

Article 2

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Political Headlines

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[Fox News: Special Report with Brit Hume](#)

English

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BRIT HUME, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: Next on SPECIAL REPORT, New York's lieutenant governor prepares to make history in more ways than one in taking over from the disgraced Eliot Spitzer. And Spitzer's 22-year-old hotel visitor emerges as a beautiful young woman whose face has now been flashed across the globe. A wild day on Capitol Hill with all three presidential candidates together again in the Senate. One of the main issues, earmarks. And Florida Democratic officials propose the only solution they can think would work to solve their primary mess only to see it denounced by their own House delegation. So the mess continues. All that right here, right now.

Welcome to Washington. I'm Brit Hume. New York State Lieutenant Governor David Paterson is promising continuity and stability as he prepares to assume the office of governor. Paterson will succeed the resigning Eliot Spitzer who was caught up, as you know, in a prostitution investigation. Correspondent James Rosen reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAVID PATERSON (D), NEW YORK: I did not get to this position in the way that most people have.

JAMES ROSEN, FOX NEWS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): But David Paterson, the largely unknown lieutenant governor of New York, now poised to become the state's first African-American chief executive, made clear that when he takes the oath of office Monday, he will wield the full authority of the governorship and attend swiftly to Albany's most pressing business, the state budget.

PATERSON: This weekend, I will have high-end executive officials in my office hammering out the details of this budget.

ROSEN: Paterson served in the state Senate for two decades, a descendent and pupil of Harlem political royalty. His father, Basil Paterson, held the same senate seat and served as both deputy mayor of New York City and the state's secretary of state. Other mentors included Manhattan Borough president, Percy Sutton, New York City Mayor David Dinkins, and Harlem's long-time congressman, Charles Rangel.

REP. EDOLPHUS TOWNS (D), NEW YORK: Charlie Rangel, who started to look at David Paterson as being his young son and, of course, David Dinkins and that whole group who sort of groomed him and brought him along.

ROSEN: An infection during infancy left Paterson legally blind. He went on to earn degrees from Columbia University and Hofstra Law School. Unlike Spitzer, the hard-nosed anti-corruption crusader, Paterson, say New York politicals, employs a softer touch in support of issues like stem cell research and minority entrepreneurship.

REP. JERROLD NALDER (D), NEW YORK: David is probably instinctively somewhat more liberal than Governor Spitzer. He's against the death penalty. Governor Spitzer was not.

TOWNS: He really believes in forming coalitions and working together. I think that he will have an excellent working relationship with the members of the legislature.

HANK SHEINKOPF, DEMOCRATIC CONSULTANT: We need a guy who's going to calm things down, get everybody in the room, smile left, pick their pockets when they're not paying attention because he's very good at that. He'll get things done that people won't imagine.

ROSEN: Paterson said he believes in his heart that his dear friend Spitzer has suffered enough.

PATERSON: There are probably people who don't know him that well, who just look at government, they feel very disappointed, very dispirited or confused, probably think that whatever punishment he might get wouldn't be enough. This is why we have dispassionate law enforcement that looks into these situations, decides on what the charges will be, renders a decision. And as citizens, we should leave it in their hands and support them, which I do.

ROSEN: Asked about becoming the first African-American governor of the Empire State, Paterson called it a sad note that such a moment had taken so long. He said he felt like he was sitting atop a sand castle other pioneering African-Americans had built. But David Paterson still clearly relishes his appointment with destiny.

PATERSON: It is a daunting challenge. I've had many of them.

ROSEN: James Rosen, FOX News.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HUME: So who is the young woman who now finds herself at the heart of the scandal that brought down Governor Spitzer? For starters, her name is not really Kristen. Correspondent Eric Shawn reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MUSIC: Can you handle me, boy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ERIC SHAWN, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Can you handle me, boy? Sex, money and drugs is what I'm about. Those provocative lyrics, from the alleged call girl Kristen, who we now know is really Ashley. It was Ashley Youmans who was allegedly hired by Governor Eliot Spitzer. The 22-year-old aspiring singer goes by the name Ashley Alexandra Dupre, and apparently turned to turning tricks for financial reasons after she broke up with a boyfriend. She is from Bellmawr, New Jersey, on the Jersey Shore and says she left home because she was abused, moving to Manhattan at age 17 to appear in nightclubs as a rhythm and blues singer.

She has a MySpace page filled with her musing some music. It claims she had used drugs and has been broke and homeless. But now, she boasts, "I live in New York and I'm on top of the world. I love this city, and I love my life." One of her songs, "Move Your Body," has reportedly been downloaded more than a million times, rising from 30 to 98 cents in the last 24 hours.

Ashley lives in a luxurious Manhattan rental building where apartments go for as much as \$11,000 a month. But her saga, some say, is the old Gotham story.

RAOUL FELDER, DIVORCE ATTORNEY: You know, they say for every light on Broadway there's a broken heart. And there's a girl getting off a bus until it ends up in something like this with Dupre.

SHAWN: Famed Manhattan divorce attorney Raoul Felder was Eliot Spitzer's neighbor for 19 years. That didn't stop Spitzer from trying to dump him as chairman of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. He says girls like Ashley can cash in.

FELDER: As I'm talking now, there are people who have (INAUDIBLE) the house, publishers are after her,

music companies are after her, magazine shows are after her, and what she ought to do is get herself a representative who can handle these things and exploit it.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

SHAWN: Well, as for the soon to be ex-governor, Mr. Spitzer must now wait to see if he eventually could face prosecution. Unlikely to face charges herself, Ashley has already shot to fame and perhaps is on her way to fortune. "Penthouse" magazine wants to put her on its cover -- Brit.

HUME: I think she ought to hold out for "Playboy," don't you, Eric?

SHAWN: Well, it depends on how much they pay.

HUME: All right.

Later in our program, we'll tell you why many athletes are worried about the air they will breathe at the Summer Olympic games. And when we return, John McCain, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama together in one room, but divided over earmarks. Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: The three U.S. senators who want to be president were back on Capitol Hill today as the Senate proceeded through a series of budget votes, but the issue of earmarks, an issue that divides Republican John McCain from the two Democrats, was put off until later in the day. Correspondent Major Garrett explains.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

MAJOR GARRETT, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton did something today they hardly do anymore, attend to their day job in the Senate.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Mr. Akaka. Mr. Alexander.

GARRETT: What they found -- the endless drowning of roll call votes on budget, taxes in this year's campaign trail (inaudible), special set aside spending known as earmarks. Obama and Clinton conversed briefly on the Senate floor as they prepared for a late night vote to impose a one- year moratorium on those congressional earmarks. Obama and Clinton don't talk about earmarks much on the stump, but both were eyeing a possible general election battle with likely Republican nominee and fellow Senator John McCain, when earlier this week they jumped on the moratorium bandwagon at the 11th hour. McCain was not impressed.

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ), REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: They've requested earmarks and they have used earmarks. And some of them in a manner that I don't think the taxpayers would at all approve of. And in both cases, it's hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' dollars that are absolutely outrageously wasted.

GARRETT: Other budget votes preceded the earmark moratorium as Democrats and Republicans with more seniority tried to delay and possibly block the moratorium vote entirely. Obama today released his earmark requests for his first two years in the Senate, a move he has resisted for months, in which McCain has long called for. Clinton, by contrast, has declined to release any of her annual earmark requests.

On other budget matters, Democrats prevailed in preserving President Bush's middle class tax cuts but voted to let those for upper income taxpayers expire after 2010. Obama and Clinton supported the move. McCain voted to keep all the Bush tax cuts which he opposed when they were first considered, something Obama knocked on the plane ride from Chicago.

SEN. BARACK OBAMA (D-IL), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: He made the decision to reverse himself on

that. That was how I guess you got your ticket punched to be the Republican nominee.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

GARRETT: That moratorium vote on congressional earmarks will occur later on tonight so Senators McCain, Obama and Clinton can all make it. It won't pass, but the election issue will be set up for all three to debate. Also, just a few moments ago, Brit, Republicans put together what they said was all of Obama's spending proposals from the campaign trail. They say it totaled up to \$1.4 trillion, had a vote on it. It failed 99 to nothing. Obama voted against it himself, saying Republicans have put all those in one year. He never meant to spend so much all in one year.

One other thing from the campaign trail, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have agreed to an April 16th debate in Pennsylvania. Obama has also agreed to an April 19th debate rather, in North Carolina -- Brit.

HUME: OK, Major. Thank you.

The House has approved a budget that would raise taxes for millions of Americans by \$683 billion over the next five years, and it would generous increases to certain domestic programs. That's nearly \$22.5 billion more than the president requested for domestic programs. The bill in its present form, if it ever got to him, faces a certain veto.

Senator Clinton offered several apologies to black voters during a forum sponsored by a black newspaper publishers association last night. She repudiated comments by her supporter Geraldine Ferraro who said Barack Obama would not have made it this far if he were white. And she apologized for her husband's comparisons of Obama's victory in South Carolina to Jesse Jackson's victory there 20 years ago when he ran for president.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SEN. HILLARY CLINTON (D-NY), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I am sorry if anyone was offended. It was certainly not meant in any way to be offensive. And I think that we can be proud of both Jesse Jackson and Senator Obama. People who go into the arena deserve our appreciation, because it is not easy being in public life, and especially running for president.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: House Democrats, meanwhile, are still trying to find a way to authorize surveillance of suspected terrorist communications without giving telecommunications companies blanket immunity from lawsuits. President Bush has warned them their latest bill will not get past his desk. White House correspondent Wendell Goler reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

WENDELL GOLER, FOX NEWS WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Three weeks after rejecting a temporary extension of the expanded wiretapping powers the government used after the 9/11 attacks, the president said the House has missed its own deadline for crafting a new bill and he rejected the one it's considering.

GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: This bill is unwise. The House leaders know that the Senate will not pass it. And even if the Senate did pass it, they know I will veto it.

GOLER: The House bill doesn't grant immunity to telephone companies that cooperated in post 9/11 wiretaps. They're facing dozens of lawsuits Mr. Bush says are unfair.

BUSH: Any companies that assisted us after 9/11, we are assured by our government that their cooperation was legal and necessary.

GOLER: But House Democrats who wanted all sure the actions were legal or necessary said the courts

should decide.

NANCY PELOSI (D-CA), HOUSE SPEAKER: A district court can decide whether under the law they should have immunity. And it may be different from one company to the next. But it is our responsibility to make sure that our constitution is followed.

GOLER: Beyond the immunity issue, the two sides are leveling charges that are difficult to confirm. Speaker Pelosi says the president wants to change the definition of surveillance and exclude some activities that should be under the law. The White House says the House bill does just the opposite.

TONY FRATTO, WH DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY: This bill says if you are going to conduct surveillance on any kind of surveillance, you need prior court approval.

GOLER: In fact, because of the classified nature of surveillance, only a few members of Congress know exactly what the government can and can't do under FISA.

ROY BLUNT (R-MO), HOUSE MINORITY WHIP: There are a significant number of elements of how the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act works, and the specific examples of how their proposed changes would prevent it from working that I think can only be disclosed in a secret session.

GOLER: Congressman Blunt asked the House to hold its first secret session in 25 years to give lawmakers the details. But most of us will remain out of the loop, something the Democrats claims the president is being misleading.

PELOSI: The president is wrong, and he knows it.

GOLER: And the Republican argument that Democrats aren't doing enough to keep the country safe.

REP. PETE HOEKSTRA (R), MICHIGAN: This is not fear mongering. The fear mongering is those who are saying and describing our intelligence professionals as people who want to spy on Americans.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

GOLER: One of the Democrats who have already been briefed on FISA, Judiciary Committee Chair John Conyers predicted the late-night session would be little more than grandstanding. But Republican John Boehner who's also been briefed said the session would show why Speaker Pelosi herself didn't object to the wiretaps before they became a political issue -- Brit.

HUME: Wendell, thank you.

Coming up later on SPECIAL REPORT, is al-Qaeda setting up operations in China? We'll take a look. And after a break, Florida Democrats remain sharply divided over how their party should account for their delegates at the summer's convention. Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: As Democrats struggle over whether and how to seat Michigan and Florida delegates at the national convention, the Florida Democratic Party today proposed to hold a new primary election mostly by mail. Chief Washington correspondent Jim Angle tells us what happened.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JIM ANGLE, FOX NEWS CHIEF WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): The debate over how to resolve Florida's disputed primary vote picked up speed today, moving from a snail's pace to warped speed as one lawmaker put it. Nevertheless, the impasse appeared to deepen. And one Democratic leader in Florida said if a solution cannot be found and the dispute goes to the convention, all hell could break loose.

STEVEN GELLER, FL STATE SENATE DEM. LEADER: This could be the nastiest Democratic convention since Chicago in 1968.

ANGLE: Geller, the Democratic leader in the state Senate met with Republican Governor Charlie Crist today to talk about verifying any new vote. Geller supports a mail-in ballot with an in-person backup, but he clearly isn't wild about the idea.

GELLER: It's my belief that the vote by mail is one of the worst options available to us. The only thing worse than that is having no representation at all at the Democratic Convention.

ANGLE: He and others rail against what they call the obstinacy of DNC Chairman Howard Dean for excluding all the delegates. State Democratic Chair Karen Thurman said she had hoped the original vote would be honored but has all but given up on that.

KAREN THURMAN, FL. DEM PARTY CHAIRWOMAN: Unfortunately, it does not appear that the selection will be recognized by the national party.

ANGLE: Therefore, she says, the party is proposing the mail-in ballot because it's the only viable option it has.

THURMAN: But if this is not what the people in Florida and our presidential candidates want, then we're not going to do it.

ANGLE: And there were plenty of objections, some from the Florida delegation in the U.S. House.

REP. KENDRICK MEEK (D), FLORIDA: We have a transient population, those that aren't home, those that have moved from other addresses. And so, we're going to find ourselves worse off than where we are now.

ANGLE: All agree no proposal can go forward without the agreement of both candidates, but Barack Obama also voiced concerns about verifying mail-in ballots and suggested the Clinton camp shares those concerns.

SEN. BARACK OBAMA (D-IL), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: So some of the logistical concerns about a mail-in system are not unique to us. Actually, many of Clinton's most prominent backers share those same concerns.

ANGLE: That's why Senator Bill Nelson of Florida, who supports the mail-in ballot, also tried to find another way out, as he approached Clinton and Obama on the Senate floor and urged them to work out a deal to seat the delegates.

SEN. BILL NELSON (D), FLORIDA: But both senators told me today, Obama and Clinton, that they full well intend to have the full Florida delegation seated. Now, as we say, the devil is in the details.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

ANGLE: And Nelson doesn't think the two campaigns could work out the details of a compromise before sometime this summer. Late today, the nine members of the Florida House delegation flatly rejected not only a mail-in ballot, but also any other kind of new vote, meaning the only other option is to fight this out just before or at the convention. Exactly what everyone hoped to avoid -- Brit.

HUME: Well, thanks, Jim.

After years of debate, the decision of whether to build a wind farm off the shores of Cape Cod is drawing closer. Residents are getting their chance to weigh in before the state and federal governments make a final choice. Correspondent Molly Line reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It would only be 40 storeys high!

MOLLY LINE, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Impassioned protestors and supporters of a plan to build America's first offshore wind farm are packing public hearings in Massachusetts this week. It's their last chance to be heard before the lead federal agency drafts a final environmental report and decides when or if the proposal to construct 130 turbines in the waters of Cape Cod, similar to these in Europe, will go forward.

LUKE OLIVIERI, WIND FARM OPPONENT: I am not opposed to wind turbines, per se, but not in the middle of Nantucket Sound. It would destroy the Sound.

CARL FREEMAN, WIND FARM SUPPORTER: It would make us more independent. I don't like our dependence that we have on the Middle East. I think it would be an incredible symbol of saying that we don't need to dance to the tune someone else is setting.

LINE: For seven years, developers for Cape Wind have jumped through regulatory hoops. Approval from the Federal Minerals Management Service would be a key step forward.

JIM GORDON, CAPE WIND PRESIDENT: This is a huge milestone. This is the federal permit.

LINE: Cape wind insists the project will create new, clean energy jobs and increased energy independence.

GORDON: When we started, the price of oil was \$20 a barrel. Today, the price of oil has exceeded \$108 a barrel.

LINE: Opponents say the turbines will hurt tourism, air and boat traffic and the fishing industry.

AUDRA PARKER, ALLIANCE TO PROTECT NANTUCKET SOUNDS: People are very divided, very passionate. And locally, there's a lot of opposition to this project because of the impacts on the economy, on public safety and on the environment.

LINE: Even Massachusetts lawmakers are split. Governor Deval Patrick is a supporter. Senior Senator Ted Kennedy, whose family's Hyannis compound sits in view of the wind farm site, has repeatedly tried to block the project. To further muddy the waters, a Dutch-based company called **Blue H** has proposed a wind farm for deeper waters. Cape Wind wishes them well, saying the project should not be seen as an alternative.

LINE (on camera): If Cape Wind receives federal approval later on this year, they will still need to go ahead for Massachusetts energy authorities. Cape Wind believes that they're likely to get that approval in this final year of permitting, and they hope to move forward with construction within the next couple of years. But critics say this fight is far from over, that appeals and litigation are likely. On Cape Cod, Molly Line, FOX News.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HUME: Detroit Democratic Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is back in hot water after using the N word during his state of the city address early this week. Kilpatrick lashed out at the news media for attacks on him and his family since the disclosure that he may have lied under oath about his affair with an aide. Be advised his language is offensive to many people.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MAYOR KWAME KILPATRICK (D), DETROIT: In the past 30 days, I've been called a nigger more than anytime in my entire life. I don't believe that a Nielsen rating is worth the life of my children or your children.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: "The Grapevine" is next. But first, the other headlines from New York.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: And now the most riveting two minutes in television, the latest from the Political Grapevine.

A new opinion poll indicates public support for the Iraq war is at its highest point since the summer of 2006.

The Pew Survey, done in late February, shows 48 percent now believe the war is going well, that's up 18 percentage points from last year; 53 percent think the U.S. effort in Iraq will succeed, up 6 percentage point; 49 percent say the troops should be brought home, down from 52; but only 14 percent said the troops should be brought home immediately, of course, advocated generally by Barack Obama, among others. That is down from 18 last year.

33 percent believe the troops should be brought home gradually over a year or two; 47 percent want to keep the troops in Iraq, that is up 4 percentage points.

The retiring Pastor of Barack Obama's church, the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Jr., said in a sermon five years ago that black people should ask god to curse America instead of bless it.

ABC news reports the following from a 2003 sermon: "The government gives them the drugs, builds the bigger prisons, passes the three strike law, and then wants us to sing 'God bless America.' No, no, no: god damn America. That's in the bible for killing innocent people. God damn America for treating our citizens as less than human. God damn America for as long as she acts like god and she is supreme."

Senator Obama declined to comment publicly, but a spokesman says the senator has repudiated those comments.

Tennis Hall of Famer Martina Navratilova, who defected to the U.S. from Czechoslovakia as a teenager and became a U.S. citizen, has regained Czech citizenship, saying she was ashamed of President Bush.

Navratilova told a Czech newspaper last year that she was ashamed of the U.S. under President Bush as she once was about communist Czechoslovakia. "The thing is that we elected Bush. That is worse. Against that, nobody chose a communist government in Czechoslovakia."

Navratilova says that although she has regained her Czech citizenship, she has decided to maintain dual citizenship with the U.S.

And Hillary's campaign is firing back as charges from the Obama camp that she vastly overstated her role in the Northern Ireland peace process. Lord David Trimble told the "Daily Telegraph" that then First Lady Clinton had no significant role. The Obama campaign has accused Mrs. Clinton of what it calls a "gross overstatement of the facts."

But the Clinton campaign points to an "Irish Times" newspaper report that several of key players do give Mrs. Clinton some credit. Former Social Democratic and Labor Party leader John Hume--no relation--and Sinn Fein President Jerry Adams both say Mrs. Clinton played a positive role.

Former U.S. Senate Majority leader George Mitchell, who chaired the peace talks, says Mrs. Clinton was "helpful and supportive." But none gives any specifics other than talking to leaders and opinion makers on both sides, and the story says that, quote, "the Obama campaign has corrected stating that she played no direct role in negotiations leading up to the Belfast agreement in 1998."

There is now some evidence that al-Qaeda may be setting up in China. That country, perhaps surprisingly, has one of the world's most sizable Muslim populations. Chinese state media now say an attempt to crash a domestic flight last week was an act of organized terrorism.

National Correspondent Catherine Herridge reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

CATHERINE HERRIDGE, NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT, FOX NEWS: It is a familiar message among jihadists on the Internet, but, in this case, it's directed at a little known audience, Chinese Muslims.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: My brothers in east Turkistan, I advice you to rise up and wage jihad for the sake of Allah and to strengthen the jihad. This is the only way. There is no other way. If you want to get rid of the rule and injustice of the infidel Chinese government.

HERRIDGE: The Communist government doesn't call the region east Turkistan, as the jihadists do, but refers to it by its Chinese name Xinjian. It is a remote and autonomous area that shares its borders with Mongolia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Xinjian in western China is home to most of that country's estimated 20 million Muslims, about 1 percent of the total population.

STEPHEN YATES, AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL: Since 1949, with the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the PRC has claimed this as part of their territory, and has enforced discipline on the region, forward deployed their military, and has had tight scrutiny on any group that advocates what they "separation, splitism, or independence" from that region.

HERRIDGE: In 2006 this video first surfaced on the Internet, purportedly showing Mujahideen training operations in Shin John. If al- Qaeda has sought to tap into this movement, analysts believe it is because they are sympathetic to the plight of Chinese Muslims as an oppressed people.

While Chinese officials claim the Olympic Games will be secure, two recent incidents are raising new questions. In early March, the Chinese government claimed these Australian nationals were kidnapped by an extremist, though no official explanation was given for his motives.

Only days later, the Chinese government claimed radicals from Xinjian attempted to hijack a flight bound for Beijing with the alleged motive of crashing the flight into the capitol.

But is there a true link between al-Qaeda proper and extremists in central Asia? Analysts say this is difficult to discern given China's notoriously closed society.

YATES: It could be what they say it is, but I think you just need to have a stronger base of evidence before we take the next leap to say this is on par with what we consider to be part of the global war on terrorism.

HERRIDGE: After 9/11, analysts say China's top leaders pushed hard to equate separatist movements in their own country with terrorism and extremism.

As the Olympics approach, critics of the Beijing government say they're concerned that Chinese officials will increasingly draw parallels to terrorism in an effort to justify crackdowns on dissident groups.

In Washington, Catherine Herridge, FOX News.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HUME: And terrorism is not the only worry as China continues to prepare for the summer Olympics in Beijing. One of the biggest concerns for many athletes is athletes is their potential exposure to pollution, especially in the air.

Correspondent Steve Harrigan reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

STEVE HARRIGAN, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Thirty years of growth has lifted a nation of 1 billion

out of starvation, and created 16 of the dirtiest cities on the planet.

Chinese factories run on coal, the products move by trucks that burn high sulfur diesel. There is so much smog in Beijing major buildings disappear into the haze. Eyes burn from the fumes.

Is it morning or high noon?

"The air quality in Beijing depends in part on the weather," he says. "When there is no breeze to move the pollutants, it is bad."

Bad can mean 12 times levels considered dangerous. And bad is fast getting worse, with 2,000 new cars every day in the city moving at just five miles per hour.

Environmentalists have a tough time getting the attention of a generation that once went hungry.

"Most people in China think feeding themselves is more important than worrying about the environment," she says. "But if we keep growing at this rate, it will be too late. It is not sustainable."

It's not just the air that's dirty. Some of China's rivers are so polluted the water is rated unfit for contact with the human body. What comes out of that water is also toxic.

And they tell us they change the water in this fish pond every year, but that's hard to believe from the smell alone, and there's garbage around the area. The real issue is that any pollution here goes far beyond China's borders.

China is the biggest exporter of fish in the world. Last year, the U.S. blocked some Chinese fish that had traces of illegal drugs. Along a shoreline cluttered with garbage, any escape into nature is impossible.

The Olympic Games, still five months away, are already turning the world's attention to China's pollution. Several nations will issue masks to the athletes, the British model with a mouthpiece that may be worn all the way through the warm ups, taken off only for events.

And a two-time gold medalist from Ethiopia may not even compete. He says running a marathon in the Beijing smog could harm his health.

In Beijing, Steve Harrigan, Fox News.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HUME: The Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Iraq has been found dead. Paulos Faraj Rahho was kidnapped last month when gunmen attacked his car and killed his driver and guards. His body was found near Mosul.

But Church officials in Rome and Baghdad say it is not clear he died as a result of his poor health or if he was simply murdered.

Next on "Special Report," why would Eliot Spitzer have involved himself with a call girl ring, and what about the girl herself? Thoughts from the Fox all stars when we come back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

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