

FRANCE

Veil ban clears another hurdle

France's constitutional watchdog endorsed a divisive law Thursday forbidding face-covering Islamic veils anywhere in public, but expressed concern about applying it in places of worship such as a mosque. The decision of

the constitutional council removes a key hurdle for the law, overwhelmingly approved in both houses of parliament last month, despite concerns from some Muslims that it will further stigmatize France's No. 2 religion.

The law, the first of its kind in Europe, forbids veils such as the niqab or burqa anywhere in public and imposes a fine of around \$210 on anyone wearing one, and a \$42,000 fine on anyone who forces a woman to wear one.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prenatal privacy not an issue

Canadian moms appear to have few qualms about posting their prenatal sonogram online.

So says a study commissioned by security software maker AVG, which surveyed 2,200 mothers in Canada, the U.S., and several other countries.

The study suggests 81 per cent of today's kids have some kind of digital presence online before they turn two.

The survey also found Canadian moms were the least concerned about future privacy issues when posting information about their children online.

On a scale of one to five, with five being very concerned, Canadian moms had an average response of 3.1.

The global average was

81 per cent of today's kids who have some kind of digital presence online before they turn two, according to the study by AVG.

3.5 and Spanish moms showed the most concern with an average response of 3.9.

Almost one in four kids had a copy of their prenatal sonogram posted online.

Thirty-seven per cent of the Canadian mothers surveyed posted the image online, compared to only 13 to 15 per cent of the parents from France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

The report was released to coincide with a new release of AVG's online security software.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toxic sludge hits famed Danube River

BELA SZANDELSZKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ A rescuer searches for missing bodies Thursday near the village of Kolontar, Hungary, possibly washed away by flooding toxic mud.

▶ Acidic waste from Hungarian reservoir has killed four, wiped out fish population in other river

The toxic red sludge that burst out of a Hungarian factory's reservoir reached the mighty Danube Thursday after wreaking havoc on smaller rivers and creeks, and downstream nations rushed to test their waters.

The European Union and environmental officials fear an environmental catastrophe affecting half a dozen nations if the red sludge, a waste product of making aluminum, contaminates the Danube, Europe's second-longest river.

Officials from Croatia, Serbia and Romania were taking river samples every few hours Thursday but hoping the Danube's huge water volume would blunt the impact of the spill.

The Hungarian reservoir break Monday disgorged a toxic torrent through three villages and creeks that flow into waterways connected to the Danube. Creeks in Kolontar, the western village closest to the spill site, were still swollen and ochre red days later and villagers said they were devoid of fish.

The red sludge reached the western branch of the Danube early Thursday and its broad, main stretch by noon, Hungarian rescue

'Extinguished'

▶ "Life in the Marcal River has been extinguished," Hungarian rescue official Tibor Dobson said, referring to the river's 40-kilometre stretch that carried the red waste from Kolontar into the Raba River and onto the Danube.

agency spokesman Tibor Dobson told the state MTI news agency.

Dobson said the pH content of the red sludge entering the Danube had dropped and was unlikely to cause further environmental damage. It had been tested earlier at a pH level of 13 and now was down under 10, and no dead fish had been spotted in the Danube, he said.

The Hungarian Academy of Science said sludge samples taken two days ago showed the muck's heavy metal concentrations do "not come close" to levels considered dangerous to the environment. But the academy said Thursday it still considered the sludge dangerous — apparently due to its caustic characteristics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oversight bill signed by Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama has signed into law a bill designed to strengthen oversight of sensitive spy operations.

Top intelligence officials in the Bush admin-



istration had been faulted for not informing Congress

fully about highly classified programs, such as a secret plan to target terrorist leaders that CIA director Leon Panetta ended last year.

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LAMBDA

Yoga defies Christian faith: Baptist leader

► Albert Mohler says in an online essay there are contradictions between Christianity and yoga

A Southern Baptist leader who is calling for Christians to avoid yoga and its spiritual attachments is getting plenty of pushback from enthusiasts who defend the ancient practice.

Southern Baptist Seminary president Albert Mohler says the stretching and meditative discipline derived from Eastern religions is not a Christian pathway to God.

Mohler said he objects to "the idea that the body is a vehicle for reaching consciousness with the divine."

Mohler argued in his online essay last month that Christians who practise yoga "must either deny the reality of what yoga represents or fail to see the contradictions between their Christian commitments and their embrace of yoga."

Mohler wrote the essay after reading *The Subtle Body*, in which author Stefanie Syman traces the history of yoga in America. Syman noted the growing popularity of yoga in the U.S. by pointing out that first lady Michelle Obama has added it to the festivities at the annual White House Easter Egg Roll on the front lawn.



► Stephanie Dillion, a yoga instructor in Louisville, Ky., says yoga has brought her closer to her Christian faith.

Mohler said many people have written him to say they're simply doing exercises and forgoing yoga's eastern mysticism and meditation.

"My response to that would be simple and straightforward: You're just not doing yoga," Mohler said.

He said his view is "not an eccentric Christian position."

Other Christian leaders have said practising yoga is incompatible with the teachings of Jesus.

Pat Robertson has called the chanting and other spiritual components that go along with yoga "really spooky."

California

megachurch pastor John MacArthur called yoga a "false religion."

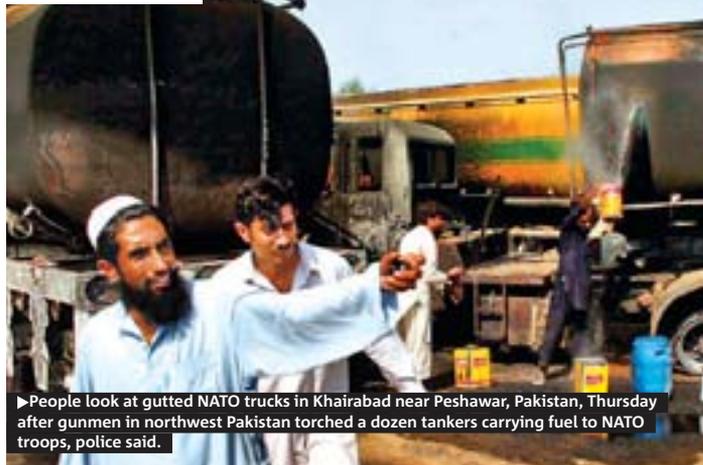
Muslim clerics have banned Muslims from practising yoga in Egypt, Malaysia and Indonesia, citing similar concerns.

Yoga proponents say the wide-ranging discipline, which originated in India, offers physical and mental healing through stretching poses and concentration.

And some yoga studios have made the techniques more palatable for Christians by removing the chanting and associations to eastern religions, namely Hinduism and its multiple deities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan. Impasse



► People look at gutted NATO trucks in Khairabad near Peshawar, Pakistan, Thursday after gunmen in northwest Pakistan torched a dozen tankers carrying fuel to NATO troops, police said.

B.K.BANGASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite apologies, blockade stays

Pakistan said Thursday it has not decided when to reopen a key border crossing NATO uses to ship supplies to Afghanistan, despite a U.S. apology for a helicopter attack that killed two Pakistani soldiers. Suspected militants have taken advantage of the impasse to attack stranded or rerouted trucks.

Jobs to influence interest rate

Sluggish growth

The Bank of Canada's policy rate is currently at one per cent, after three quarter-point hikes from an all-time low of 0.25 per cent.

- Canada's economy showed remarkable growth the last three months of 2009 and first quarter of this year but the pace has slowed since then.
- Exports have sagged because of a weak recovery in the United States.

If analysts are even close to being right about how many jobs the economy created in September, the Bank of Canada's push to raise interest rates this summer will go into hibernation for the winter.

There is an unusually solid consensus among economists that about 10,000 jobs were added in September.

BMO Capital Markets economist Douglas Porter says that's not even enough to absorb the rise in the number of people entering Canada's labour

force each month.

As a result, the Statistics Canada monthly jobs report to be released Friday may show the unemployment rate flat at 8.1 per cent or rising slightly in August.

That Statistics Canada report on September employment will be considered by the Bank of Canada as it assesses whether to raise interest rates at its Oct. 19 meeting.

Analysts say the central bank will find it hard to justify another rate increase. THE CANADIAN PRESS



To facilitate community input into the planning, development, and implementation of accessible transit, the Toronto Transit Commission relies on the TTC Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT).

Its role is to represent the needs and concerns of people with disabilities and seniors who use the TTC. It provides guidance and policy advice to the Commission and staff on issues pertaining to the ways and means of improving both conventional and Wheel-Trans services.

Positions on the committee, of which there are 15, are open to residents of the City of Toronto who have disabilities, as well as, seniors or others who have a knowledge of and an interest in, accessible transportation issues. Applicants must be willing to

INVITATION FOR APPLICATION

make a commitment of a **minimum of 7 hours per week**, to attend meetings normally held during regular business hours.

Interested applicants **must attend** an information session at Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, to obtain more information about the committee and its function. Sessions will be held in **Committee Room 2 on Tuesday, October 12th, 2010 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, and on Wednesday, October 13th, 2010 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.** Application forms will be distributed only to attendees after the seminars.

Those interested in attending the sessions who have any special needs, please call Grace at Wheel-Trans, weekdays 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at (416) 393-4180 or the TTY line at (416) 393-4555 or email to acat@ttc.ca.