in the United States could shut down two of the company's operations in Ontario within the next two days, the company and Canadian Auto Workers union said Wednesday. Chrysler Canada spokesman Ed Saenz says a lack of U.S.-sourced parts would hit the minivan plant in Windsor, Ont., within about 24 hours and the sedan plant in Brampton, Ont., within 48 hours if the UAW strike is sustained. But Canadian Auto Workers union boss Buzz Hargrove told Toronto radio station AM640 the Windsor assembly plant, which employs 5,400 workers, will close some time Wednesday afternoon due to lack of parts. 550 words. By Gary Norris. BC-US-Auto-Talks-Canada, 3rd Writethru. Moved

OTHER BUSINESS:

TORONTO _ Menu Foods Income Fund (TSX:MEW.UN) is cutting its workforce by 10 to 15 per cent and raising the estimated costs of its tainted-pet-food recall by \$10 million to \$55 million. The pet-food trust said Wednesday it will book restructuring charges of just over \$25 million, of which \$6.2 million entails cash outlays. 500 words. By Romina Maurino. BC-Menu-Foods, 4th Writethru. Moved. Will be Updated.

MONTREAL _ A joint venture petrochemical partnership that created Ineos Nova is closing its Montreal polystyrene facility as part of efforts to save \$50 million in cost efficiencies. The move announced Wednesday will affect 40 employees who work at the plant. 550 words. By Ross Marowits. BC-Nova-Chemicals, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ Canadian manufacturers are asking for corporate tax cuts and other benefits to help the battered sector acquire new technology to become more productive. 400 words. By Julian Beltrame. BC-Throne-Speech-Manufacturers.

TORONTO _ Software developer Corel Corp. (TSX:CRE) slides to Q3 loss of \$6.8 million from year ago \$5.4 million profit as revenues climb to \$60.4 million from \$41.3 million. Company says it expects a fiscal 2007 full-year loss of between \$11.3 million to \$13.3 million. 600 words. By David Friend. BC-Corel, 1st Writethru. Unbudgeted story moved.

SEATTLE _ Discount retailer Costco Wholesale Corp. said Wednesday its fourth-quarter profit climbed five per cent on increased membership fee revenue and higher same-store warehouse sales. Shares jumped nearly 10 per cent on the news. By Elizabeth Gillespie. See Associated Press Photos. BC-Costco-Wholesale, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

NEW YORK _ Oil futures traded in a narrow range Wednesday, with some traders collecting profits from the previous session's rally while others bet on whether an upcoming inventory report will show an increase in crude stockpiles. 650 words. By John Wilen. BC-Oil Prices, 2nd Writethru. Moved

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. _ Valero Energy Corp., the largest independent oil refiner in the United States, said Wednesday it expects to report third-quarter earnings far short of Wall Street estimates because the cost of refined products hasn't kept up with rapidly rising crude costs. 500 words. By Michelle Roberts. BC-Valero-Warning, Bgt. Moved.

CHICAGO _ Boeing Co. is delaying initial deliveries of the 787 Dreamliner by six months due to continued challenges in completing assembly of the first airplanes, the company said Wednesday. 700 words. By Dave Carpenter. With Photos. BC-Boeing-787, 1st Writethru. Moved.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. _ MGM Mirage Inc. plans to build an up to \$5 billion casino resort whose three towers would dominate the skyline in Atlantic City, as it tries to lift the level of luxury in a city hit hard by slots parlors in the northeastern U.S. 650 words. By Wayne Parry. See AP Photo NJATL202. BC-MGM-Mirage-Resort, 1st Writethru. Moved

LONDON _ Cadbury Schweppes PLC said Wednesday that it will separate its U.S. drinks division rather than sell it, as the company announced a 10-per-cent rise in confectionary sales. Cadbury said it would list the business, whose brands include Dr Pepper, 7-Up and Snapple, on the New York Stock Exchange through a share issue to existing shareholders. That dashes the hopes of Toronto-based Cott Corp. (TSX:BCB), which reportedly had wanted to buy the business. 850 words. By Jane Wardell. BC-Cadbury-Schweppes, 3rd Writethru. Moved. Will be updated with closing Cott Corp. stock price.

The Canadian Press is also following:

TORONTO _ The Toronto stock market was slightly higher mid-Wednesday afternoon thanks to higher mining sector gains. In New York, indexes were off sharply a day after major indexes closed at record highs as investors were disappointed with the kickoff to the third-quarter earnings season. By Malcolm Morrison. BC-Dollar-Markets, 5th Writethru. Moved. Will be Updated.

HALIFAX _ A Halifax business accounting firm acting as financial advisor for TrentonWorks is seeking offers for the idle railcar plant. Ernst and Young has issued a call for proposals for the business assets, which it describes as the largest industrial metal fabrication facility in Atlantic Canada. 144 words. BC-NS-Trentonworks.

HALIFAX _ Corridor Resources Inc. (TSX:CDH) said Wednesday that preliminary results from the New Harmony 1 well near Souris in northeastern Prince Edward Island show natural gas below 2,700 metres. However, porosity is lower than at the Green Gables 3 well near Cavendish, indicating that fracture stimulation _ high-pressure fluid injection _ will be necessary. BC-Corridor-P.E.I.

QUEBEC _ Shares in junior biotech firm Advitech Inc. (TSXV:AVI) charged ahead 21 per cent Wednesday as company announced positive preclinical results from its XP-828L wound-healing technology. BC-Advitech. Moved Datafile only.

MONTREAL _ Dick Evans has been named chief executive of Rio Tinto Alcan, the new company formed from Anglo-Australian giant Rio Tinto's \$38.1-billion takeover of Montreal-based Alcan Inc (TSX:AL). The companies announced their executive management team in a statement early Wednesday, but the changes won't take effect until the deal is completed, likely in the fourth quarter of this year. 145 words. BC-Rio-Tinto-Alcan.

MONTREAL _ Velan Inc. (TSX:VLN) says Q1 net earnings were \$1.4 million or six cents per share compared to \$900,000 or four cents per share last year due to record quarterly sales of \$94.1 million, an increase of 18.4 per cent. BC-Velan.

MONTREAL _ Murgor Resources Inc. (TSXV:MUG) has announced drilling results interpreted as expanding the mineralized zone at the Wim property in northern Manitoba. The featured showing from two fully processed holes was 2.83 per cent copper, 3.3 grams per tonne gold, 12.49 grams per tonne silver and 0.25 per cent zinc over 11.1 metres. 207 words. BC-Murgor.

GATINEAU, Que. _ Brookfield Power has acquired two hydroelectric generating stations totalling 7.4 megawatts in northeast British Columbia. BC-Brookfield-Power.

RIMOUSKI, Que. _ Shares of Quebec oil and gas explorer Petrolia Inc. (TSXV:PEA) rose nearly a quarter

Wednesday after the company said it has received conditional approval from the TSX Venture Exchange for a private placement of nine million share and warrant units at \$1 each to raise \$9 million. BC–Petrolia. Moved. Will be Updated with closing stock price.

OTTAWA _ C–COM Satellite Systems Inc. (TSXV:CMI) reports Q3 profit rose to record \$570K from year–earlier \$207K on higher revenue. BC–C–COM–Satellite.

OTTAWA _ Canadian Mint survey suggests that most retailers and a plurality of Canadians wish the penny just disappeared. BC–Mint–Penny. Moved Business (B) and General (G).

OTTAWA _ Allen–Vanguard Corp. (TSX:VRS) has received \$25–million order to supply electronic counter measures equipment for a type of armoured vehicle that the Pentagon has ordered for the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan. BC–Allen–Vanguard. Moved.

OTTAWA _ International Datacasting Corp. (TSX:IDC) says it has received new orders totalling US\$1.7 million for Internet Protocol TV (IPTV) products and related services from three separate customers. BC–International–Datacasting.

TORONTO _ Nevoro Inc. (TSX:NVR), a Toronto–based junior miner, has acquired the Monarch and Boulderfield gold projects in Nevada. BC–Nevoro. Moved

TORONTO _ Route1 Inc. (TSXV:ROI), a Toronto–based supplier of security and identity management software and equipment, has won a

TORONTO _ Scotia Capital 6th annual Energy Trust Conference; Progress Energy Trust presents at 9 a.m. ET Webcast at <http://events.streamlogics.net/scotiacapital/oct10–07/index.asp>

VANCOUVER _ Lundin Mining conference call on Neves–Corvo and Zinkgruvan mines. Dial 1–888–935–4577. (7 a.m.)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prep–LifeWatch

DATE: 2007.10.10

KEYWORDS: HEALTH

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 456

Two large studies say treating patients quickly for mini-strokes could dramatically cut the risk of a major stroke later.

The studies could change how doctors treat stroke patients and potentially save millions of lives.

The research was published in The Lancet and The Lancet Neurology.

British and French doctors found say treating a small stroke within 24 hours cut chances by 80 per cent of having a more serious stroke in the next three months.

Such large reductions in risk are rare, says Doctor Peter Rothwell, a professor of clinical neurology at Oxford University.

He says doctors normally get excited about 10 to 15 per cent reductions. (The Associated Press)

(HEALTH–Reproduction)

Experts say Europe needs to reverse a decline in aid for sexual and reproductive health in developing nations where a woman dies almost every minute in pregnancy or childbirth.

A woman in Sweden has a one in 30–thousand chance of dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth.

However, the risk is one in seven for women in Sierra Leone or Afghanistan, the German Foundation for World Population estimates.

According to the study, European Commission aid allotted for sexual and reproductive health decreased from 25–million dollars U–S per year between 2003 and 2006 to 17–million dollars per year earmarked for 2007 to 2013.

Sexual health–related aid from Europe was geared only toward H–I–V and AIDS this year, says Karen Hoehn, European affairs director of the foundation. (The Associated Press)

(HEALTH–HIV)

The Atlanta–based U–S Centres for Disease Control and Prevention recommends routine H–I–V testing for all Americans aged 13 to 64, but a new study says state laws may make that difficult to enact.

The study finds that more than 30 U–S states require specific consent before H–I–V testing, and nearly half want that consent in writing.

The C–D–C suggests that patients should be tested unless they specifically refuse.

However, the authors of the study say reducing the requirements on informed consent may limit opportunities

for patient education. (ABC)

(HEALTH–Diabetes)

U–S medical researchers say women who have high blood pressure are three times more likely to develop diabetes than women with low blood pressure.

In the study, researchers controlled for other risk factors that the disorders have in common, such as weight.

Results of the study are based on following 38–thousand women for 10 years.

Findings are reported in the European Health Journal. (The Associated Press)

(HEALTH–Prostate Cancer)

Medical researchers have followed over three–thousand men who were treated for prostate cancer.

They were interested in those men who had undergone surgery and Androgen Deprivation Therapy.

That's a type of hormone treatment that reduces levels of male hormones causing cancerous tumours to shrink.

The study found they were at a higher risk of death from cardiovascular disease.

Among patients 65 or older, 5.5 per cent of those who received the A–D–T therapy died from cardiovascular disease within five years.

That compares with only two per cent of those who did not receive hormone threatment.

A–D–T has also been associated with an increased risk of Type 2 diabetes and coronary artery disease.

The study is reported in the Journal of the U–S National Cancer Institute. (The Associated Press)

(HEALTH–Weight Loss)

A new study suggests that children who lost weight were better able to keep it off when they participated in weight–maintenance programs.

Researchers reached the finding in a small study of 150 children between the ages of seven and 12.

Kids were assigned to one of two programs to help maintain weight loss, or a control group with no support.

One program was based on teaching kids strategies and behaviours to avoid gaining weight.

The second program emphasized a supportive social environment for the kids.

Both programs helped kids keep weight off.

However, by two years, the kids' weight had crept back up to levels fairly close to where they'd started.

The study is reported by the University of Washington School of Medicine. (The Associated Press)

DH

US-Cda-Khadr

DATE: 2007.10.10

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 92

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for Canadian terror suspect Omar Khadr are trying to stop the U–S legal case against him from proceeding.

They have filled an appeal with the U–S Court of Appeals.

Military lawyer Commander William Kuebler says a special military appeals court was wrong last month when it said the case could go ahead in Guantanamo Bay.

At issue is the fact that Khadr hasn't been designated an illegal enemy combatant as required by Congress.

Kuebler also argues the murder trial at the U–S naval base in Cuba wouldn't allow him to raise key issues of international and constitutional law.

Khadr is accused of throwing a grenade that killed a U–S medic in a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan.

Khadr's military commission is scheduled to resume in November.

(The Canadian Press)

--Twelfth NewsWatch--

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 326

A Chrysler Canada spokesman says a lack of U-S-sourced parts would hit the minivan plant in Windsor, Ontario within about 24 hours and the sedan plant in Brampton within 48 hours.

Negotiators for the automaker and the U-A-W failed to reach a contract agreement by this morning's deadline.

At issue are health-care cost concessions and how much Chrysler will contribute to a union-run trust that would cover retiree health care costs. (12)

(Afghanistan-German)

A German engineer and four Afghans taken hostage in July are now free, but with a price.

The Afghan government has handed over five imprisoned criminals.

Earlier, they had been identified as being Taliban, but authorities are now describing them simply as prisoners.

An official says one of the criminals is the father of the Taliban commander who had taken the German and Afghans captive.

Originally two Germans and five Afghans were taken hostage.

One German was killed and one Afghan escaped. (12)

(Alleged-Terrorist)

A federal court judge has rejected a request to remove tough restrictions imposed on suspected terrorist Adil Charkaoui.

He has been living in Montreal under a number of conditions that include a curfew and wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet.

The Moroccan-born Charkaoui was arrested in 2003 and was detained for 26 months under the provisions of a federal security certificate.

He was released in 2005 with the restrictions.

He denies any links to terrorists. (12)

(Britain-Diana)

A man who was among the first to arrive at the scene of the crash that killed Diana, the princess of Wales, has

told an inquest he thought it might have been a terrorist attack.

But he denied a lawyer's suggestion that he had told his companion he thought it might be an assassination.

Dodi Fayed's father, Mohamed al Fayed, contends that the couple was assassinated in a plot orchestrated by Prince Philip. (12)

(Poland--Rebel Ex--Nuns)

Polish police have raided a convent to oust a group of rebellious ex nuns.

They had occupied the walled compound since rejecting a Vatican order in 2005 to replace their mother superior.

About 65 ex--nuns, escorted by policewomen, walked out calmly in their black habits, even though they were expelled as nuns.

Several young nuns screamed at police, calling them ``servants of Satan." (12)

(NewsWatch by Roger Ward)

Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald likes a deal with the Harper government over offshore revenue sharing.

He says it will make for a stronger province and a stronger Canada.

It guarantees that Nova Scotia will not lose any royalties under changes made to its offshore accord in last spring's federal budget.

A dispute over offshore resources prompted both Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia to complain that they were being short--changed by the federal government.

Prime Minister Harper says it's up to Premier Danny Williams whether he wants to accept the same ``reconciliation." (12)

(Chrysler Strike) (Audio: 103)

Thousands of American Chrysler workers are on strike today and that could affect Canada.

INDEX:Defence, International

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 108

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Canadian soldiers mentoring the Afghan National Army are celebrating a victory after watching their Afghan charges carry out a successful anti–insurgency operation.

Maj. Sylvain Gagnon of the Canadian mentoring team says it was a big success.

Afghan infantrymen swept into the village area of Howz–e–Madad, in the Zhari district west of Kandahar city, around 8 a.m. today looking for suspected insurgent weapons caches.

By noon, the Afghan soldiers had swept through 22 buildings, uncovering weapons and ammunition as well as electronic devices meant for building deadly roadside bombs.

Canadian troops in Kandahar hope to turn over security in the dangerous Zhari and Panjwaii districts to Afghan national security forces by the end of the year.

Gagnon says today's operation was a small but significant step.

(The Canadian Press)

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.10.10
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 137

WHITECOURT, Alberta _ The U-S Ambassador to Canada has addressed mounting speculation of a possible federal election this fall.

David Wilkins says he hopes that when Canadians are called to the polls again, anti-American campaigning will be kept to a minimum.

Speaking during a stop in Whitecourt, Alberta today, Wilkins said he doesn't want to see ``American or Canadian bashing" at any time.

Wilkins also says he's visited several military bases across Canada within the last few months and he took time to praise Canadians for their frontline role in Afghanistan.

He says Canadian soldiers have borne the brunt of battle in the war-torn country.

His comment comes as a respected U-S policy group ranks Canada fifth among 21 wealthy countries when it comes to supporting development in poor nations.

The Center for Global Development, an independent research organization, says Canada actually takes first place in the Group of Seven industrialized countries for its contributions to the developing world.

(CFXW, The Canadian Press)

krt

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.10.10

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 149

service in the Jaghato district of Wardak province.

An official says one of the criminals was the father of the Taliban commander who had taken the German and Afghans captive.

In Germany, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier confirmed that Blechschmidt had been freed and is ``doing well."

The release comes two days after Blechschmidt appeared on a videotape, appealing to the Afghan and German governments to make a deal with the militants for his release before winter.

Blechschmidt said in the video that he was in poor health but that an Afghan doctor had helped him.

Blechschmidt is one of two German engineers and five Afghans taken hostage July 18th in Wardak province.

The other German was found dead of gunshot wounds on July 21st, while one of the Afghans apparently managed to escape.

KABUL, Afghanistan _ A German engineer and four Afghans taken hostage in July were freed today in exchange for what an Afghan official is now describing as five imprisoned criminals.

Earlier, they had been identified as being Taliban, but authorities are now describing them simply as prisoners.

The German, Rudolf Blechschmidt, and the four Afghans were handed over by local elders to officials of Afghanistan's intelligence

Ottawa firm wins U.S. order

IDNUMBER 200710110222
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: Business
PAGE: B10
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 53

Ottawa-based Allen-Vanguard Corp. has received a \$25 million order to supply electronic countermeasures equipment for a type of armoured vehicle that the Pentagon has ordered for the United States military in Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment is designed to detonate terrorist devices remotely.

Popular poet's 800th anniversary

IDNUMBER	200710110176
PUBLICATION:	The Toronto Star
DATE:	2007.10.11
EDITION:	Ont
SECTION:	Editorial
PAGE:	AA10
COPYRIGHT:	© 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT:	560

In 1207, a great mystic, saint and poet was born in Afghanistan. Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi – or just Rumi in North America – is the world's best-selling poet eight centuries after he walked the Earth. Preceding both Gutenberg and Shakespeare, he has been reborn in the age of mass printing. Rumi is a literary survivor.

This year marks Rumi's 800th anniversary. UNESCO named 2007 the International Year of Rumi and issued a medal in his name to commemorate his 800th anniversary as a voice in human life.

Many communities in the GTA and throughout Canada have been celebrating Rumi's life by organizing a variety of concerts and programs. One of the most notable celebrations was an event hosted by the Jerrahi Sufi Order of Canada and organized by Tevfik Aydoner at the Toronto Arts Centre in March. Ahmet Ozhan (the Elvis Presley of Turkey) performed at this event, as well as in Ottawa and many other cities in North America.

Eight hundred years after it was written, Rumi's poetry is still powerful enough to draw together people of different cultures.

Rumi is a publishing phenomenon, with more than half a million copies of his books sold in North America. There's a current of feeling so intense in Rumi's child-like simplicity that it becomes an infectious optimism. Rumi looks at the world around him and tries to correct his own behaviour by considering the good and bad acts of others like a mirror.

Rumi saw love as the foundation of all reality, and though his words are simple, the thoughts they provoke can support lifetimes of contemplation: "With passion pray. With passion work. With passion make love. With passion eat and drink and dance and play. Why look like a dead fish in this ocean of God?" This was Rumi's magic, his experience of love as a serious force in the world, not fancy or folly.

A devout Muslim, Rumi found himself drawn to the deep inner life of Sufism. A Sufi is part monk, part poet, part wanderer, and fully devoted in heart and practice to the precepts of unconditional love. It's a high ideal, and Rumi, if his poetry is any indication, fulfilled it. It is important to understand Rumi, especially these days because he teaches us that religious experience is about love, not hating one another. Rumi basically teaches us that we can be different from each other but we can still live in peace and harmony. It is not our job to judge each other.

Rumi was something of a wanderer, travelling extensively in the Middle East, always practising his devotions, and always taking counsel with the wise. It was his meeting with the dervish Shams-e Tabrizi on a November day in 1244 that transformed his life completely. Shams had travelled throughout the Middle East searching and praying for someone who could "endure my company" and accepted Rumi to be his student.

Everywhere Rumi went he taught and was taught, and his poetry brilliantly captures the humility and self-honesty required to realize the constant presence of love, a love often evoked as an affair with the invisible, the natural, an omnipresent reality curtailed only by looking away.

Let Rumi have the last word:

"O incomparable giver of life, cut reason loose at last!

Let it wander grey-eyed from vanity to vanity.

Shatter open my skull, pour in it the wine of madness!

Let me be mad, as you; mad with you, with us.

Beyond the sanity of fools is a burning desert

Where your sun is whirling in every atom:

Beloved, drag me there, let me roast in perfection!"

PM again stokes election fire; Ball in Liberals' court, Harper says as he ends revenue dispute with Nova Scotia premier

IDNUMBER 200710110173

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star

DATE: 2007.10.11

EDITION: Ont

SECTION: News

PAGE: A35

ILLUSTRATION: Tom Hanson The Canadian Press Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald is flanked by Defence Minister Peter MacKay, left, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper at a news conference yesterday to announce a new revenue-sharing deal. ;

BYLINE: Les Whittington

SOURCE: Toronto Star

COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation

WORD COUNT: 595

Prime Minister Stephen Harper continues to stoke the pre-election fires in Ottawa, saying it's up to the Liberals to decide whether to force Canadians to the polls this fall.

"The ball is in (Liberal Leader Stephane) Dion's court at this point," Harper said at a news conference to announce that Ottawa has overcome its inflammatory dispute with Nova Scotia concerning offshore revenue-sharing.

Harper said he has not conferred with Dion about the contents of the Oct. 16 throne speech that will set out the government's agenda. But media reports have detailed the policies that Dion wants to see in the throne speech as a price for keeping the Tory minority afloat, the Prime Minister noted.

"Mr. Dion has made his intentions very clear. He's made non-negotiable demands" regarding the throne speech, Harper said.

With the Bloc Quebecois and NDP expected to vote against the minority government in the confidence vote on the throne speech, the Liberals, with 96 out of 308 Commons seats, hold the fate of the current Parliament in their hands.

Dion wants the government to commit on Oct. 16 to a firm pullout date for troops in Afghanistan, measures to fight poverty, tough environmental rules and other policies. But the Liberal leader, under fire from within his own party over his performance, has become cautious about whether he will defeat the government and prompt a federal election.

"It appears to me that the members of the Bloc and NDP will likely be voting for an election" in the confidence vote on the throne speech, Harper said. So it's all up to the Liberals, he added.

Harper appeared in Ottawa with Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald to announce they have resolved a clash over revenue sharing that is hurting federal Conservative fortunes in that province with a possible election looming.

The compromise, which could provide an additional \$1 billion over 10 years to Nova Scotia under its fiscal arrangements with Ottawa, could spark howls of outrage in Ontario, whose taxpayers provide the bulk of federal money that goes to so-called have-not provinces like Nova Scotia under the federal equalization program.

It could lead to a situation in which Nova Scotia still qualifies as a have-not province and collects huge federal equalization payments even if the province's resource wealth gives it more money per capita to pay for government services than Ontario has.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has warned that the Harper government's overhaul of federal-provincial fiscal arrangements could lead to just such a disadvantageous result for Ontario taxpayers.

Harper has been in a fierce dispute with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The provinces claimed that the new federal-provincial revenue-sharing plans announced by Ottawa in March broke the federal Conservatives' high-profile election promise not to include oil and gas revenues in the formula for determining how much federal cash have-not provinces receive under the equalization plan.

But Harper said Ottawa and Nova Scotia have put the clash behind them. "I believe this is a historic breakthrough and a thoroughly sensible way to overcome a dispute which has bedevilled successive federal and provincial governments for over 20 years," he said.

Yesterday, Harper said the same type of compromise deal would be available to Newfoundland Premier Danny Williams, but Williams' officials rejected it, saying the saw-off with Nova Scotia still did not honour Harper's election pledge to exempt resource revenue from equalization calculations.

Williams, fresh from a landslide victory in Tuesday's Newfoundland election, said he will continue to denounce Harper over what the premier sees as the Prime Minister's betrayal over the resource issue.

"From my perspective, from Newfoundland and Labradoreans' perspective, we can't trust him, I don't think Canadians should trust him and we'll fight him all the way," Williams told the media yesterday.

For soldiers' sacrifice, let them eat cakes

IDNUMBER 200710110155
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: Letter
PAGE: AA11
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 151

A mission of baby steps

Oct. 8

It was with a sense of dismay that I read of Canada's shameful treatment of its brave servicemen and women. For bravery, British soldiers have been awarded the Queen's highest accolades, among them the Victoria Cross and medals of gallantry. Our American cousins decorate their men and women of valour with Purple Hearts and bestow upon them great honour for their courage on the battlefield.

Canadian soldiers, on the other hand, can expect nothing more than a couple of Jos. Louis cakes from Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier. Bernier handed out his chocolate delights with the expression of a slightly bored father handing out loot bags at a kids' birthday party. Did anyone else squirm with embarrassment at this shoddiest of photo ops?

I'm not big on war, but I do think our servicemen and women are in Afghanistan to do a worthwhile job. Canada can do better than this.

Mark Thomson, London, England

Islamic rock anthem sends message of peace; Eight Pakistani singers join forces to try to root out misconceptions that most Muslims support terror

IDNUMBER 200710110127
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: World And Comment
PAGE: AA01
ILLUSTRATION: RAJESH NIRGUDE ap file photo Singer Ali Zafar, with actress LaraDutta in 2005, is one of project's stars. ;
BYLINE: Sonya Fatah
SOURCE: SPECIAL TO THE STAR
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 751

An anti-terrorist anthem by Muslim rock stars in Pakistan is reaching out across the web, echoing the music-with-a-message efforts of Bob Geldof and Bono.

But instead of a Christmas appeal for famine relief, or an environmental plea, Pakistan's latest musical collaboration by eight top stars takes aim at popular misconceptions of Muslims that stereotype them as terrorists despite Islam's legacy of peace.

Their song – "Yeh Hum Naheen" (This is Not Us) – is a video collage showing images of average Pakistani youth voicing opposition to the terror label. Its aim? To send a message of unity to Pakistani youth and to root out the impression that most Pakistanis support terror.

It's up against seemingly non-stop media coverage of suicide bombings, sectarian killings and tribal strife across Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Middle East.

"This is not us, not us, not us," the song begins. "The stories that are being spread in our names are lies."

The idea for an Islamic rock video with global appeal took root quickly among Pakistan's music elite, but the musical wave is travelling relatively slowly by the standards of the Web. Downloads are in the tens of thousands, far from the millions of record sales and donations for Ethiopian famine relief attracted by Irish rocker Geldof's "Do They Know it's Christmas."

It's hard to gauge the impact of "Yeh Hum Naheen" on listeners in Pakistan or overseas. Accurate sales records are not available in Pakistan although the song played constantly on MTV Pakistan for four weeks when it was released in February. Then there was enough demand for a July release in Britain. In Pakistan, a nation of more than 160 million, the numbers are small. Since its release, there have been about 73,000 hits on YouTube and the "Yeh Hum Naheen" website has been visited 26,000 times.

But it's a start. Musical collaborations are rare in Pakistan, so getting eight stars to record a single together was no simple feat – akin to persuading Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake, Beyonce and Shakira to make music together.

Islamic rock anthem sends message of peace; Eight Pakistani singers join forces to try to root out 70 misconce

"So many people approach us with their causes," Ali Zafar, 27, Pakistan's hottest young singer, said in an interview. "But I was interested in this cause from the start."

Zafar, who sang before 10,000 fans at Canada's Wonderland in Vaughan last summer, says he wanted to make a difference.

"I thought about it – what do I really want to do with my music? If I could somehow use my music to connect the world, why not? I think the media are providing a certain kind of awareness to the public. We see one colour of Pakistan being splashed all over the place. Where are the 20,000 different colours in our palette?"

Pakistanis in the diaspora feel that frustration as much as anyone. For them the song is a visual way of rounding out Pakistan's public face.

"I like the video in that it's good to see Pakistanis uniting and taking a political stand," says Nadya Habib, 28, an elementary school teacher in Toronto who watched the video on YouTube. "I feel that people have begun to internalize the negative images they have been bombarded with, and it's definitely affecting the younger generation a lot."

She's skeptical of whether it will bring change unless there is a stronger response from the larger Pakistani public.

The song's inspiration emerged from the experiences of two brothers in Birmingham, England. Khurram and Khaiyyam Mahmood, 20 and 18 respectively, who asked their father to do something about the image of Islam being propagated by young Muslims in Britain.

"Some children came to my children and told them they were bad Muslims because they ate pasta," says Waseem Mahmood, 45, their father, a media consultant and a former BBC producer, who says "Yeh Hum Naheen" is his way of bridging a perception gap between the West and Islam.

So Mahmood decided he'd turn to music and Pakistan's pop sensations to influence Pakistani youth at home and in the diaspora.

"It was such a worthy cause that all of us just jumped on board," Haroon Rashid, one of the eight singers, told the BBC.

"There's a lot of misunderstanding, mistrust. There's a lot of fear of what's different, of the unknown, and I guess this is an attempt to help bridge that."

Mahmood says he's been overwhelmed by the response he's received since the single was aired. He's also a proud dad since his sons shot and filmed the video.

He's not, however, removed from the debate on home turf. The few negative voices, he says, disagree with his approach. "They believe this should be aimed at the real terrorists who are in Downing Street or in the White House."

Now Mahmood is on a mission. "Yeh Hum Naheen" cost \$60,000 but Mahmood feels this is just the beginning. The song hasn't been released in North America yet but Mahmood has plans. He's also planning a Band Aid or Live 8 style concert to continue his journey.

Sonya Fatah is a freelance journalist based in South Asia.

Islamic rock anthem sends message of peace; Eight Pakistani singers join forces to try to root out misconceptions

At Queen's Park and in Ottawa, inept Opposition let focus stray

IDNUMBER 200710110089
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: News
PAGE: A28
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 507

So, Ontario has spoken. But what's it saying to a national capital zigzagging toward the precipice of a federal election?

Well, that depends on the listener. The Prime Minister has reason to wonder this morning whether provincial Conservatives are ready for a second fight so soon after being battered by faith-based schooling. An Opposition leader desperate to hold Ontario seats will worry that a Liberal majority at Queen's Park will make voters that little bit more comfortable with a Conservative counterweight on Parliament Hill. After last month's Quebec breakthrough, Jack Layton will gain more confidence from NDP momentum gained at Liberal expense, while rising Green support will encourage Elizabeth May and frustrated environmentalists.

Those are inevitable spillages from a province that decides federal elections. They will give strategists plenty to analyze before next week's charged throne speech.

Still, last night's results won't dramatically change opinions polarized by a looming election some think shrewdly opportunistic and others utterly foolish.

More influential are factors that turned Ontario's election upside down and could do the same to the country.

After parsing riding results for strengths, weaknesses and prospects, strategists will look hard at similarities between an unusual provincial election and a peculiar Ottawa situation. In both places and cases, an inept official Opposition let the focus stray from the government, its record and what frets voters most.

Instead of defending broken promises and parrying odious leadership comparisons, Dalton McGuinty was freed to attack John Tory while saying little about health care, the environment or vanishing manufacturing jobs. Instead of explaining federal reversals or why he should be trusted with more power, Stephen Harper is making Stephane Dion the issue, not Afghanistan, climate change or economic competitiveness.

Comforting as that is for a prime minister sensing a win and even a majority, there's a caveat. Just as a single issue dominated Ontario's election, the coming federal campaign is equally vulnerable to variables that won't necessarily tilt in Conservative favour.

It has been generations since Canadians went to the polls with the country at war. Anything from spiking casualties to fresh evidence the Kabul government is corrupt or careless with prisoner lives could draw public attention to this government's ever-changing, never-quite-convincing Afghanistan story.

It's also true that voters have rarely, if ever, marked their ballots in the shadow of threat as existential as keeping the planet fit for human habitation.

Harper's attempts to be just green enough leave Conservatives out of sync with voters, and with that disconnect come the dangers that dashed great Ontario Conservative expectations.

Elections often abruptly change lanes – the last federal campaign veered into law and order after a Boxing Day shooting in Toronto's shopping core.

Still, what happened over the past few weeks in Ontario is a timely reminder to federal politicians that these are unsettled political times.

That many voters were so easily dragged away from their core concerns will be as carefully considered here as the success of peripheral parties in nibbling at mainstream support and Conservative failures to control a wedge issue or turn their leadership advantage into victory.

Each says something federal politicians will consider long and hard before pushing the country over the election cliff.

James Travers' column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Keep pressure on Karzai

IDNUMBER 200710110080
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: Editorial
PAGE: AA10
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 316

Ever since he took power, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has made only half-hearted efforts to get Afghanistan to clean up its shoddy human rights record. For the most part, it has been a losing battle, and part of the blame can be placed at the feet of Harper himself.

Last spring, Harper had to be dragged into reacting to reports that Taliban detainees handed over by Canadian troops to Afghan forces had later been beaten, clubbed and shocked while in prison. At first, Harper dismissed those allegations as "rumours," but after weeks of uproar in Parliament, his government grudgingly signed a deal with the Afghans that would allow Canadian officials unrestricted access to detainees to ensure they were not being tortured.

Now comes word that 15 Afghan prisoners, convicted of murder, kidnapping and rape, have been executed by firing squad. The Afghan government says it fully intends to execute more prisoners.

Ottawa's response? Initially, it said nothing. Later, after pressure from Canadian human rights groups, it issued a tepid, two-line statement that said only that Ottawa expects President Hamid Karzai's government "to live up to its international human rights obligations" and noting that captured prisoners must be spared the death penalty.

Compare that to the strong denunciation of the executions by the Netherlands, which termed the action "extremely unwelcome."

Both Canada and the Netherlands have soldiers in Afghanistan. Both oppose the death penalty. Both oppose torture. But it is clear that the Dutch take human rights violations seriously.

Harper insists part of our role in Afghanistan is to promote human rights in that strife-torn country. But his feeble responses to reports of abuse and now of a mass execution makes a mockery of that claim.

If he is serious about human rights, then Harper should take a page from the Dutch and tell Karzai in words he fully understands that Ottawa expects him to live up to the goal of advancing such rights.

Security improving, Canadian visitors say; Two cabinet ministers in Kabul try to reassure journalists as UN says insurgency is growing

IDNUMBER 200710070104
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.07
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: News
PAGE: A18
BYLINE: Les Perreaux
SOURCE: THE CANADIAN PRESS
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 333

Two recently shuffled Canadian cabinet ministers arrived in the Afghan capital just 30 minutes after another deadly suicide attack yesterday, but that didn't daunt their persistent pitch that life is getting better for ordinary Afghans.

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda and Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier landed in Kabul shortly after a suicide bomber struck the main airport road, killing a U.S. soldier and four civilians.

The blast came on the sixth anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion that ousted the Taliban from power.

Oda tried to reassure skeptical journalists that the Taliban's use of suicide bombings in Kabul actually illustrates the success of the Western security mission.

Although such tactics are nothing new in southern Afghanistan, she said, suicide bombings in the capital show the insurgents are desperate because of their inability to win on the battlefield.

Oda said she recently met senior Afghan officials and together they "identified that the difference in the challenge in Kandahar today can be seen as, to a certain extent, success."

Insurgents "are having to resort to other, more desperate ways of trying to make their statements," she told a couple dozen Afghan reporters and a handful of Canadians.

Said Bernier: "We can see the situation in Kandahar has improved."

The reassurances come amid recent reports that the intensity of the insurgency is growing.

The United Nations Department of Security and Safety has reported that the "security situation in Afghanistan is assessed by most analysts as having deteriorated at a constant rate through 2007."

The UN confirmed that rebels were moving away from battlefield confrontations, but "the numbers of incidents are higher than comparable periods in 2006."

Meanwhile, Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre is in Pakistan, preparing to take a UN flight to Kandahar today.

The Montreal MP said the Afghan mission is a priority for Canadians and he's doing his duty by going there, even though the trip doesn't have the approval of the Harper government. Both Defence Minister Peter MacKay and NDP Leader Jack Layton call the trip a stunt.

Coderre told CTV NewsNet yesterday he's been asking for months to go, but when repeated calls to the defence minister asking for permission were ignored or rejected he decided unilaterally to go on the fact-finding trip and report back to Liberal Leader Stephane Dion.

Bush battles 'genocide' resolution; Motion to declare 1915 killings of Armenians by Turks a genocide threatens U.S. relations with Turkey, president says

IDNUMBER 200710110033
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A17
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Umit Bektas, Reuters / On eve of today's vote to declare Turkey guilty of genocide, protester shouts anti-American slogans at U.S. embassy in Istanbul. ;
KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 656

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush warned U.S. lawmakers Wednesday they risk causing "great harm" to America's relationship with Turkey if Congress passes a resolution declaring the 1915 slaughter of Armenians "genocide."

Bush's appeal came just hours before a congressional committee gave preliminary approval to the motion, setting up a potential vote before the full House of Representatives.

As House members agonized over the resolution, the president and two senior members of his cabinet pushed hard for its rejection.

They warned passing the resolution could prompt Turkey to retaliate by restricting access to a key air base used by the U.S. to supply American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We all deeply regret the tragic suffering of the Armenian people that began in 1915. But this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings," Bush told reporters. "Its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror."

At issue is a symbolic resolution calling on Bush to label as "genocide" the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

As defined by the United Nations, genocide includes killings and other actions "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."

Turkey denies the Armenian deaths were genocide, maintaining that many Muslim Turks also died in ethnic violence associated with the First World War.

The Armenian resolution has 225 co-sponsors in the U.S. House, enough for it to pass if Democrats allow it to the floor for a vote.

Bush battles 'genocide' resolution; Motion to declare 1915 killings of Armenians by Turks a genocide threatens

A senior aide to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that American troops in Iraq would be put in danger if the Armenian resolution passes. "If our ally accuses us of crimes that we did not commit, then we will start to question the advantages of our co-operation," Egemen Bagis told CNN Turk television.

Of particular concern to the U.S. is maintaining access to Turkey's Incirlik air base, a key transfer point for 70 per cent of American military supplies into Iraq.

"Access to air fields and to the roads . . . would very much be put at risk if this resolution passes and Turkey reacts as strongly as we believe they will," said U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

Eight former U.S. secretaries of states issued an open letter to Congress urging lawmakers to defeat the Armenian resolution.

Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, said the measure would be "very problematic for everything we are trying to do" in the Middle East.

Potentially more worrisome for the U.S. is the impact the resolution would have on potential Turkish military raids against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

The Turkish parliament may vote as early as today on a motion giving Erdogan authority to attack Kurdish rebels inside Iraq. The plan, adamantly opposed by Washington, has broad public support in Turkey. It's feared a U.S. declaration on Armenian genocide would make it more difficult for the Bush administration to persuade Turkey to stay out of Iraq.

The political sensitivities surrounding the issue were evident during an emotional debate Wednesday among members of the House foreign affairs committee, which voted 26 to 21 in favour of the genocide resolution.

Rep. Tom Lantos, the Democratic chairman and a Holocaust survivor, called the atrocities against Armenians "an enormous blot on human history." But he and other lawmakers said Congress needed to be conscious about potential fallout for American troops.

"There was, indeed, a genocide of the Armenians. And it will not be forgotten ... but I cannot support this resolution at this time," said Rep. Mike Pence, an Indiana Republican.

"With American troops in harm's way, dependent on critical supply routes available through an alliance that we enjoy with the nation of Turkey . . . this is not the time for this nation to speak on this dark chapter of history."

Rep. Brad Sherman, a California Democrat, said it was time for the U.S. to acknowledge history. He predicted Turkish threats would prove hollow.

"Let us do this and be done with it. We will get a few angry words out of Ankara for a few days, and then it's over," said Sherman.

In Canada, Parliament passed a resolution in 2004 formally recognizing the 1915 massacre of Armenians as genocide. In 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper became the first Canadian leader to declare the deaths a genocide.

Caption Only

IDNUMBER 200710110095

PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)

DATE: 2007.10.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: World

PAGE: D8

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Reuters / AFGHAN PATROL: A U.S. soldier walks in front of a barbed wire barricade during a joint patrol with Afghan police and Canadian soldiers Wednesday in the town of Howz-E-Madad, west of Kandahar, Afghanistan. Under the watchful eye of Canadian army mentors, the Afghan National Army conducted its first successful solo combat operation, netting several weapons and ammunition caches as well as the electronic gear used to trigger improvised explosive devices of the sort that have in the past killed many Canadian soldiers, Afghan security forces and civilians. ;

SOURCE: Reuters

'Genocide' puts Turkey, U.S. at odds

IDNUMBER 200710110092
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: D8
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 297

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President George W. Bush warned U.S. lawmakers Wednesday they risk causing "great harm" to America's relationship with Turkey if Congress passes a resolution declaring the 1915 slaughter of Armenians "genocide."

Bush's appeal came just hours before a congressional committee gave preliminary approval to the motion, setting up a potential vote before the full House of Representatives.

As House members agonized over the resolution, the president and two senior members of his cabinet pushed hard for its rejection. They warned final passage of the resolution could prompt Turkey to retaliate by restricting access to a key air force base used by the U.S. to supply American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We all deeply regret the tragic suffering of the Armenian people that began in 1915. But this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings," Bush told reporters. "Its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror."

At issue is a symbolic resolution calling on Bush to label as "genocide" the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

As defined by the United Nations, genocide includes killings and other actions "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."

Turkey denies the Armenian deaths were genocide, maintaining that many Muslim Turks also died in ethnic violence associated with the First World War.

The Armenian resolution has 225 co-sponsors in the U.S. House, enough for it to pass if Democrats allow it to the floor for a vote.

A senior aide to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that American troops in Iraq would be put in danger if the Armenian resolution passes.

"If our ally accuses us of crimes that we did not commit, then we will start to question the advantages of our co-operation," Egemen Bagis told CNN Turk television.

Taliban free German hostage held for two months

IDNUMBER 200710110036
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Early
SECTION: News
PAGE: A11
DATELINE: KABUL
SOURCE: Reuters
WORD COUNT: 181

KABUL (Reuters) — Taliban rebels freed a German hostage in Afghanistan yesterday after more than two months in captivity, Germany's foreign minister said.

"The German citizen ... who was kidnapped in Afghanistan is once again free. We are happy and relieved," Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a statement.

The German engineer, Rudolf Blechschmidt, later arrived at the German Embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul, an embassy spokeswoman said.

"He has arrived at the embassy and he is being medically examined right now," the spokeswoman said. "He seems physically well, but of course he has lost a lot of weight."

Blechschmidt and five Afghans were seized with another German in Wardak province, just southwest of Kabul, in July. The Taliban kidnappers shot dead the other German soon afterwards after he suffered a heart attack.

The local Taliban leader behind the kidnap, Mullah Nizamuddin, handed the German and the five Afghan captives over to government authorities in exchange for the rebel chief's father and three supporters arrested after the incident, the private Afghan Pajhwok news agency said.

Blechschmidt told Germany's Spiegel Online he was happy to be free after such a long time.

"I am all right, I am just very tired," the website quoted him as saying.

Afghan army unit takes Canadian lessons into field

IDNUMBER 200710110035

PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)

DATE: 2007.10.11

EDITION: Early

SECTION: News

PAGE: A11

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Goran Tomasevic, Reuters / For the first time, a Canadian–mentored Afghan army unit conducted a first successful operation yesterday. While there were Canadian officers on hand to help if things went wrong, they weren't needed, officials said. ;

DATELINE: KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Matthew Fisher

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 386

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The Afghan National Army, which has been mentored by Canadian troops, conducted its first successful solo combat operation yesterday in a Zhari district town where troops of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment have been leading the fight against the Taliban insurgency.

Under the watchful eye of their Canadian army mentors, Afghan troops planned and launched a company–sized mission that netted several weapons and ammunition caches as well as the electronic gear used to trigger improvised explosive devices of the sort that have in the past killed many Canadian soldiers and Afghan security forces and civilians.

The operation near the bazaar in Howz e Madad was "a great success. It went well," said Capt. Sylvain Gagnon, planning officer for Canada's operational mentor liaison teams. "This was an important seizure."

Although several Canadian mentors were on hand to take charge if the Afghan plan went awry, their help was not needed, Gagnon said.

Developing the Afghan army is a key part of the Harper government's evolving strategy to lessen the Afghan government's near–total dependence on NATO forces to bring security to the country. If successful, the program would allow Canada's combat units to be assigned to operations elsewhere in Kandahar province, or to be shifted to non–combat roles.

But getting to that point might take a while.

"It's hard to put a time frame on it," Gagnon said. Different Afghan battalions that are being mentored by the Canadians are at different points in the training system. But, he added: "Every step we take towards them taking responsibility for an operational area is important."

Shortly after the Afghan army operation ended, Col. Ahmad Shah Audin, the Afghan National Police chief for Zhari, praised a recent Canadian initiative to help open police substations in his district.

"If we want to make a place secure, we must have a substation for public safety," the colonel said.

But Audin also criticized NATO forces for not providing his men, who are also being mentored by Canadian soldiers, with better uniforms and weapons.

"We must have some weapons. It would help for the job we do," he said.

Maj. Alain Veilleux, chief of long-term plans for Joint Task Force Afghanistan, agreed. "He's perfectly right. The Afghan national police are not properly equipped."

But a big problem, he said, is that they had been given weapons, "but they have given them to the powers-that-be."

Such corruption explains why the police have a much poorer reputation among Afghans than the army. Moreover, because the police are paid so irregularly, they often disappear on payday to bring money back to their families in other parts of the country.

Genocide vote risky, Bush says

IDNUMBER 200710110034
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Early
SECTION: News
PAGE: A10
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 347

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush warned U.S. lawmakers yesterday they risk causing "great harm" to America's relationship with Turkey if Congress passes a resolution declaring the 1915 slaughter of Armenians genocide.

Bush's appeal came just hours before a congressional committee gave preliminary approval to the motion, setting up a potential vote before the full House of Representatives.

As House members agonized over the resolution, the president and two senior members of his cabinet pushed hard for its rejection. They warned final passage of the resolution could prompt Turkey to retaliate by restricting access to a key air force base used by the U.S. to supply American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We all deeply regret the tragic suffering of the Armenian people that began in 1915. But this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings," Bush told reporters. "Its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror."

At issue is a symbolic resolution calling on Bush to label as genocide the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

As defined by the United Nations, genocide includes killings and other actions "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group."

Turkey denies the Armenian deaths were genocide, maintaining that many Muslim Turks also died in ethnic violence associated with the First World War.

The Armenian resolution has 225 co-sponsors in the U.S. House, enough for it to pass if Democrats allow it to the floor for a vote.

A senior aide to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that American troops in Iraq would be put in danger if the Armenian resolution passes.

"If our ally accuses us of crimes that we did not commit, then we will start to question the advantages of our co-operation," Egemen Bagis told CNN Turk television.

Of particular concern to the U.S. is maintaining access to Turkey's Incirlik air base, a key transfer point for 70 per cent of American military supplies into Iraq.

"Access to air fields and to the roads ... would very much be put at risk if this resolution passes and Turkey reacts as strongly as we believe they will," said U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

Earle proves to be ultimate survivor; The singer/songwriter has endured addiction, homelessness, prison, numerous divorces and has come back stronger than ever, writes Michael Franco.

IDNUMBER 200710110129
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Arts
PAGE: E2
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: The always outspoken Steve Earle, who is no fan of U.S. President George W. Bush, is more focused on his marriage these days than he is on carrying any political torch. ;
DATELINE: NEW YORK
BYLINE: Michael Franco
SOURCE: PopMatters.com
WORD COUNT: 1468

NEW YORK – If you know of Steve Earle at all, you know that his life has been marked by trouble and controversy — much of it self-inflicted.

Drug addiction, failed marriage after failed marriage, run-ins with the law, imprisonment, homelessness. Many artists have written about outsiders and outlaws, rebels and those just plain determined to destroy themselves, but few have actually lived the chaos they've documented in song.

Earle, on the other hand, has lived through it all, and the fact that he is still alive is just as surprising to him as those who have witnessed his storied past. "There was a point when I didn't think that I'd live to be 40," he concedes, his voice a mixture of relief and astonishment.

Other musicians' flirtations with drugs and disaster are often portrayed as glamorous and fun, but Earle's struggles were pure hell. At one point in the middle of his addiction, he was actually living on the streets of Nashville, his days little more than a series of drug scores.

"I saw a lot of horrible stuff," he reminisces. "I saw a lot of really tragic stuff happen. And I tried to keep it from happening to me, but I succumbed. It took me longer than it did some of my friends. It didn't really get me until I really started making the money," he says, laughing. Then, turning serious, he adds, "It wasn't like I didn't use drugs and I didn't have a problem (before then), because I did."

Indeed, had he never been sentenced to a year in prison in 1994, Earle might never have overcome his addictions, and he almost certainly wouldn't have experienced the rebirth of his career.

The other thing you probably know about Earle is that he really irritates the hell out of the right wing, which is something of a badge of honour to him. It's not that Earle has anything against people of a Republican bent per se. After all, as he readily clarifies, "I'm not a Democrat."

But if hearing "lefty troubadour" Steve Earle proudly proclaim that he's not a Democrat is shocking, he's quick to clarify: "I'm a socialist in a country that doesn't allow a socialist party." Little surprise, then, that he's very disturbed by the George W. Bush brand of conservatism.

On his last two albums, *Jerusalem* and *The Revolution Starts ... Now*, Earle has made no secret of his disdain for Bush's agenda, particularly the "war on terrorism," which, to Earle's thinking, is not only perpetuating tensions between the U.S. and the Middle East, but also the rest of the world.

"We are the most reviled we've ever been," he states, "and that's saying something. And the thing that's heartbreaking about that is that people want to like us. They really want to pull for us and root for us."

Earle first caught the ire of the right — in its most concentrated and vitriolic form — after the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001. Barely a year later, he released *Jerusalem*, which contained the song *John Walker's Blues* — John Walker being John Walker Lindh, the American kid who was found training with the Taliban after the United States invaded Afghanistan. Earle made no attempt to defend Lindh in the song; rather, he tried to get into Lindh's psyche and find what would prompt an American kid of privilege not only to leave his country, but to eventually conspire against it. The country was not ready to empathize with people like Lindh, however, and Earle was labelled a traitor.

Rather than backtracking or lying low, though, Earle took the Bush administration head on with 2004's *The Revolution Starts ... Now*. Songs like *Home to Houston* and *Rich Man's War* chronicled the plight of soldiers forced to fight in Iraq for financial reasons, only to find that they can't, as the saying goes, go back home. Other songs directly challenged Bush and his subordinates, such as *F the FCC* — which is self-explanatory — and *Condi, Condi*, a song that, quite sarcastically, praises the feminine charms of Ms. Condoleezza Rice.

No, Earle doesn't approve of the current administration — or people of a like mind — and he's not afraid to say so. "(The right doesn't) want an even playing field," he states. "They don't want everyone's kids to go to college ... They want their kids to go to college."

That's the story about Earle that gets told time and again, the one about him having a troubled past and stirring controversy. It's a story worth telling — one mythic in scope, tragedy, triumph, and improbability. That he survived his own self-destructive tendencies at all is miraculous, but that he also went on to release a string of critically acclaimed albums that extends to the present? Forget it. Second chances rarely happen, and the second time around isn't supposed to be as successful — or, in Earle's case, more successful — as the first time around.

That he is now, to his surprise, in his middle age — and also in the best health he's been in for a long time — has caused him to re-evaluate his life. Two other developments also have caused Earle to rethink his ways: his marriage to singer/songwriter Allison Moorer and their move to, of all places, New York City. Both events have caused him to mellow out, and both have had a direct impact on his music, evidenced by his latest album, *Washington Square Serenade*.

Washington Square Serenade is not what you would call a political album. This may come as a letdown to those who have come to regard Earle as a left-wing revolutionary, one of the few artists who actually speaks his mind before a cause becomes popular, but Earle is more focused on his marriage now than carrying any political torch. For him, there's no artistic difference between singing about the debacle in Iraq or being in love.

And if a Steve Earle album that is decidedly more restrained is odd in light of his recent material, it's not the only difference that will evoke confusion. *Washington Square Serenade* was recorded without the backing of the Dukes, Earle's band that he describes as "a really great, ridiculously loud, adult rock band."

Earle proves to be ultimate survivor; The singer/songwriter has endured addiction, homelessness, prison, nu

"Really great" is an understatement, and those who have seen Earle and the Dukes live know that "ridiculously loud" is not an overstatement. But Earle didn't forsake the Dukes for another band. Instead, he opted for something altogether different, something that many would never imagine him doing.

"I tested positive for Pro Tools finally," he jokes, no doubt aware that this decision will baffle many and alienate some. Most of the songs on Washington Square Serenade were written by Earle, then recorded onto a computer, where they gradually took shape and gained layers.

The surprises, however, don't stop with there. Earle also decided to enlist the help of producer John King, one of the Dust Brothers, who has worked with both Beck and the Beastie Boys — legends in their own right, but not artists you would associate with the Hardcore Troubadour.

But while Washington Square Serenade is very different from Jerusalem and The Revolution Starts ... Now, it still tackles controversial issues, just in a less overt fashion. City of Immigrants, for example, subtly addresses the immigration debate by celebrating the diversity found in Earle's new home of New York City. Earle recorded the track with the backing of Forro in the Dark, a neo-folk Brazilian band he saw playing outside of his hotel while staying in Austin for South By Southwest.

Earle was once so disillusioned by the current state of American politics and discourse that he considered leaving the country; his faith, however, was restored by the different cultures found in New York.

These days, however, Earle is more focused on his home, not the overall state of affairs in the United States. Having struggled with addiction and self-destructive tendencies in general for so long, he's no doubt aware that changing his life is an everyday commitment, the temptations never too far away.

"This is the first time I've ever been married sober, and it's a completely different experience. People made a lot about how many times I've been married, but I haven't been married in a long time. I'm trying to make it work. I've changed the whole way that I live.

"Allison and I have spent the last two years trying to sync up our schedules so that we can tour together. That's not a marketing decision — that's trying to stay married. We spend more time together than probably any married couple that I know of. We tour together, we kind of do everything together, and we're trying to keep it that way."

William's military career follows path of Prince of Wales; Plans to add RAF, navy to army experience

IDNUMBER 200710110021
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A8
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Dylan Martinez, Reuters / Prince William will fly jets and choppers. ;
DATELINE: LONDON
SOURCE: The Times, London
WORD COUNT: 149

LONDON – Prince William is to swap his army uniform for those of the RAF and Royal Navy, as part of short-term job changes to give him experience in all three of the British armed forces, Clarence House announced yesterday.

The second in line to the throne will be following in the military footsteps of his father, the Prince of Wales, who was also given experience in the three services.

William, 25, will be given experience flying jets and helicopters and will train in surface ships and submarines. He has completed his course as a troop commander with D Squadron The Blues and Royals of the Household Cavalry and is currently based at Windsor.

His squadron is the only one of four that is not serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

William will be with the RAF from January to April, followed by four months with the Royal Navy.

William is currently a lieutenant in The Blues and Royals, and is trained to command a troop of 12 soldiers equipped with four Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicles.

Turkey, U.S. clash over 'genocide'; Ankara threatens to block key access to Iraq over resolution on Armenian slaughter

IDNUMBER 200710110017
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A6
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Reuters / Turkish military trucks were on the move yesterday, as Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan confirmed his government was drawing up plans to authorize a military incursion into northern Iraq to crush Kurdish rebels using the region as a base. The move, along with a threat to restrict access to a key air force base used by the U.S. to supply troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, has created a major headache for the U.S. ;
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 692

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush warned U.S. lawmakers yesterday that they risk causing "great harm" to their country's relationship with Turkey if Congress passes a resolution declaring the 1915 slaughter of Armenians "genocide."

Mr. Bush's appeal came just hours before a congressional committee gave preliminary approval to the motion, setting up a vote before the full House of Representatives. Democratic leaders say there will be a vote by mid-November.

Turkish President Abdullah Gul called the House panel's vote "unacceptable," according to the Anatolia news agency.

The decision "has no validity and respectability for the Turkish people," Mr. Gul said.

As House members agonized over the resolution, Mr. Bush and two senior members of his cabinet pushed hard for its rejection. They warned that final passage of the resolution could prompt Turkey to retaliate by restricting access to a key air force base used by the U.S. to supply American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We all deeply regret the tragic suffering of the Armenian people that began in 1915. But this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings," Mr. Bush told reporters. "Its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror."

U.S. Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Burns said the administration was "deeply disappointed" by the vote, but hoped Turkey, "one of our most valued and important allies worldwide," would not retaliate.

"We hope very much that the disappointment can be limited to statements and not extend to anything concrete that would interfere with the very good way that we have been working with the Turks for many years," he told reporters.

At issue is a symbolic resolution calling on Mr. Bush to label as "genocide" the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

As defined by the United Nations, genocide includes killings and other actions "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."

Turkey denies the Armenian deaths were genocide, maintaining that many Muslim Turks also died in ethnic violence associated with the First World War.

The Armenian resolution has 225 co-sponsors in the U.S. House, enough for it to pass if Democrats allow it to the floor for a vote.

A senior aide to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that American troops in Iraq would be put in danger if the Armenian resolution passes.

"If our ally accuses us of crimes that we did not commit, then we will start to question the advantages of our co-operation," Egemen Bagis told CNN Turk television.

Of particular concern to the U.S. is maintaining access to Turkey's Incirlik airbase, a key transfer point for 70 per cent of American military supplies into Iraq.

"Access to airfields and to the roads ... would very much be put at risk if this resolution passes and Turkey reacts as strongly as we believe they will," said U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

Eight former U.S. secretaries of state issued an open letter to Congress urging lawmakers to defeat the resolution.

Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, said the measure would be "very problematic for everything we are trying to do" in the Middle East.

Potentially more worrisome for the U.S. is the impact the resolution would have on potential Turkish military raids against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq. It is feared a U.S. declaration on Armenian genocide would make it more difficult for the Bush administration to persuade Turkey to stay out of Iraq.

The political sensitivities surrounding the issue were evident during an emotional debate yesterday among members of the House foreign affairs committee, which voted 26 to 21 in favour of the genocide resolution.

Representative Tom Lantos, the Democratic chairman and a Holocaust survivor, called the atrocities against Armenians "an enormous blot on human history." But he and other lawmakers said Congress needed to be conscious about potential fallout for American troops.

"There was, indeed, a genocide of the Armenians. And it will not be forgotten ... but I cannot support this resolution at this time," said Representative Mike Pence, an Indiana Republican.

"With American troops in harm's way, dependent on critical supply routes available through an alliance that we enjoy with the nation of Turkey ... this is not the time for this nation to speak on this dark chapter of history."

The Parliament of Canada passed a resolution in 2004 formally recognizing the 1915 massacre of Armenians as genocide. In 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper became the first Canadian leader to declare the deaths a genocide.

Turkey, U.S. clash over 'genocide'; Ankara threatens to block key access to Iraq over resolution on Armenia

'Great success' for Afghan forces; Unit mentored by Canadians seizes several weapons caches

IDNUMBER 200710110011

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen

DATE: 2007.10.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Goran Tomasevic, Reuters / Afghan police are shown yesterday during a joint patrol with U.S and Canadian troops in the town of Howz e Madad, just west of Kandahar. Officials say the Afghan National Army is further ahead than their law-enforcement brethren in the Afghan National Police, who lack weapons. ;

DATELINE: KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Matthew Fisher

SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen; with files from Reuters

WORD COUNT: 489

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The Afghan National Army, which has been mentored by Canadian troops, conducted its first successful solo combat operation yesterday in a Zhari district town where troops of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment have been leading the fight against the Taliban insurgency.

Under the watchful eye of their Canadian Forces mentors, Afghan troops planned and launched a company-sized mission that netted several weapons and ammunition caches as well as the electronic gear used to trigger improvised explosive devices of the sort that have killed many Canadian soldiers and Afghan security forces and civilians.

The operation near the bazaar in Howz e Madad was "a great success. It went well," said Capt. Sylvain Gagnon, planning officer for Canada's operational mentor liaison teams. "This was an important seizure."

Although several Canadian mentors were on hand to take charge if the Afghan plan went awry, their help was not needed, Capt. Gagnon said.

Developing the Afghan army is a key part of the Harper government's evolving strategy to lessen the Afghan government's near-total dependence on NATO forces to bring security to the country. If successful, the program would allow Canada's combat units to be assigned to operations elsewhere in Kandahar province, or to be shifted to non-combat roles.

But getting to that point might take a while.

"It's hard to put a time frame on it," Capt. Gagnon said. Different Afghan battalions that are being mentored by the Canadians are at different points in the mentoring system. But, he added: "Every step we take towards them taking responsibility for an operational area is important."

Shortly after the Afghan army operation ended, Col. Ahmad Shah Audin, the Afghan National Police chief for Zhari, praised a recent Canadian initiative to help open police substations in his district.

"If we want to make a place secure, we must have a substation for public safety," the colonel said.

But Col. Audin also criticized NATO forces for not providing his men, who are also being mentored by Canadian soldiers, with better uniforms and weapons.

"Right now, all the weapons and other facilities are given to the Afghan army," he said.

"We must have some weapons. It would help for the job we do," Col. Audin said.

Maj. Alain Veilleux, chief of long-term plans for Joint Task Force Afghanistan, agreed. "He's perfectly right. The Afghan National Police are not properly equipped."

But a big problem, he said, is that they had been given weapons, "but they have given them to the powers-that-be."

Such corruption explains why the police have a much poorer reputation among Afghans than the army. Moreover, because the police are paid so irregularly, they often disappear on payday to bring money back to their families in other parts of the country.

"It is a very complex and huge problem," Maj. Veilleux said at a briefing called to explain how Afghan police are now being paid. "We estimate the Afghan police are three years behind the army" in terms of becoming a professional force.

Meanwhile, a German hostage in Afghanistan was freed by Taliban rebels after more than two months in captivity, Germany's foreign minister said.

"The German citizen ... who was kidnapped in Afghanistan is once again free. We are happy and relieved," Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a statement.

The German engineer, Rudolf Blechschmidt, later arrived at the German Embassy in the Afghan capital, Kabul, an embassy spokeswoman said.

Around the world in 2,555 days, and counting; Ontario teacher sold it all to begin cycling trip that has lasted six-plus years

IDNUMBER 200710110143
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Outdoors
PAGE: F1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Photos Supplied / From the heat of the outback at Uluru, Australia... ; Colour Photo: Photos Supplied / ...to the bitter cold at the top of the highest mountain in the southern Urals in Russia, Rob Cassibo has experienced a worldwide trip aboard his Cannodale bike. ; Photo: Nick Lees, the Journal / Rob Cassibo checks his map on Jasper Avenue and 101st Street, a daily routine on his six-year, 81-country cycling trip. ; Photo: Supplied / Cassibo and his bike were bent out of shape in a hit-and-run incident in China, where he was left on the side of the road before he was helped two hours later. ; Photo: Supplied / Proof that Cassibo travelled to Hell (Norway) and back as he poses outside a building in the Norwegian town. During his journey he also found God, the actual name of a town located 28 km north of Budapest. ; Photo: Supplied / A television interview likely kept Cassibo alive as he became a bit of a celebrity on his winter journey through Russia. ; Photo: Supplied / Cassibo snapped this picture of a worker carrying a 70-kilogram load of sulphur down from a mine on an active volcano at Kawa Igen on the Indonesian island of Java. ;

KEYWORDS: 0
DATELINE: Edmonton
BYLINE: Nick Lees
SOURCE: The Edmonton Journal
WORD COUNT: 920

Science teacher Rob Cassibo's students represented Canada at the International Science Olympiad competition in

the United States for three consecutive years.

In 2000, TV Ontario named the 37-year-old the Teacher of the Year and Sudbury-based Science North awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award for his innovative teaching techniques.

"Sir, you keep telling us we can be anything we want to be," a student in his Manitoulin Island high school on Lake Huron told him. "But what about your dream of cycling around the world?"

When his students went back to school in September, 2001, Cassibo didn't.

"I sold my four-bedroomed log cabin on the lake, gave away my pickup truck and began cycling," he said. "I thought it would take me two years to complete a 40,000-kilometre circumnavigation of the globe."

Six years, 81 countries and 107,415 kilometres later, Cassibo pedalled into Edmonton this week from the Arctic.

"Life is never a straight line," he said. "Among other things, I was 'abducted' by the mafia in Russia; chased by elephants in Namibia; escaped machete-wielding bandits in Peru; left for dead after being hit by a truck in China and survived an earthquake in Pakistan."

He's braved -42 C temperatures while tenting in Siberia and sweated through 48 C degrees in Pakistan.

Cassibo first cycled North America and then went on to cover South America; Africa, the Middle East; Europe;

Scandinavia; the Baltics and Russia.

In 2005, he was in Central Asia before pedalling through India; Nepal; Tibet; China; South East Asia; Australia and New Zealand before island-hopping back to Los Angeles.

"I was completely self-funded through the sale of my house," he said. "I've spent what is my life savings to chase my dream. And I haven't a single regret. A First nations sage in the Yukon told me I may be the richest person on earth."

The first place Cassibo feared for his life was in south Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love.

The teacher, on a Cannondale bike and carrying 50 kilograms of gear, dodged gun-toting gang members.

"People tried to rip my panniers from my bike as I cycled by burned-out cars and heard gunshots," he said. "It was more scary than being on the wrong side of the tracks in such places as Mexico City, Johannesburg and Bangkok."

In Peru in 2002, Cassibo was cycling across a northern desert when two masked men wielding machetes jumped from a flat-bed truck and demanded everything he had.

"Unbelievably, a passing bus backfired and rolled to a stop about 25 metres away," he said. "When I wrote down the truck's licence number and ran towards the bus, the bandits fled."

"The only thing I think that stopped them returning to this lonely stretch of highway to get me was that they thought I had given their licence plate number to the bus driver."

In 2003, he was warned that only if he had a death-wish would he risk cycling across the Cape Flat townships north of Cape Town.

But he made it and received an even sterner warning in Lesotho, "The Kingdom in The Sky," a small country within South Africa.

"I was told by a local cattle herder, 'Mister, not safe for you here. Many bad men.' It is mountainous country and I was so tired physically and mentally that I said if anyone tried to steal my bike, they could have it," he recalled.

"But the man replied, 'They don't want your bicycle, they want your hair and your teeth. Witch doctor can make big magic with hair and teeth of white-

man.' "

Around the world in 2,555 days, and counting; Ontario teacher sold it all to begin cycling trip that has lasted 95

Dangers were around every corner. In Namibia, he was cycling at night through the Khalihari Desert towards Fish River Canyon, known as the "Grand Canyon of Africa," when he stopped to check his map.

"Suddenly, my head lamp picked up demonic green eyes in the bush," said Cassibo. "Straining, I could see it had spots. It was either a leopard or a cheetah and I might be dinner for either.

"Without warning the beast lunged through the air into the dark void behind me. I saw it was a full-grown, 80-kilo leopard. Its home must have been in the hills behind me."

In 2005, he entered Russia through an open border with Belarus. "Innocently, I failed to pick up a migration card and was later told the card was how authorities tracked foreigners," said Cassibo. "This was a crime and the consequences included imprisonment."

But the teacher became a nationally-known celebrity when his winter journey on his bike across Russia became the subject of a six-minute video story repeatedly shown on Russia First Channel.

"It was broadcast from Poland to Japan and from the Arctic to Afghanistan," he said. "And it may have saved my life."

His superstar status helped him navigate military checkpoints without document checks. But one night he was downloading photos into his computer on a military base where he'd been given permission to sleep, when he was interrupted by a guard.

"You idiot," Cassibo thought. "This is exactly what a spy would be doing."

Minutes later, he was herded outside by the AK-47-toting guard and bundled into an unmarked van carrying three, burly men in black leather jackets. He understood the men to be Mafia.

"This is it," thought Cassibo. "I'm getting a bullet in the head."

He was taken to what looked to be an abandoned building and taken upstairs.

"I breathed a sigh of relief when I discovered I'd been under a misapprehension and all they had wanted to do was give me a warm bed for the night."

In 2006, he was pedalling down from the Himalayas when an SUV travelling in the other direction pulled out to pass a truck on a blind corner and hit him.

"The driver jumped from his SUV and I thought he was coming to my aid," said Cassibo. "But he dragged my bike from under his wheels and sped off. The truck driver followed suit. I wasn't moving. I'm convinced they thought I was dead."

Two hours later, a truckload of Tibetans came to his aid.

Early this year, Cassibo arrived in Los Angeles and cycled north to the Arctic Ocean. To get to Tuktoyaktuk from Inuvik, he tied his bike on top of a kayak and paddled down the MacKenzie River.

"I think I know how Forrest Gump felt when he said, 'I'm kinda tired, I think I'll go home now,' " Cassibo said in Edmonton on Sunday. "Home is still a 3,000-kilometre bike ride and winter is on my tail."

Reflections on his trip? "There are far more good people on this planet than bad. Often, it's only bad deeds that garner attention. It's not the genuine acts of kindness shown to a stranger."

Around the world in 2,555 days, and counting; Ontario teacher sold it all to begin cycling trip that has lasted 96

TIRE TRACKS: Cassibo didn't head home after all. He's cycling the Jasper–Banff highway today. "I'm so close, it would be silly not to cycle through the Rockies," he said.

nlees@thejournal.canwest.com

Around the world in 2,555 days, and counting; Ontario teacher sold it all to begin cycling trip that has lasted 97

U.S. torture tactics shame all Americans; Luckily there are some officials brave enough to call the Bush administration on this

IDNUMBER 200710110043
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: A18
COLUMN: Helen Thomas
KEYWORDS: JUSTICE; GOVERNMENT; POLITICIANS; UNITED STATES
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Helen Thomas
SOURCE: Hearst Newspapers
WORD COUNT: 530

WASHINGTON – Thank goodness for whistleblowers, those public servants who think Americans should know the harm that is being inflicted in our name.

Some of those high-minded officials recently revealed to the New York Times that the Bush administration has abandoned its 2004 legal opinion that torture is "abhorrent" and instead has resumed "brutal interrogations" of prisoners.

The Times said two subsequent Justice Department legal opinions -- implemented by then-attorney general Alberto Gonzales -- gave the go-ahead for interrogators to resort to physical and psychological tactics that inflict pain on suspects.

The authorization endorsed use of the harshest techniques applied by the CIA, including head slapping, "waterboarding" that simulates drowning, holding detainees in frigid temperatures, manacled prisoners in stress positions for hours, sleep deprivation for days and nights and subjecting them to long hours of thundering rock music.

White House and Justice Department officials insist that the opinions do not conflict with the administration's promise not to torture suspects. But these memos have never been released.

The Times said this was the first time in U.S. history that the federal government authorized such tactics.

Supposedly, these get-tough techniques were designed to produce crucial information.

There are arguments on the other side for more humane persuasion and less pain.

And there has been some conscientious resistance to torture among top Justice Department officials and some military lawyers.

The new orders also renew the CIA's authority to hold prisoners in so-called overseas "black sites."

The secret detention centres are reportedly located in Afghanistan, Thailand and Eastern Europe, where brutal tactics can be employed out of sight. They apparently are secret only to Americans.

The Times reported "nervous" CIA interrogators from abroad sent inquiries back to agency lawyers at headquarters to ask: "Are we breaking the laws against torture?"

Obviously sensitive to such shameful reports, President George Bush said at a recent news conference and also repeated in an Oval Office statement last week: "We do not torture."

It may come down to what he means by "torture."

Unfortunately, his poor credibility in the run-up to the war against Iraq requires that he deliver more details rather than make simple assertions.

Will he say it under oath? And will he define "torture"?

White House press secretary Dana Perino tells reporters repeatedly that "it is not our policy to torture." But policy is one thing, action is another.

Frances Fragos Townsend, White House homeland security adviser, justifies extreme interrogation, telling CNN that al-Qaida terrorists "are trained to resist harsh interrogations." Her premise is that Americans could get killed "if we failed to do the hard things."

This is a case of her claiming that the ends justify the means.

So as long as there is doubt, the president should release all the guidelines for so-called "enhanced interrogation." The details probably won't come as a surprise to potential terrorists.

Congress also would like to see the details because the lawmakers have outlawed "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment" of prisoners. This ban is consistent with the wording of the United Nations' 1948 Declaration of Human Rights.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2006 that U.S. prisoners are covered by the Geneva Conventions barring abusive treatment.

The Bush administration got off track starting with the infamous 2002 memo drafted by John Yoo, a law professor at the University of California-Berkeley, who was then working at the Office of Legal Counsel at the Justice Department.

Yoo, a strong supporter of expanded presidential power, claimed that no interrogation practices were illegal unless they caused the equivalent of organ failure "or even death."

When did President Bush begin to think that U.S. laws and treaty obligations did not apply to him or his team? How can he allow the perception stand that America tortures prisoners?

Thank goodness there are some officials brave enough to call his hand.

Helen Thomas writes for Hearst Newspapers

U.S. torture tactics shame all Americans; Luckily there are some officials brave enough to call the Bush adm

Afghan army solo mission 'great success'; Combat operation planned, weapons seized without aid of Canadian military mentors

IDNUMBER 200710110011
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM
DATELINE: KANDAHAR AIRFIELD,
Afghanistan
BYLINE: Matthew Fisher
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 406

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The Afghan National Army, which has been mentored by Canadian troops, conducted its first successful solo combat operation on Wednesday in a Zhari district town where troops of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment have been leading the fight against the Taliban insurgency.

Under the watchful eye of their Canadian army mentors, Afghan troops planned and launched a company-sized mission that netted several weapons and ammunition caches as well as the electronic gear used to trigger improvised bombs of the sort that have in the past killed many Canadian soldiers and Afghan security forces and civilians.

The operation near the bazaar in Howz e Madad was "a great success. It went well," said Capt. Sylvain Gagnon, planning officer for Canada's operational mentor liaison teams. "This was an important seizure."

Although several Canadian mentors were on hand to take charge if the Afghan plan went awry, their help was not needed, Gagnon said.

Developing the Afghan army is a key part of the Harper government's evolving strategy to lessen the Afghan government's near-total dependence on NATO forces to bring security to the country. If successful, the program would allow Canada's combat units to be assigned to operations elsewhere in Kandahar province, or to be shifted to non-combat roles.

But getting to that point might take a while.

"It's hard to put a time frame on it," Gagnon said. Different Afghan battalions that are being mentored by the Canadians are at different points in the training system. But, he added: "Every step we take towards them taking responsibility for an operational area is important."

Shortly after the Afghan army operation ended, Col. Ahmad Shah Audin, the Afghan National Police chief for Zhari, praised a recent Canadian initiative to help open police substations in his district.

"If we want to make a place secure, we must have a substation for public safety," the colonel said.

Afghan army solo mission 'great success'; Combat operation planned, weapons seized without aid of Canadian military mentors

But Audin also criticized NATO forces for not providing his men, who are also being mentored by Canadian soldiers, with better uniforms and weapons.

"Right now all the weapons and other facilities are given to the Afghan army," he said. "We must have some weapons. It would help for the job we do."

Maj. Alain Veilleux, chief of long-term plans for Joint Task Force Afghanistan, agreed. "He's perfectly right. The Afghan national police are not properly equipped."

But a big problem, he said, is that they had been given weapons, "but they have given them to the powers that be."

Such corruption explains why the police have a much poorer reputation among Afghans than the army. Moreover, because the police are paid so irregularly, they often disappear on payday to bring money back to their families in other parts of the country.

U.S. vote on Armenia touches nerve in Turkey; 'Genocide' resolution angers Turks; U.S wants to keep access to airbase

IDNUMBER 200710110008
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Reuters / Turkish military trucks carry tanks on a road connecting Turkey's southeastern town of Cizre to Sirnak, on Wednesday. Turkey may vote today on whether to attack Kurdish rebels in Iraq. ;
KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 579

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush warned U.S. lawmakers Wednesday they risk causing "great harm" to America's relationship with Turkey if Congress passes a resolution declaring the 1915 slaughter of Armenians "genocide."

Bush's appeal came just hours before a congressional committee gave preliminary approval to the motion, setting up a potential vote before the full House of Representatives.

As House members agonized over the resolution, the president and two senior members of his cabinet pushed hard for its rejection. They warned final passage of the resolution could prompt Turkey to retaliate by restricting access to a key air force base used by the U.S. to supply American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We all deeply regret the tragic suffering of the Armenian people that began in 1915. But this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings," Bush told reporters. "Its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror."

At issue is a symbolic resolution calling on Bush to label as "genocide" the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

As defined by the United Nations, genocide includes killings and other actions "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."

Turkey denies the Armenian deaths were genocide, maintaining that many Muslim Turks also died in ethnic violence associated with the First World War.

The Armenian resolution has 225 co-sponsors in the U.S. House, enough for it to pass if Democrats allow it to the floor for a vote.

A senior aide to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that American troops in Iraq would be put in danger if the Armenian resolution passes. "If our ally accuses us of crimes that we did not commit, then we will start to question the advantages of our co-operation," Egemen Bagis told CNN Turk television.

Of particular concern to the U.S. is maintaining access to Turkey's Incirlik airbase, a key transfer point for 70 per cent of American military supplies into Iraq.

"Access to airfields and to the roads ... would very much be put at risk if this resolution passes and Turkey reacts as strongly as we believe they will," said U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, said the measure would be "very problematic for everything we are trying to do" in the Middle East.

Potentially more worrisome for the U.S. is the impact the resolution would have on potential Turkish military raids against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

The Turkish parliament may vote as early as today on a motion giving Erdogan authority to attack Kurdish rebels inside Iraq. The plan, adamantly opposed by Washington, has broad public support in Turkey. It's feared a U.S. declaration on Armenian genocide would make it more difficult for the Bush administration to persuade Turkey to stay out of Iraq.

The political sensitivities surrounding the issue were evident during an emotional debate Wednesday among members of the House foreign affairs committee, which voted 26 to 21 in favour of the genocide resolution.

Rep. Tom Lantos, the Democratic chairman and a Holocaust survivor, called the atrocities against Armenians "an enormous blot on human history." But he and other lawmakers said Congress needed to be conscious about potential fallout for American troops.

"There was, indeed, a genocide of the Armenians. And it will not be forgotten ... but I cannot support this resolution at this time," said Rep. Mike Pence, an Indiana Republican.

The Canadian Parliament passed a resolution in 2004 recognizing the 1915 massacre of Armenians as genocide. In 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper became the first Canadian leader to declare the deaths a genocide.

PM's Afghan stand bad for NATO: Dion; Extension of Canada's combat role would weaken the alliance, Liberal leader warns

IDNUMBER 200710110002
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Chris Schwarz, The Journal / Liberal Leader Stephane Dion was in town Wednesday to address the chamber of commerce, above, attend a town-hall meeting and meet local candidates. ;
KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA
DATELINE: EDMONTON
BYLINE: Mike Sadava
SOURCE: The Edmonton Journal
WORD COUNT: 489

EDMONTON – Canadian troops can pull out of Afghanistan in 2009 with no dishonour and without abandoning the Afghan people, says Liberal Leader Stephane Dion.

The future of the mission is one of the issues that could convince the Liberals to support a non-confidence motion after the new session of Parliament starts Oct. 16 with the speech from the throne.

Recently, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Canada has a moral responsibility to stay in Afghanistan after the current mission ends in early 2009, and not leave the country "cold turkey."

But Dion said the choices are not so simple. "My problem is that the prime minister did not raise the issue of replacement but the choice of leaving with dishonour or staying alone," Dion told The Journal editorial board during a visit to Edmonton Wednesday.

It will be time for Canada to end its military mission and other NATO allies to step in, he said.

"I think we can't succeed in Afghanistan if NATO is not working," he said. "It can't be the burden of a few countries if you have a coalition of 27 countries."

Dion said that every month Canada delays is a mistake that makes it more difficult for NATO to find a replacement for the Canadian mission.

Extending the mission indefinitely also threatens future NATO missions because other members will hesitate to participate if they see a country accepts a two-year mission and ends up staying forever, he said.

Canada wouldn't pull out of Afghanistan totally, but would remain to train local troops, police and justice officials, and perform other non-combat duties that would need to be done, he said.

With Liberal fortunes hit by three byelection losses in Quebec and internal problems, including Wednesday's resignation of national party director Jamie Carroll, Dion is not in a hurry for an election.

If the Liberals consider the throne speech to be reasonable on issues such as Afghanistan and the environment, the party won't move to bring down the Tory government, but Dion said he is waiting to read the speech before deciding on the next move.

He also said Canadians have no desire to go to the polls again, especially with two provincial elections this week.

Dion was in Edmonton to meet with local Liberal candidates, attend a town-hall meeting and address the chamber of commerce, a luncheon speech that managed to attract only 120 people, many of them party faithful.

Alberta historically has been a hard sell for the Liberals, who currently hold none of the province's 28 seats, but Dion managed to raise a chuckle from the lunchtime crowd when he referred to the province as the "Liberal heartland of Canada."

Dion said he's confident he can sell Albertans on his party's greenhouse-gas-busting carbon budget program, although it proposes hard caps on carbon emissions in line with Kyoto targets while Alberta's version deals with the intensity of emissions out of fear that hard caps would stifle the expansion of the energy sector.

This summer, Premier Ed Stelmach had a warning for Ottawa when the issue of a hard cap was raised: "Don't mess with Alberta."

"I think it will be very possible to work in good partnership with everyone," Dion said, adding that it doesn't make sense to have 10 provincial versions of a carbon market.

"Albertans will be involved in the carbon market and this will be good for Alberta."

msadava@thejournal.canwest.com

People like Walter Gretzky and Kris King can empathize with Jason Blake and offer some words of comfort

SOURCETAG: 0710100504

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.10.10

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 6

ILLUSTRATION: 3 photos by Joe Warmington 1. Butch Steele and buddy Walter Gretzky attend last night's Leafs game. Walter bounced back from a severe stroke. 2. Fan Alex Wasserman vents his feelings. 3. Tony King and brother Kris, a former Leaf, have a first-hand knowledge of cancer — Kris beat the dread disease. "I really feel" for Jason Blake, Tony says.

BYLINE: JOE WARMINGTON

WORD COUNT: 486

You didn't have to look any further than the front row of Section 105 to see the epitome of comebacks and survival.

Standing in applause as Jason Blake was introduced by PA announcer Andy Frost as a starting for the Maple Leafs last night was none other than Walter Gretzky, who was clearly moved by the brave Blake skating out there on NHL ice just days after being diagnosed with a form of leukemia.

"Never quit," yelled Walter as he and his pal from Brantford Butch Steele cheered on as the gutsy No. 55 skated to the face-off circle.

Walter never did. Back in 1991, as he has told me many times, he was not supposed to make it through the night after suffering a serious brain aneurysm.

CHEERING JASON ON

He was there cheering on Blake and the Leafs last night.

"The reason why I tell people they should never quit is look at me, I'm still here and a lot of people said I wouldn't be," Walter said.

"I sure hope that Jason is doing okay because I know that it's a shock when you hear about it.

"I went through it myself with Phyllis," Walter said, speaking of his wife who died of cancer. "We're all rooting for him."

Any room, in any office, on any bus or classroom you will find stories of courage and survival from serious illnesses — including cancer.

Needless to say Blake's situation touched Leaf fans — who understand that in that uniform is a husband and a dad first.

People like Walter Gretzky and Kris King can empathize with Jason Blake and offer some words of comfort 106

"Leaf Nation backs Jason," was the sign held up by 15-year-old Maple Leaf fanatic Alex Wasserman, who, with his dad Michael, wanted Blake to know the fans care.

The Leafs and their fans, says Alex, are a family and they stick together.

"I wanted him to know the fans are thinking about him," said Alex, who, like Walter Gretzky, lost a close family friend to cancer, understands the pain of losing someone close.

"I am thinking of my uncle Brian Gold tonight," said Alex. "He died five years ago."

And he never stopped battling. The fans' support does actually mean something to someone who has been diagnosed with a serious illness.

"I know the support I received got me through it," said Tony King, a representative with Sleeman Breweries who was diagnosed with something similar to Blake's ailment almost 16 years ago.

"I really believe a lot of the survival is mental," said Tony, whose brother Kris is an NHL employee and ex-Maple Leaf.

When Tony was sick, Kris was with the New York Rangers and the whole hockey community offered their prayers and help — something that was featured on a Hockey Night in Canada report a few years back.

Tony says cancer survivors always give back everything they can to help the next person stricken with the disease. He speaks at hospitals and fundraising events across the country.

Same goes for Walter Gretzky, who has been an inspiration to wounded Canadian soldiers — frequently visiting them in hospital after they return from Afghanistan.

OFFERS ADVICE

"I have told Kris to pass along my number to Jason just in case he ever wants to talk," said Tony.

He would tell him, it's a mere bump in the road with the right attitude.

"I really feel for him," said Tony. "It's not easy."

On the positive, he said, is how far the research has come where such a disease can now be treated with medication and that someone can resume their hockey career.

"It is amazing how far they have come," said Tony, who remembers horrible days of chemotherapy, radiation and eventually a bone marrow transplant courtesy of his sister.

For Kris King, the news of what has happened with Blake hit him hard.

"I saw it on the TV and I was thinking, 'I wonder if Tony is watching this?' Then the phone rang and it was Tony."

The two brothers have done numerous charity events for Princess Margaret Hospital and say the only positive thing about this happening to a high-profile person is that people talk about it.

When people talk about it more money is raised for research and more progress made.

People like Walter Gretzky and Kris King can empathize with Jason Blake and offer some words of comfort

I know cancer has touched people very close to me and I agree with Mr. Gretzky, the key is to never give in to it.

Blake, playing out there on Air Canada Centre ice last night, showed everyone he has no intention of doing so.
KEYWORDS=TORONTO AND GTA

Letters to the Editor Column

SOURCETAG 0710110475
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 12
COLUMN: Letters to the Editor
WORD COUNT: 552

Re: "Maybe Canadians are too busy for politics" (Oct. 7). I suspect their disdain for the opposition, in particular the Liberals, is one reason. Treating the Liberals like they are some kind of pariah does not sit well with the public. The Liberals served us well over the years, and for anyone to try to tell us differently they are barking up the wrong tree. The early attack ads, the war room, etc., doesn't help their cause.

We also don't like double standard statements meant to discredit others for their benefit — Afghanistan, budget surplus, provincial promises, etc.

Finally, Stephen Harper's propensity for U.S. style politics is demeaning to some.

The Liberals may be in trouble, but Canadians are not going to let a wild horse run unbridled.

W. LAPORTE

(You just need to be patient for a little while longer)

First cyclists forgot how to ride on the road. They started by riding way out from the curb, then they decide they can ride two abreast. Yet they can't imagine why motorists give them no respect.

So they clamour and whine that they need their own lanes, for safety's sake, and now that they are getting them, guess what, we have to start widening older bridges that barely accommodate two lanes of car traffic, because they can't drive over it safely? I don't think so.

Here's an idea: Since it's too dangerous to ride over the bridge in the bike lane and it's illegal to ride on the sidewalk, why don't you just get off the bike and walk over? Is that too hard?

Since riders don't want to be plated, I think they should stop acting like they're equal to motor-vehicles, which are.

I've been riding since I can remember and the only reason I don't ride much anymore is because of my own laziness. I never have, and never will, expected that I have the right to obstruct traffic or recklessly ride through pedestrians on the sidewalk.

So just get over yourselves and deal with it instead of perpetuating this "more, more, more" selfishness that is quickly becoming the norm in Canada these days.

RICK MCGLENISTER

BRANTFORD

(Cyclists are allowed to ride in the right lane, don't forget that)

re: "Trap set for Liberals" (Oct. 4). In reference to Greg Weston's column on Harper's "creaking trap door." The upside of this "creaking trap door" is that when the election is finally engineered, Canadians will be empowered to give this overweening government the boot, once and for all. I don't know what system of government Stephen Harper is pretending to follow, but it sure ain't the parliamentary system of Canada. Consequently, it's high time the public learned the contents of that infamous Conservative handbook.

P. BARCLAY

SALT SPRING ISLAND, B.C.

(The opportunity to boot anyone out could come soon)

It's so heartbreaking to be reading again about a slain police officer. Even more disheartening to read that the person alleged to have committed the crime was out on bail.

Criminals have no fears about reprisals for heinous acts. This RCMP officer was killed in the line of duty. He responded in uniform and in a cruiser. No mistake about it — he was killed in cold blood. Life in prison (paid for by taxpayers) is not what the person responsible for this crime deserves. Such a crime deserves the death penalty. Let's put the re-instatement of the death penalty to a referendum and see how many people would support it. A shockingly large percentage I'm sure. Our legal system needs a backbone again. We need to stand up and support the people who are protecting us.

My prayers to go out to Const. Worden's family and friends. May they find comfort in the outpouring of support from Canadians around the country.

J. BOWDITCH

OTTAWA

(The focus right now needs to be on bringing someone before the courts for this crime and supporting a grieving family)

Canuck-trained Afghan army success

SOURCETAG 0710110759
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 29
BYLINE: DENE MOORE, CP
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
WORD COUNT: 257

Canadian soldiers training the Afghan National Army celebrated yesterday, after watching their Afghan counterparts carry out a successful anti-insurgency operation.

It's a significant step for the fledgling force and for the Canadians whose eventual exit, in theory, depends on the national army's ability to take on security responsibilities.

"Every step we take toward having them take responsibility of the operation area is a big success for us," said Maj. Sylvain Gagnon, chief plans officer for the Canadian Operational Mentor Liaison Teams, which are working with the Afghan army.

Based on intelligence gathered by the Canadians, Afghan soldiers crept into the bazaar area of Howz-e-Madad, a village in the dangerous Zhari district west of Kandahar City, yesterday morning.

They were looking for suspected insurgent weapons.

By noon, the Afghan soldiers had swept through 22 buildings, uncovering weapons and ammunition, as well as electronic devices meant for building roadside bombs.

"We have seized . . . two weapons caches with ammo and some electronic components used to build IEDs," said Gagnon.

"We've also re-established the freedom of movement along Highway 1 in that area."

There were no arrests.

It's the first significant operation planned and led by Afghan soldiers during the current rotation, and that is not insignificant.

Like the Afghan National Police today, at one time the Afghan army was untrained, under-staffed, corrupt, out-gunned by the Taliban, and of little help to NATO efforts.

The group involved in yesterday's mission has been in the mentoring program since it began, first under another country and with the Canadians since last May.

Gagnon said he expects to see continued improvements over the next few months.

Canadian forces hope to hand over security in the Zhari and Panjwaii districts to Afghan national security

forces by the end of the year.

"If we have done that, and our plan is successful, then we can use most of our security assets, the battle group troops, to move into other areas of the country," said Maj. Eric Landry with Canada's Joint Task Force in Afghanistan. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Nathan's name gets permanent home

SOURCETAG 0710110726

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.10.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 7

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Brett Gundlock, Sun Media Mike Hornburg looks at the name of his son, Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, after he was etched into the Wall of Honour in Peacekeepers' Park yesterday. Hornburg was killed more than two weeks ago in Afghanistan. 2. photo of NATHAN HORNBURG

BYLINE: PABLO FERNANDEZ, SUN MEDIA

WORD COUNT: 211

The name of a Calgary soldier killed in Afghanistan has been engraved into history.

Dignitaries, friends and family held a quiet ceremony yesterday as the name of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, the latest Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan, was added to the Wall of Honour.

Nathan's name is the 186th addition to the wall in Peacekeepers' Park.

The soldier's father, Mike Hornburg, recalled how during his birthday last year, Nathan showed him a construction project he'd worked on and was particularly proud of — just down the road from Peacekeepers' Park.

Mike said it's appropriate his son's name has a permanent place so close to something Nathan was proud of.

"Nathan's character and pride was in being a strong, young man," he said.

"He'd been so proud and strong and happy to be working so close by."

Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, was killed Sept. 24 during fierce fighting.

Hornburg, the driver of a Leopard armoured recovery vehicle, was killed by an anti-tank round during a 12-hour battle, while he charged forward to help a Leopard tank that had become disabled.

Nathan's mom, Linda Loree, said it's up to those left behind to make sure his sacrifice was not in vain.

"If you're 18 years old and not voting, give your head a shake, because there's people who are dying to give people that right," she said.

Loree recalled how as a child Nathan hated litter and learned to count by picking up pieces of garbage.

"The theory was to leave every place better than he found it, and that's what he was doing when he died."

The engraving was also a way to launch a new campaign to raise funds for the building of a new memorial wall for the park, said Don Ethell, spokesman for the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping.

Ethell said the current wall, which was dedicated in 2004, is quickly running out of room.
KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

MORATORIUM LIFTED Afghan ambassador defends executions Resumption of death penalty a response to growing crime, not a return to religious fanaticism, envoy says

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072840276

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A23

BYLINE: ALAN FREEMAN

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Ottawa ONT

WORDS: 588

WORD COUNT: 582

ALAN FREEMAN OTTAWA Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada says his government's decision to resume executions is a reaction to growing criminality in the country and not a sign of a return to the Islamic fundamentalism of the former Taliban regime.

"This is not a society run by hard-core religious fanatics whose word is higher than any other law," Omar Samad said in an interview.

"This is a society where people have all the freedoms that they didn't have six years before." On Sunday, the government of President Hamid Karzai lifted a moratorium on the death penalty and allowed the firing-squad execution of 15 convicted criminals, sparking an outcry from civil-rights advocates and the United Nations.

Mr. Samad insisted Afghanistan is a profoundly different place than it was under the Taliban, but said the Afghan public expects the government to abide by its own constitution, which allows for capital punishment.

"We have public opinion that is very much concerned about security and criminality and they expect the Afghan government to deliver on both counts," Mr. Samad said. "And public opinion is very strong in this regard.

"Afghans are looking for a more peaceful and a more just and fair society and they hold the elected government of Afghanistan responsible," the ambassador said. "The goal is not only to provide justice but also to be a deterrent to others who may resort to such actions." Public executions were common under the Taliban, which was overthrown by the Northern Alliance in 2001, backed by a massive U.S. bombing campaign. But Mr. Samad, who became his nation's envoy to Canada three years ago, said there's no comparison between the Taliban and the Karzai government.

"There was no due process under the Taliban. The difference with the Taliban is that they could have taken anybody off the street and accuse them of anything and without any due process, execute them.

"Now there is due process. There is a process in place where individuals have a right to defend themselves and the right to appeal and have the right to [go to] the supreme court." He said that even after the 15 defendants had gone through the appeal system, Mr. Karzai added two additional steps in the process.

First he set up a special commission of legal experts to review the cases. When that group reaffirmed the convictions, the President himself chaired a separate review along with the Attorney-General and the head of the supreme court.

"The President personally is not a man who easily decides to take the life of another human being," Mr. Samad said, "even if that human being is a bad person." Mr. Samad became noticeably ill at ease when asked about whether the death penalty would apply in cases involving adultery and refused to comment on the record.

The ambassador said Canadians should not be concerned that any of those executed were detainees handed over by Canadian troops to Afghan authorities. Canadian Defence Minister Peter MacKay insisted there is no connection between Canada and the executions, pointing to the detainee agreement between Ottawa and Kabul. "We have always made it clear in the agreement, both the old one and the new one, that there are to be no executions," Mr. MacKay told The Globe and Mail.

He indicated the question of capital punishment is for the Afghans to decide.

"We've been very clear as a country where we stand on the issue of capital punishment. . . . This is a policy decision for Afghanistan."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; capital punishment; crime; justice; human rights; government

PERSONAL NAME: Hamid Karzai

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban

THE AFGHAN MISSION Taliban release German in latest prisoner swap Despite Karzai's promise not to deal with terrorists, Afghan government negotiates release of engineer and four others seized in July

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072840275

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A22 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: PAUL KORING

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Washington DC

WORDS: 723

WORD COUNT: 704

PAUL KORING With a report from Alan Freeman in Ottawa WASHINGTON The Afghan government swapped five prisoners yesterday in exchange for a German engineer held by Islamic extremists, the third time in less than seven months that Taliban demands to free hostages have been met.

Yesterday's exchange was arranged despite President Hamid Karzai's pledge, made after swapping five senior Taliban prisoners to secure the release of an Italian journalist last spring, that trading with terrorists "was a one-time deal." The latest swap freed German engineer Rudolf Blechschmidt, 62, and four Afghan civilians held by the Taliban in exchange for what the Karzai government said were five ordinary criminals.

But other Afghan sources said the freed prisoners were Taliban, including the father of Mullah Nizamuddin, the Taliban commander of the unit that kidnapped Mr. Blechschmidt in July. He was one of two Germans seized in Wardak province in central Afghanistan.

The other German was found dead three days later of gunshot wounds.

The Taliban had demanded Germany withdraw its more than 3,000 troops from Afghanistan. Berlin refused to do so, as had the Italian government.

Both the Italian and German contingents are deployed in the relatively quiet north and west of Afghanistan, far from the fighting.

Last month, 19 South Korean Christian evangelists were released after Seoul reportedly paid a huge ransom to the Taliban. It also confirmed the previously announced end-of-the-year pullout of its small military contingent.

"The practice of paying for the release of international hostages is turning kidnapping into a growth industry in Afghanistan," said Seth Jones, an expert on Afghanistan and terrorism with the Rand Corporation, who has just returned from a month-long tour of southern Afghanistan.

Mr. Karzai came under harsh criticism after the first swap in March, even from the Western allies propping up his embattled government with tens of thousands of soldiers battling a resurgent Taliban.

THE AFGHAN MISSION Taliban release German in latest prisoner swap Despite Karzai's promise not to de

Mr. Karzai, with the approval of the Italian government, traded five Taliban prisoners for journalists Daniele Mastrogiacommo.

"We don't negotiate with terrorists," a spokesman for U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said after Mr. Karzai approved the swap.

"We don't advise others to do so." Stung by the criticism, the Afghan President said it was a one-time deal.

Unfazed by accusations of brutality, the Taliban beheaded Mr.

Mastrogiacommo's Afghan translator. They also killed two of the South Korean evangelists and threatened to kill them all before extracting what, according to some reports, was a multimillion-dollar ransom.

The Karzai government – under fire this week for resuming executions, which were commonplace under the Taliban – has repeatedly insisted it will not barter over hostages.

"As far as the comparison with the Italian hostage situation is concerned, I don't think that this should become an industry in Afghanistan," Mr. Karzai's spokesman, Humayun Hamidzada, said after the second Korean hostage was killed. "On principle, we shouldn't encourage kidnapping by accepting their demands." By repeatedly agreeing to do deals with the Taliban, the government is endangering every foreigner in Afghanistan, Mr. Jones said yesterday in an interview. "Every journalist, every aid worker, everyone working for a NGOs will be increasingly vulnerable, in fact in extreme danger because of these hostage swaps," he said.

In Ottawa, Jamie Christoff, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Canada was unaware of the terms of the deal that freed Mr. Blechschmidt but said Canada "would be concerned were any such agreement to include substantive concessions to terrorists." Last month, Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier was more blunt when Seoul was dealing with the Taliban. He said Canada would "not negotiate with terrorists, for any reason," adding, "such negotiations, even if unsuccessful, only lead to further acts of terrorism." Omar Samad, the Afghan ambassador to Canada, said: "I am not sure there was a swap and whether it involved the Taliban or other people." A handful of Canadians are among the few foreign civilians in Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan, the Taliban heartland where the insurgency has flared over the past 18 months and most of Canada's 2,500 soldiers are deployed.

No Canadian has yet been abducted by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Foreign Affairs officials were unable to say whether Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government will urge Mr. Karzai to rebuff Taliban demands or make a deal if a Canadian is seized.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Germany

SUBJECT TERM: strife; terrorism; kidnapping; hostages; foreign relations; germans

PERSONAL NAME: Hamid Karzai; Rudolf Blechschmidt

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban

THE AFGHAN MISSION Taliban release German in latest prisoner swap Despite Karzai's promise not to de

PUBLIC SECURITY: 'WE HAVE ONLY RIFLES, HANDCUFFS' Police pay, resources lag far behind military's, Panjwai chief says

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072840274

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A22 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: OMAR EL AKKAD

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

WORDS: 594

WORD COUNT: 577

OMAR EL AKKAD KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN Panjwai's chief of police arrived at the Canadian military base here yesterday for a joint planning session with Canadian soldiers, but also used the opportunity to publicly decry the discrepancy in pay, equipment and training between his officers and those of the Afghan National Army.

Colonel Ahmad Shah Audin, responsible for policing Panjwai district just southwest of Kandahar city, said officers in the national army have far better equipment than his own.

"We have only rifles, handcuffs," Col. Audin said through an interpreter.

"We need to have the same [equipment as the national army]." Col. Audin said his force doesn't have the same training or salary as their military counterparts, a discrepancy that even stretches in some cases to adequate uniforms.

The disconnect between Afghanistan's police and army, both vital to Canadian plans to eventually hand over responsibility for security in the volatile southern region, has become a serious problem, not just for the safety of Afghan police officers, but for Canadian troops. On several occasions, the Canadians have secured a portion of the region from insurgents, built a police substation and transferred control to Afghan officers, only to find themselves forced to secure the same location again after insurgents rout the police force.

There has been growing discontent in recent months about the state of the Afghan police, both from within the ranks and among those who have to deal with them.

Major Alain Veilleux, who works closely with the force, estimated that the Afghan police force is about three years behind the Afghan military. He cited a number of problems within the force, including a tendency for officers to give away or sell their weapons and services to local tribal leaders, and frequent shakedowns of Afghan civilians at police checkpoints.

"It's a very huge and complex problem," Major Veilleux said.

Part of the problem, he said, rests with the way in which officers get paid. For the past month, Canadians have been supervising the flow of salary money from provincial police stations to district stations, in an attempt to bring some accountability to a process that often ends with cash mysteriously disappearing. For similar

PUBLIC SECURITY: 'WE HAVE ONLY RIFLES, HANDCUFFS' Police pay, resources lag far behind military's

reasons, troops are now also monitoring police behaviour at checkpoints.

The stark contrast between the state of Afghanistan's police and its military was clear yesterday: Minutes after Colonel Audin spoke to reporters, Canadian soldiers announced the completion of what they called the first significant operation carried out entirely by the Afghan National Army.

Acting on a tip from the Canadians, Afghan forces raided a bazaar in Howz-e Madad, west of Panjwai, yesterday morning. They seized a cache of electronics suspected of being readied to make improvised explosive devices, but made no arrests.

Though the Canadians alerted the Afghan army to the cache, and joined the troops on the raid, Canadian officers still hailed the raid as a significant step toward a self-sufficient ANA.

Despite having different mandates, the Afghan military and police forces perform many of the same tasks in the war-torn southern side of the country. Charged with fighting off insurgents, the Afghan national police functions as a sort of paramilitary; they are also a prime target because they are far more vulnerable to attacks than are the well-protected coalition forces.

But Major Veilleux said the police force is also responsible for the day-to-day protection of the local population, something that is increasingly difficult when the police are seen as endemically corrupt.

"Right now," Major Veilleux said, "the people are afraid of the Afghan national police."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; defence; policy; internal security; police

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

Canadian soldier faced death threat from Afghan platoon

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL
IDN: 072840273
DATE: 2007.10.11
PAGE: A22
BYLINE: MURRAY BREWSTER
SECTION: International News
SOURCE: CP
EDITION: Metro
DATELINE: Ottawa ONT
WORDS: 468
WORD COUNT: 416

MURRAY BREWSTER The Canadian Press OTTAWA A Canadian soldier was threatened with summary execution by enraged Afghan National Army troops this past winter after being involved in a friendly fire shooting, military police records show.

The sun had just peeked above an unusually hazy horizon the morning of Feb. 12 when the gunner on an RG-31 Nyala truck mistakenly opened fire on an Afghan army pickup truck on a desert road east of Kandahar.

Lieutenant Abdul Hadi, a 23-year-old Afghan platoon commander who was driving the vehicle, was badly wounded in the arm and hand.

He had missed repeated warning signs that he should stop as his truck came on a broken-down Canadian logistics convoy.

Within minutes of the shooting, a tense standoff developed as the Afghans demanded that the gunner be handed over to them.

From his seat in the heavily armoured truck the soldier who had pulled the trigger "observed one ANA soldier slide his finger across his throat, insinuating he was going to kill him," a summary report prepared by the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service says.

The report was obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

After their light truck had been sprayed with 7.62-millimetre machine-gun fire, hitting the truck at least 21 times, Afghan troops "immediately exited their vehicle" and "took up firing positions." Within minutes they were reinforced by a second group of soldiers who aimed their weapons at Canadian troops.

"ANA soldiers were very mad and threatened to kill them all if they didn't hand over the gunner who had fired on them," said a witness statement taken by police in the days after the incident.

"The interpreter translated that the shooting was a mistake to the ANA soldiers." One of the Canadians who was part of the security cordon around the convoy's broken truck initially tried to calm the Afghans.

"One ANA soldier pointed an AK-47 directly in his face and was told by the interpreter that the ANA was going to kill him. The ANA continually threatened to kill them and kept requesting the gunner and the gunner's name." The convoy's second-in-command refused the repeated demands while the gunner sat quietly in his seat.

The standoff lasted for almost an hour, police records show, and was resolved when one of the Canadians persuaded the angry Afghans that the matter should be handled by superior officers.

In an interview with The Canadian Press days after the incident, a senior Afghan army commander in Kandahar demanded that the gunner face some form of military justice.

Captain Cindy Tessier, a military spokeswoman, said investigators decided not to charge the soldier.

There have been a number of accidental shootings involving Canadian troops that have resulted in at least seven Afghan fatalities.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; defence; accidents

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

Abductions in Afghanistan

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072840272

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A22

BYLINE:

SECTION: International News

SOURCE: REUT

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 439

WORD COUNT: 443

Reuters News Service Details of reported kidnappings of foreigners in Afghanistan since 2006: March, 2006: Taliban insurgents say they killed four hostages and dumped their bodies in the Kandahar–Helmand area. The four were abducted on March 11. An official at the Ecolog services company in Kabul said the four hostages, all from Macedonia, were employees.

April, 2006: An Indian engineer, identified as K. Suryanarayan, is found beheaded on April 30 not far from where he was kidnapped near the main road between Qalat and Ghazni. The Taliban claim responsibility.

October, 2006: Gabriele Torsello, a London–based photojournalist who is a Muslim, is kidnapped on Oct. 12 by gunmen after he left by bus from Lashkar–Gah, capital of Helmand province in the south.

He is released unharmed on Nov. 3.

March, 2007: Taliban capture Italian journalist Daniele Mastrogiacomo and two Afghans in Helmand province. He is handed over to the Italian embassy on March 19 but his Afghan driver is beheaded and his translator killed on April 8.

April, 2007: The Taliban say they have kidnapped Eric Damfreville, a Frenchman, working for Terre d'Enfance aid organization, his local driver and two other Afghans in Nimroz province. He is released on May 11. A female French hostage who also worked for Terre d'Enfance is released in late April by the Taliban after three weeks in captivity.

July, 2007: Two German engineers are kidnapped by the Taliban while travelling in Wardak province. One German is killed, apparently by his captors. The Taliban later say the other German is being held along with four Afghans. In October, Taliban militants allow an interview with the German engineer, who is identified in the report as Rudolf Blechschmidt. He was freed yesterday.

July, 2007: A group of 23 South Koreans from a church organization in Bundang, outside Seoul, are kidnapped from a bus travelling from Kabul to Kandahar. On July 25, a church pastor who was leading the group is shot dead. Five days later, another male South Korean hostage is shot. Two female captives are freed as a goodwill gesture during talks. On Aug. 27, the Taliban agree to release the hostages after South Korea agreed to meet certain conditions. The remaining hostages are all freed by Aug. 30.

September, 2007: Two kidnapped Italian military intelligence officers are freed during a raid by NATO–led troops in which nine kidnappers and an Afghan hostage died.

September, 2007: Taliban insurgents kidnap four members of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the province of Wardak.

The men, two Afghans, a Macedonian and a citizen of Myanmar are freed three days later, on Sept 29.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; kidnapping; chronology; murder

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban

FEDERAL COURT Montreal terror suspect loses bid to revoke bail conditions

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072840233

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A9

BYLINE: TU THANH HA

SECTION: National News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Montreal PQ

WORDS: 450

WORD COUNT: 427

TU THANH HA MONTREAL In turning down a bid by Montreal terror suspect Adil Charkaoui to be freed of all his bail conditions, a Federal Court judge said he doesn't believe a onetime jailhouse informant who is recanting his accusations incriminating Mr. Charkaoui.

The government alleges that Mr. Charkaoui is an al-Qaeda follower who went to a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. In its case against him, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service says that the convicted terrorist Ahmed Ressam told its agents he saw Mr.

Charkaoui at an al-Qaeda camp in 1998.

In a ruling yesterday, Mr. Justice Simon Noel gave little credence to a letter written this spring to the newspaper Le Journal de Montreal in which Mr. Ressam said he was under "psychological problems and great pressure" and lied when he spoke to CSIS about Mr. Charkaoui.

Judge Noel said he was more inclined to believe the initial allegations Mr. Ressam made to CSIS in 2002.

"In the presence of a lawyer and at two distinct moments Mr. Ressam identified Mr. Charkaoui on two different photos, in an immediate way without hesitation . . . considering all the elements associated with the evidence, I conclude that Mr. Ressam wasn't lying," the judge wrote in a 26-page ruling.

Judge Noel said the 16 bail conditions – which include a curfew, travel restrictions, a ban on using the Internet and cellphones, and an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet – remain necessary to "neutralize" the potential threat represented by Mr. Charkaoui.

While conceding they can be constraining, Judge Noel said the conditions haven't stopped Mr. Charkaoui from finishing his master's degree, working as a grade-school teacher and fathering a third child.

"Considering the threat that Mr. Charkaoui is associated with and the importance of neutralizing that threat, preventive conditions associated with his release remain necessary," the judge said.

A Moroccan-born permanent resident, Mr. Charkaoui was arrested in 2003 under a ministerial certificate declaring him a threat to national security. He was detained for 21 months until he was released on bail in 2005.

The certificate is a controversial, highly secretive procedure intended to deport non-citizens under lower standards of proof than those used in the Criminal Code. Key parts of the case are only shown to the judge in secret.

Ottawa has until February to amend the law governing security certificates after the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the system's secret hearings were unconstitutional.

An al-Qaeda trainer now held in Guantanamo Bay, Abu Zubaydah, has also identified Mr. Charkaoui as someone he saw in Afghanistan, but Judge Noel didn't consider that allegation because of the likelihood that it had been coerced.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Montreal

SUBJECT TERM:terrorism; suspects; justice

PERSONAL NAME: Adil Charkaoui; Ahmed Ressam

ORGANIZATION NAME: al-Qaeda; Canadian Security Intelligence Service

With friends like these ... |

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072840226

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A26

BYLINE: JOHN DIRLIK

SECTION: Letter to the Edit

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Pointe Claire, Que.

WORDS: 41

WORD COUNT: 61

John Dirlik Pointe Claire, Que.

A spokesman for Afghan President Hamid Karzai (Kabul Executions Spark Fresh Concern Over Fate Of Detainees – front page, Oct. 10) declared that executions will continue to deter crimes "from murder to adultery." This is the government that Canadians are dying for?

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; capital punishment; defence; policy

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

THRONE SPEECH PM rejects discussions with Dion

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072840170

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A4

BYLINE: CAMPBELL CLARK

SECTION: National News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Ottawa ONT

WORDS: 367

WORD COUNT: 334

CAMPBELL CLARK OTTAWA Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday rejected the idea of opening talks with Opposition Leader Stephane Dion to ensure that his Conservative government survives a vote on next week's Throne Speech.

With Mr. Dion on the defensive after weeks of in-fighting in his Liberal Party, Mr. Harper sought to heighten the pressure yesterday and highlight the fact that his opponent is caught in a squeeze.

On Tuesday, Mr. Dion told reporters that the Prime Minister had not contacted him to seek support for the minority government's Throne Speech. The Liberal Leader, whose party is anxious to avoid a fall election, has said he wants the speech to include an end date for the mission of Canadian troops in Afghanistan, as well as other demands.

But he said he is willing to work on compromises with the Conservative government – a notion Mr. Harper dismissed yesterday.

"I had not heard from Mr. Dion except through the media. Mr. Dion made his intentions very clear. He made his non-negotiable demands, and, as I just said, the government will consider all the opposition positions and we will respond in the Speech from the Throne," he told reporters.

Mr. Harper said that with Conservative MPs supporting the Throne Speech, "it appears to me that members of the Bloc and the NDP will likely be voting for an election.

"So really the ball's in Mr. Dion's court at this point." As opposition leader in 2004, Mr. Harper demanded that then-prime minister Paul Martin strike compromises in his Throne Speech to reflect his Liberal government's minority status.

But now, Mr. Harper has dismissed negotiations, apparently seeking to underline Mr. Dion's discomfort.

Liberal MPs are now openly offering a menu of ways to register objections to Mr. Harper's Throne Speech without defeating his government.

Montreal Liberal MP Marlene Jennings, for example, noted in a CBC Newsworld interview that when Mr. Martin had a minority government, Mr. Harper's Conservatives abstained on a Throne Speech to avoid an election.

She suggested that this time, Mr. Dion and the front-bench Liberals could vote against the Throne Speech, while other MPs do not attend the Commons vote.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM: government; political; throne speech

PERSONAL NAME: Stephen Harper; Stephane Dion

ORGANIZATION NAME: Conservative Party of Canada; Liberal Party

ELECTION SCENARIOS

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072840040

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A21

BYLINE:

SECTION: International News

SOURCE: REUT

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 552

WORD COUNT: 584

Reuters These are the main scenarios of what could happen after the Polish election, based on comments from politicians and analysts.

Law and Justice wins outright Boosted by the fastest economic growth in a decade and a skillful campaign, Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski's Law and Justice Party (PiS) may win enough votes to capture a narrow majority in parliament.

This would solidify the grip on power by Mr. Kaczynski and his twin brother Lech, the President. A strong voter mandate would enable the brothers to pursue their fight against what they say is a network of business and professional elites who have unduly benefited from 18 years of post-Communist transformation.

They would likely maintain their mildly Euroskeptic line, opposing fast introduction of the euro and seeing the United States as Poland's main partner. Under their government, Poland would most likely keep troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and agree to host the U.S. missile shield.

Critics say the brothers could also weaken Poland's democracy, citing earlier attempts to limit the independence of the judiciary and their tight control of the state media.

Law and Justice places first but without a majority The Kaczynskis will have to pay a heavy price in posts and policy concessions if they are forced into a coalition, because they have alienated most potential partners with their all-or-nothing style.

Their favoured choice is the pro-business Civic Platform (PO), like PiS a descendant of the anti-Communist Solidarity movement. The two parties were supposed to form a government after the 2005 vote but their leaders could not agree on a program and posts.

The acrimony between them has grown since, but some analysts believe they may yet bury the hatchet. This would require Jaroslaw Kaczynski to give up the post of Prime Minister to make room for a compromise candidate. Such a coalition would have a two-thirds majority in parliament, enabling it to change the constitution. A PiS-PO government could move faster toward adopting the euro and repairing strained relations with EU partner Germany.

Alternative coalition A very narrow Law and Justice victory or a victory for the PO could mean current opposition parties would form their own majority coalition. Led by the PO, it could also include the Left and Democrats (LiD), the No. 3 grouping, and the small Peasant Party, already allied to the PO. Surveys show

most Poles back such a coalition, which would turn Poland back toward the EU mainstream and speed up preparations for adopting the euro.

Party insiders say such a coalition would be more likely if the parties win three-fifths of parliament's 460 seats because that would allow them to override presidential vetoes to bills passed by parliament. Lech Kaczynski has already threatened to use his veto ability if his brother loses office, although party officials have played down the threat in recent weeks. The PO could also form a government on its own if it secures an outright majority, but that would force it into a difficult cohabitation with the President.

Minority government The high level of acrimony between Polish parties may yet force the winner, either the PO or PiS, to operate as a minority government, which would most likely mean policy drift and a snap election in early 2008.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Poland

SUBJECT TERM: government; elections; political candidates

IN BRIEF Marines seek to swap role in Iraq for an Afghan one

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072840004

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A24

BYLINE:

SECTION: International News

SOURCE: NYT

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Washington DC

WORDS: 89

WORD COUNT: 96

NYT Washington The Marine Corps is pressing to remove its 25,000 troops from Iraq and to send marines instead to Afghanistan to take over the leading role in combat there, according to senior military and Pentagon officials.

The idea by the Marine Corps commandant would effectively leave the Iraq war in the hands of the army while giving the marines a prominent new role in Afghanistan, under overall NATO command.

At the moment, there are no major marine units among the 26,000 or so U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: United States; Afghanistan; Iraq

SUBJECT TERM: defence; strife; foreign policy

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces; Marine Corps

Mission to Kandahar; The Canadian mission in Afghanistan represents the largest combat campaign our military has waged since the Korean War. A new book explains how it came to be

IDNUMBER 200710110169

PUBLICATION: National Post

DATE: 2007.10.11

EDITION: National

SECTION: Issues & Ideas

PAGE: A27

ILLUSTRATION: Black & White Photo: / (See hardcopy for Photo Description); Black & White Photo: Master Corporal Brian Walsh, Dnd / John McCallum greets members of the Royal Canadian Regiment Battalion Group in Kabul in November, 2003. ;

BYLINE: Janice Gross Stein and eugene Lang

SOURCE: National Post

WORD COUNT: 1052

During John Mc-Callum's first few weeks in his new job as defence minister, he heard hardly anything from his military advisers about Afghanistan. Department of National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) officials were preoccupied with getting their new minister up to speed on what they regarded as more pressing priorities: the perennial need for more money for the military; the need to get moving on the acquisition of a new maritime helicopter; the need to acquire large transport aircraft, Boeing C-17 Globemasters; and the need for Canada to agree to participate in the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defence system.

The Canadian Forces were making plans to withdraw from Kandahar when McCallum was appointed in May, 2002. It wasn't until June 28, fully one month after Mc-Callum had taken over from Art Eggleton, that he got his first substantive briefing on the situation in Afghanistan. Ray Henault, the chief of the defence staff, told his minister that the Canadian navy would continue its interdiction function in the Indian Ocean and North Arabian Sea, but its role would diminish over the coming months. And the air force was scheduled to cease its surveillance operations in the fall.

The minister was then forewarned that, in six-to-eight weeks time, Canada would get a formal request -- a so-called diplomatic note, or "dipnote," from the U.S. State Department to the Canadian Foreign Ministry -- asking for a renewed troop presence in Afghanistan. Canada's military leadership was suggesting a positive response to the American request; Ottawa could send another battle group to Kandahar early in 2003. The long-standing desire for an operational pause to regenerate the troops had mysteriously dissipated.

Henault and his deputy, vice-admiral Greg Maddison, made one further point to their minister that day, and they made it forcefully. They argued that under no circumstances should Canada agree to be part of the Kabul-based International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Kabul. The general and the admiral were reading the political tea leaves; they knew that the Europeans might actively solicit Canadian involvement in ISAF. The two senior military leaders likely assumed, based on what they knew of the Chretien government, that ISAF would be an attractive mission for the prime minister, the foreign minister and perhaps the new defence minister.

The military leadership argued that the ISAF mission was too dangerous, with no obvious end point or way to measure success. It would become a quagmire for the Canadian Forces. The objectives of the mission, they argued, were unclear. The rules of engagement were vague, making it difficult for the Canadian Forces to defend themselves. And, most important, they argued that Canada's military forces would be unable to extricate themselves from Kabul because no country would be willing to replace them in the losing proposition that was ISAF.

The Canadian Forces have always preferred working with the Americans. They also are often quite dismissive of some European militaries —particularly the Germans (who were leading ISAF at this time), the French and the Italians.

"They [the military leadership] were very cozy with the Americans and liked the idea of us being in combat, rather than peacekeeping," McCallum later recollected. "ISAF wasn't exactly peacekeeping but it was more the traditional peacekeeping model rather than combat. There was also always this thing about interoperability with the Americans. They generally looked closely to their American peers. Those were the people they wanted to impress. They felt more comfortable with the Americans."

The advice, in a nutshell, was to go back to Kandahar with the Americans, and stay well clear of Kabul and the Europeans.

In the normal course of events, a recommendation from the military to redeploy 800 ground troops to Afghanistan within a few months would have been the first item a new minister was briefed on upon assuming office. It would have been brought to his attention on his first day in office, not after a month. Why did that not happen in this instance? Since 9/11, the military leadership had consistently advised Canadian politicians to limit a ground-force contribution to Afghanistan to six months and then to withdraw so as to regenerate the troops. Why did these same people suddenly do a 180-degree turn in the face of this impending request from Washington?

In all likelihood, neither NDHQ nor the Foreign Ministry expected a request from the Americans to renew Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan when McCallum became minister of defence. If they had, it would have been a top item in the new minister's transition material from his officials. The only plausible explanation is that NDHQ heard about the impending request from somewhere in the Pentagon, through their networks, in late June, before anyone else in Ottawa. Few in Ottawa had seen this one on the horizon.

After this sobering briefing, McCallum, who had been given some difficult tasks to pursue in the first month of his new job, and who was already working on a strategy to secure more funding for the Canadian Forces in the upcoming budget, was now being asked to sell the prime minister on a further deployment of ground forces to Kandahar in a few months time. The *raison d'être* for the deployment was to support Washington. The operational challenges of Kandahar were not discussed.

At this point, the new defence minister had no idea what challenges Afghanistan would pose. He had not yet been there, and he'd had very little discussion with his officials on the subject. Nor had he held a single substantive conversation on the subject with either the foreign minister or the prime minister.

John McCallum now had a lot more to think about. And he decided fairly quickly that he had better go to Afghanistan that summer. — Excerpted with permission from *The Unexpected War*, by Janice Gross Stein and Eugene Lang. ©Janice Gross Stein and Eugene Lang, 2007. Reprinted with permission of Penguin Group (Canada).

KEYWORDS: STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE; FOREIGN RELATIONS; FOREIGN POLICY;
CANADA; UNITED STATES

Genocide Motion Harmful: Bush; Armenian Slaughter; Relations with Turkey in jeopardy, Congress warned

IDNUMBER 200710110144
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: National
SECTION: World
PAGE: A22
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 425

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush warned U.S. lawmakers yesterday they risked causing "great harm" to America's relationship with Turkey if Congress passes a resolution declaring the 1915 slaughter of Armenians a genocide.

Mr. Bush's appeal came just hours before a congressional committee gave preliminary approval to the motion, setting up a potential vote before the full House of Representatives.

As House members agonized over the resolution, the President and two senior members of his Cabinet pushed hard for its rejection. They warned final passage of the resolution could prompt Turkey to retaliate by restricting access to a key air force base used by the U.S. to supply American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We all deeply regret the tragic suffering of the Armenian people that began in 1915. But this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings," Mr. Bush told reporters at the White House. "Its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror."

At issue is a symbolic resolution calling on Mr. Bush to label as genocide the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

As defined by the United Nations, genocide includes killings and other actions "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."

Turkey denies the Armenian deaths were genocide, maintaining that many Muslim Turks also died in ethnic violence associated with the First World War.

The Armenian resolution has 225 co-sponsors in the U.S. House, enough for it to pass if Democrats allow it to the floor for a vote.

A senior aide to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that American troops in Iraq would be put in danger if the Armenian resolution passes.

"If our ally accuses us of crimes that we did not commit, then we will start to question the advantages of our cooperation," Egemen Bagis told CNN Turk television.

Of particular concern to the United States is maintaining access to Turkey's Incirlik air base, a key transfer point for 70% of American military supplies into Iraq.

"Access to airfields and to the roads ... would very much be put at risk if this resolution passes and Turkey reacts as strongly as we believe they will," said Robert Gates, the U.S. Defence Secretary.

Condoleezza Rice, the Secretary of State, said the measure would be "very problematic for everything we are trying to do" in the Middle East.

Potentially more worrisome for the United States is the impact passage of the resolution would have on potential Turkish military raids against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

The Turkish parliament may vote as early as today on a motion giving Mr. Erdogan authority to attack Kurdish rebels inside Iraq. The plan, adamantly opposed by Washington, has broad public support in Turkey.

KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

Security worries, reprisal fears threaten Afghan food aid; Agencies, convoys under increased attack

IDNUMBER 200710110143
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: National
SECTION: World
PAGE: A22
BYLINE: Peter Goodspeed
SOURCE: National Post
WORD COUNT: 453

The security situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating markedly, making it harder to deliver food shipments around the country and causing some Afghans to refuse food aid for fear of Taliban reprisals, says the head of the World Food Program's operations in Afghanistan.

Rick Corsino, an American with a master's degree in development economics from the University of Toronto, says the number of attacks targeting international aid agencies and food convoys is up and it has become difficult to operate in large sections of the country.

Roughly one third of the country is out of bounds because of armed attacks by insurgents or common criminals, he says.

"From our perspective, we have a very straightforward and rather simplistic mandate compared to some of the other agencies," he says.

"We simply get food to people that need food.

"But there is certainly a growing insecurity in the country that is impeding our operations and impeding the ability of our staff to move around. If we look back to the beginning of 2006, we see an erosion of security in great parts of the country."

Areas of southern Afghanistan, like Kandahar, where Canada has 2,500 soldiers in a NATO-led force, have remained little changed over the last year, Mr. Corsino says, while southeastern areas of the country, closer to Kabul, have witnessed a significant deterioration in security.

The World Food Program expects to deliver 225,000 tonnes of food in Afghanistan this year, feeding 3.5 million people. But those deliveries have become more dangerous as attacks by criminals and insurgents opposed to foreign intervention in Afghanistan have increased.

WFP convoys carry shipments of wheat, beans, fortified biscuits and cooking oil to

all 34 provinces in Afghanistan. But threats to UN staff have become so severe that the World Food Program frequently has to hire local drivers to make the deliveries through second or third parties.

"I've worked in probably 20 different countries in one form or another and I've never seen anything like this," Mr. Corsino says. "It's a threat to our staff, to our assets, our food."

"For the very first time anywhere, I've seen beneficiaries who are refusing to accept food because they believe that being found with it will put them at risk," he adds, explaining that Taliban insurgents might punish any recipients of foreign aid.

"Simply having food with the markings of donors makes them feel they can't take it," he says.

Still, the World Food Program is making headway in at least 24 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces and is having particular success with programs that encourage families to work on public works projects such as roads and irrigation ditches in exchange for badly needed food rations.

Another scheme provides 1.4 million Afghan school children with fortified biscuits each day they attend school, while others encourage families to send their daughters to school by giving female students a one-litre can of cooking oil to take home at the end of each month they spend in class.

pgoodspeed@nationalpost.com

KEYWORDS: FOREIGN AID; FOOD SUPPLY; FOOD BANKS; AFGHANISTAN

A long but just war; Viewpoint: The Sydney Morning Herald (Australia):

IDNUMBER 200710110060
PUBLICATION: The Hamilton Spectator
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: A18
SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 532

The death of Trooper David Pearce in Afghanistan is a sobering reminder that some Australians are laying their lives on the line in a battle that, back home, has become morphed into political point-scoring. Perhaps that's because Australia's military commitment to the "war on terrorism" has so far been relatively free of fatalities: One special forces trooper killed in Afghanistan by a land mine that may have been laid recently or decades ago, and another soldier in a weapons accident in Iraq.

By contrast, allied nations have been paying heavily. Americans have lost more than 3,800 soldiers in Iraq and 448 in Afghanistan; the British more than 150 in their Basra zone of Iraq and 81 in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, the other medium powers have also paid their price -- notably the Canadians have lost 71 soldiers, the Germans 25, the Spanish 23, the French 12 and the Dutch, 11 of their soldiers.

The time when Australia can let others do the heavy lifting is up. The Canadians and the Dutch think they've done their share, and want others to replace their forces. A Dutch pullout will probably require Australia to commit a couple of thousand fighting troops and attack helicopters in their place. The British seem likely to set an example, matching the announced 3,000 reduction of forces in Iraq with a similar-sized deployment to Afghanistan next northern spring. Even Australia's provincial reconstruction role has become a deadly business as the Taliban try to destroy this bid to build a free, normal society.

To a large extent, this is the true battleground against jihadist terrorism. The Taliban would, if they could, reimpose their obscurantist tyranny on the Afghans; their domain in the country's south and in Pakistan's tribal areas remains a haven and training ground for global terrorism. This is not a fight we can abandon.

But it is one, all the experts tell us, that requires a commitment for years to come, perhaps decades. Do we and our leaders have the ticker? As the Australian public, and our armed forces, contemplate this prospect, we could do with some assurance the war is being fought in the right way. Our political leaders and defence chiefs need to brief us about this war.

What is the optimal level of forces, and how can the burden be shared among free-world countries? Why are there still two Western armies fighting the Taliban and al-Qaeda in the same theatre, the 41,000 soldiers in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force and the 11,000 Americans under separate command?

Is there too much reliance on air strikes, which cause many civilian deaths? Is enough effort being put into building up Afghanistan's own army, enough support being given the Kabul government? ... An inquiry would

still be a useful exercise.

None of this is much comfort to the widow and two children of Trooper Pearce, or the apprehensive families of the other Australians in the field. But they have the deep appreciation of this country for their sacrifice and risk, and the knowledge that this campaign, at least, is a well-motivated one.

EDITORIAL – The fog of war polls

PUBLICATION: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

DATE: 2007.10.11

PAGE: A12

SECTION: Editorial Leaders

WORD COUNT: 577

Editorial Staff Two high-ranking federal politicians, one Conservative and one Liberal, were in Afghanistan in the last week, ostensibly to find out what's going on in Canada's part of the war zone there.

They went for very different reasons, except, of course, that they each hoped to advance the political position of their party as it relates to the Afghan war. Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier went to show the flag and support the troops, as well as to reinforce the Conservative government's position that it will, if it must -- and if it can, given its minority status -- extend the Canadian military mission beyond its February 2009 deadline. That's a message that a lot of Canadians apparently don't want to hear, at least according to the polls, but it is a message that soldiers clearly do. With more than 70 of their comrades killed and dozens more injured, they seem not to want to walk away from a good job that is still only half done.

On an overlapping visit that was hyped as overcoming almost insurmountable odds thrown in his way by the Conservative military establishment, Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre finally arrived in Kandahar to visit the same places, and talk to the same people as Mr. Bernier.

Mr. Coderre advanced the political position of his party on the Afghan war, but had quite a different message for Canadians at home and Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. Whereas Mr. Bernier went to Kandahar to wave the flag, Mr. Coderre went to lower it. In effect, he offered the Liberal party's promise to forsake the region regardless of the situation by February 2009. Standing on the front lines with troops from the Royal 22nd Regiment, the famed Van Doos from his native province of Quebec, he told the terrorists, we'll be gone soon.

If there was ever a party driven by the political polls, it is the Dion Liberals on Afghanistan. Which is a curious thing. It would seem to make political sense; Canadians are deeply divided about the war and the country's combat role there, and nowhere more so than in Quebec, Mr. Dion's home province. Yet no matter how high the Liberals ratchet up their opposition -- and it is hard to ratchet it up any higher than Mr. Coderre's announcement on arriving on his self-proclaimed "fact-finding" tour of Afghanistan that no fact he found there would change his or his party's policy -- they get no support for it in the polls.

Only the Liberals can end our war in Afghanistan by defeating Stephen Harper's Conservative government. The Bloc Quebecois and the NDP have already abandoned the Afghan people. But if Afghanistan is genuinely an election issue, rather than just a media talking point, why aren't the polls going the other way for Liberals? Liberals are drooping in English Canada and plummeting in Quebec, running nose to nose with the NDP. The Conservatives are holding steady, creeping up in English Canada, but steadily growing stronger in Quebec. Mr. Dion, his head firmly stuck in his famously academic cloud, may have misread the concerns of Quebec even as he does a disservice to the Canadian war effort.

Bush against calling slaughter genocide

IDNUMBER 200710110129
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: D6
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Condoleezza Rice;
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 448

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush warned U.S. lawmakers Wednesday they risk causing "great harm" to America's relationship with Turkey if Congress passes a resolution declaring the 1915 slaughter of Armenians "genocide."

Bush's appeal came just hours before a congressional committee gave preliminary approval to the motion, setting up a potential vote before the full House of Representatives.

As House members agonized over the resolution, the president and two senior members of his cabinet pushed hard for its rejection. They warned final passage of the resolution could prompt Turkey to retaliate by restricting access to a key air force base used by the U.S. to supply American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We all deeply regret the tragic suffering of the Armenian people that began in 1915. But this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings," Bush told reporters. "Its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror."

At issue is a symbolic resolution calling on Bush to label as "genocide" the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

As defined by the United Nations, genocide includes killings and other actions "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."

Turkey denies the Armenian deaths were genocide, maintaining that many Muslim Turks also died in ethnic violence associated with the First World War.

The Armenian resolution has 225 co-sponsors in the U.S. House, enough for it to pass if Democrats allow it to the floor for a vote.

A senior aide to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that American troops in Iraq would be put in danger if the Armenian resolution passes.

"If our ally accuses us of crimes that we did not commit, then we will start to question the advantages of our co-operation," Egemen Bagis told CNN Turk television.

Of particular concern to the U.S. is maintaining access to Turkey's Incirlik air base, a key transfer point for 70 per cent of American military supplies into Iraq.

"Access to air fields and to the roads ... would very much be put at risk if this resolution passes and Turkey reacts as strongly as we believe they will," said U.S. defence secretary Robert Gates.

Eight former U.S. secretaries of states issued an open letter to Congress urging lawmakers to defeat the Armenian resolution.

Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, said the measure would be "very problematic for everything we are trying to do" in the Middle East.

Potentially more worrisome for the U.S. is the impact the resolution would have on potential Turkish military raids against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

The Turkish parliament may vote as early as today on a motion giving Erdogan authority to attack Kurdish rebels inside Iraq.

The plan, adamantly opposed by Washington, has broad public support in Turkey. It's feared a U.S. declaration on Armenian genocide would make it more difficult for the Bush administration to persuade Turkey to stay out of Iraq.

World Report

IDNUMBER 200710110063
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: B2
COLUMN: World Report
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Princess Diana; Colour Photo: Rudolf Blechschmidt ; Colour Photo: Ismail Haniyeh ;
SOURCE: Compiled from Star News Services
WORD COUNT: 1247

SOUTH AMERICA

TWIN ACCIDENTS IN SOUTH BRAZIL KILL AT LEAST 26

SAO PAULO – At least 26 people were killed in two road accidents in southern Brazil, where a truck ran over rescue workers tending to victims of a collision between a bus and a truck.

As many as 100 people were injured in the accidents near the town of Descanso in Santa Catarina state on Tuesday night, police said on Wednesday.

In the first crash, a bus with 40 passengers collided head-on with a truck and fell into a ravine by the highway, killing seven people.

Police and rescue workers blocked off the highway and a long line of vehicles formed in each direction. About an hour and a half later, a truck sped past the roadblock and ran over some of the rescuers and onlookers.

At least three firefighters, one police officer and a TV cameraman were killed.

"We suspect a failure in the truck's braking system," said Adriano Siamoncini, a spokesman for the Santa Catarina state Highway Police.

EUROPE

PAPARAZZI DID NOT TRY TO HELP DIANA CRASH VICTIMS

LONDON – One of the first people to arrive at the scene of the car crash which killed Princess Diana has told an inquest jury that paparazzi were already taking pictures of the wrecked Mercedes but were making no attempt to help the victims inside.

Antonio Lopes-Borges had been overtaken by the speeding Mercedes moments before it crashed in the Alma underpass in Paris in August 1997. He pulled up his car at the entrance to the tunnel when he realized there had been an accident.

"There was already one photographer," Lopes-Borges told the inquest into Princess Diana's death. "He was taking pictures. It seems to me another photographer arrived. The same as the other, he took pictures and after taking pictures, I don't remember if it was the first or the second one, but he took his cellphone and called somebody."

Edmund Lawson, lawyer for the Metropolitan Police, asked the witness: "Did either of the photographers do anything to help the people in the crashed car?"

Lopes-Borges replied: "No."

BRITISH AUTHOR IN ROW OVER CALL FOR MUSLIMS TO 'SUFFER'

LONDON – Top British author Martin Amis is embroiled in a growing literary row after calling for Muslims to "suffer" to make them steer their children away from Islamist militancy.

The comments -- including a suggestion that people who "look like they're from the Middle East" should be strip-searched -- have drawn fire from renowned Marxist literary critic Terry Eagleton.

"The idea was that by hounding and humiliating them as a whole, they would return home and teach their children to be obedient to the White Man's law," Eagleton wrote in *The Guardian* Wednesday.

"There seems something mildly defective about this logic," he added ironically, calling Amis' view "vile" and obnoxious.

The disputed remarks were made last September, on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, when Amis argued in an essay that extremists had won the battle between Islam and Islamism.

"The Muslim community will have to suffer until it gets its house in order," he wrote.

POLICE STORM CONVENT THAT REBELLED AGAINST VATICAN

WARSAW – A rebellion that pitted an order of Polish nuns against the might of the Vatican ended Wednesday after police forced their way into their convent, evicting 64 people and arresting two.

With a battery of television cameras rolling, about 150 officers, many in full riot gear, moved against the Sisters of Bethany after they refused to comply with a court order ordering them to leave their convent in the small town of Kazimierz Dolny, southeast of Warsaw.

The eviction ended a revolt dating back to 2005 when the Vatican sacked the then mother superior, Jadwiga Ligocka, after she claimed she had had "private inspiration by the Holy Spirit." Attempts to replace her triggered the confrontation.

ITALIAN 'GREAT WAR' VETERAN DIES AT 109

DRAGUIGNAN, France – An Italian veteran of the First World War, Justin Tuveri, who moved to France to escape the rise of fascism, has died at the age of 109, his family announced Wednesday.

Born in Sardinia, Tuveri joined the Italian army in 1917 and took part in the Battle of the Three Mountains in Asiago, northeastern Italy against Austrian-Hungarian forces.

Wounded in the left leg, Tuveri spent six months in the hospital before he rejoined his platoon. Tuveri was

decorated with Italy's War Cross and the medal of the Order of the Knights of Vittorio Veneto in 2001 for his service during World War I.

Tuveri left Italy in 1920 with the start of the rise of fascist leader Benito Mussolini and became a French citizen 20 years later.

RUSSIA

ELEPHANT KILLS HANDLER IN RUSSIAN ZOO

MOSCOW – A nervous elephant at a Russian zoo killed its handler on Wednesday with a single blow of its trunk after lashing out while being moved onto a truck.

Elephant handlers at Moscow city zoo had been trying to load three African elephants onto a specially designed truck to transfer them to a zoo in Spain when the elephant killed the 40-year-old woman.

Moscow zoo had wanted to move the elephants because the city centre zoo was too cramped.

SPY CHIEF ACCUSES U.K. OF PLOTTING TO DESTROY RUSSIA

MOSCOW – Vladimir Putin's spy chief accused MI6 Wednesday of hatching a plot to "dismember" Russia. Nikolai Patrushev's vehement tirade raised fears that the Kremlin could expel more British diplomats in a populist move ahead of elections in the coming months.

Patrushev, who heads the FSB, the KGB's main successor agency, said he had evidence that MI6 and its Western counterparts were actively plotting Russia's downfall.

"They have claimed credit for the collapse of the Soviet Union and they are now hatching plans aimed at dismembering Russia," he told Argumenty I Fakty, a weekly journal.

ASIA

TALIBAN FREE GERMAN HOSTAGE IN AFGHANISTAN

KABUL – Taliban rebels freed a German hostage in Afghanistan on Wednesday after more than two months in captivity, Germany's foreign minister said.

"The German citizen ... who was kidnapped in Afghanistan is once again free. We are happy and relieved," Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a statement.

The German engineer, Rudolf Blechschmidt, later arrived at the German embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul, an embassy spokeswoman said.

Blechschmidt and five Afghans were seized with another German in Wardak province, just southwest of Kabul, in July.

The local Taliban leader behind the kidnap, Mullah Nizamuddin, handed the German and the five Afghan captives over to government authorities in exchange for the rebel chief's father and three supporters arrested after the incident, the private Afghan Pajhwok news agency said.

DEATH ROW INMATES ESCAPE INDONESIAN PRISON

JAKARTA – Six prisoners including three on death row have escaped from a prison in Indonesia's West Sumatra province, the prison's director said Wednesday.

"Police are now tracking them down," Sudarno, the head of the Muaro state jail in the West Sumatra capital Padang, told Agence France–Presse by telephone.

He said apart from the three death–row convicts, one prisoner had only five years of a 20–year sentence left, while two others were serving 12 and nine months each.

NORTH AMERICA

CIA ACCUSED OF USING 'INSECT SPIES'

NEW YORK – The United States has been accused of secretly developing robotic insect spies amid reports of bizarre objects hovering in the air above anti–war protests.

No government agency has admitted to developing insect–size spy drones but various official and private organizations have admitted that they are trying.

Vanessa Alarcon, a university student who was working at an anti–war rally in the American capital last month, told the Washington Post that she witnessed what looked like dragonflies or little helicopters.

MIDEAST

HAMAS SEEKS FATAH TALKS, HINTS AT GIVING UP GAZA

GAZA – Hamas said on Wednesday it would hold reconciliation talks with the Fatah faction of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and hinted it might be ready to cede control of the Gaza Strip, which it seized in June.

Abbas, who is pursuing a peace deal with Israel, has ruled out dialogue with Islamist Hamas unless it submits anew to his authority and gives up Gaza. Israel and the West want Hamas shunned until it accepts coexistence with the Jewish state.

"There is a serious movement in the realm of Palestinian dialogue and we have agreed to hold a dialogue with Fatah in one of the Arab capitals," said Ismail Haniyeh, who was Hamas prime minister in the former government that Abbas declared void.

He said the talks would be held after Eid al–Fitr, the Muslim festival that ends the holy month of Ramadan and falls on Friday or Saturday.

PRESIDENT MISQUOTED OVER GAYS IN IRAN, AIDE SAYS

TEHRAN – Iran's president was misrepresented by Western media when he was quoted saying there were no gays in Iran, and actually meant there were not so many as in the United States, a presidential aide said Wednesday.

Addressing New York's Columbia University last month, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad replied to a question about gays in the Islamic Republic saying: "In Iran we don't have homosexuals like in your country."

Artists hold annual show and sale

IDNUMBER 200710110162
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: West Island
PAGE: F2
COLUMN: Fast Track
KEYWORDS: ARTS; ART GALLERIES
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 170

The Hudson Artists' Association will hold its annual art show and sale from Oct. 19 to 21. Works on display will run from traditional to contemporary styles done in everything from oil to mixed media. Lorraine Patterson, who has been painting since the '60s has donated one of her watercolour paintings to be raffled with proceeds going to NOVA, a nonprofit healthcare organization that offers a variety of services and programs to the West Island. As well, money raised with coffee and treats on sale will go to NOVA. The event's invited guest artist is Cheryl Braganza, who has donated 12 of her paintings to the Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan to create a calendar being sold to raise money to help educate Afghan women. The show and sale take place at the Stephen Shaar Community Centre, 394 Main Rd., Hudson. Call 450-451-6206.

Genocide bill risks harm, Bush says; Turkey is an ally; Legislation has enough votes to pass

IDNUMBER 200710110057
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A16
KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service; Reuters contributed to this report
WORD COUNT: 306

President George W. Bush warned U.S. lawmakers yesterday they risk causing "great harm" to the United States' relationship with Turkey if Congress passes a resolution declaring the 1915 slaughter of Armenians genocide.

Bush's appeal came just hours before a congressional committee gave preliminary approval to the motion, 26–21, setting up a potential vote before the full House of Representatives.

As House members agonized over the resolution, the president and two senior members of his cabinet pushed hard for its rejection. They warned final passage of the resolution could prompt Turkey to retaliate by restricting access to a key air force base used by the United States to supply U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We all deeply regret the tragic suffering of the Armenian people that began in 1915. But this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings," Bush told reporters. "Its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror."

After the vote in the foreign affairs committee, the White House urged Ankara not to take any "concrete" action.

"Unfortunately, some politicians in the United States of America have closed their ears to calls to be reasonable and once again sought to sacrifice big problems for small domestic political games," Turkish President Abdullah Gul was quoted as saying by the state news agency Anatolian.

At issue is a symbolic resolution calling on Bush to label as "genocide" the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

As defined by the United Nations, genocide includes killings and other actions "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."

Turkey denies the Armenian deaths were genocide, maintaining many Muslim Turks also died in ethnic violence associated with the First World War.

The resolution has 225 co-sponsors in the U.S. House, enough for it to pass if Democrats allow a floor vote.

5 Minute Herald; Breaking news at calgaryherald.com

IDNUMBER 200710110077

PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald

DATE: 2007.10.11

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: B12

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Fallen soldier's name added to Wall of Honour; Colour Photo: Tax increase for hockey arena doesn't sit well ; Colour Photo: Ron Stevens ; Colour Photo: Georgia alligator kills 83-year-old Canadian ; Colour Photo: Nikolai Patrushev ; Colour Photo: Chris Jackson, Getty Images / Picture of the Day: Shaolin Monks perform during a photocall for their new show, Kung-Fu Masters Live, at the Peacock Theatre on Wednesday in London, England. ; Colour Photo: New 'hand grenade' lobbed at oil review ; Colour Photo: Akili Smith ; Colour Photo: Jarome Iginla ; Colour Photo: Christine Thomas ; Photo: (See hard copy for description). ; Colour Photo: Charlize Theron ; Colour Photo: David Merlini ;

KEYWORDS: 0

BYLINE: Compiled by Meg de Jong

SOURCE: Calgary Herald

WORD COUNT: 884

Top Stories

Muslim Community Plans Suburb Around Mosque

Calgary's Ahmadiyya Muslim community is planning a residential subdivision centred around a new mosque to be built near Calgary's northern outskirts.

Page A1

Fallen Soldier's Name Added to Wall of Honour

On Wednesday, the name of Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a 24-year-old Calgary reservist felled by mortar fragments in Afghanistan, was engraved into the 181-name Wall of Honour, which commemorates fallen Canadian peacekeepers.

Page A1

Tax Increase for Hockey Arena Doesn't Sit Well

Most candidates hoping to have a seat on council after Monday's election say they wouldn't use city money to fund a new Saddledome, a survey has found.

Page A1

News Sections -- A and B

City & Region

Law Enforcement Solutions on the Way

Solutions are on the way for law enforcement agencies frustrated by the "catch and release" of violent or chronic criminals granted bail, Alberta Justice Minister Ron Stevens said Wednesday.

Page B1

SAIT Residence Delayed

Students hoping to take up residence in SAIT's new dormitory will now have to wait until at least the last week of December to move in, after prolonged trade worker shortages have once again pushed back the anticipated opening date.

Page B1

Canada

Former NHL Player Convicted

An Ontario Superior Court jury has convicted former NHL player Rob Ramage of impaired driving causing death in the December 2003 fatal crash that claimed the life of former Chicago Blackhawks defenceman Keith Magnuson.

Page A5

World

Teenage Gunman Wounds Four in Ohio High School

A 14-year-old gunman opened fire at an Ohio high school Wednesday, wounding at least four people before killing himself in the latest school shooting to rock the United States.

Page A6

Georgia Alligator Kills 83-Year-Old Canadian

In what U.S. wildlife officials are calling an "unprecedented" tragedy for the state of Georgia, an elderly Canadian woman house-sitting for relatives in an affluent community along the Atlantic coast has been killed in an alligator attack.

Page A5

Britain Accused of Plotting to Ruin Russia

Nikolai Patrushev, Russia's intelligence chief, accused Britain on Wednesday of plotting against the Kremlin to undermine the country's leadership.

Page A12

Traffic

– Right lane closure: On eastbound Airport Trail west of 19th Street N.E. until 6 p.m. Saturday.

- Right lane closure: On southbound 4th Street, south of 17th Avenue S.W. until 11 a.m. Saturday.
- Lane closure: On westbound Crowchild Trail west of Crowfoot Rise N.W. Right lane closed, speed restrictions in force until Sunday.
- Road closure: On 42nd Street between Bow Trail and Windermere Road S.W. Road closed to traffic until Oct. 31.
- Lane closed: On 12th Avenue between 3rd Street and Olympic Way S.E. until Oct. 31.

Commuter Weather

6 A.M. Off to Work: Variably cloudy.

Temperature: 4 C

12 Noon Lunch: Mainly sunny. Winds light.

Temperature: 11 C

5 P.M. Heading Home: Variably cloudy.

Temperature: 11 C

Overnight: Variably cloudy in the evening, becoming clear. Low: -1 C

Friday: Mainly sunny. High: 12 C Low: -1 C

Wednesday: High: 11.6 C Low: 0.6 C

Online Extras

News: Judge says Charkaoui must keep wearing monitoring device.

News: Alleged gangster caught with \$100,000 and a submachine-gun say police.

Sports: Hurricanes ready to blow away competition once again.

Quote of the Day

"We estimated it would be good for at least 30 years, but then Afghanistan came along."

Donald Ethell, liaison officer to Veterans Affairs Canada, explaining the dire need for a second Wall of Honour. See story, Page A4.

Calgary Business -- E1

Markets

– TSX Composite 14 14276.19

– Dow Jones 85.84 14078.69

– Nasdaq 7.7 2811.61

– TSX Venture 27.04 2889.24

New 'Hand Grenade' Lobbed at Oil Review

Nearly 20,000 oilpatch jobs could be lost if Alberta pushes ahead with proposed increases in royalty rates, according to a report released Wednesday that attempts to quantify some of the economic fallout from the changes.

Page E1

Small Business Award Winners Named

Executive Mat Service and TAG Recruitment Group have been named the winners of the 2007 Small Business Week Awards, the Calgary Chamber of Commerce announced Wednesday.

Page E1

Editorial — A16

Albertans Say Save the Land

Nowhere in Canada is there such rapid and intense economic development as is occurring in Alberta. With more people using the land, there will naturally be more conflicts among users; conflicts that, if managed properly through good planning, can be mitigated, if not altogether avoided.

Page A16

Letter of the Day

"If you cannot draw a breath without setting off a coughing attack, if you must sneeze and blow every few moments, then on behalf of your fellow (theatre) audience members, the staff and the performers, I beg you stay home and take care of yourself. "

Hal Kerbes, Page A17

Sports — F1

Stampeders Sack Smith

The Calgary Stampeders officially announced Akili Smith's release Wednesday, following two terrible starts over the past two weeks. "Some can adapt and some can't," Stamps head coach Tom Higgins said Wednesday.

Page F6

Iginla Buys a Piece of NHL

The Western Hockey League board of governors on Wednesday officially approved the sale of the Kamloops Blazers to River City Hockey Inc. for a reported \$7 million, which means the club now belongs to Jarome Iginla and fellow NHLers and Blazers alums Mark Recchi, Shane Doan and Darryl Sydor, amongst others.

Page F1

Real Life --- D1

Debilitating Osteoporosis Can Sneak Up on Anyone

Christine Thomas, chair of the Ottawa chapter of Osteoporosis Canada and survivor of the disease herself, cautions that osteoporosis is "not just an old woman's disease."

Page D1

Poor Posture Can Lead to Headaches

Headaches have many causes, but most people don't know that cervicogenic headaches, or headaches that originate in the neck, are now both the most common and the most easily treated, according to experts.

Page D4

Sudoku

World's Hottest Puzzle Craze

How to Play:

Complete this grid by placing the digits 1 to 9 exactly once, and only once, in each horizontal row and in each column. Also, each digit should only appear once in every 3x3 shaded or white mini-grid in the puzzle. Sudoku appears on the 5 Minute Herald page Monday to Friday and on the Saturday and Sunday puzzle pages.

Entertainment --- C1

Charlize Theron Crowned Sexiest Woman by Esquire

Charlize Theron seems to have it all: beauty, brains, a high-earning Hollywood career and an Oscar in her hands. Now, the actress has added another coveted description: Esquire magazine's Sexiest Woman Alive.

Page C1

Tonight's TV Picks:

– 30 Rock: 9:30 p.m. on NBC (Ch. 16).

It's An Odd World

Escape Artist Breaks World Record for Holding Breath

David Merlini, a hungarian escape artist, has broken the world record for the longest time under water without air, in Hollywood, Calif., Wednesday. Chained and handcuffed underwater in a glass tank, Merlini broke the record with a time of 10 minutes, 17 seconds.

No dishonour in leaving: Dion; Troops should pull out of Afghanistan, says Liberal leader

IDNUMBER 200710110032
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A10
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Stephane Dion;
KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA
DATELINE: EDMONTON
BYLINE: Mike Sadava
SOURCE: Edmonton Journal
WORD COUNT: 247

Canadian troops can pull out of Afghanistan in 2009 with no dishonour and without abandoning the Afghan people, says Liberal Leader Stephane Dion.

The future of the mission is one of the issues that could convince the Liberals to support a non-confidence motion after the new session of Parliament starts Oct. 16 with the speech from the throne.

Recently, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Canada has a moral responsibility to stay in Afghanistan beyond 2009 and not leave the country "cold turkey."

But Dion said the choices are not as simple as those presented by Harper.

"My problem is that the prime minister did not raise the issue of replacement, but the choice of leaving with dishonour or staying alone," Dion told the Edmonton Journal's editorial board during a visit on Wednesday.

It will be time in 2009 for Canada to end its military mission and other NATO allies to step in, he said.

"I think we can't succeed in Afghanistan if NATO is not working," he said.

"It can't be the burden of a few countries if you have a coalition of 27 countries."

Dion said that every month Canada delays its planned withdrawal makes it more difficult for NATO to find a replacement for the mission.

Extending the mission indefinitely also threatens the future of NATO because other members will hesitate to participate in missions if they see that a country accepts a two-year mission and ends up staying forever, he said.

Canada wouldn't leave Afghanistan totally, but would remain to train local troops, police, justice officials and conduct other non-combat missions, he said.

Dion was in Edmonton to meet with local Liberal candidates, attend a town hall meeting and address the Chamber of Commerce — a luncheon speech that managed to attract only 120 people, many of them party

faithful.

Last words to father: 'I love you too, Dad'; fallen soldier's name added to Wall of Honour

IDNUMBER 200710110005
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Early
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
COLUMN: Valerie Fortney
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald / Michael Hornburg touches his son Nathan's name, freshly inscribed on the Wall of Honour at Peacekeepers Park on Wednesday. ; Colour Photo: Herald Archive / Cpl. Nathan Hornburg was killed on Sept. 24. ;
BYLINE: Valerie Fortney
SOURCE: Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 727

The last time Michael Hornburg spoke to his only son, they talked about sports, the weather in Afghanistan and a recent care package sent in the mail.

"Nathan told me about how he could see over the mud wall at the caravans in the distance," he says of that cherished phone call on Sept. 23. "But he didn't talk about the dangers he was facing."

Just before they hung up, Michael told his son he loved him.

"And he said back, 'I love you too, Dad.' "

On Wednesday, Michael Hornburg holds tight to that memory as he stands with a small crowd on a cold, windy afternoon at Peacekeepers Park in the southwest neighbourhood of Garrison Green.

Together with his wife, Linda Loree, daughter Rachel Herbert, friends, family and a handful of military and Veterans Affairs officials, he watches sadly but proudly as Markus Kottmann puts the finishing touches on the latest name to be engraved on the 181-name Wall of Honour, which commemorates fallen Canadian peacekeepers.

The name is Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a 24-year-old Calgary reservist who was one month into a six-month tour when he was killed fighting insurgents in Afghanistan.

Hornburg was felled by mortar fragments after dismounting from the armoured recovery vehicle he was driving to repair a tread that had fallen off the tank.

He was killed on Sept. 24, 2007, a day after that happy phone call he made to his father.

Since getting the horrible news that their son was the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan, the Hornburgs have not spoken out about their son or his mission.

On Wednesday, though, they speak publicly — and candidly.

"We wanted to remain private for a while; we needed time to think about what we wanted to say," explains Hornburg's mother Linda Loree, a handsome woman with a silver bob and a wiry, athletic frame. "We just needed time."

What comes through most strongly, aside from the love, is that both have an abundance of respect and reverence for a son they say strived for excellence in every aspect of his life.

"Nathan was the kind of person who believed you should leave everyplace better than how you found it," says Linda of the son whose childhood pet peeve was people who littered.

"I think that's what he was trying to do over there.

"I stand behind what Nathan was doing," she says of her son, whose funeral on Oct. 4 drew more than 1,000 mourners. "Today is one more way for us to recognize him and hopefully some good will come out of his death."

She acknowledges the "incredible" support of family, friends and the public. "It's taught me how to be a better person," she says, holding her head up bravely.

Still, she understands she'll be consumed with grief for some time.

"There's nothing that would really, really help," she says, her eyes brimming with tears. "Except having Nathan back."

When addressing the small gathering, Michael thanks them all on behalf of Nathan before reading an excerpt from a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow entitled Psalm of Life.

"Lives of great men all remind us

We can make our lives sublime

and, departing, leave behind us

footprints on the sands of time."

Later, Michael shares with this columnist his challenges of the past few weeks.

"The public support we've received has just been fantastic," says the native of St. Louis, Mo., who met his wife, the daughter of southern Alberta ranchers, in 1974 while travelling through Switzerland.

"It's helped us cope with going from being private people to those thrust into the public eye . . . it's been quite a unique experience."

He beams with pride when he talks about his son.

"He had high standards about everything his entire life . . . he believed in the right of women and girls, and young boys in Afghanistan, to be educated . . . he took his role as a citizen and soldier very seriously."

As the soft-spoken father speaks about his hero son, Kottmann sandblasts the finishing touches onto the Wall of Honour.

The engraving for the two other Calgary soldiers whose names he joins — Capt. Nicola Goddard and Pte.

Last words to father: 'I love you too, Dad'; fallen soldier's name added to Wall of Honour

Kevin Dallaire —were completed before their ceremonies. On this day, the engraving and commemoration are being done at the same time, to help kick off a fundraising campaign for a second wall to offset the unexpected increase in casualties because of Canada's involvement in Afghanistan.

Donald Ethell, liaison officer to Veterans Affairs Canada, explains the dire need for a second wall.

"When we built it, we based it on the peacekeeper death rate of the past 55 years," he says, pointing to an almost-full wall. "We estimated it would be good for at least 30 years, but then Afghanistan came along."

The Hornburgs don't mind sharing the limelight on this day with those wanting to highlight the need for another Wall of Honour.

"It's definitely a good opportunity," says Linda with a sad smile and shrug of her shoulders.

But for the parents and their supporters, they're here to remember a young man mature beyond his years who possessed an instinct for protecting both those he loved and those he'd never met.

"I found out later from one of Nathan's friends that he made a point of not talking about what he was seeing over there," says Michael, who derives solace from that last, wonderful father-son conversation.

"He said it was because he didn't want to upset us."

vfortney@theherald.canwest.com

Last words to father: 'I love you too, Dad'; Calgary soldier's name added to wall of honour

IDNUMBER 200710110002
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.10.11
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
COLUMN: Valerie Fortney
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald / Michael Hornburg touches his son Nathan's name, freshly inscribed on the Wall of Honour at Peacekeepers Park on Wednesday. ; Colour Photo: Herald Archive / Cpl. Nathan Hornburg was killed on Sept. 24. ;
BYLINE: Valerie Fortney
SOURCE: Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 734

The last time Michael Hornburg spoke to his only son, they talked about sports, the weather in Afghanistan and a recent care package sent in the mail.

"Nathan told me about how he could see over the mud wall at the caravans in the distance," he says of that cherished phone call on Sept. 23. "But he didn't talk about the dangers he was facing."

Just before they hung up, Michael told his son he loved him.

"And he said back, 'I love you too, Dad.' "

On Wednesday, Michael Hornburg holds tight to that memory as he stands with a small crowd on a cold, windy afternoon at Peacekeepers Park in the southwest neighbourhood of Garrison Green.

Together with his wife, Linda Loree, daughter Rachel Herbert, friends, family and a handful of military and Veterans Affairs officials, he watches sadly but proudly as Markus Kottmann puts the finishing touches on the latest name to be engraved on the 181-name Wall of Honour, which commemorates fallen Canadian peacekeepers.

The name is Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, a 24-year-old Calgary reservist who was one month into a six-month tour when he was killed fighting insurgents in Afghanistan.

Hornburg was felled by mortar fragments after dismounting from the armoured recovery vehicle he was driving to repair a tread that had fallen off the tank.

He was killed on Sept. 24, 2007, a day after that happy phone call he made to his father.

Since getting the horrible news that their son was the 71st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan, the Hornburgs have not spoken out about their son or his mission.

On Wednesday, though, they speak publicly — and candidly.

"We wanted to remain private for a while; we needed time to think about what we wanted to say," explains Hornburg's mother Linda Loree, a handsome woman with a silver bob and a wiry, athletic frame. "We just needed time."

What comes through most strongly, aside from the love, is that both have an abundance of respect and reverence for a son they say strived for excellence in every aspect of his life.

"Nathan was the kind of person who believed you should leave everyplace better than how you found it," says Linda of the son whose childhood pet peeve was people who littered.

"I think that's what he was trying to do over there.

"I stand behind what Nathan was doing," she says of her son, whose funeral on Oct. 4 drew more than 1,000 mourners. "Today is one more way for us to recognize him and hopefully some good will come out of his death."

She acknowledges the "incredible" support of family, friends and the public. "It's taught me how to be a better person," she says, holding her head up bravely.

Still, she understands she'll be consumed with grief for some time.

"There's nothing that would really, really help," she says, her eyes brimming with tears. "Except having Nathan back."

When addressing the small gathering, Michael thanks them all on behalf of Nathan before reading an excerpt from a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow entitled Psalm of Life.

"Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime and, departing, leave behind us footprints on the sands of time."

Later, Michael shares with this columnist his challenges of the past few weeks.

"The public support we've received has just been fantastic," says the native of St. Louis, Mo., who met his wife, the daughter of southern Alberta ranchers, in 1974 while travelling through Switzerland.

"It's helped us cope with going from being private people to those thrust into the public eye . . . it's been quite a unique experience."

He beams with pride when he talks about his son.

"He had high standards about everything his entire life . . . he believed in the right of women and girls, and young boys in Afghanistan, to be educated . . . he took his role as a citizen and soldier very seriously."

As the soft-spoken father speaks about his hero son, Kottmann sandblasts the finishing touches onto the Wall of Honour.

The engraving for the two other Calgary soldiers whose names he joins — Capt. Nicola Goddard and Pte. Kevin Dallaire — were completed before their ceremonies. On this day, the engraving and commemoration are being done at the same time, to help kick off a fundraising campaign for a second wall to offset the unexpected increase in casualties because of Canada's involvement in Afghanistan.

Donald Ethell, liaison officer to Veterans Affairs Canada, explains the dire need for a second wall.

"When we built it, we based it on the peacekeeper death rate of the past 55 years," he says, pointing to an almost-full wall. "We estimated it would be good for at least 30 years, but then Afghanistan came along."

The Hornburgs don't mind sharing the limelight on this day with those wanting to highlight the need for another Wall of Honour.

"It's definitely a good opportunity," says Linda with a sad smile and shrug of her shoulders.

But for the parents and their supporters, they're here to remember a young man mature beyond his years who possessed an instinct for protecting both those he loved and those he'd never met.

"I found out later from one of Nathan's friends that he made a point of not talking about what he was seeing over there," says Michael, who derives solace from that last, wonderful father-son conversation.

"He said it was because he didn't want to upset us."

vfortney@theherald.canwest.com