



TALIBAN STILL POTENT FORCE

Willing and able to fight on after bin Laden

BY DEB RICHMAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD • A double Taliban suicide attack Friday that killed 66 paramilitary police recruits represented the deadliest terrorist strike in Pakistan since the killing of Osama bin Laden.

The attack came as both the Pakistani and Afghan wings of the Taliban have been carrying out attacks to prove they remain a potent force and bolster their profiles in case peace talks prevail in Afghanistan.

U.S. and Afghan officials have said they hope the Afghan Taliban will use bin Laden's death as an opportunity to break their link with al-Qaida — an alliance the U.S. says must be severed if the insurgents want peace in Afghanistan. But Afghan

SEE TALIBAN • PAGE 5

24 vehicles, including 15 NATO fuel tankers, set ablaze in Pakistan

BY RIAZ KHAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN • An official said two dozen vehicles, including 15 tankers carrying fuel for NATO in Afghanistan, were destroyed Friday when a blast ripped through a parking lot in Pakistan's northwest.

The explosion occurred close to the Torkham border crossing in the Khyber tribal region. Government official Tahir Khan said it was not clear what caused the blast, but firefighters were trying to contain the resulting blaze Friday.

SEE BLAST • PAGE 5



DAVID PARDO, DAILY PRESS

FATALITY: A male driver was killed in a vehicle rollover accident on southbound Interstate 15 on Friday afternoon.

One person killed in Cajon Pass rollover

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CAJON PASS • At least one person was killed Friday afternoon when a sport utility vehicle rolled over on the southbound lanes of Interstate 15, ejecting the victim from the vehicle.

The rollover took place at about 1:15 p.m. near Cleghorn Road, according to California Highway Patrol reports.

Several motorists witnessed the rollover and stopped to help. There were reports one person was able to crawl out of the black SUV and was speaking to motorists who stopped to help. The extent of that person's injuries was unknown Friday afternoon.

Authorities called for the San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner office to respond to the scene at 1:30 p.m.

The CHP is investigating the incident.

Bribery scandal defendants out on bail

Four men facing corruption charges ordered to wear electronic devices

BY NATASHA LINDSTROM STAFF WRITER

SAN BERNARDINO • The four men arrested Tuesday for their alleged roles in a far-reaching San Bernardino County corruption and bribery probe were released from custody after a judge dramatically reduced their bails.

After spending two nights in jail, the following men indicted on 29 counts by a criminal grand jury had their collective bails dropped to \$1.1 million from \$16 million: Paul Biane, former 2nd District supervisor; Jim Erwin, former chief of staff for 3rd District Supervisor Neil Derry; Mark Kirk, former chief of staff for 4th District Supervisor Gary Ovitt; and Jeff Burum, general partner for Rancho Cucamonga-based developer Colonies Partners LP.

SEE BAIL • PAGE 6

ALL IN FOR ALLIE



DAVID PARDO, DAILY PRESS

FEELING BETTER: Allie Fisher, 6, of Victorville, seen here with her mother, Cassey Fisher, was recently diagnosed with a rare form of anemia. A friend set up a website, www.Allin4Allie.com, to help with fundraising for the costly treatments and medications.

Friends, family help with 6-year-old's medical bills

BY BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE • Over several months, Cassey and Brandon Fisher took their young daughter to several doctors trying to figure out what was making her sick.

"They couldn't tell us what was wrong with her," Cassey Fisher said.

The bubbly then-5-year-old was always tired and it was hard for her to fight off

infections. The Fishers tried everything they could to keep her healthy.

Then in April, unable to recover from a fever and other flu-like symptoms, Allie had to be hospitalized. That was the first time the couple heard a word that terrified them: leukemia.

"It was devastating," Cassey Fisher said.

Meanwhile, the couple still had to care for Allie's older

brother, Michael Fisher, 11, and sister, Taylor Sturtz, 17.

After spending some time at Loma Linda University Medical Center, the Victorville couple was happy to learn their 6-year-old did not have leukemia but did have a very rare form of anemia called aplastic anemia.

According to the Mayo Clinic, aplastic anemia is a

SEE ALLIE • PAGE 6

Courthouse locks down after commotion

BY TOMOYA SHIMURA STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE • The Victorville courthouse was locked down for about half an hour Friday morning after a judge ordered a group of protesters to leave his courtroom.

More than 30 De Jure California Republic members from San Bernardino County, who say their mission is to restore the power of the American people, showed up to support Gilbert Hernandez Scott and Yvette Barragan, a Victorville couple charged with allegedly abusing their children.

When called to appear for their case, Scott and Barragan refused to step across the bar, which separates the gallery from the area where court proceedings are held. They also demanded Judge John Tomberlin relieve their attorneys so they could represent themselves.

The judge advised the defendants on the pitfalls of self-representation in court.

But when Tomberlin told them to cross the bar, some of the protesters in the gallery stood up and began shouting at

SEE COURTHOUSE • PAGE 8



STAFF PHOTO BY TOMOYA SHIMURA

SHUT DOWN: Members of De Jure California Republic talk to a San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputy outside the Victorville courthouse Friday morning after they protested for a Victorville couple accused of abusing their children. Their protest triggered a courthouse lock down.



DAVID PARDO, DAILY PRESS

GUTTED: A large two-story vacant home burned to the ground in the 12200 block of Locust Avenue on Thursday night. The cause is under investigation.

Fire destroys large Victorville home

No utility on at time of blaze; cause under investigation

BY BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE • Authorities are investigating a second-alarm fire that destroyed a large two-story vacant home in Victorville late Thursday night, San Bernardino County Fire officials said.

Approximately 20 firefight-

ers from San Bernardino County, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Apple Valley Fire Protection District worked for about an hour to get the fire under control in the 12200 block of Locust Avenue at about 10:30 p.m. Tracy Martinez, spokeswoman for the county Fire Department, said Friday.

When firefighters arrived, the home was already fully engulfed,

SEE FIRE • PAGE 8

FINDER STATE • NATION • WORLD

Gadhafi taunts NATO; regime says 11 clerics killed

TRIPOLI, LIBYA • Muammar Gadhafi said Friday he is alive despite a series of airstrikes and "in a place where you can't get to and kill me." The defiant audio recording was broadcast after the Libyan government accused NATO of killing 11 Muslim clerics with an airstrike on a disputed eastern oil town.

A3

SPORTS Three straight?

The Mavericks try to win their third straight game for the first time this season when they host Lake Elsinore.



C1

WEATHER > Page D6

High 74 Low 49 PT. SUNNY

HOME DELIVERY: (760) 241-7755 NEWS TIPS: (760) 951-6270

INDEX

- Business C8 Movies D3
Classifieds E7 Obituaries B2
Comics D4 Religion B3
Crossword D5 Scoreboard C5
Dear Abby D5 Sports C1
High Desert B1 Weather D6
Lottery A2



The Daily Press is published by Freedom Communications 0510548320

The Daily Press uses recycled newspaper. For tips on going green, go to www.VVDailyPress.com/green

COURTHOUSE: Judges locked in their chambers

FROM PAGE 1

the bench, said Carlos Rodriguez, who was waiting in the gallery for a different case.

The judge told them to leave the courtroom for contempt of court, Rodriguez said.

All other courtrooms were closed off after all the deputies in the courthouse gathered in Tomberlin's courtroom to escort some of the protesters out. Other judges in the building had to lock themselves inside their chambers.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Sgt. Steve Hinojos said the courthouse had to be locked down to secure approximately 80 inmates in the building.

One of the protesters was arrested because he continued to cause a disturbance, Hinojos said. Tomberlin ordered the man's release after the hearing.

Another protester yelled in the court hallway after the hearing, telling people to "wake up." Many protesters wore a red shirt with a blue ribbon.

Group leader Andrew

"Our mission is to bring back our rights to where it's supposed to be, where our Founding Fathers meant it to be."

ANDREW ISOM • LEADER OF DE JURE CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

Isom said he and his fellow protesters will return to court for Scott and Barragan's next hearing June 6.

Hinojos said he would like to talk to Isom before the next hearing to avoid another incident. "This could have been really bad," Hinojos said. "People depend on us to help with their problems in the courthouse. If we're all over in one courtroom, that can be a dangerous situation. I just hope they understand that and have a better meeting next time."

After the commotion, the defendants insisted on their demand and let go of their counsel. Scott said his public defender refused to subpoena witnesses and didn't provide adequate counsel.

The defendants, who were arrested in 2009 and later bailed out, said they're facing false accusations and claim Child Protective Services wrongfully

took their children away. They created a website, MyBabiesNeedMe.webs.com, to publicize their case.

Isom said the group protested against CPS and Tomberlin. He said the judge has been talking away Scott and Barragan's rights by threatening to arrest them in court.

"Our mission is to bring back our rights to where it's supposed to be, where our Founding Fathers meant it to be," Isom said.

The group promotes the "Restore America Plan." They call for "organizing grand juries and putting our officials back under de jure rule and out of the corporate (or military) rule that they are currently operating under," according to a brochure members were handing out at the courthouse. Last March the Restore America Plan group delivered letters to more than 30 U.S. gov-

ernors ordering them to resign within three days.

Scott said he demands a trial by a local "grand jury de jure," of which Isom said he is the foreman.

Deputy Public Defender Joshua Castro, who has no ties to the case but witnessed the hearing, said Scott and Barragan have the right to represent themselves but some of the protesters' claims made no sense.

"I think their conspiracy theory is that if they cross the (bar), they will be taken into court's jurisdiction, which is completely absurd," Castro said.

"There are some absurd notions about the law floating around on the Internet," he added. "Unfortunately, some people who don't know anything about the law have bought into these false assertions. They believe that when they find themselves accused of a felony, these false assertions can get them out of trouble."

Tomoya Shimura may be reached at (760) 955-5368 or tshimura@VVDailyPress.com.

FIRE: 4,000-square-foot home destroyed

FROM PAGE 1

she stated. Not knowing if anyone was inside the 4,000-square-foot home, firefighters searched for inhabitants. They quickly had to move to a defensive mode as the roof began to collapse on the home, Martinez said.

"The home was

vacant and there were no utilities on at the location, so they will be investigating the cause," Martinez said.

No one was injured in the fire, but the home was completely destroyed.

Beatriz E. Valenzuela may be reached at (760) 955-6276 or at BValenzuela@VVDailyPress.com.

Porn stash found at bin Laden compound

BY KIMBERLY DOZIER AP INTELLIGENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON • A sizeable stash of pornography was among the items seized when U.S. Navy SEALs raided the Pakistani hideout of Osama bin Laden almost two weeks ago U.S. officials say.

The officials said it was unclear who the material belonged to, and there was no way to know whether bin Laden had viewed it.

Bin Laden's son and two other adult male couriers lived at the compound, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss matters of intelligence.

The pornography was among the computer materials confiscated in the raid after the SEALs killed bin Laden, ending an almost ten-year manhunt for the terrorist behind the 9/11 terror attacks.

The disclosure that U.S. investigators found pornography — which provoked ridicule among bloggers Friday — fuels the U.S. narrative that bin Laden was not the respectable or noble figure that his supporters embraced. The U.S. government previously asserted that bin Laden hid behind a woman in the compound as a "human shield" on the night of the raid but later revised its account of the deadly shooting inside the compound and said she rushed at one of the Navy SEALs and was shot in the calf.

After SEALs fatally shot bin Laden, they confiscated what U.S. officials call a "treasure trove" of information from his second-floor office. The items included a handwritten journal, five computers, 10 hard drives and 110 thumb drives seized at the site.

Mubarak's wife hospitalized after ordered detained

BY HOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE AND AMRO HASSAN LOS ANGELES TIMES

CAIRO • Hours after Egypt's former first lady, Suzanne Mubarak, was ordered detained as part of the widening corruption investigation of her husband's regime, she was hospitalized after reportedly suffering a heart attack, officials said Friday.

The manager of a hospital in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh told the state news agency MENA that she had been transferred to intensive care. The hospital official told the news agency that the former first lady would undergo tests over the next 24 hours to determine whether she had suffered a heart attack.

Her husband, former President Hosni Mubarak, 88, has been in the same hospital since he suffered

what were termed health complications last month shortly after authorities announced that he would be detained.

Suzanne Mubarak was interrogated Friday, according to MENA, and had been ordered detained for at least 15 days, but was instead hospitalized.

The detention order was a once-unthinkable turn of events for the 70-year-old socialite, who styled herself as a patron of women's causes and spent years arranging for her son to succeed her husband, only to see her plan defeated in January by a popular uprising.

She was seen as a political operator who worked behind the scenes to promote son Gamal, who, along with her other son, Ala, is among those being investigated.

"She had the upper hand in so many things

in Egypt, sometimes even bypassing her husband's will. A whole Ministry for Family and Population was established a few years ago just for her sake," said Nabi Abdel Fattah, an analyst at the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo. "She was the strong lady at the presidential palace."

Nawal Saadawi, an outspoken Egyptian feminist and one of Suzanne Mubarak's archenemies, called her detention "a positive step."

She described Mubarak, who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the American University in Cairo, as a "batterfly" who was "fond of her jewelry and clothes and her looks and plastic surgery." She said the former first lady used her connections to

ban Saadawi's grassroots Egyptian Women's Union and consolidate her own power.

The public prosecutor on April 13 ordered the former president detained as part of an investigation of charges of abuse of public funds and the killing of protesters.

Minimal Waiting Time
For All Your Outpatient Medical Needs

Dr. Mike's Walk-In Clinic
Urgent Care & Family Practice
Serving the High Desert for over 10 Years

Accepting All Private Insurances Including:
Choice • Guardian • VVIPA • Heritage Victor Valley
IEHP • Molina • Vantage • HMO

We Also Provide
Wound Care and Laceration Repair
Well Baby Check Ups - Complete Physical Exams
School Physicals & Shots - Children's Sports & Camp Physicals
Employment Physicals - DMV Physicals - Minor Vehicle Accidents

FIND A GREAT CHURCH
CLOSE TO HOME

www.VictorValleyChurches.com

Curbing the extraordinary!

- Lighted
- Colored
- Stamped

ENHANCE THE APPEARANCE OF YOUR YARD OR BUSINESS!

Call us today for your FREE ESTIMATE!
(760) 245-1598

www.borderbrotherscustomcurbing.com

HESPERIA ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Thank You For Choosing Us "Best Of The Desert"

LOW COST SPAY-NEUTER CLINIC
Vaccinations Required
Surgical Procedures - NO CHARGE.
Charges for anesthesia and pain management only.
Please call for appointment and clinic hours.
Low-Cost Vaccination Clinic
Thurs. 9am-5pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

Cats	
FELV/VNCP	\$20.00
Rabies	\$5.00
Above Series	\$23.00
FPV	\$25.00
Dogs	
DAPP	\$17.00
Rabies	\$5.00
Above Series	\$20.00
Bordetella	\$10.00
Lyme	\$18.00

DOG & CAT GROOMING
Call Gaila at 910 West Esplanade
760-948-1553
3540 11th Ave. • Hesperia

All Patients Welcome At Our Seven Locations

NEW ADELANTO
760-530-1635
11336 Bartlett Ave., #12
Mon.-Fri. 10AM-6PM

HESPERIA/VICTORVILLE
760-949-1231
15791 Bear Valley Rd.
OPEN 24/7

VICTORVILLE
760-952-0244
15626 Hesperia Rd. (at Hwy. 18)
9AM-6PM 7 DAYS A WEEK

BARSTOW
760-256-6426
716 E. Main St.
Mon.-Fri. 8AM-10PM, Sat.-Sun. 8AM-8PM

APPLE VALLEY
760-240-1144
12143 Navajo Rd. (at Bear Valley Rd.)
Mon.-Fri. 8AM-8PM

Dr. Mike's Family Practice
HESPERIA
760-947-3184
(Target Center) 12821 Main St., #130
Mon.-Fri. 8AM-7PM

APPLE VALLEY
760-947-3184
(Target Center) 20258 Hwy. 18, #450
Mon.-Fri. 9AM-5PM

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL!

Trained professionals with the equipment to do the job right the first time.

Trimming • Shaping • Pruning • Crown Reduction • Stump Removal • Fertilization

Town & Country Tree Service

1-760-961-9226 • 1-760-272-7934

Certified Arborist • Licensed (Lic# 849361) • Bonded • Insured

Providing a complete line of professional commercial and residential tree-care services with over 20 years experience.

\$30⁰⁰ Off
Tree Trimming
Expires 5/31/11. Cannot be used with any other offer.