

British soldiers flee mob after accident

Kabul British soldiers fled an angry mob after accidentally killing a woman in a road accident yesterday (Jerome Starkey writes).

Nato said that the soldiers, travelling in a convoy of three armoured Land Cruisers, stopped and gave first aid. Witnesses said that they sped off when the situation turned violent, leaving bystanders to take the dead woman and two injured to hospital. "Straightaway there were 50 or 60 people gathered there and soldiers escaped. People shouted, threw stones, and some people ran after the cars," a police officer said.

The incident comes amid higher security fears across Afghanistan after five days of protests over recent Koran burnings. At least 24 people have died.

Berlusconi no-show

Milan Silvio Berlusconi skipped the opening day of his sex trial as he said that he was busy with the Libyan crisis. It emerged there was phone or text contact between the teenage belly dancer Karima El Mahroug and the Italian Prime Minister 53 times in three months.

Protesters defy leader

Sanaa Hundreds of thousands of Yemenis swarmed through the flashpoint city of Taiz to make renewed demands for President Saleh to resign amid a bloody crackdown on protests. More than 20 demonstrators have been shot dead in clashes this week. (AFP)

Sewage spill kills two

Gatlinburg The bodies of two workers were recovered after a wastewater treatment wall collapsed in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, releasing sewage into the Little Pigeon River. The accident happened after heavy rain and a nearby mudslide. (AP)

Surrogacy ruling blow

Paris France's highest court ruled that children born to surrogate mothers abroad should not be given French nationality. It upheld a lower court ruling on a case involving twin girls born in California in 2000. France does not recognise surrogacy. (AFP)



Anger at Nazi cakes

Vienna A pastry shop in the Austrian village of Maria Enzersdorf, near Vienna, faces calls for its owners to be arrested as their promotional photographs feature cakes decorated with Nazi themes. The owners say they were fulfilling customers' requests. (AP)

Pepper assault

Lakewood American police in the Denver suburb of Lakewood said that they were right to use pepper spray on an eight-year-old boy throwing a tantrum at school. The boy, who allegedly tried to stab teachers with a piece of wood, was also handcuffed. (AP)

Fear stalks the quiet beaches as police seek more victims of the Craigslist killer

United States

Tim Teeman Long Island

Walter Arnold looks at the massive police crane at the end of his garden in the small, bucolic community of West Gilgo Beach, Long Island, combing the area of scrub and pine beyond and says: "This country's broke and all these resources for a wacko. People come here for sanctuary, to escape all the bad stuff. It's shocking and frightening."

Mr Arnold, a 65-year-old carpet salesman and father of five, who has lived there for 32 years, turned to the two policeman scouring the area from the crane, saying: "You find anything over here?"

"Nothing yet," one of the men called back.

A 7½-mile (12km) stretch of the coastline, popular as a second-home destination with the middle and upper middle classes, is now the site of a massive police hunt for a serial killer after the remains of eight people, four of them con-



SETH WENIG / AP

A police officer searches thick brush in Oak Beach. The hunt is on for a suspected serial killer after eight bodies were found



firmed as young female prostitutes, were found in the area. The four victims who have been identified were all white and about 5ft tall.

The investigation began in December after the bodies of the prostitutes were found near one another close to the Ocean Parkway highway on Gilgo Beach. Last Tuesday another set of remains were found at Oak Beach, about a mile east of Gilgo Beach. On Monday three further sets of human remains were discovered in undergrowth between the two beaches. Only the December victims have been named: Melissa Barthelmy, 24, Megan Waterman, 25, Maureen Brainard-Barnes, 25, and Amber Costello, 27.

Lynn Barthelmy, Melissa's mother, told the *New York Post*: "These are poor girls who unfortunately got into this escort business to keep a roof over their head and feed themselves."

At least four of the women used the website Craigslist to meet

clients, leading the press to dub the supposed perpetrator the "Craigslist killer".

The investigation is centred on the community of Oak Beach, where another prostitute, Shannan Gilbert, 24, of Jersey City, went missing after meeting a client for sex. She was last seen in May 2010 in Oak Beach crying out: "They're trying to kill me."

John Devereux, a 54-year-old surveyor, said: "People are scared. This is a nice area. Now it's going to be known for this."

Yesterday *The Times* observed as a huge stretch of the highway, 45 miles east of New York City, was cordoned off with rows of uniformed officers searching the 4ft sea grass, pine trees and undergrowth. "Everyone's worried they're going to find more bodies," Mr Arnold said. "Women in particular — my wife, for example — are frightened."

At least 30 police officers were searching the south side of the highway for the first time. The bodies were found on the north side. The area is dotted with beautiful beaches, idyllic properties and sandy boardwalks. Most residents do not live there year-round; they are city-dwellers with second homes.

Tunnels under the road link the upscale homes with the Atlantic-side beaches. Mr Devereux said that he had cautioned his 18 and 21-year-old daughters to be careful. "I told them to stay aware and keep their eyes open."

The victims



Clockwise from above: Melissa Barthelmy, 24; Maureen Brainard-Barnes, 25; Megan Waterman, 25; Shannan Gilbert, 24, who is missing; and Amber Costello, 27

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