onnie gains strengt

HEAD, N.C. (AP) - About 200,000 residents and visitors were ordered to leave North Carolina's low-lying, exposed Outer Banks on Tuesday as Hurricane Bonnie accelerated on a path that could carry its fury into the barrier island chain.

The National Weather Service said Bonnie's center with its 115 mph wind could be near the Outer Banks by today.

Hurricane warnings were posted from Murrells Inlet, S.C., to the North Carolina-Virginia state line. The warnings mean dangerous wind and heavy rain could hit the area within 24 hours. Hurricane watches extended south to Savannah, Ga., and north to Cape Henlopen, Del.

While the storm was still hundreds of miles away, the Atlantic was showing its effects with 10-foot waves reported on the North Carolina beach. Gray, white-capped waves hit the New Jersey shore in breakers 4 feet to 6 feet high, pounding onto the sand with a dull roar.

Margaret Boone, of Thurmont, Md., wasn't surprised that her vacation to the Outer Banks with six friends was ending Tuesday rather than Saturday.

The state of Virginia and some coastal communities elsewhere already had banned swimming because of rip tides - strong currents near the beaches

over the weekend in South Carolina, North Carolina and Delaware.

"People were getting sucked out left and right," said Margate Beach, N.J., lifeguard Mike Palmer. One man was missing Monday in the surf off ately Point Pleasant Beach.

By midmorning Tuesday, the storm's eye was centered about 450 miles south of Cape Hatteras, which sits on the Outer Banks 50 miles south of Nags Head.

Its outer ring of clouds was not even reaching the mainland yet as the hurri-cane wobbled toward the northwest at about 11 mph.

Evacuation orders, which were called mandatory although they don't have the force of law and can't be enforced, were issued for the Outer Banks by Dare County and Ocracoke, an island accessible only by ferry. Farther south, Carteret County planned to decide whether to order an evacuation after a late morning meeting.

Although the hurricane warning covered part of South Carolina, Gov. David Beasley said Tuesday there was no reason yet to evacuate any of that state's coast.

Nearly 2,000 South Carolina National Guard troops and law enforce- just hurry up, wait and see."

an evacuation if one becomes necessary, said Gary Karr, a spokesman for Beasley.

People on the Outer Banks were urged to head for the mainland immedi-

But as dawn broke with a blue sky, runners took their morning jog on the beach road and golfers kept their tee

Paul Peck, a retiree from Charlottesville, Va., said he'd never experienced a hurricane and wanted to watch the ocean change.

"We'd like to hang around for one more day, but I'm worried about the traffic if we do," said Peck, who turned to the desk clerk at the Holiday Inn Nags Head for advice.

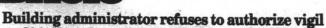
"You've got 12 to 15 hours, plenty of time," said desk clerk Sheri Ward.

Residents of the North Carolina shore haven't forgotten about Hurricane Fran, which struck the region in 1996.

"It's really starting to concern people around here," said Ronna Lewis, whose home on North Carolina's Topsail Beach, perched four feet off the ground on concrete supports, escaped flooding during Fran by inches. "It's



such a plot this week.



OMAHA (AP) - A building administrator said he will not authorize another vigil to commemorate a 1919 incident in which a black man was lynched by a mob at the Douglas County Courthouse.

Building Administrator Eric Pherson said later, however, he would let the Omaha-Douglas Public Building Commission decide whether to authorize a second vigil to remember the case of William Brown.

A group of Creighton University students held a candlelight vigil on the anniversary of Brown's hanging last year. The students and professor David Lopez want to do so again Sept. 27.

Pherson, in a letter to Lopez last week, said he would not authorize the vigil. He cited a city ordinance prohibiting activities that incite race riots.

Douglas County Clerk Tom Cavanaugh said the stance of Pherson's letter disturbed him and Pherson should resign.

Cuban-Americans indicted for Castro murder conspiracy WASHINGTON (AP) - Seven Cuban-Americans were indicted Tuesday by a federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy to murder Cuban President

Fidel Castro. The indictment, returned in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and announced by the Justice Department here, alleged the defendants plotted for four years to kill Castro outside the United States and particularly during his trip to a summit

meeting on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, in November 1997. If convicted, they could face up to life in prison, the department said. At least one of the defendants, Jose Antonio Llama, is a member of the Cuban American National Foundation, but the foundation's president, Francisco "Pepe" Hernandez, was not charged in the indictment. Lawyers for both men had predicted in Miami last week that they would be charged with

Northern Israeli town bombed, injuring at least 19 people

KIRYAT SHEMONA, Israel (AP) - Katyusha rockets slammed into northern Israeli towns Tuesday night, injuring at least 19 people, after a top Lebanese guerrilla leader was killed by an Israeli helicopter that ambushed his car in south Lebanon.

Along the northern border, Israeli residents dashed for shelters after the rockets took them by surprise.

People are in panic, in panic and fear. There are the wails of women and children," resident Samir Sulidan told Israel radio.

The barrage fell only hours after an Israeli helicopter gunship fired a rocket of its own, killing guerrilla commander Hossam al-Amin, reportedly the second-in-command of the military faction of Shiite Muslim guerrilla group, Amal, as he was driving along a south Lebanese coastal road not far from the Israeli border.

Blair to recall Parliament to approve anti-terrorist bills

OMAGH, Northern Ireland (AP) - Prime Minister Tony Blair promised Tuesday that the United Kingdom will toughen its anti-terrorist powers, abolishing the right to silence for suspected members of violent splinter groups, so that "the future contains no more Omaghs."

Standing amid the boarded-up, gutted downtown where Irish Republican Army dissidents slaughtered 28 people and wounded 330 others 10 days ago, Blair announced Parliament would be recalled Sept. 2 to approve what he called "Draconian and fundamental" bills.

The proposals were announced after Blair shook hands and said "I'm so sorry" to hundreds of appreciative residents in the drizzling rain.

The legislation would end the right to silence for those accused of organizing bomb or gun attacks in opposition to April's multi-party peace agreement.

The British proposals closely mirror bills that the Irish government intends to enact at its own emergency parliamentary session before President Clinton arrives Sept. 3 to tour Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Sudanese pharmaceuticals plant hit by U.S. missiles publicly provided medicine to Iraq under a U.N.-approved program, plant scientists secretly worked with Iraqi counterparts on chemical weapons projects, according to U.S. intelligence.

U.S. intelligence intercepts of phone conversations between scientists at the plant in Khartoum, Sudan, and some of the top officials in Iraq's chemical weapons program influenced President Clinton's decision to order a cruise missile strike on the plant, an action that drew loud protests.

A key factor in the strike was a soil sample from the plant site that showed traces of a man-made chemical that is a key ingredient in the deadly nerve agent VX, a U.S. intelligence official said Monday.

The Shifa Pharmaceuticals plant was destroyed last Thursday in a U.S. cruise missile attack at the same time

WASHINGTON (AP) - While a claimed was a baby milk factory during the Persian Gulf War, Sudanese officials have protested to the United Nations that the plant made medicine,

> Under pressure to back up its claim, the Clinton administration on Monday let U.S. intelligence officials discuss some of the evidence that led to the decision to strike.

> A U.S. intelligence official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the physical evidence being cited repeatedly by Clinton administration officials is a soil sample "obtained by clandestine means" from the Sudan plant property. The sample showed traces of a man-made chemical called EMPTA, or O-ethylmethylphosphonothioic acid - a material with no commercial uses that is a key ingredient of

"Once you have it, you're a long way toward the production of VX," the intelligence official said. The material Navy-launched cruise missiles struck at apparently got into the soil immediately Eyewitness accounts by Western joura suspected terrorist base in eastern outside the plant, but on the plant prop-Afghanistan. In an echo of the contro- erty, "either through airborne emissions

process." The official did not describe how the soil sample was obtained. "This is something we went out of our

While defending its actions, the administration nevertheless conceded that the facility probably also manufactured medicines.

"That facility very well may have been producing pharmaceuticals," State Department spokesman James Foley said. Among other things, the plant had been approved to produce medicine for shipment to Iraq under the humanitarian exception to the U.N.imposed trade sanctions on that coun-

"But that in no way alters the fact that the factory also was producing precursor elements" of nerve gas, Foley

Last week, senior U.S. officials who briefed reporters following the attack said they knew of no commercial products made at the Shifa plant. nalists who toured the wreckage, however, included descriptions of pills and versy over the bombing of what Iraq or spillage from the manufacturing medicine bottles strewn all over the site.

Blast rocks Planet Hollywoo

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) -A bomb exploded inside a crowded Planet Hollywood restaurant Tuesday, killing one person and injuring 24. A man claiming responsibility said it was revenge for U.S. attacks on targets in Sudan and Afghanistan.

The caller to the radio station Cape Talk claimed responsibility on behalf of a group called Muslims Against Global Oppression, according to Marianne Merten, a journalist at the station. Police refused to comment on the call.

Little is known about the group. Some members were among the 40 or so people who protested U.S. policies on Iraq and Israel during President Clinton's visit to Cape Town last March.

Police Senior Superintendent John Sterrenberg said the device exploded at 7:20 p.m. inside Planet Hollywood as it was packed with diners. He confirmed

one woman was killed. Her nationality and those of the injured were not immediately known.

A witness who had been at the ground-floor bar in the two-story Hollywood-theme restaurant described a horrific scene.

"I saw people without limbs," Bertie Liebenberg, who was visiting from Johannesburg, told the South African Press Association. "Decor on the ceiling came crashing down, and crashed onto people, tables and chairs."

Roger Sedres, a local photographer, said he heard the explosion as he drove past the restaurant, then saw the wounded come streaming out.

One woman sat outside the restau-nt, her head in her hands, screaming: "

Rescue workers brought out another woman who was motionless, her legs

Police cordoned off the restaurant in the trendy Victoria and Albert Waterfront and were reinforced with armored cars. Ambulances with sirens wailing rushed to the scene.

Nico Smuts, spokesman for Leisurenet, the franchise holders of Planet Hollywood, said the Cape Town branch was wholly South Africanowned.

However, there was speculation that an attack on a target identified with the United States could be a sequel to the bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 257 people on Aug. 7 – or an answer to America's retaliatory cruise-missile attacks on targets in Afghanistan and



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