

# News Digest

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## Sudan protests U.S. missile strike

■ A U.S. ambassador says there is no reason to investigate whether the factory was a chemical plant.

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudan's president said Monday that the United States has sought cooperation from Sudanese security officials and assured him that last week's attack on a Khartoum factory was aimed at terrorism, not at his government.

President Omar Hassan el-Bashir spoke in his first news conference since Thursday's strike on a factory that U.S. officials said manufactured chemical weapons agents but Sudan insists made only medicines.

He said the U.S. government had communicated with Sudan through a third party, which he would not name, to say that his country was "not targeted in the attack, but terrorism."

"They also said that they wanted cooperation between the Sudanese and the American security apparatus," he said, adding that U.S. officials had refused a similar request Sudan made previously on that issue. There was no comment from U.S.

officials on the cooperation report.

Last week, Sudan called back all of its diplomats from Washington. Monday, el-Bashir said American diplomats, who have been working out of neighboring Kenya and Egypt since 1996, "will not be allowed to return to their work in Khartoum."

In an interview with The Associated Press, El-Bashir also said he was recalling Sudan's ambassador to Britain and would ask London to recall its ambassador from Khartoum to protest Britain's support for the U.S. missile strike.

President Clinton tied the factory to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire blamed for the Aug. 7 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 257 people. A second U.S. attack was carried out Thursday against bin Laden's bases in Afghanistan.

But el-Bashir said bin Laden "has no shares at all in the factory," adding that bin Laden left Sudan before the factory was opened in 1996. Bin Laden lived in Sudan in the early 1990s but was forced out under Western pressure in 1995.

El-Bashir said Clinton based the attack on wrong information supplied by dissidents who

have opposed his Islamic rule since he came to power in a coup in 1989.

"The American agencies have counted on erroneous information from some groups ... in return for giving them money," he said.

In the AP interview, el-Bashir argued that U.S. officials "know that Sudan has no capabilities to manufacture chemical weapons."

El-Bashir added that if Americans really believed the factory made chemical weapons, then bombing it would have released deadly poison into the air and put at risk the thousands of Sudanese people who live around it.

"Then this is a crime, an ugly crime," el-Bashir said.

El-Bashir repeated an invitation to a U.N. mission to inspect the factory, said to have supplied 50 percent of Sudan's drugs.

At the United Nations headquarters in New York, the U.S. deputy ambassador said today there was no reason for a U.N. team to look into U.S. claims that the Khartoum factory was a chemical plant linked to terrorist groups.

"We don't see any point to it," envoy Peter Burleigh said, without elaborating.

## Lawmakers discuss possible resignation

WASHINGTON (AP) — So far, the notion that President Clinton should resign is just a murmur in Congress, an idea advanced by a handful of mostly conservative voices.

Back in the 1970s, talk of a resignation by President Nixon also started with a few lawmakers — liberals in that case. But the voices grew as the Watergate tale unfolded.

After Nixon surrendered the famous "smoking gun" tape in which he virtually confessed to obstructing justice in the Watergate affair, Clinton, then an obscure congressional candidate from Arkansas, joined the chorus of politicians calling for Nixon's departure.

"There's not any point in his putting the country through an impeachment since he isn't making any pretense of innocence now," Clinton told the Arkansas Democrat in August 1974.

Now, 24 years later, it's Clinton who has admitted wrongdoing. But at this juncture, his resignation seems implausible to most.

Democrats say the allegations against Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky affair pale when compared with the abuse of power and obstruct

tion of justice that ended Nixon's presidency.

Nixon's high job-approval ratings gradually eroded as the congressional investigations of Watergate unfolded. Clinton's job-approval ratings have remained high throughout the seven months of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation of the Lewinsky matter.

There are other differences, too. Inflation was soaring in the Nixon era; Clinton presides over a prosperous nation at peace.

Furthermore, Republicans have scant appetite for forcing a Clinton resignation that would install Al Gore in the Oval Office and allow him to run for election in 2000 behind the power of the presidency.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry brushes off any suggestion of a Clinton resignation.

"If that sentiment is widespread, I think it would be worth addressing," he said. "I don't think it's necessarily worth addressing now."

So far, only a few members of Congress have called for Clinton's resignation. Most did so after the president's televised address last week in which he admitted an improper relationship with Lewinsky.

## Legal jousting continues after court reverses ruling

■ After ruling, Stenberg will try to make 64 face original murder sentences.

HASTINGS (AP) — Darren Lee Myers has been the subject of a lot of legal jousting over the past few years.

And he's likely to be involved in some more.

Myers was sentenced to life in prison in 1992 for the second-degree murder of Kervin Thomas of Hastings.

He also was at the center of the 1994 state Supreme Court ruling that said malice must be proven in second-degree murder cases.

The decision resulted in Myers and 63 other people being resentenced — people the attorney general wants to see serve their original sentences.

Myers pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter and was resentenced to 35 years in prison.

But after the high court reversed that ruling last week, Attorney General Don Stenberg said he will try to make those 64 — including 20 who got out of prison early — serve out the rest of their

original sentences.

Steve Scherr, former county attorney and prosecutor in the Myers case, said Myers will serve about the same amount of time under his present sentence as with his original sentence with parole consideration.

He estimated that Myers would stay in prison at least into the next decade.

Stenberg said he did not think the constitutional guarantee against double jeopardy — being tried twice for the same crime — would apply in the 64 cases.

He stressed that he will not attempt to retry those cases, but rather have the retrials declared void and the original sentences reinstated.

Stenberg ordered his staff to research the matter and outline a plan by mid-September.

Hastings attorney Art Langvardt, who represented Myers, doubted that Stenberg would succeed in reinstating the original sentences.

"I can't conceive of that being successful," Langvardt said. "Legally, they can't do anything like that."

## East Coast states prepare for Hurricane Bonnie

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Hurricane Bonnie slowly churned up the Atlantic with 115 mph winds Monday, prompting people from Florida to North Carolina to stock up on emergency supplies.

Two swimmers drowned and dozens had to be rescued from East Coast beaches.

The governor of South Carolina urged tourists not to worry but called on the National Guard to get ready for Bonnie.

The National Hurricane Center reported the 450-mile-wide storm was 650 miles southeast of Savannah, Ga., at 2 p.m. EDT Monday.

The hurricane — a Category 3 storm capable of causing severe coastal flooding and serious damage to buildings and homes — has been wobbling northwest at 5 mph. The center said a hurricane watch may be issued for part of the southeastern U.S. coast later today.

On Hatteras Island, N.C., tourists

and residents alike were shopping for supplies.

A hurricane warning was posted for the central Bahamas and a hurricane watch issued for the northwestern Bahamas.

It was not clear exactly where, when or even if Hurricane Bonnie would strike the U.S. mainland.

If the storm does make landfall, the most likely area it would hit was between Charleston, S.C., and Cape Hatteras, N.C., the weather service said.

The size of the storm worried forecasters. Hurricane-force winds extended 85 miles out from Bonnie's center and tropical storm force winds could be felt 230 miles out.

Rip tides were blamed for the deaths Sunday of a 25-year-old man in South Carolina and a 24-year-old man in Delaware. Thirty people were rescued in Carolina Beach, N.C., and 100 were saved in Atlantic City, N.J.



## Polls show Diana's death still felt by Britons

LONDON (AP) — A new opinion poll published Monday in a tabloid newspaper indicates the majority of Britons are still in mourning nearly a year after Princess Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris.

In a telephone poll of 500 people conducted on Aug. 17-18 for The Mirror newspaper by ICM Research, 77 percent of women and 56 percent of men said they still felt sorrow over Diana's death.

The independent newspaper also published results of a poll Monday. But that poll suggested Diana's death may have had a lesser impact on Britons.

In that poll, which surveyed 1,064 people between Aug. 7 and Aug. 11, 80 percent said Diana's death had not had any lasting effect on them, and 75 percent thought the nation was no different as a result of her death.

The poll also found that 53 percent believe the Aug. 31 anniversary of Diana's death should not be marked each year. Another 41 percent said it should be recognized, and the remaining respondents expressed no opinion.

Neither poll had a margin of error.

## Suspects could be tried in Scottish courts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Britain have agreed to allow two Libyans charged in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland to be tried by a Scottish court in the Netherlands, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Monday.

Albright challenged Libya to accept the offer and described it as a "take it or leave it proposition" for the Libyans.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook urged Libya to cooperate "quickly and without equivocation," and asked U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to inform Libya of the agreement and seek arrangements for the transfer of the two accused men.

## GOP debate centers around bombing

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — State Rep. Charles Key says he would have preferred to discuss taxes and term limits.

But the debate that's raged in the weeks prior to today's Republican primary has involved something more volatile: Key's conspiracy theories about the Oklahoma City bombing.

Key, 44, believes a wider conspiracy is behind the April 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that left 168 people dead. He heads a privately funded investigation and has said the government is engaging in a cover-up of the blast.

Key's three challengers say he is overdoing it at the expense of his constituents. During his last two-year term, Key has missed more votes than all but two other members.

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