

Mexico

Six arrests in Chapo spring

MEXICO CITY, Oct 22, (AFP): Mexican authorities have arrested the brother-in-law of drug baron Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who helped in his July jailbreak, and a pilot accused of flying him out of town, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The pair were among six more people detained in connection with Guzman's prison escape, Attorney General Arely Gomez told a news conference, adding that they were people who worked on the outside.

"We can say that the group responsible for planning, organizing and carrying out the escape from the outside has been broken up," Gomez said.

She said the brother-in-law supervised and organized the construction of a 1.5-km (one-mile) tunnel leading to a hole in his cell's

shower in central Mexico State as well as other parts of the escape.

Guzman was then taken 145 kms (90 miles) by road to the central state of Queretaro, where two small Cessna planes awaited.

One of the aircraft took Guzman to the region "where he has taken refuge," the chief prosecutor said.

Arrest

The pilot who transported Guzman had flown narcotics for the kingpin's Sinaloa drug cartel, Gomez said. The arrest of a second pilot was announced two weeks ago.

While Gomez did not specify where Guzman was flown, her announcement came days after officials said marine special forces closed in on the 58-year-old fugitive during raids in the northwest of the country earlier this month, somewhere around his home state of Sinaloa and Durango. The other suspects who were detained include the "main organizer" of the July 11 jailbreak, who visited Guzman in prison to receive orders and keep him informed about the progress of the escape plans, Gomez said.

The others are a man who negotiated the purchase of land near the prison from where the tunnel began, the person who sold the property and another known to have coordinate construction of drug tunnels at the US border, she said.



Guzman



A Kayapo Indian attends the cultural festival of the World Indigenous Games in Palmas, Brazil, on Oct 21. Palmas is the host city for the first World Indigenous Games that will showcase traditional sports with the participation of more than 2,000 indigenous athletes from around the world. The event begins on Oct 23 and runs through Nov 1. (AP)

Trinidad & Tobago

Latest unsolved attack by machete-wielding assailants

British man, wife killed at home

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Oct 22, (AP): Police said Wednesday they are investigating the slaying of a British man and his wife who were found hacked to death in their home on Tobago, a tiny Caribbean island where there have been other unsolved attacks on expatriates and tourists by machete-wielding assailants.

Trinidad and Tobago police have identified the slain couple as Richard and Grace Wheeler. The butchered body of the British lawyer was found in his Carnbee home, while his wife was found in their yard with her throat slit. The bodies were apparently first discovered by their gardener.

There have been no arrests in the apparent home invasion. Acting Senior Police Superintendent Joanne Archie said Wednesday that investigators are

"following every possible lead" in Tobago, the smaller and less developed of the two islands that make up the twin-island Caribbean nation off the coast of Venezuela.

It's the latest unsolved attack by a machete-wielding assailant in tourist-dependent Tobago. A German couple in their 70s were found fatally hacked on a beach last year near their vacation home on Tobago's southern coast.

Attack

That fatal attack was a short distance away from a villa where a British couple were seriously injured in a 2009 home invasion by a man wielding a machete. The year before, a Swedish couple was butchered in their Tobago villa in a similar home invasion.

Trinidad has far more crime than

typically sleepy Tobago, but the US State Department says violent crime is an issue on Tobago, "including attacks on expatriate residents and tourists in their residences, many of which involve the use of machetes."

Archie was reluctant to classify the deadly attack on the Wheelers as a crime against foreigners since they resided on the island for years. "We can't conclusively say that there are attacks on foreigners; they have been living here for 16 years now so we can't say that they are foreigners."

Richard Wheeler was originally from the British city of Sheffield but worked as a lawyer in the twin-island Caribbean nation for the Lex Caribbean firm, where he was a partner in the Tobago office specializing in property development.

Workers' Party, was handed over to congressional lower house speaker Eduardo Cunha. Cunha must now decide whether to submit the petition to Congress, which

would possibly trigger an impeachment trial. "We are confident that the lower house speaker (Cunha) now has all the elements he needs to accept an impeachment

process, which is not just a request from the opposition — it's something Brazil is asking for," said Carlos Sampaio, leader of the opposition PSDB in the lower house. (AFP)



Mexican clown Plaking poses before the 'family' picture during the third day of the XX convention of Clowns at the Monumento a la Revolucion in Mexico City on Oct 21. (AFP)

Lat/Am

New impeachment request filed:

Brazil's opposition filed a new impeachment petition against President Dilma Rousseff on Wednesday, accusing her of illegal accounting practices.

The much-anticipated petition, whose authors include a founder of Rousseff's

Africa

ANC hosts Hamas rally: South Africa's ruling party hosted a rally in Cape Town for a top Hamas leader on Wednesday, capping off a controversial visit by pledging to stand by Palestinians amid growing violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories.



Meshaal

The African National Congress (ANC) invited exiled Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal and colleagues from the Islamist militant group on a three-day visit to South Africa, sparking strong criticism from Israel.

President Jacob Zuma exchanged gifts with Meshaal on Monday and signed a letter expressing support for Palestinians. (AFP)

Zuma to meet students: South Africa's President Jacob Zuma said on Thursday he will meet student leaders and university authorities on Friday to discuss planned hikes in tuition fees that have sparked a week of nationwide protests, some of which have turned violent.

Critics say the increases would further disadvantage black students, who are already under-represented.

Zuma has not spoken publicly about the protests before, and on Wednesday students stormed the parliament precinct in Cape Town to try to disrupt the reading of Finance Minister Nhlanelhla Nene's interim budget. (RTS)

'Over 30K starving to death': Over 30,000 people in South Sudan's war-zone regions face death by starvation, the United Nations said Thursday, warning that tens of thousands more are on the brink of famine.

While an official famine has not been declared, the report describes the worst conditions yet seen in a 22-month civil war marked by atrocities and accusations of war crimes, including the blockading of food supplies. (AFP)

6 killed in eastern Congo: Six bodies were found with stab wounds and bullet holes in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday, killed by suspected Ugandan Islamist rebels, local and military sources said on Thursday.

The Centre of Study for the Promotion of Peace, Democracy and Human Rights (CEPADHO), a local activist group, said the bodies were found in the village of Kamakumbu, more than 30 kms (19 miles) northeast of the territorial capital of Beni. (RTS)

'Suspect's wife killed': The wife of a Danish man who was caught last month with 21 pieces of female genitalia in his freezer has been killed in Lesotho, South African police said Thursday.

Anna Matseliso Molise, a Lesotho national and a key witness in the case against her husband, was shot on Tuesday outside her home in the capital Maseru. (AFP)

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