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WORLD/NATION

The Anniston Star

BRIEFS

Iran scientist defects to U.S., report claims

WASHINGTON — An Iranian nuclear scientist who had been reported missing since last summer has defected to the U.S., and is assisting the CIA in its efforts to undermine Iran's nuclear program, ABC News reported Tuesday.

The scientist, Shabnam Amir, has been recruited in the U.S., according to the report.

The CIA had no comment on the report, but a spokesman said:

Nissan electric car to cost about \$24k

NEW YORK — Nissan's new electric car will cost just over \$24,000 when it goes on sale in the U.S. in December, according to a report.

The Leaf, a four-door hatchback, will have a base price of \$22,999. It's eligible for a \$7,500 federal tax credit for electric vehicles. That will make it cheaper to buy than other vehicles coming from Nissan and many other competitors on the price. But the Leaf's limited range of just 100 miles per charge could be a drawback for some motorists.

"We want to make sure the car is affordable, ready for the mass market and has mass appeal," Mark Perry, director of product planning and advanced technology at Nissan North America Inc., said.

Consumers can start reserving a Leaf in the U.S. on May 20.

FDA to review fish pricing investigation

CHICAGO — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday that it is reviewing the results of a multi-state investigation that found that shoppers have been paying for large amounts of fish that are not weighed in the price of frozen seafood.

The investigation — conducted by weights and measures inspectors in 17 states — found that a scaling error applied to frozen seafood to prevent quality dating storage and distribution was often wrongly included as part of the labeled weight of seafood. In some instances, the investigation found, it accounted for up to 40 percent of the product's weight.

Plane pilot dies after crash in Va.

ROANOKE, Va. — The pilot of a single-engine plane that crashed into the side of a Virginia UPS Freight building has died.

Spokeswoman Allison Smith said the 57-year-old pilot died at a hospital after Tuesday's crash near Roanoke's airport in western Virginia.

She says passenger John Williams is in serious condition. Both men were from Clarksville.

There were no other injuries.

Market watch

Dow Jones	10,818.12
S&P 500	1,314.21
Nasdaq	2,848.12
Russell 2000	1,712.12
Gold	1,212.12
Oil	80.12

NYSE diary

Advanced	1.00
Advanced	1.10
Advanced	1.20
Advanced	1.30
Advanced	1.40
Advanced	1.50
Advanced	1.60
Advanced	1.70
Advanced	1.80
Advanced	1.90
Advanced	2.00

METALS

Gold	1,212.12
Silver	21.12
Copper	3.12
Aluminum	1.12
Nickel	2.12
Zinc	1.12
Lead	1.12
Platinum	1,512.12
Palladium	1,812.12

Vatican launches legal defense

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Drugged despite their own medical records, the Vatican is launching a legal defense that it hopes will shield the pope from a lawsuit in Kentucky seeking to have him answer attorney questions under oath.

Court documents obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press show that Vatican lawyers plan to argue that the pope has immunity as head of state. But American bishops who oversee abusive priests' victims' employees of the Vatican, and that a 1982 document is not the "smoking gun" that provides proof of a cover-up.

The Holy See is trying to fend off the first U.S. case to reach the stage of determining whether victims actually have a claim against the Vatican used for negligence for allegedly failing to stop peddling or the public about Roman Catholic priests who molest children.

The case was filed in 2004 in Kentucky by three men who claim they were abused by priests and claim negligence by the Vatican. Their lawyer, William McMurtry, is seeking class-action status for the case, saying there are thousands of victims across the country.

"This case is the only case that has been ever been filed against the Vatican which has no in-itself objective to hold the Vatican accountable for all the priests who have molested children in this country," he said in a phone interview. "There is no other defendant. There is no liability, no price."

The 86-year-old John Paul II died the week before Benedict XVI came to the papacy in 2005. The commission was established last month in U.S. District Court in Louisville. The Vatican's attorney is to be heard first in the coming weeks. Vatican officials declined comment on Tuesday.

Plaintiffs in the Kentucky suit argue that U.S. diocesan bishops were employees of the Holy See, and that Rome is liable for the cover-up for their alleged wrongdoing in failing to report or disclose cases to police.

They say a 1982 Vatican document asserted that bishops are not report or disclose cases to police. The Vatican also argued that there is nothing in the document that prohibited bishops from calling police.

Benedict honors John Paul II 5 years after his death

Associated Press

POPE BENEDICT XVI held a staff with officials as he leaves after a memorial Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, to mark the 5-year anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II Monday.

BENEDICT HONORS JOHN PAUL 5 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH
Pope Benedict XVI held the legacy of John Paul II Monday five years after his death. During an evening Mass at St. Peter's Basilica to pay tribute to the late pope, Benedict said pilgrims from John Paul's Polish homeland that he presided over had "without interruption taught us to be faithful witnesses to faith, hope and love."

The 86-year-old John Paul died April 2, 2005. The commission was established last month in U.S. District Court in Louisville. The Vatican's attorney is to be heard first in the coming weeks. Vatican officials declined comment on Tuesday.

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Catholics find ties to the church tested by crisis

BY VANESSA GERB
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — An American priest attends a memorial for Pope Benedict XVI in his Masses. A Philadelphia woman says going to confession, saying she now sees priests as more flawed than heretofore. British protesters call for the pope's resignation.

As the faithful fill churches this Holy Week, many Roman Catholics around the world are finding their relationship to the church painfully tested by new revelations of clerical abuse and suggestions Benedict himself may have helped cover up cases in Germany and the U.S.

There are fears that for those whose commitment is already wavering, the scandal could be the final blow, and a growing chorus is clamoring for the church to embrace full transparency, take a hard line against pedophiles, and reconsider the role of priests.

"There's too many victims, and too much lying from the church about what really happened," said Martin Sherlock, a Catholic newspaper reporter in Dublin, Ireland.

Experts say the church is facing a crisis of historic proportions.

"This is the type of problem that arises only once in a century. I think we're going to have some significant" said Paul Collins, an American church historian and former priest.

Collins, 68, said the abuse controversy was not mentioned by the priest to his church near Cambridge on Palm Sunday, but that the congregation discovered it otherwise.

"People are outraged," he said.

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Are diet pills taking you for a ride? Up this week. Down next month. Then up again. With no end in sight. Well, now there's a better way. A way to lose weight and more temporarily. Fat. And it's a non-drug, scientifically based system that shows you what to eat and when to eat it so that your metabolism works for you not against you. Which means the weight you take off stays off. If you'd like to find out more about how we can help you get off the roller coaster