

Full Moon



by R. DeLuna Claudette

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likely target as recently as Sunday, was not under any watches or warnings Monday.

By early Monday evening, Claudette's center was located about 230 miles east of Corpus Christi and about 135 miles southeast of Galveston, with maximum sustained winds blowing at 65 mph, still 9 mph shy of hurricane strength. The National Hurricane Center said the crew of an offshore oil rig reported wind gusts reaching 85 mph, and oil and natural gas companies evacuated hundreds of workers from drilling and production rigs in the Gulf of Mexico.

Only about half the usual number of crabbers at Seadrift, on Guadalupe Bay near the center of the warning area, were at work Monday despite pleasant conditions, said Josephine London, 50.

"On Tuesday, I don't think they're going to go out," said London, whose wharfside barbecue joint is mere footsteps away from the water.

T.J. Blevins, 18, who works at Seasonal Seafood, which purchases the daily catch from the crabbers for shipment around the country, had practical reasons to worry about how the Main Street harbor will fare in this town of 1,300.

"This is our jobs, you know," Blevins said. "I hope we have jobs to come back to."

On the bright side, Blevins said crabbers believe a storm will push crabs toward them, making for a bumper harvest in the next few days, assuming the means to catch and process the tasty crustaceans isn't wiped out.

Weather service forecaster Jim Campbell said swells that measured as high as 10 feet 200 miles offshore could lead to beach flooding and erosion and create dangerous rip currents for surfers and swimmers.

The U.S. Coast Guard said it was called in

Sunday to search for 10 to 12 people who went out into the high seas at South Padre Island and got caught in strong currents. All were accounted for, including an 8-year-old girl on a board who was carried down the beach more than a mile, said Petty Officer Third Class Andrew Kendrick.

On Monday, beaches on South Padre Island were crowded as the popular resort island was taken off any hurricane watch or warning. "It's been sunny all day long," said Francisco Mendoza, communications officer for the South Padre Island Police Department.

In the Corpus Christi area, city officials were concerned with the potential for coastal and inland flooding. An extra highway lane was being opened on a causeway from Padre Island to Corpus Christi to speed up voluntary evacuations from the island.

Several state parks on the Texas coast including Goose Island in Rockport, Mustang Island between Corpus Christi and Port Aransas, Matagorda Island near Port O'Connor and Galveston Island, evacuated visitors on Monday and were likely to remain closed through at least Thursday.

Officials at the South Texas Project nuclear plant, located about 80 miles southwest of Houston, near Bay City, secured records and equipment in preparation for Claudette. The coming storm was not affecting the plant power output and staffing remained at normal levels late Monday.

Claudette is the third tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season. It developed Tuesday in the Caribbean, brushing Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Mexico's Yucatan peninsula before entering the Gulf, where it has slowed down and gradually intensified.

The last hurricane to strike Texas was in 1999, when Bret slammed into a largely unpopulated stretch between Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

#25 "A Crutch to the Face Costs an Arm and a Leg" By I. FLORES



Iraq's new governing council dispatches delegates to U.N.

By Bassem Mroue
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's new governing council voted Monday to send a delegation to the U.N. Security Council and assert its right to represent Baghdad on the world stage. An explosion wrecked a car near the council's meeting site and yet another U.S. soldier was killed in an ambush.

As the U.S.-backed 25-member council met Monday, governments in Europe and Asia — even those critical of the U.S.-led war to oust Saddam Hussein — welcomed the body as a first step in returning political power to the Iraqis.

Both supporters and opponents of the conflict believe formation of an Iraqi administration could make it easier for them to contribute to the reconstruction of the shattered country — a crucial way of improving their ties with Washington.

"I welcome the setting up of the governing council in Iraq ... as a first important step toward a genuine and representative Iraqi administration," the European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, said in a statement.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the council "is seen as the first major step toward the transfer of official power in the country from the coalition forces and into the hands of Iraqis" and a "model" for addressing the problems of security and reconstruction.

The council, announced Sunday, will have real political muscle with the power to name ministers and approve the 2004 budget. But final control of Iraq rests with L. Paul Bremer — the U.S. administrator of Iraq and a major architect of the council.

That, and the fact the council was selected rather than elected, led to criticism at an Arab League meeting in Cairo, where Secretary-General Amr Moussa showed little eagerness to embrace the new Iraqi political body.

If the new council had been elected, Moussa said in a statement released Sunday night, "it would have gained much power and credibility." Most Arab leaders, like Saddam, gained power by brutal force or right of birth, not through elections.

In a statement Monday, President George W. Bush called the establishment of the council "an important step forward in the ongoing transition from ruthless dictatorship to a free and democratic Iraq with Iraqis determining their own future."

Amid the intense scrutiny of the world and the daily bloodshed across Iraq, the council was taking the first confident steps toward what is hoped to be a transition to democracy.

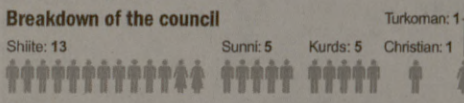
The body — comprised of prominent Iraqis from all walks of political and religious life — announced the delegation it was sending to the United Nations would "assert and emphasize the role of the governing council as a legitimate Iraqi body during this transitional period."

Ever since Saddam's U.N. Ambassador, Mohammed Al-Douri, left New York on April 11, Iraqi diplomats have kept a very low profile at the United Nations. Al-Douri did not resign and Iraq's U.N. Mission remains open, with the former third-ranking diplomat, Said Shihab Ahmad, in charge.

On Monday, the Iraqi governing council also formed three committees to outline an order of business for the coming weeks and work out organizational issues, said Hoshiyar Zebari, a spokesman for the council. The council had planned to select a

A step toward new government

The Iraq Governing Council held its inaugural meeting July 13. The makeup of the council is an attempt to reflect the country's diverse demographics.



Shiite			Sunni			Kurds			Turkoman			Christian		
Ahmad Chalabi Founder of Iraqi National Congress	Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim Leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution	Ibrahim al-Jaafari Member of Islamic Daw'a Party	Iyad Allawi Leader of the Accord	Ahmed Shaya'a al-Barak Human rights activist	Aquila al-Hashimi Female foreign affairs expert	Raja Habib al-Khuzali Female maternity hospital director	Hamid Majid Mousa Member of Communist Party	Mohammed al-Bahr al-Ujoom Cleric from Najaf	Mouwafak al-Rabii Longtime Iraqi resistance leader	Wael Abdullatif Basra governor	Abdel-Karim Mahmoud al-Mohammedwi Iraqi politician	Abdel-Zahraa Othman Member of Daw'a Party	Turkoman Sondul Chapouk Female Turkoman	Christian Younadem Kana Assyrian Christian
Naseer Kamel al-Chaderchi Member of National Democratic Party	Adnan Pochachi Former foreign minister	Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer Northern tribal chief	Mohsen Abdel Hamid Member of Iraqi Islamic Party	Samir Shakir Mahmoud Writer, prominent Saddam opposition figure	Jalal Talabani Member of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Sunni Kurd	Massoud Barzani Member of Kurdistan Democratic Party, Sunni Kurd	Mahmoud Othman Longtime leader of the Kurdish National Struggle.	Salaheddine Muhammad Bahaeddine Kurdistan Islamic Union	Dara Noor Alzin Judge on the Court of Appeal					

SOURCE: Associated Press

leader, but Zebari said that would be done later.

After the meeting had broken up, an explosion about a quarter-mile from the compound turned a black four-wheel drive vehicle owned by the Tunisian Embassy into a burned-out metal hulk. The site of the blast was a parking lot where journalists leave cars ahead of news conferences.

"I think it was a bomb," said Iraqi policeman Qasim Mohammed. "The explosion was very loud, and had it been a grenade, it wouldn't have been that powerful."

Mohammed said he believed the explosive device was thrown under the car shortly before it exploded.

The target of the blast was not clear. Mouwafak al-Rabii, a Shiite member of the governing council and a human rights activist, condemned the explosion.

"These are being carried out by the Taliban of Iraq," he said at the bomb site. It is "a backward ideology. A very regressive ideology, it depicts Islam in a very unacceptable way."

Speaking about the American-British occupation, al-Rabii said "nobody wants the Americans to stay one day longer than what they have to stay." He added that when Iraq has a government, an elected parliament and the security is under control, then "the American and British troops should leave immediately."

In west Baghdad, one American soldier was killed and six wounded in an early morning attack by insurgents who fired several rocket-propelled grenades at the military convoy, said Spc. Giovanni Llorente, a military spokesman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mexico's residents look to increase voting democracy

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Voters complain about the millions of dollars the federal government spends on Mexico's long political campaigns, while political parties spend months exchanging allegations of abuse and misconduct.

Three years after President Vicente Fox's historic election christened Mexico as officially democratic, residents and politicians alike are wondering if the country should do more to protect and streamline its electoral process.

Faced with an angry populace and growing demands for a democratic government, Mexico in the early 1990s began laying the foundation for open elections and a strong, multiparty system. Former President Carlos Salinas — widely criticized for allegedly stealing the presidency from leftist candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas — created the Federal Electoral Institute.

That cleared the way for clean elections in July 2000, and Fox was able to rise to the presidency, ending 71 years of rule by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

Yet in the wake of Mexico's July 6 midterm elections — the first national balloting since Fox's victory — residents are wondering if there isn't room for improvement.

Research

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small curriculum changes in three undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Programs, two certification programs in the College of Education and a new Water Management and Hydrosience Program proposal that would instate a new graduate program at A&M.

Chipotle

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education major. The new location will be at Texas Avenue South and University Drive East. Steve Ells, the owner of Chipotle, started what he considers a new twist on Mexican food several years ago.

Ells founded Chipotle in Denver in 1993 and dubbed the concept "fresh Mex." Henry said.

The restaurant will be designed by Scott Shippey and built by Justin Farrier, both A&M graduates.

Henry said all of Chipotle's food is prepared while the customer watches. "Chipotle is different from other burrito restaurants because of the quality of the food and the ingredients we use," she said. "Everything is fresh, no freezers and no microwaves."

The restaurant's grand opening is slated to take place the second week in September.

COLLEGE STATION POLICE BLOTTER

- 7/13/03 6:34 a.m. Burglary of a building, 815 Texas. Taken: money.
- 7/13/03 8:30 a.m. Public intoxication, 3300 SH 6. One arrest.
- 7/13/03 8:27 a.m. Burglary of a habitation, 901 Holleman. Taken: Playstation, leather bag, clothes taken.
- 7/13/03 5:22 p.m. Burglary of a habitation, 1106 Glade. Taken: CDs.
- 7/13/03 6:40 p.m. Major accident, 2201 Rio Grande. Scraped knee.
- 7/13/03 7:52 p.m. Theft, 1500 Harvey. One arrest.
- 7/13/03 7:12 p.m. Theft, 1500 Harvey. One arrest.
- 7/13/03 9:49 p.m. Aggravated assault, 633 West Ridge. No injuries.
- 7/13/03 11:37 p.m. DWI, 900 Welsh. One arrest.
- 7/14/03 12:46 a.m. Warrant arrest (assault), 1900 Texas.
- 7/14/03 12:54 a.m. Warrant arrest, 1601 Harvey.
- 7/14/03 1:25 a.m. Public intoxication, 329 University. One arrest.
- 7/14/03 2:19 a.m. Warrant arrest, 1501 Holleman.
- 7/14/03 3:20 a.m. Warrant arrest, 1207 Texas.

Liberia

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Bush said he wanted to help enforce a cease-fire, but he added, "This is conditional on President Taylor leaving. He got to leave."

Annan said he expected the Economic Community of West African States to send up to 2,500 troops.

"After that, from what I gather, President Taylor will leave Liberia, then the forces will be strengthened, hopefully with U.S. participation and additional troops from the West African region," Annan said.

Eventually, U.N. forces would supplant the initial forces, he said.

Bush and Annan also discussed postwar Iraq and search for peace in the Middle East and efforts to battle poverty and AIDS around the world.

It was the first meeting between Bush and Annan since Dec. 20, and since a divisive U.N. debate over a resolution — ultimately withdrawn — backed a U.S.-led invasion to oust Saddam Hussein's Iraq government.

Annan, who is from Ghana near Liberia, has joined with European leaders and Liberians themselves to plead with the United States to lead a team of international peacekeepers to the country to enforce a rebel government cease-fire.

After meeting with Secretary of State Colin Powell, Annan said he hoped "the decision will be made shortly and I hope it will be positive."

Annan also discussed Liberia with Senate leaders from both parties Monday.

He said the administration had a preliminary report from the assessment team "but they want to see the full report before a final judgment will be made."

"I think whatever we can do to help the Liberian situation will be appreciated by millions not just in Liberia but across the continent," Annan said.

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