



Weather

Today: Mostly sunny. High 82. Low 55. Saturday: Partly sunny. High 77. Low 55.

Details, B10

131ST YEAR No. 135 S DC

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

M1 M2 M3 M4 V1 V2 V3 V4

DISTRICT HOME EDITION

NEWSSTAND 50¢ HOME DELIVERY 35¢

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington. (See box on A2)

Mexicans Get Less Aid From Migrants Downturn in U.S. Increases Poverty, Desire to Go North

By MANUEL ROIG-FRANZIA Washington Post Foreign Service

LO DE LUNA, Mexico — The effects of the subprime mortgage crisis and the downturn in the U.S. economy have cascaded into Mexico, causing a sudden, precipitous drop in the flow of money sent home by Mexican immigrants and highlighting this country's dependence on its wealthier northern neighbor.

In January, the cash transfers, known as remittances, sagged almost 7 percent compared with a year earlier, the steepest monthly dip in at least 13 years, according to Mexican government statistics. Economists here believe the decline in remittances is already pushing thousands into extreme poverty and could lead to a significant increase in migration as desperate Mexicans, deprived of support from abroad, flee to an ever more difficult U.S. job market.

"It is a vicious, perverse circle," Juan Manuel Padilla, a demographer in the economics school at the University of Zacatecas, said in an interview. "Work opportunities here are nonexistent, so this is going to cause more migration to the United States, even though it is getting harder to find work over there."

Other parts of the region, including El Salvador and Guatemala, are bracing for similar declines, but for now they are holding steady or seeing small gains. Economists be-

See MEXICO, A24, Col. 1

■ U.S. views on economy, war more negative. | A7

South Korean Leader Plans New Outreach To the North

By GLENN KESSLER Washington Post Staff Writer

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said yesterday that he will propose creating a permanent high-level diplomatic channel between North Korea and South Korea, including establishing the first liaison offices in the nations' capitals after nearly six decades of division.

The United States, since the Clinton administration, has urged Seoul to take this step, but this is the first time a South Korean president has officially proposed doing so. "Both North and South Korea must change their ways," Lee said in an interview with Washington Post editors and reporters.

The South Korean president, who will stay at Camp David tonight for meetings with President Bush, said that North Korea is having trouble adjusting to the new tone set by his nascent administration on inter-Korean matters. Lee has linked improvements in the economic relationship between the two countries to progress on eliminating North Korea's nuclear weapons programs, a significant shift from his predecessor's policy.

Lee, 68, a former chief executive of the Hyundai Group and mayor of Seoul, has signaled his intent to work more closely with the United States, particularly on the six-nation negotiations to abolish North Korea's nuclear programs. U.S. officials have high hopes for greatly improving the sometimes rocky relationship with South Korea during

See KOREA, A22, Col. 1

POPE BENEDICT XVI IN AMERICA



Pope Benedict XVI walks in a procession at Nationals Park in Washington, where about 45,000 people gathered for Mass. Later, he met with clergy sex abuse victims from Boston.

BY RICHARD A. LIPSKI — THE WASHINGTON POST

Pontiff Prays With Sex Abuse Victims

For Crowd, Miraculous Moments

By MICHAEL E. RUANE, HAMIL R. HARRIS and DAVID FAHRENTHOLD Washington Post Staff Writers

The crowd that mobbed Nationals Park to see, or just be near, Pope Benedict XVI yesterday was a joyous, kaleidoscopic tableau of Catholics and non-Catholics from across the country who said they were drawn by faith, hope and a sense of the history of the moment.

"It's a once-in-life experience," said Kevin Schoonmaker of Moline, Ill., who made the trip to Washington with his wife and five children even though they had only two tickets for the Mass. "The grace of be-

ing around such an event is well worth it." His wife, Maggie, and daughter Lexi, 13, used the tickets.

Prince George's County Sheriff Michael Jackson was there, bearing palm fronds. "Often times, we get wrapped up in the things that we do," he said, "and it is just great to be out here with other believers."

There were men in suits and women in fancy Sunday hats. But there were also people wearing fleeces and baseball caps and Catholic-school students in plaid skirts and embroidered polos.

There were priests in cassocks of black or habits of brown and white,

See CROWD, A15, Col. 1

MORE COVERAGE

IN THIS SECTION

The pontiff delivers a pointed message to U.S. scholars who stray from church teachings. A16

IN STYLE

Hank Stuever looks down on the Mass and the masses from his fourth-level stadium seat. C1

ALL DAY ON THE WEB

Updates from New York. Plus discussions, photo galleries and videos on washingtonpost.com

Meeting Follows Stadium Mass

By JACQUELINE L. SALMON, MICHELLE BOORSTEIN and ALAN COOPERMAN Washington Post Staff Writers

Pope Benedict XVI talked and prayed with a small group of victims of clergy sex abuse yesterday, the first publicly known meeting between a pontiff and victims since the most recent scandal erupted in Boston six years ago.

The 25-minute meeting at the Vatican Embassy put an intensely personal focus on a subject that has become an important part of the pope's Washington visit. It came after a morning Mass that Benedict celebrated for about 45,000 people

at Nationals Park, the new baseball stadium in Washington.

Later, he met with interfaith leaders and Catholic educators, telling the latter not to stray from the mission of the church. The pope's visit to the nation's capital ends this morning, when he flies to New York. There he will meet with United Nations officials.

The Mass was the third time in as many days that the pope addressed the sex abuse issue, telling the silent crowd: "No words of mine could describe the pain and harm inflicted by such abuse. ... Nor can I adequately describe the

See POPE, A14, Col. 1

Suburban Schools Reject Metal Detectors

By DANIEL DE VISE Washington Post Staff Writer

In spring 1991, after a teenage girl stabbed a classmate in the cafeteria of an Anacostia school, the D.C. Board of Education voted to install metal detectors at the front entrances of 10 middle and high schools.

No other school system in the region has embraced the technology, even as metal detectors have multiplied in courthouses, museums and other public buildings across the region over the past two decades.

Many school officials view metal detectors as costly, impractical and fal-

lible. To suburban parents, they conjure up images of armed camps. Even at Albert Einstein High School in Kensington, where three loaded guns were found in a locker last week, consensus is building against them.

"I don't want my son to come to school through metal detectors. That's prison," said Alex Colina, speaking to several hundred other parents at a community meeting Monday night.

Metal detectors are notably absent from the binge of security enhancements at public schools across the nation since 1999, the year of the Col-

See DETECTORS, A10, Col. 1



A student passes through a metal detector at Calvin Coolidge High School in Washington. No other area school system uses them.

BY JAHU CHIKWENDU — THE WASHINGTON POST

One Man's Pet, Another's Invasive Species

By JOEL ACHENBACH Washington Post Staff Writer

BUSHNELL, Fla. — RobRoy MacInnes is the man to see if you want to buy a crocodile. Or a scorpion, a rattlesnake, a boa constrictor. Got a hankering for a cobra? Just pony up \$600 and you can have one of the more lethal species.

"It is a very effective threat display," MacInnes, 49, says as a Pakistan black cobra, six feet long, hissing, hood spread, writhes in its enclosure and strikes again and again and again at the thin glass separating the

creature from a visitor. "A snake like that, coming at you, you'd leave him alone."

Or simply die of fright. MacInnes is co-owner of Glades Herp Farms, an empire of claws, spines, scales, fangs and darting tongues. The reptile trade, he's happy to report, is booming. The pet industry estimates that about 4.8 million households now contain at least one pet reptile, a number that has nearly doubled in a decade. Reptiles are increasingly popular in a crowded, urbanized nation. They don't need a yard. You don't have to take a lizard for a walk.

See REPTILES, A12, Col. 1



Though they're often kept as pets, Nile monitor lizards have gone wild in Cape Coral, Fla., threatening local species.

BY L. WILLIAM KOBELKA