

## News in 2 minutes

A quick read of today's top headlines:

### YMCA shortens name, now only called 'the Y'

CHICAGO — The YMCA is now known officially as just “the Y.”

The Chicago-based U.S. nonprofit announced Monday that it is changing both its logo and name to “the Y,” marking its first branding change in 43 years. The switch comes after more than two years of research indicated many people don't understand what the group does. Officials with the Y say they hope the new logo will be more inviting.

The group's mission is to strengthen communities by focusing on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

The new name applies to the group nationally, but individual locations will still be referred to as YMCAs. The transition is already under way and should be completed within five years at locations in more than 10,000 communities across the country.

### Polanski free, Swiss reject US request

BERN, Switzerland — Roman Polanski was declared a free man on Monday after Switzerland rejected a U.S. request to extradite him to be sentenced for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

The Swiss government blamed the decision on U.S. authorities, saying they had failed to address defense arguments that the 76-year-old filmmaker had actually served his sentence before fleeing Los Angeles three decades ago.

Nine months after arresting Polanski, the Swiss Justice Ministry said U.S. officials should have backed up their request by providing confidential testimony about Polanski's sentencing procedure in L.A.

“Mr. Polanski can now move freely,” Justice Minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf declared. “He's a free man.”

The stunning decision could end the United States' long pursuit of Polanski. France, where he has spent much of his time, does not extradite its own citizens and Polanski has had little trouble traveling throughout Europe — even if he's stayed away from Britain.

### BP works to put on a tighter-fitting cap

NEW ORLEANS — Deep-sea robots swarmed around BP's ruptured oil well Monday in a delicately choreographed effort to attach a tighter-fitting cap that could finally stop crude from gushing into the Gulf of Mexico nearly three months into the crisis.

Video of the billowing brown oil leak showed glimpses of yellow equipment and swinging robot arms engaged in a project akin to building a giant Lego tower underwater.

BP officials said that the 18-foot-high, 150,000-pound metal cap should be attached on Monday but that they will have to test and monitor the equipment for two days to see if it can throttle the nation's worst offshore oil spill. Late Monday afternoon, the cap was being lowered into place and was just 40 feet away from the top of the well.

From the White House to Gulf Coast marinas and town halls, all eyes were on the slow, deliberate process a mile below the sea. President Barack Obama is getting repeated updates, his adviser David Axelrod said. Residents on the coast were skeptical, though, and know that even if the gusher is contained, the disaster will be far from over.

If the cap works, the blown-out well will still be leaking. But the newer, tighter cap will enable BP to capture all the oil and funnel it up to ships on the surface if necessary.

One of those ships began operating Monday and should be up to its capacity of collecting roughly 1 million gallons of oil a day within a few days.

— From wire reports

# Somali group claims blasts

By Jason Straziuso and Max Delany  
Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda — East Africa saw the emergence of a new international terrorist group Monday, as Somalia's most dangerous al-Qaida-linked militia claimed responsibility for the twin bombings in Uganda that killed 74 people during the World Cup.

The claim by al-Shabab, whose fighters are trained by militant veterans of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, resets the security equation in East Africa and has broader implications worldwide. The group in the past has recruited Somali-Americans to carry out suicide bombings in Mogadishu.

Al-Shabab, an ultraconservative Islamic group that has drawn comparisons to the Taliban, has long threatened to attack outside of Somalia's borders, but the bombings late Sunday are the first time the group has done so.

“We warned Uganda not to deploy troops to Somalia; they ignored us,” said Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage, al-Shabab's spokesman. “We warned them to stop massacring our people, and they ignored that. The explosions in Kampala were only a minor message to them. ... We will target them every-



AP/BENEDICTE DESRUS

An American woman lies injured at the emergency ward at the Mulago hospital, Monday in Kampala, Uganda, after two explosions ripped through crowds watching the World Cup final in two places in Uganda's capital late Sunday, killing dozens of people, police said.

where if Uganda does not withdraw from our land.”

Rage said a second country with peacekeeping forces in Mogadishu — Burundi — could soon face attacks. Fighting in Mogadishu between militants and Somali troops or

African Union peacekeepers frequently kills civilians.

The attacks outside Somalia represent a dangerous new step in al-Shabab's increasingly militant path and raises questions about its future plans. The U.S.

State Department has declared al-Shabab a terrorist organization. Other neighboring nations — Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia, along with Burundi — may also face new attacks, analysts say.

Despite the threats, the

army spokesman for Uganda — an overwhelmingly Christian nation — said the county would not withdraw. “Al-Shabab is the reason why we should stay in Somalia. We have to pacify Somalia,” said Lt. Col. Felix Kulaigye.

## Castro suddenly back in view on Cuban TV

By Paul Haven  
Associated Press

HAVANA — Fidel Castro is striding back into the limelight after years behind the scenes and out of view.

Days after being photographed in public for the first time since he fell ill in 2006, the 83-year-old revolutionary leader was scheduled to make a highly promoted appearance on state television on Monday to discuss his concerns about the Middle East.

Castro's appearance on the Mesa Redonda — or Round Table — a daily talk show about current events that is usually transmitted live on state media across the island, was announced in a front-page story in the Communist-party daily Granma.

The announcement did not specify if the program would be broadcast live, and government officials contacted by The Associated Press had no comment. Castro also appeared in videotaped interviews with Cuban television in June

and September 2007.

But appearances have been extremely rare since a serious illness in July 2006 forced him to step down — first temporarily, then permanently — and hand power over to his younger brother Raul. Photos of the elder Castro greeting workers at a science center were published in pro-government blogs and on state media over the weekend, the first time he has been photographed in public in that time.

Castro's sudden reemergence comes after the dramatic announcement last week that Cuba will free 52 political prisoners in the next few months under a deal with the Roman Catholic Church.

While Cubans have become accustomed to reading Castro's writings on world affairs in the local press, he has stayed largely out of the public eye since ceding power, helping Raul Castro solidify his place as the country's leader after a lifetime spent in his more famous brother's shadow.



AP/CUBADEBATE-ALEX CASTRO

Fidel Castro, right, stands next to unidentified people during a visit to the National Center for Scientific Investigation in Havana on July 7, 2010.

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## 2010 Hurricane TRACKING GUIDE

### 2010 HURRICANE GUIDE

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