



IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Volcanic eruptions melt ice, flood parts of Iceland

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — Volcanic eruptions beneath Europe's largest glacier melted the cap of the icy mass on Tuesday, unleashing floodwaters that swept away two bridges in Iceland. Floodwaters from the Vatnajökull glacier destroyed the 1,233-foot-long Gígja Bridge as well as another 164-foot bridge along the country's southern coast, said Orm Egilsson, spokesman for Iceland's Civil Defense Agency.

Civil defense authorities were concerned that a third bridge, the 2,950-foot-long Skeidarar, also would be destroyed by the force of the flooding.

"The flooding is bad," Egilsson said. "The speed of the water is much more than people imagined."

The flooding happened in a remote area 185 miles east of Reykjavik, and no people or homes were threatened.

The eruption in the Loki volcano began around Oct. 1, creating molten rock that melted 70,000 cubic feet of water. The water gathered in a crater underneath the 2,000-foot-thick glacier.

Though the eruption stopped on Oct. 12, a vast pool of melted water built up beneath the ice.

Under pressure from the melting water, the ice cap on top of the glacier finally cracked Tuesday, unleashing millions of gallons of water onto the surrounding countryside.

The water was pouring into the ocean along the south coast of Iceland, about 140 miles east of Reykjavik.

The Loki volcano is not cone-shaped, but rather a fissure in the ground. The eruption took place along a five-mile stretch of the fissure.

The glacier's edge is near the main coastal road around the country. Workers have been reinforcing roads and bridges near the volcano.

Loki — named for the Norse god who personified evil — did not erupt as strongly as it had in 1938.

But Iceland's coastal highway and its bridges over glacial rivers had not been built then.

Audit of Jewish accounts ordered by panel officials

WASHINGTON — An independent panel examining Swiss banks for hundreds of dormant Jewish accounts is giving auditors free reign to look for embezzlement, record tampering and Nazi war booty.

The in-depth audit was ordered by a special committee headed by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker to return at least \$32 million in dormant Swiss bank accounts to Holocaust survivors, heirs of victims and other World War II refugees. The \$32 million figure represents the amount Swiss banks said they found in a search of their records last year, but Jewish groups estimate the missing accounts hold much more, perhaps about \$7 billion.

The Volcker panel, created in May by the World Jewish Congress and the Swiss Bankers Association, passed a critical hurdle in its investigation by agreeing on just how far auditors can probe to find the truth of the dormant accounts.

The agreement will let the committee penetrate the legendary secrecy of Swiss banks for the first time, allowing "unfettered access to relevant Swiss bank files and personnel."

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the audit agreement Tuesday. Sources from bankers' and Jewish groups praised the document for its depth and scope but would not discuss it on the record until the Volcker panel released the document. The release is expected soon.

Auditing instructions are critical since they represent the level of commitment Swiss banks have to an open, thorough review of one of the country's darkest chapters.

After World War II, Swiss banks impeded a full review of their accounts by making unreasonable demands on Holocaust survivors or by hiding behind bank secrecy laws.

Inquiry into U.S. missiles launched in Iraq nears end

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon could have some answers soon in its investigation into the launching of two U.S. anti-radar missiles by F-16 fighter jets over southern Iraq, a spokesman said today.

Military officials want "as complete a picture as possible of what happened," spokesman Kenneth Bacon told reporters. He said it would take several days to complete the investigation.

In separate incidents, the pilots of two U.S. Air Force F-16s fired missiles when they received warnings they had been "locked on" by Iraqi surface-to-air missile sites.

The first such firing occurred early Saturday and the second on Monday.

Bacon said officials are looking at the "electronic environment" where the incidents took place, how the planes' equipment functioned and intelligence information about the area.

Both pilots have been questioned, and other pilots flying nearby also will be

interviewed, he added.

Defense Secretary William Perry told reporters at the Pentagon on Monday that the pilots were justified in their actions because their cockpit warning systems indicated they were being targeted by Iraqi missiles.

Iraq denied any missile firings occurred, characterizing the reports as a campaign ploy by the Clinton administration.

"Fabricating this false report is part of American-style electioneering," an Iraqi Foreign Ministry official was quoted Monday by the official Iraqi News Agency.

"It seems that, for the second time, fabricators of this report have the urge to divert the attention of American voters from their domestic scandals by creating false problems abroad."

Perry said it wasn't immediately clear what exactly caused the aircraft to pick up such signals.

It also wasn't clear whether faulty warning equipment might be involved or whether the Iraqis were playing cat-and-mouse games with their radar systems, he said.

In the meantime, allied flights over Iraq's southern no-fly zone will continue, even though Saddam Hussein's forces have been "quite quiet" in the past week, the defense secretary said.

Perry said he had no reports on possible damage caused by the missiles.

Even though it now appears that no Iraqi missiles were launched, both pilots acted appropriately, he said, explaining that their rules of engagement allow quick responses to potentially hostile acts.

Asked whether Saddam's move to rebuild his air defenses caused him any worry, Perry responded, "No."

He said allied aircraft would continue to monitor the zone carefully.

The second firing occurred at 4 a.m. EST about 25 miles from where the earlier firing took place.

Both occurred just south of the 32nd parallel, Perry said.

Toxic organisms in Neuse might cause human harm

DURHAM — A toxic marine organism blamed for the worst of the Neuse River's fish kills might also be capable of causing human health problems, according to Duke University researchers.

Researchers found that rats injected with aquarium water laced with relatively high doses of *Pfiesteria piscicida* lost, at least temporarily, the ability to remember or to learn. The finding was duplicated in three separate studies.

A fourth study is being conducted to determine which regions of the rats' brains and specific neurotransmitters were affected by the organism.

"What this shows is there really is something worth looking at," said Ed Levin, head of the university's Neurobehavioral Research Laboratory.

"What's true in a rat may not be true in a human," he cautioned. "What's true in a fish may not be true in a human."

Pfiesteria piscicida is a toxic dinoflagellate which has been blamed for killing millions of fish in the Neuse and other eastern North Carolina waterways.

It also is suspected of causing mysterious sores commercial fishermen have found on their bodies and other maladies they have suffered.

Levin's group found that rats injected with the organism had a more difficult time finding food in a maze than did rats

in a control group injected with aquarium water containing no *Pfiesteria*.

The injected rats' diminished abilities continued throughout the 18 maze tests. Studies beyond that point, he said, seemed to indicate that the lost ability returns somewhat over time.

Levin's findings, along with other *Pfiesteria* studies, will be presented Saturday at a Southeastern Estuarine Research Society conference in Morehead City.

Two researchers studying the organism at North Carolina State University were stricken with Alzheimer's-like memory problems, inexplicable mood swings and diminished breathing capacity.

JoAnn Burkholder — who first identified the organism killing fish in North Carolina waters in 1991 — and her assistant Howard Glasgow, said Wednesday they still feel lingering effects of the maladies which struck them in 1993.

Burkholder and Glasgow believe they got sick from breathing toxic fumes the organism emits into the air, the Sun Journal of New Bern reported.

N.C. businessman heads list for next chief of staff

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, a North Carolina businessman and the deputy national security adviser top President Clinton's list to be the next White House chief of staff, aides said Tuesday.

While the president returned to his home state of Arkansas to vote and await election returns, his staff continued working on his second-term team.

White House chief of staff Leon Panetta plans to announce his resignation in the next few days, effective sometime after the inauguration, officials say. The aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, say candidates to replace him include:

—Erskine Bowles, former deputy chief of staff who headed Clinton's debate preparation team and now runs a North Carolina merchant banking firm.

—Sandy Berger, an old Clinton pal who is No. 2 to National Security Adviser Tony Lake.

—Rubin, who made a fortune on Wall Street before coming to Washington to head Clinton's economic team.

—Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, who aides say is restless for a new job and may consider returning home to California.

—Harold Ickes, deputy chief of staff and top political aide. Panetta's job may well be the only one he's interested in for a second term, associates say.

A senior White House official said Tuesday that Bowles, Berger and Rubin are the top-tier candidates but that Clinton has not offered the job to anybody — directly or indirectly. His decision is not expected for several days.

Bowles is considered by many senior staff members as the odds-on favorite, but he has told associates he would be reluctant to abandon pending business commitments. Several high-ranking administration officials have urged Bowles to accept the job if asked, though Clinton has not personally pressed him.

The officials said Panetta still hopes to announce this week the names of Cabinet secretaries who are leaving in the second term. The list could number four to six names, aides say, but their replacements will not be named immediately.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Harris Teeter
Your Neighborhood Food Market

SCORE BIG WITH THESE SAVINGS

Sale Begins Wednesday, November 6, 1996

8 Piece Fried Chicken
4.99 Ea.

President's Choice Soft Drinks
59¢ 2 Liter

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE SALE
TAILGATE Specials

10 Oz. Selected Varieties Harris Teeter Pretzels
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

16 Inch Italian Combo Pizza
7.99 Ea.

TAILGATE Specials
Weekly Special

Bugles Corn Snacks
99¢ 5.6 Oz.

BBQ or Hot & Spicy Buffalo Style Wings
2.99 Ea.

TAILGATE Specials
Weekly Special

4 Lb. Bag Florida Oranges
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

Roast Beef & Turkey Sandwich
2.49 Ea.

TAILGATE Specials
Weekly Special

Selected Varieties Ralston Chex Cereal
1.99 12-16 Oz.

6 Ct. In The Bakery Selected Varieties Muffins
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

TAILGATE Specials
Weekly Special

7 Oz. Puffed or Crunchy Cheese Doodles
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

Diet Coke or Coke
2 Ltr.
89¢

TAILGATE Specials
Weekly Special

ALWAYS Coca-Cola

We Gladly Accept MasterCard VISA DISCOVER NOVUS HONOR

Prices in This Ad Effective Through November 12, 1996 In Your Chapel Hill Harris Teeter Stores Only. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities. None Sold To Dealers. We Gladly Accept Federal Food Stamps.

Bull's Head Bookshop
invites you to hear

Marly Youmans
author of the acclaimed novel

Catherwood

A subtle but magnetic novel, at once a fable, a historical romance and a study of motherhood's most primitive impulses.

—Starred, *Publishers Weekly*

Thursday, November 7
3:00 pm



Bull's Head Bookshop
UNC Student Stores • 962-5060