



KARIN BRULLIARD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Army Capt. Nick Stout talks with Karim Jan, district governor in Zhari, at a meeting of elders called to discuss recent grenade attacks.

## In Zhari, 'the people are the jury'

U.S. battle for Taliban stronghold hinges on support from wary Afghan elders

BY KARIN BRULLIARD

**ZHARI DISTRICT, AFGHANISTAN** — The battle for this rural Taliban stronghold is not about killing insurgents, U.S. military officials say. It is about getting the new district governor to stop the grenades.

Soon after Karim Jan assumed the post in June, the explosives began sailing over mud walls and onto U.S. troops patrolling the

labyrinth of Senjaray, the biggest town in a district that U.S. officials say is under near-complete Taliban control. Two weeks later, five soldiers had been wounded in a half-dozen strikes. The attacks amounted to a test: Would Senjaray's elders side with Jan or the Taliban?

"All I need you to do is to protect your village," Jan, 35, told 80 weathered men who gathered at

his office. "I'm begging you."

As thousands of new U.S. troops push into Kandahar city and nearby villages, their focus is on propping up inexperienced local leaders such as Jan. The aim is to persuade the population to defy the Taliban and back the weak Afghan government at its lowest levels — a mission sure to be watched closely for signs of progress during the Obama adminis-

tration's war review in December.

"It's a trial, and the people are the jury," said Army Capt. Nick Stout, 27, a commander of the 101st Airborne company that has patrolled Senjaray out of a sun-scorched hilltop outpost for two months. "Whoever presents the best case . . . they're going to side with."

One new approach in prosecuting the case against the Taliban

● **In poll, broad support for troop drawdown. A10**

**ZHARI CONTINUED ON A10**

## Obama pins hopes on an untested hero: The battery

BY ANNE E. KORNBLUT AND PETER WHORISKEY

**HOLLAND, MICH.** — President Obama, struggling to connect with voters on the economy, cast an unlikely hero as the star of his narrative of redemption and recovery on Thursday: the battery.

Standing at a podium in a muddy construction site, Obama celebrated the groundbreaking of an advanced car battery factory that the White House predicts will produce 300 permanent jobs. It was his fourth battery-related trip as president, and it came as the White House makes an aggressive push to tell what one senior official called "the battery story" — the tale of a small piece of technology that could affect daily life and spur employment if properly nurtured.

But the administration's \$2.4 billion investment in the development of batteries and other electric-car technology in the United States is an enormous bet on a product that has yet to gain broad commercial success. Major manufacturers have yet to sell

**BATTERY CONTINUED ON A5**



Artist Benjamin Kelley holds one of his creations, a mixture of pulverized human bone and resin shaped in the form of a Cadillac hood ornament. Bone dealers are worried that foreign export laws could put them out of business.

TRACY A. WOODWARD/THE WASHINGTON POST

## An artist's controversial body of work

BY MONICA HESSE

"That's the first question that everyone asks," says Benjamin Kelley. "Where I get the bones."

Kelley, 26, is talking about his conceptual art, which is made with bones. Human bones. Femurs, mostly. The bones are pulverized, the powder is mixed with resin, then the mixture is poured into molds of Cadillac hood ornaments, where it dries into a golden color. The resulting art, he says, represents the dehumanization of modern society and the

way car culture impacts people's lives in Michigan, where Kelley is from. Conner Contemporary Art gallery in Washington is currently showing two of his pieces.

"The overall focus of my work is industry, and the automotive industry in particular," says Kelley. "Growing up in Mich —"

*But where do you get the bones?!*

Kelley sighs: He gets them online, of course, where everybody gets everything.

The niche bone industry, in all its Gothic magnificence, does a small but steady trade. In the market for a coccyx, perhaps, or a

tibia/fibula matching set? You might stop by — or visit the Web sites of — Skulls Unlimited International (based out of Oklahoma City), Maxilla & Mandible or Evolution (New York City), or the Bone Room (Berkeley, Calif.), whose site offers everything from assembled skeletons to pathological skulls displaying the effects of disease. One helpful prompt: "Need just a vertebra?"

A complete arm at the Bone Room will set you back around \$650; individual carpals can be purchased for \$10 a pop. Just now

**BONES CONTINUED ON A6**

## 'Integrity test' halts spew of oil, for now

**BREAKTHROUGH ON 87TH DAY**

*Hope is for high pressure to hold steady 48 hours*

BY JOEL ACHENBACH

The gusher is gone. The plume is off the well. BP's Macondo well isn't dead yet, and it may be back in a flash, but at 3:25 p.m. Eastern time Thursday it ceased to spew oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

As part of what BP calls an "integrity test," a robotic submersible slowly closed a valve on the well's new sealing cap. That choked the flow until the plume, a fixture of cable TV and many a nightmare, disappeared. The technological breakthrough came 87 days into the crisis, which began with the April 20 blowout that killed 11 workers and sent the burning rig Deepwater Horizon to the bottom of the gulf.

BP could nix the test at any moment and reopen the well. Whether the well remains "shut in," to use the industry term, depends on the analysis of pressures in the well. Engineers and scientists hope to see high pressure hold steady during the 48-hour period

**Libya controversy back to haunt BP**

The first anniversary of the Lockerbie bomber's release from a Scottish prison is refocusing attention on oil exploration agreements. **A4**

**Editorial**

Dealing with the spill — and climate change. **A18**

allotted for the test. That would suggest that the well bore is physically intact. Lower pressure would hint of breaches in the casing and leakage into the surrounding rock.

The initial pressure readings are in an ambiguous range, and officials will have to make a difficult judgment call on whether to keep the well shut in or reopen it, according to Tom Hunter, retired director of the Sandia National Laboratories and a member of the federal government's scientific team overseeing the test.

"If it were a lot higher, it would be an easier decision to make," Hunter said.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the national incident commander, has said that a pressure reading of 8,000 or 9,000 pounds per square inch would be

**SPILL CONTINUED ON A4**

## Financial regulation moves into new era

**ON THE HILL**

*Senate passes landmark bill in triumph for Obama*

BY BRADY DENNIS

Congress gave final approval Thursday to the most ambitious overhaul of financial regulation in generations, ending more than a year of wrangling over the shape of the new rules and shifting the government's focus to the monumental task of implementing them.

The final Senate vote, which came almost two years after the nation's financial system nearly collapsed, was a significant legislative victory for President Obama, who had pledged to rein in the reckless Wall Street behavior behind the crisis and to right the government regulation that failed to prevent it.

The massive bill establishes an independent consumer bureau within the Federal Reserve to protect borrowers against abuses in mortgage, credit card and some other types of lending. The legislation also gives the government new power to seize and shut down large, troubled financial companies — like the failed investment bank Lehman Brothers — and sets up a council of federal regulators to watch for threats to the financial system.

**REGULATION CONTINUED ON A7**

**GOLDMAN SACHS**

*\$550 million fine to SEC, 'regret' to clients*

BY ZACHARY A. GOLDFARB

Goldman Sachs agreed Thursday to pay \$550 million to settle a fraud suit brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission that accused the storied Wall Street bank of selling a subprime-mortgage investment that was secretly designed to fail.

The fine is the largest the SEC has ever assessed against a financial company. But the settlement also is striking because Goldman agreed to a host of changes to how it does business and because the bank, while not admitting wrongdoing, agreed to express "regret" for including "incomplete information" in marketing materials touting the investment to clients.

By doing so, Goldman acknowledged "the fundamental basis of our complaint," SEC enforcement director Robert Khuzami said at a news conference, standing with 10 colleagues who worked on the case. "Today's settlement is a stark reminder — a very stark reminder — that there will be a heavy price to be paid if firms violate the principles fundamental to securities law."

While Goldman will pay only a

**GOLDMAN CONTINUED ON A13**

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Our guide for the best places to enjoy hot nights, cold drinks and views that go on forever.

#### THE WORLD Allies in arms

Beneath surface tensions, the U.S. and Israel are expanding military cooperation. **A9**



#### STYLE And the winner is . . .

America's Next Great Cartoonist is a young woman from Northern Virginia. **C1**

#### GAS PRICES

# \$2.72

That's the average price per gallon at the pump nationally, which is down from recent months but up from last summer. **A14**

#### THE WORLD 'We made history!'

Supporters of same-sex marriage rights exult after Argentina's legalization vote. **A8**



#### «SPORTS Last, but looking up

Adam Dunn, left, and the Nationals enter the second half of the season looking to build momentum. **D1**

#### OPINIONS

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Don't underestimate President Obama. **A19**

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