A Pakistan army soldier stands guard in the Jalozai camp where thousands of displaced people from troubled Swat Valley are housed in Peshawar, Pakistan on Thursday.

K.P. BUTT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of banned group help Pakistan war refugees

Riaz Khan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARANA, Pakistan (AP) — Members of a charity banned for its alleged links to the Mumbai terror attack have resurfaced in northwestern Pakistan under a new name, distributing food and medicine Thursday among thousands of refugees from the government's bloody fight against the Taliban.

The makeover of Jamaat-ud-Dawa raises awkward questions for the embattled government, which has been trying hard to convince its skeptical Western sponsors that it is serious about taming Islamist extremism.

The offensive against Taliban insurgents in the Swat Valley area, the largest in months, has driven about 800,000 people from their homes, with 80,000 sweltering in camps south of the battle zone.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told Parliament on Thursday that it was the largest internal displacement of Pakistanis since the country's creation in 1947.

"They are sacrificing for the future, and every Pakistani is ready to help them," he said of the refugees.

But he probably wasn't reckoning on aid coming from radicals whom the government had supposedly taken out of action.

House votes $97 billion war funds, despite doubts

Andrew Taylor
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite Democrats' rising anxiety about Afghanistan, the House on Thursday easily passed a $97.3 billion measure filling President Barack Obama's request for war spending and foreign aid efforts there and in Iraq.

Some 51 Democrats broke with Obama, who is sending thousands more troops into Afghanistan, but all but a handful of Republicans stood behind the president to pass the $91.3 billion bill that sticks closely to Obama's $85 billion request — including $9.4 billion since the government is issued IMF funds to the war-fund measure concerns whether it should provide a $180 billion U.S. contribution to the International Monetary Fund as part of an expanded $500 billion IMF loan fund, a cornerstone of last month's Group of 20 nations summit in London to assist poor countries struggling through the global economic downturn.

Obama officially requested the IMF funding late Tuesday, and the request was immediately incorporated into the Senate version by Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye of Hawaii. The IMF funds would cost U.S. taxpayers about $5 billion since the government is issued interest-bearing assets in return for the contribution.

House Republicans oppose adding the IMF funds to the war-fund measure, and their votes will be needed to pass the final House-Senate compromise bill, given the opposition of anti-war Democrats.

As for the military spending, during the Bush administration many Democrats stressed their opposition to the war in Iraq while supporting efforts against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan. But an increasing number of party liberals are skeptical and ride safely among cars. While organizations and community groups encourage biking instead of driving, some community members continue to worry about bicycle safety.

"I think that most riders still believe that bike riding is a fun activity that they did growing up, and now are doing it for transportation means," said Barry Lewis, a law librarian and member of San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition and League of American Cyclists. Although biking is an activity associated with fun for most people he said, when it's used to commute instead of for leisure there is more involved than getting on the bike and pedaling.

Even after the introduction of the San Luis Obispo Bicycle Coalition's free bike education workshops that teach bicyclists how to be safe and confident, the number of bicycle citations in San Luis Obispo County in the past year did not drop. The workshops teach bicyclists things such as how to avoid crashes, where to ride on the road, bicycle riding skills and traffic laws that affect bicycling.

Cal Poly offers bicycle diversion classes similar to those taught at 16 other California schools. In 1999, the California Polytechnic University police department received a $500,000 grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to start the program.

"We are training bicyclists to become more responsible and give other people on the road the right of way," said tome of the classes last year.

"We have found that we are not teaching them things they don't already know, but reinforcing the things they do know," said one.

"By the time they are done with the program, they are more confident riding their bikes in traffic and less nervous (about being in traffic)," said another.

Bikers on the Cal Poly campus must follow all the rules of the road or could face a traffic ticket. The University Police Department said there were six bike accidents last year.

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Cal Poly begins the NCAA tournament today.

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IN SPORTS, 8

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Fallon Scholl
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the driver of a Ford truck took his foot off of the brakes at the stop sign on a recent afternoon at Cal Poly, a young man on a blue bike blew right through the stop, narrowly escaping impact with the truck that was turning right.

With no police in sight, the bicyclist went on his way without a reprimand and seemingly oblivious to the accident he almost caused.

Scenes like this occur on a daily basis on Cal Poly's campus and around the city and some people are trying to change this. May is when San Luis Obispo holds its annual Celebration of Bike Month, and it raises the question of whether or not bicyclists in San Luis Obispo County and on Cal Poly's campus are well educated in bike safety.

As part of San Luis Obispo's Bike Month, The San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition will put on a Bicycle Confidence Workshop May 16 at Cal Poly's University Union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in room 219. The workshop is aimed at showing bicyclists how to ride with confidence, understand traffic psychology and ride safely among cars. While organizations and community groups encourage biking instead of driving, some community members continue to worry about bicycle safety.

"I think that most riders still believe that bike riding is a fun activity that they did growing up, and now are doing it for transportation means," said Barry Lewis, a law librarian and member of San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition and League of American Cyclists. Although biking is an activity associated with fun for most people he said, when it's used to commute instead of for leisure there is more involved than getting on the bike and pedaling.

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See Bike Month, page 2.
Pakistan continued from page 1

On Thursday, about 10 volunteers were manning a distribution point for relief goods and services in Mardan, the city serving as the hub of the international relief effort.

Ostensibly, they belonged to Falah-i-Insaniat, a previously unheralded charitable foundation.

But the large white flag fluttering nearly featured a black sword along with the Islamic confession of faith — the distinctive logo of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawa. The same logo was on the back of jackets worn by some of the volunteers.

“We have sent 2,000 of our members to help our brothers and sisters,” Mian Aadi, deputy chairman of Falah and a former member of Jamaat, told The Associated Press. “We are silently helping the homeless, hungry and needy people, and let us do our work without maligning us.

The U.S. and the U.N. say Jamaat-ud-Dawa is a front for Lashkar-e-Taiba, the militant group accused of being the Islamic militant group in the region, but declined to say how active it might be.

Jamaat helped tens of thousands of people following the deadly Kashmir earthquake in 2005 and the floods in Sindh province last year.

But any move by the government to stop Falah would likely be unpopular, legally difficult and risk a backlash among Pakistanis.

Jamaat helped tens of thousands of people following the deadly Kashmir earthquake in 2005 and the floods in Sindh province last year. It also ran networks of schools and clinics that have since been taken over by the government.

Analysts suspect its welfare arm helps attract donations and volunteers, some of whom may have been redirected to the armed struggle in Kashmir.

Rasul Bokhsh Rana, a professor of political science in Lahore, said Pakistan’s establishment understood that it could no longer tolerate groups fueling religious militancy, even if they supported the country’s foreign policy goals.

But the government will find it hard to move against the group unless it is involved in militant activities.

“They will be closely watched, but if they remain confined to rehabilitation and relief probably no one is going to lay a finger on them,” Rais said. “They can’t really be challenged in a court of law ... unless they do some mischief.”

Pakistani leaders worry that the massive disruption from the Swat offensive — and unconfirmed reports of civilian casualties — will up public support for the pro-Western government and the army.

The military claims to have killed about 800 militants in the operation so far, including 54 announced on Thursday. Troops have fought their way to within four miles (six kilometers) of the valley’s main town, Mingora, spokesman Maj. Gen. Attaur Abbass said. Nine troops also died in the previous 24 hours, he said.

The military’s account of the fighting could not be independently verified.

Obama continued from page 1

The $9.3 billion Senate measure includes Obama’s $3.5 billion emergency request to fight a potential flu pandemic, while the House would add about $500 million to the request as a safety net in case of a flu scare appears to be abating.

On Guantanamo, the Senate measure includes $250 million to be used closing the prison but directs that it can’t be used to transfer any of the detainees into the United States. The House bill, which does not include such money, sets a policy forbidding release of Guantanamo prisoners within the United States. It would also bar the prisoners from being shipped to the U.S. to stand trial or to serve their sentences.

The Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously endorsed the measure Thursday, which it backed mostly in favor of its version of the spending bill.

Most of that money, about $73 billion, would go to the Defense Department to pay for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the extra 21,000 troops being sent to Afghanistan.

The measure is $1.3 billion more than the president requested, much of which was absorbed by $480 million sought by Mississippi Republicans Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker to help Mississippi Gulf Coast and restore ecosystems such as salt marshes to protect the coastline.

Despite the panel’s unanimous endorsement, some Republicans said they plan to try to amend the bill to strip off $50 million included in the measure to close Guantamano.

Bike Month continued from page 1

ilar to the workshops for those who receive citations. "While the number of cited cyclists might appear high, I personally see violations repeatedly throughout the day, every day," said Lewis. "I have tried my own methods of instructing them about the rules like shouting at cyclists as they blasted through a stop sign, but don’t feel this is the best approach." Chief of University Police Wil­liam Wotton takes the same stance as Lewis and says that many people don’t realize that riding a bike is just like driving a car.

Many bicycle-riding students don’t seem to realize that they are breaking laws.

“Most of the time, I can remember when I first came to Cal Poly as a freshman. The only reason I know anything about the rules is because my roommate gave me a ticket,” jour­nalism senior Natalie Pavich said. “I witness bikers coming close to ac­cidents on a daily basis.”

Campus police reports show there have been an accident this year, one or two of which were injury acci­dents. While this is good news for student bikers, the issue still remains frustrating for other motorists.

Wine and viticulture senior Allie Frazer finds it difficult and “some­times scary” to drive to class during peak hours because of the recklessness and appear of out-of-control,ness. “I like what Bike Month is trying to promote and am glad that some organizations try to educate biker es,” said Frazer.

But Frazier thinks a lot of people take into account that they are sharing the road and it is much harder to safely maneuver a car than it is a bike.”

A young man sits on the railroad tracks Wednesday to smoke a cigarette just outside the St. Mary’s, Pa., job-placement center where laid-off workers don’t understand why Elk County has been left out of Presi­dent Barack Obama’s economic stimulus plan.

 

Winnipeg May 15, 2009
Man convicted in lucrative body parts selling scheme

Defendant Ernest Nelson is accused of being part of a lucrative scheme to buy and sell human body parts donated to a University of California medical school, Thursday.

Greg Rising
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man was convicted Thursday of carving up cadavers donated to UCLA's medical school and selling the parts to unsuspecting medical research companies in a $1.5 million scheme.

Jurors found Ernest Nelson, 51, guilty of eight counts, including grand theft and tax evasion. Prosecutors said Nelson could face a maximum of 12 years in prison and they want him to repay $1.5 million to UCLA.

Nelson "was willing to go into a willed body program and cut up body parts for his own personal financial gain," prosecutor Maria Zarate said after the verdict.

Defense attorney Sean McDonald said he was disappointed by the verdict and left court without further comment.

Prosecutors said Nelson and Henry Reid, the former director of UCLA's Willed Body program, devised the scam in 1998.

Nelson, who ran a business transporting body parts to hospitals and medical research firms, has said he thought the sales were authorized by the university.

One juror said lax supervision of the UCLA program contributed to the problem.

"If UCLA had better supervision of its program something like this wouldn't have happened," said the 48-year-old man who asked that his name be withheld to protect him or his job.

The jury also found there was a pattern of fraud and embezzlement totaling more than $100,000—a special enhancement allegation that will be considered during sentencing on June 12.

Founded in 1950, the UCLA cadaver program received about 375 donated bodies a year before it was suspended. It was the second time in less than a decade that scandal swept the cadaver program.

In 1996, relatives of body donors alleged the program had illegally disposed of thousands of donated bodies, including dumping some remains in landfills.

A state appellate court ruled this weekend that his name be withheld to protect him or his job.

"I think that voters frankly are going to be outraged if the initiatives fail when they see the rope of cues that are in store," she said.

The governor wants to sell state property, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and San Quentin State Prison, to raise $600 million to $1 billion over the next two to five years.

He plans calls for $6 billion in borrowing and, under the worst-case scenario, taking $2 billion from local governments, a move that would affect local police and fire departments.

"This goes to the very heart of our communities," Schwarzenegger said. "But these are the numbers, and they don't lie.

The recession has taken a deep toll on California, which relies heavily on income tax and capital gains taxes from the wealthy to fund its government. The state's unemployment rate has jumped beyond 11 percent, the construction industry is in a tailspin and the retail landscape is dotted with empty storefronts.

The state also has a $26 billion deficit that it must close over the next two years.

"This goes to the very heart of our communities," Schwarzenegger said. "But these are the numbers, and they don't lie.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, left, talks with Finance Director Mike Genest, right, as they walk to a news conference where Schwarzenegger released his revised state budget proposal for the coming fiscal year at the California State Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Thursday, May 14, 2009.

"It's going to be pretty tough to persuade voters to support the special election ballot measures, nearly all of which are failing in the polls," said Mike Roth, spokesman for the No on IA campaign, which opposes a proposition that would create a spending cap and extend a series of tax increases.

Schwarzenegger and lawmakers called for the special election in February when they passed a two-year budget package, which they said at the time would solve California's deficit through June 2010. That budget included $15 billion in cuts, $12.5 billion in temporary tax increases and $11.4 billion in borrowing, but it has not been enough.

The Legislature's bipartisan budget analyst warned recently that California could run out of cash as early as this summer.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, said the drop in tax revenue was so severe that she couldn't fathom how next year's budget could be balanced with cuts alone.

The governor has taken a sharp drop in tax revenue since he took office earlier this year but they were not passed by the Legislature, which has until June 15 to pass a spending plan, although the constitutional deadline is rarely met.

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WORD ON THE STREET

“Do you think San Luis Obispo is a bike-friendly town?”

“I think so. It’s a big university here and it’s a big bike town so I think that SLO is very accommodating to bikers.”

David Gonzalez, mechanical engineering graduate student

“Yeah, except my friend got hit once (while on a bike). So many kids here are student drivers and bikers don’t always wear helmets so it’s a little unsafe.”

Bethany Phelps, liberal studies junior

“Yeah, definitely. I bike around and it seems like people in automobiles are pretty conscious of bikes. I ride pretty reckless, too, and I feel safe around other drivers.”

Prem Aranda, art and design senior

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For the first time, the University of Southern California athletic program is hosting regional Homecoming games.

The Trojans will host the UC Irvine Anteaters in a non-conference game on Saturday, May 16, at 6:00 PM. The game will be played in the Galen Center, and admission is free for all fans.

The Trojans will also host the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos on Friday, May 22, at 6:00 PM. This game will take place at the Galen Center, and admission is free for all fans.

The homecoming games are part of a larger effort by the USC athletic department to increase fan engagement and create a more fan-friendly atmosphere.

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports has announced that the 2009 National Teen Health and Physical Activity Awards will be presented to high school students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in promoting physical activity and fitness.

The awards will be presented at a special ceremony on May 15, at the White House.

The awards are open to all high school students in grades 9-12 who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in promoting physical activity and fitness in their schools or communities.

International

Mumbai, India (AP) — The India national cricket team is due to arrive in India on Friday night after a successful tour of the West Indies. The team is expected to play a series of one-day internationals and Tests against the West Indies, before returning to India for the Indian Premier League.

Argentina (AP) — The Argentine national football team is due to play a friendly match against Brazil on Thursday night. The match is part of the team's preparation for the upcoming Copa América.

Baseball

VS. SANTA CLARA
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BAGGETT STADIUM

Ryan Lee (L)
Los Aliso, CA

Wes Derrell (R)
Claremont, CA

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BASEBALL

VS. UC RIVERSIDE
FRIDAY, MAY 22, 6:00PM
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 6:00PM
SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1:00PM
BAGGETT STADIUM

*Jersey Day and Senior Day - All youth, 13 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game and the Mustang Senior class will be honored prior to the game.
May was impressed with the student turnout.

The audience was so large that many people were standing outside the doors to Cuesta Auditorium. May joked that even he wouldn't have wanted that long to see himself perform.

May doubled his performance expectations, telling jokes for twice as long as the hour he was scheduled for.

"You know it's good when you don't feel like you've done two hours (of stand up)," May said. "When it feels like you've done maybe 40 minutes and you look down at your watch and your at two hours and time flies by, that's how much fun you're having."

May, who has done three comedy specials on Comedy Central, said that when he's making people laugh, it opens the minds up.

"People don't realize that there are actual lessons in my comedy, but when they break it down and they realize what it is, the reason I say certain things and do certain things is it all has a purpose. It's all well thought out; it's all executed and designed to be thought provoking."

"I was definitely on topic with things, he had some good points," Fossi said. "He had a little bit of philosophy in there, very subtle."

May received a standing ovation at the end of his performance and waited after the show until every fan got an autograph or picture.

"You know what, it worked," May said. "Everybody made it through. Did I say inappropriate words? Yeah. I sure did but you know what? Nobody died, no drama happened, nothing bad happened and there's a lesson in that."

May said he was appreciative of Cal Poly's hospitality. "I had a great time," he said. "It was awesome, everybody has treated me awesome. The jokes were on the house."

Although there were no perceived complaints about the nature of May's comedy he believed that controversy could be a positive tool to be used by society.

"Some people get mad at people only see it for the surface and that's good too, anyone you spark controversy," he said. "What society tells you right now could be wrong in five years."

"That's what I do, to basically be the finger in your ass to let you know 'hey, you're still alive, you know? Hey, you're going to be all right, you're going to get through it.' And again, just to the knuckle."
In California, we have two constituencies. One votes in the statewide elections, and another votes at the district level. If you've ever wondered why we have a Republican governor and a bunch of conservative-leaning legislators in the statewide elections, and another votes at the district level, you have your answer.

This statewide electorate learns conservative and Republican rhetoric at a younger age and is more educated than the rest of the state, it votes accordingly. The district-level electorate has been shaped by various federal laws and judicial decisions that say that minorities in California have to be able to elect people of their community to office. This is why, especially after term limits went into effect for the state legislature in 1994, we have a legislature that looks more like the state itself. The Latino Caucus, in particular, has grown in power and prestige, and candidates are competing for Latino votes in more and more districts.

This dual constituency is frustrating for many people who wish that we could use direct democracy to push a progressive agenda. In short, don't get up.

But a Monday L.A. Times article indicates that this could all be changing soon. People are getting naturalized at unprecedented rates, and that means millions of new voters. One million immigrants became U.S. citizens last year, and nearly a third of them were in this group. Those 300,000 new citizens are the double number that signed up in 2006. Mexicans were one-fourth of this group, followed by Indians, Filipinos, Chinese, Cubans and Vietnamese. Many of the new citizens have said that inspired by the immigration demonstrations of the last few years, realizing that the path to change fence plans and jump on the immigration issue.

But to gain some ground with the new citizens, gay marriage activists need to get serious. Rather than network of gay-friendly tolerant churches that reach out to other churches, the Latino community makes even more sense. There are Catholics out there who don't think the Vatican should dictate accepted practices in the United States. We're better off working with them to change some of the hearts and minds of Latinos than with these fast-growing groups traditional to vote for higher taxes and more social services. Both Proposition 8 and Proposition 21 went into effect.

This column was originally published in the Daily Californian of UC Berkeley.
Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

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MuStanG Daily

LOOKING AHEAD

Mustangs begin NCAA Tournament against Nevada

Scott Silvey

The Cal Poly softball team had arguably its greatest regular season in the history of the program. With that out of the way, the Mustangs will look to have a similar postseason.

Cal Poly (39-10) won't have to do much to improve on their only other postseason performance, a winless, two-game elimination in 2007.

Still, head coach Jenny Condon said that this team is equipped to go much further than the 2007 squad.

"Two years ago we were venturing into the unknown," Condon said. "We could talk about it, but you never really know until you get there and you see what's happening. I know when we walked away in 2007 the players were disappointed with the performance that they put on."

The Mustangs get their next chance at the program's first post-season victory when they take on the Wolfpack but Condon recalled much about the close game with Stanford.

"We get on the bus and we stay there and you see what's happening. I know when we walked away in 2007 the players were disappointed with the performance that they put on."

The Mustangs are the only team in the NC7AA Tournament in Irvine this weekend. The senior was severely injured of his conditioning.

"I think it's a great credit to his determination and his desire to win that he was able to come back and able to address that fear factor," Crawford said.

"I think this is going to be a challenge we have to play the quality of competition they will meet in the tournament."

"We set the schedule to challenge us in the beginning — and it definitely did," Condon said. "But we really competed against those teams mentally and physically."

"Two years ago we were venturing into the unknown," Condon said. "So I was like, 'Stanford yeah.' Then I saw (the first game against) Nevada, we've had a tight game with them and I'd love to play them again and Stanford, we've lost two really tight games to them."

"I think we're playing well," Pura said. "There's definitely room to get better and hopefully we'll peak in the playoffs."

"We get on the bus and we stay there and you see what's happening. I know when we walked away in 2007 the players were disappointed with the performance that they put on."

"As a senior, I want to play our routine."

"There's no pressure of us thinking, 'oh this could be the last game,'" Pura said. "There's (no sense of urgency), not at all."