

Today	Thursday	Friday
High: 59 Low: 42 Precip: 10%	High: 55 Low: 46 Precip: 30%	High: 58 Low: 46 Precip: 60%

IN BRIEF

Bar won't investigate David Wu discipline action

PORTLAND — The Oregon State Bar won't investigate whether U.S. Rep. David Wu, D-Ore., lied about being disciplined in college on his 1985 application to become an attorney.

Bar officials said a complaint requesting such an investigation did not provide enough evidence to justify a review of confidential admissions applications.

The complaint was filed by Jeff Smith, the Republican Party's 1st Congressional District chairman, who had questioned whether Wu truthfully answered a question about whether he had ever been, "dropped, suspended, disciplined or subjected to a disciplinary inquiry or proceeding by any college or law school."

Smith's complaint came after a report published in The Oregonian that said Wu had been questioned by Stanford University police in 1976 after an ex-girlfriend allegedly accused him of trying to sexually assault her. After publication of the article, Wu said he had been disciplined by Stanford and apologized for his "inexcusable behavior."

Smith can appeal the bar's decision to take no further action.

Republicans flag illegal double voters

SALEM — Oregon State Republican party chairman Kevin Mannix said a GOP computer search of state voter rolls has so far found six Oregonians who have voted twice.

Elections officials have long known that double voting is possible if someone registers in more than one county. But systems are in place to flag such cases, election authorities told Oregon Public Broadcasting.

And State Elections Director John Lindback said even if a double vote does slip through, the voter will be prosecuted.

Lindback said after the 2000 election, the Republican Party raised similar concerns about voters who registered more than once. But after an exhaustive review, none of the people who received two ballots in

2000 cast two votes, Lindback said.

Pilot error blamed for Flight 587 crash

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The copilot of American Airlines Flight 587 caused the November 2001 crash that claimed the lives of 265 people, the staff of the nation's airline safety agency reported Tuesday. The safety board itself was expected to rule later Tuesday on the staff's findings. Investigator Robert Benzon of the National Transportation Safety Board staff said the copilot's response to turbulence, just seconds after the Airbus A300-600 plane took off from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, was "unnecessary and aggressive."

Bush, Kerry trade national security barbs

ONALASKA, Wis. — President Bush and Sen. John Kerry accused each other of lacking the hard-nosed resolve of Cold War presidents — from Democrat Truman to Republican Reagan — reaching across party lines a week before Election Day to try to break their campaign deadlock. With tensions rising in both camps Tuesday, Bush said Kerry favors "the position of weakness and inaction" contrary to "the great tradition of the Democratic Party."

Koizumi surveys quake-damaged Japan

NAGAOKA, Japan — Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi walked along crumbled mountain roads Tuesday to inspect collapsed homes and speak to survivors Tuesday as he surveyed the damage inflicted by Japan's deadliest earthquake in nearly a decade.

The death toll rose to 31 as elderly victims died from the effects of the weekend quake.

Aftershocks rumbled across largely rural Niigata prefecture, about 160 miles northwest of Tokyo, where a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck Saturday evening, buckling roads and unleashing landslides.

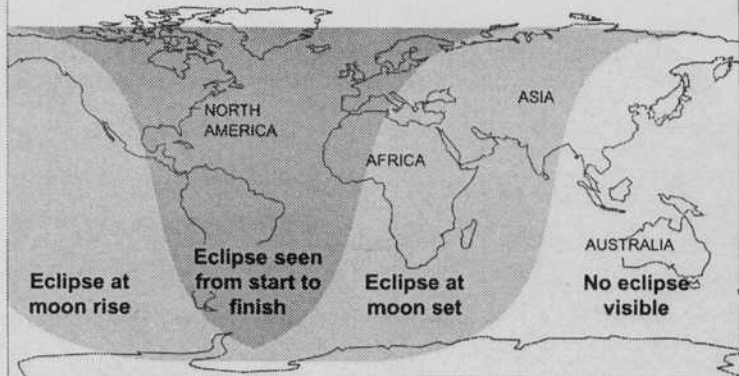
Another 5,000 residents entered public shelters amid fears the aftershocks would trigger more landslides, raising the total of evacuated people to more than 103,000. Thousands more camped out in tents and cars, too afraid to return home.

In Ojiya, one of the most severely hit towns, Koizumi stopped to look at a wooden home the quake had reduced to a pile of debris as an official explained the building was once two stories tall.

— The Associated Press

Eclipsed moon seen around the world

During a total eclipse of the moon, the Earth blocks sunlight and the moon appears red as it glides through the planet's shadow. The two day lunar eclipse begins Wednesday and will be seen on all continents except Australia.



SOURCE: NASA

AP

78 Muslim detainees dead after Thailand riot arrests

Muslim leaders say police overreacted by stuffing 1,300 detainees into trucks in Southern Thailand

BY ALISA TANG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PATTANI, Thailand — At least 78 Muslim detainees suffocated or were crushed to death after police rounded up 1,300 people and packed them into trucks following a riot in southern Thailand. Islamic leaders accused troops Tuesday of overreacting and warned the deaths could worsen sectarian violence.

The arrests followed a melee outside a police station, where protesters had demanded the release of six Muslim men accused of giving weapons to Islamic separatists. Six people were shot to death during the riot Monday, apparently by security forces.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, speaking to reporters as rumors of the suffocations circulated but before the 78 deaths were officially announced, tried to blame the casualties on dawn-to-dusk fasting during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"There are some who died because they were fasting, and they were crammed in tight," Thaksin said. "It's a matter of their bodies becoming weak. Nobody did anything to them."

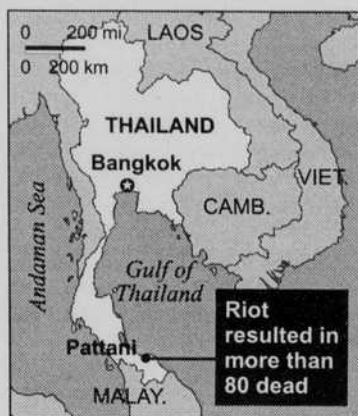
But the death toll shocked moderate Muslim leaders who accused security forces of overreacting — a charge they have repeatedly made as the government has failed to halt the violence that has claimed more than 400 lives this year in the

Muslim-dominated south.

"I am in shock," Abdulraman Abdulsamad, chairman of the Islamic Council of Narathiwat, the province where the unrest occurred, told The Associated Press. "I cannot say what is going to happen, but I believe that hell will break out."

Violent crush

At least 78 people were suffocated or crushed to death in police trucks following a riot; six others were shot to death.



SOURCE: ESRI

AP

Violence has troubled overwhelmingly Buddhist Thailand's three Muslim-majority southern provinces for decades, but it has worsened this year. Residents claim they are discriminated against by

the central government.

As news of the tragedy spread, six people were shot and seriously wounded in separate attacks Tuesday. The victims included an assistant village chief and her husband.

The army earlier declared a curfew in Narathiwat, with Thaksin calling the situation "volatile."

The dead were among 1,300 people arrested after six hours of skirmishing with authorities. Witnesses saw the prisoners stripped of the waist with their hands tied behind their backs and herded onto trucks to be driven to army camps.

Military and Justice Ministry officials said Tuesday that 78 of those transported on the trucks died en route, most suffocated by the crush of people piled atop one another. Some were kept in the trucks for as long as six hours.

Dr. Pornthip Rojanasunan, a Justice Ministry forensics expert, said most perished from suffocation and some from dehydration. Maj. Gen. Sinchai Nujsathit, deputy commander of the 4th Army region, said suffocations occurred "because we had more than 1,300 people packed into the six-wheel trucks."

Lt. Gen. Pisarn Wattana-wongkhiri, Sinchai's commander, said 25 army trucks and others hired from private contractors were used to transport the detainees.


Manit Suthaporn, a Justice Ministry official, blamed fasting for contributing to the deaths. "This, combined with the heat — they were in the trucks for five to six hours, and it was crowded," Manit said.

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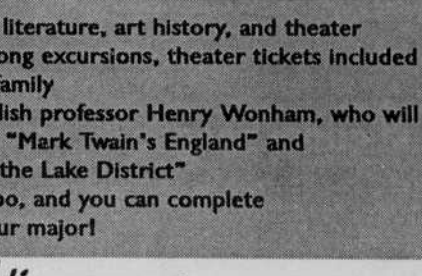
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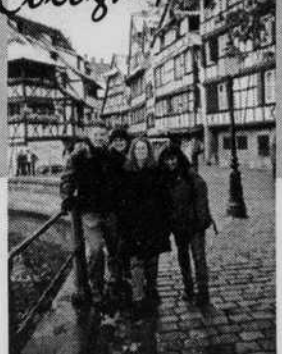
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