

Taliban

Rumsfeld goes on diplomatic mission

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pointed to Uzbekistan in particular as a possible staging ground for Afghan operations.

But Rumsfeld's visit didn't bring any announcements of any change in either country's level

of cooperation with the campaign against Afghanistan.

But while Rumsfeld said he "appreciated" Uzbekistan's help, he and the Uzbek defense minister said they hadn't discussed expanding the U.S. presence in this former Soviet republic. Rumsfeld said the United States needed all kinds of assistance in the war against terror, but firmly insisted he wouldn't detail the contributions of any country.

The United States already has some 1,000 troops in Uzbekistan. Although Uzbekistan has balked at allowing the United States to carry out strikes from its bases, it has agreed that soldiers for search-and-rescue and humanitarian missions can be based on its territory.

Rumsfeld met with Uzbek President Islam Karimov and Defense Minister Qobir Ghulomov on Sunday during his second visit to this Central Asian nation in a month.

Anthrax

N.Y. woman's death still mysterious

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from Trenton, N.J. The tape was sent to a lab for tests on Oct. 23; the results came back Saturday.

"We feel pretty confident that it was cross-contaminated," city Health Department spokeswoman Sandra Mulling said. "This is not a new contamination."

Trace amounts of anthrax also were found in the mail room of the Veterans Affairs Medical center, based on tests completed Saturday by the CDC.

Veterans Affairs spokesman Phil Budahn said five mail room employees have been on antibiotics since Oct. 25 as a precaution. He said the hospital's 250 patients would be monitored, but it was thought unlikely that anthrax could have spread beyond the mail room, which closed Wednesday for cleaning.

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director, said Sunday that the source of the spores that caused the death last week by inhalation anthrax of Kathy T. Nguyen in New York was unknown.

Nguyen died a short time after being admitted to a hospital. She wasn't able to be interviewed, and investigators haven't been able to link her infection to the postal service or to mail handling.

Hurricane

Storm should brush Florida mainland

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dered the evacuation of a portion of the county. Public schools in both counties will be closed Monday.

The evacuation orders came a day after Gov. Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency.

Heavy bands of rain with tropical storm force winds, which range from 39-to-73 mph, were spreading across the Florida Straits and the Keys and were moving toward the southeast coast of Florida.

The center of Michelle should pass over Cuba by midnight Sunday and head into the eastern Florida Straits, said Ed Rappaport, deputy director of the National Hurricane Center.

Up until Monday afternoon, parts of the Keys and South

Florida will experience brief periods of heavy rains and strong winds, with the hurricane's closest approach to the state at dawn, Rappaport said.

Craig Fugate, director of the state's Division of Emergency Management, said the "all-clear" could not be given to people in the Keys until Monday.

The Keys, a chain of some 40 islands stretching 128 miles, have a little more than 80,000 permanent residents, plus visitors.

STATE BRIEFS

Diversity sought on Winthrop board

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Winthrop University's board should be reshaped so its members come from all over the state, York County legislators told the board.

During a workshop Friday, that's the advice the college received as it seeks more support in the Statehouse.

Winthrop has 12 board members, with six from Rock Hill and one from Charleston. Greenville and Spartanburg counties, influential areas in the Legislature, don't have a seat on Winthrop's board.

With budget cuts looming for colleges around the state, fears are rising that colleges without statewide influence won't have the clout they need when deeper cuts are considered.

Sen. Wes Hayes, R-Rock Hill, said appointing members from each of six congressional districts is a way of lessening the impression that Winthrop is a local college.

IT HAPPENED

NEWS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

NEWSPAPER RECEIVES WHITE POWDER: Authorities are testing a suspicious white powder found in an incoming mail office of *The Post and Courier*, a Charleston paper.

NATION BRIEFS

CDC ready for any smallpox attacks

ATLANTA — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has vaccinated some of its health workers against smallpox as a precaution in case they need to investigate a terrorist attack involving the deadly virus, a spokesman said Sunday.

While the CDC has no evidence that anyone is readying a terrorist attack using smallpox, which was eradicated outside laboratories 21 years ago, officials of the federal agency say the virus is so dangerous that it is important they be prepared.

"The agency expects false alarms as doctors heighten their suspicion of anthrax, smallpox and other diseases," said Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, the CDC director.

Last week, the CDC vaccinated about 140 members of epidemiological teams that can be sent at a moment's notice to examine suspected cases of smallpox.

IT HAPPENED

NEWS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

ARIZONA BUS WRECK: A passenger grabbed the steering wheel of a bus while struggling with the driver Sunday and caused the vehicle to roll off the road, injuring about 30 people.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunman kills two on Jerusalem bus

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian militant opened fire on a bus in a disputed part of Jerusalem on Sunday, killing a 16-year-old U.S. native on her way home from school and another person before being gunned down himself.

The shooting came hours after the Israeli government told the army to prepare to withdraw from areas of West Bank towns it entered two weeks ago to hunt down and arrest Palestinian militants.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he thought the pullout from the first of the areas, Qalqilya, would go ahead as planned despite the shooting.

Witnesses and police said the gunman, identified by police as a member of the militant group Islamic Jihad, opened fire when the No. 25 bus stopped at a traffic light at a busy intersection in the French Hill district of Jerusalem.

IT HAPPENED

NEWS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

ENGLAND EXPLOSION: An explosion in the English city of Birmingham was caused by a "substantial" bomb that failed to detonate fully, police said Sunday. The device exploded in a busy area late Saturday but caused no serious injuries.

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