

WORLD

U.S. reaches grim milestone

Postwar death toll surpasses combat deaths

BAGHDAD (AP) — Two more American soldiers have been killed in hostile action in Iraq, taking the U.S. postwar combat death toll to above the number killed during the invasion, the military said Wednesday.

The deaths brought to 117 the number of American soldiers killed by hostile fire since May 1, when President George W. Bush declared an end to active combat. A total of 114 U.S. soldiers were killed between the start of the war March 20 and the end of April.

In the latest attack, insurgents destroyed an American tank north of Baghdad late Tuesday, killing the two soldiers, and wounded seven Ukrainians in the first ambush against the multinational force patrolling central Iraq, officials said.

The U.S. victims were from the 4th Infantry Division. Their Abrams battle tank apparently

hit a landmine near Balad, 70 kilometres north of Baghdad, division spokeswoman Maj. Josslyn Aberle said.

It was the first M1 Abrams battle tank destroyed since May 1, military officials said. Several of the vehicles — the mainstay of the army's armoured forces — were disabled in combat before May 1.

The ambush of the Ukrainians occurred when two armoured personnel carriers rolled over landmines near Suwayrah, 65 kilometres southeast of Baghdad.

After the vehicles were disabled, gunmen opened fire on the disembarked soldiers, a spokesman for the multinational division at Camp Babylon said on condition of anonymity.

The spokesman said it was the first ambush against the Polish-led force that since Septem-

ber has been patrolling a belt of central Iraq south of the capital. About 1,650 Ukrainians are serving in the Polish-led force of some 9,500 peacekeepers.

American soldiers carried out pre-dawn raids Thursday in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit and detained more than a dozen suspects, some believed to be involved in setting up a new terrorist cell, the military said.

Under the cover of darkness, 4th Infantry Division troops fanned out across downtown Tikrit, 190 kilometres north of Baghdad, raiding six houses. U.S. forces had "reliable intelligence" that the suspects were involved in establishing a "new terrorist network in Tikrit and planning terrorist attacks against coalition forces," Lt.-Col. Steve Russell told The Associated Press after the operation.



AP photo

Prince Charles talks with Miss International runner-up Shonali Nagrani, right, as Miss Tibet Tsering Kyi looks on during the Prince's visit to a Tibetan resettlement colony in New Delhi, India Wednesday.

Prince turns on charm

NEW DELHI (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles spent part of his India trip socializing with two beauty queens: an Indian journalist who quit her job for the ramp, and a Tibetan model who walked through the Himalayas to flee her homeland.

"He is very, very charming," Shonali Nagrani said Wednesday. She was runner-up at the Miss International beauty pageant in Tokyo this month. Before she took to the runway, she was a news anchor with a local English television channel.

"I wish I was older. I wish he was younger," said Nagrani, wearing a glittering, bare-shouldered version of one of India's most popular dresses, the sari.

Charles sat for more than an hour at a Tibetan rehabilitation centre in New Delhi, where he watched dances by colourfully dressed Tibetan children, applauded through a performance by

a Tibetan pop star, laughed at a mimicry act by a standup comedian — and met the two beauty queens.

Nagrani was a special guest at the event. She sent photographers into a frenzy as she sashayed down a makeshift ramp at a small school and migrants' complex in the Majnu ka Tila neighbourhood in New Delhi's crowded north.

Catwalking alongside side her was Miss Tibet, 20-year-old Tsering Kyi, who has finished her 10th grade at an Indian school like tens of thousands of Tibetan refugees who have fled their Himalayan homeland since their supreme spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, did so in 1959.

Charles applauded as he watched the beauty pageant. He then chatted with Nagrani and Kyi at tea for a long time, laughing and gesturing in a corner of a lawn.

Sept. 11 deaths cut by 40

NEW YORK (AP) — The World Trade Center death toll from the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks dropped to 2,752 Wednesday after 40 names were removed from the list because investigators could not prove those people died or, in some cases, whether they ever existed.

For two years, the number of people killed has not been precisely known. The toll had stood at 2,792 since December of last year.

"This is close to what we believe were there," said Police Insp. Jeremiah Quinlan.

"We put a lot of work into it, when you look at how many were originally reported to what it is now."

Hours after the 2001 attack, a stunned Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said the number of casualties would be "more than any of us can bear."

The list peaked at 6,886 two weeks after the attack, inflated by thousands of missing-person reports from relatives and friends around the world who had not heard from loved ones.

Since then, a team of investigators has weeded out errors, duplicated names and cases of outright fraud.

An Associated Press tally of people confirmed dead and those reported dead or missing in the trade centre attack stood at 2,774 Wednesday. The AP list is based on information collected from the Pentagon, medical examiners, the courts, AP foreign bureaus, companies, families, member newspapers, funeral homes and places of worship.

Charles Strozier, a psychoanalyst and history professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said a solid number is important for the history books, for memorials and a sense of finality.

The 40 names dropped from the list were recited at both the first- and second-anniversary observances at ground zero.

Among the names removed this week are the only children ever said to have died in the buildings. A baby and his four-year-old brother were reported missing along with their father by a California woman who said she was the youngsters' grandmother. Now, it is not clear whether they ever existed.

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The winning numbers in Friday's Super 7 draw were

03, 11, 23, 26, 27, 28, 31. The bonus number was 14.

The four EXTRA winning numbers for British Columbia on Friday were 07, 36, 43, 78.

The winning numbers in Wednesday's Lotto-649 draw were

08, 09, 22, 29, 37, 49. The bonus number was 33.

The BC-49 lottery winning numbers on Wednesday were

03, 20, 21, 25, 38, 43. The bonus number was 35.

The four EXTRA winning numbers for British Columbia on Wednesday were 22, 40, 52, 54.

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11 of 13 trapped miners alive

NOVOSHAKHTINSK, Russia (AP) — Blinking in the sunlight they hadn't seen in a week, 11 of 13 coal miners who were trapped in a deep shaft in southern Russia were brought to the surface alive Wednesday. One said the men didn't have long to live when help arrived.

"When we saw the rescuers, that was like the appearance of Christ before the people," said Vasily Avdeyev, one of the freed miners whose coal-blackened, grim faces attested to their ordeal.

One of the other two miners remained missing late Thursday and the last was found dead, apparently crushed against mine walls by the waters that rushed in from an underground lake and trapped the men last Thursday.

There were 71 men working about 800 metres underground when the icy water began roaring into the mine, named Zapad-



AP photo

One of the 11 rescued miners waves outside the Zapadnaya mine in southern Russia on Wednesday.

naya. Twenty-five managed to escape, 33 others were rescued Saturday, and workers tunnelled

through solid rock from an adjacent mine to reach the rest.

As they emerged, relatives who had kept vigil cried out their names. A crowd of doctors, police and rescue workers surrounded the men as they were hustled into ambulances, their shoulders wrapped in cheery pink and blue blankets. Some reached out to pat the miners on the back in a restrained show of relief.

Nikolai Lazaryev, an uncle of one of the rescued men, said the long wait was a gruelling ordeal. "We could not live — we just existed," he said.

The success of the rescue operation boosted spirits in this hard-scrabble coal-mining region, but a gas explosion that killed five in a mine on the other side of the country was a grim reminder of the dangers facing workers in Russia's deteriorating mines.

to not be kept alive artificially.

His in-laws, Bob and Mary Schindler, have fought him, saying their daughter had no such wishes and is not in a permanent vegetative state, as a probate judge has declared. They say she is responsive and could improve with therapy.

Terri Schiavo suffered severe brain damage in 1990 when her heart stopped. The legal battle over her fate is one of the country's longest and most contentious right-to-die cases.

She went without food and water for six days under a court order which allowed her husband to withdraw the tube. But within hours of the Florida legislature's action last week, the tube was reinserted.

Husband challenges 'Terri's Law'

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — A hastily passed state law that empowered Gov. Jeb Bush to keep a severely brain-damaged woman alive is unconstitutional, lawyers for the woman's husband contended Wednesday.

In a court filing, lawyers for Michael Schiavo challenged what Florida legislators dubbed "Terri's Law," which gave Bush the authority to order Terri Schiavo's feeding tube be reinserted Oct. 21.

The filing contends that the law violates Terri Schiavo's right to privacy under the Florida constitution and its separation of power provisions. The lawyers asked that the law be overturned.

Michael Schiavo has been battling in court for years to carry out what he says is his wife's wish

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