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## Eruption continues but airports opening

By IAN RITZ  
Epoch Times Staff

The volcano on Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull glacier is calming down, which is allowing scientists to monitor the nearby Katla volcano. European airports are also reopening their airstrips, bringing good news to travelers all over the world.

Scientists have noted that the ash deposits from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano are slowing, but there seems to be an increase in the severity of the tremors sent out from underneath the volcano.

Volcano specialists are speculating that there may be activity inside the volcano or underneath the tectonic plate that they are not aware of, which is making them more concerned about nearby Katla, reported Reuters.

The Eyjafjallajökull volcano had been pouring out ash for over a week, raising concerns that this could be a repeat of its 1821 eruption that lasted for two years.

While the Icelandic volcano has caused many problems for Iceland and the rest of Europe, those problems pale in comparison to the prospect of the larger neighboring volcano Katla erupting, scientists say. Iceland government officials told BBC News that they have drawn up a comprehensive plan of action to minimize losses in the event that Katla erupts.

With the Eyjafjallajökull volcano slowing down and the ash cloud that traveled across Europe clearing up, Eurocontrol has confirmed opening 21,000 flights, according to news reports.

PLEASE SEE ERUPTION ON P5



Former Conservative member of Parliament Rahim Jaffer waits to testify before the Commons government operations committee on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on April 21. REUTERS/CHRIS WATTIE

## Jaffer grilled by MPs over lobbying scandal

By MATTHEW LITTLE  
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—Rahim Jaffer, once a rising star in the Conservative Party, was blasted by MPs from all parties in an explosive committee hearing on Parliament Hill Wednesday over allegations that he had used political connections from his former position as an MP and chair of the Conservative caucus to carry out illegal lobbying.

Jaffer and business partner Patrick Glémaud denied any wrongdoing in the operations of their company, Green Power Generation Corp, at times trying to frame the allegations against them as a Liberal smear campaign.

But as the committee members took turns grilling the pair, MPs from all parties, including the Conservatives, questioned the two businessmen's honesty and denigrated Jaffer for tarnishing the reputation of elected officials.

PLEASE SEE JAFFER ON P3



Helena Guergis. REUTERS/CHRIS WATTIE

## The dramatic fall of 'Gorgeous' Guergis

By MATTHEW LITTLE  
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—Helena Guergis was the darling of the Conservative party before the avalanche of controversy made her first an embarrassment and then a political outcast possibly facing a criminal investigation.

A former beauty queen nicknamed "Gorgeous," her seat in the House of Commons just behind the Prime Minister placed her face on millions of television screens whenever the PM would speak during debates.

PLEASE SEE GUERGIS ON P3

## U.S. admiral on Iran: Diplomacy first, attack last

By JACK PHILLIPS & GARY DU  
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen said that while a potential U.S.-led attack on Iran to quell the regime's nuclear program is still "on the table," diplomatic or economic sanctions are preferred.

Compared with other options, the "use of the military should be the last option," Mullen said in a talk at Columbia University in New York City on Sunday night.

"The diplomatic, the engagement piece, the sanctions piece, all those things from my perspective need to be addressed to possibly have Iran change its mind about where it's headed," he said.

Mullen said he and his staff have looked at a potential military option to delay Iran's progress in making a nuclear weapon, saying that the U.S. has developed potential plans to attack the Iranian nuclear site.

When asked about those plans he said, "That's not my call—that's going to be the president's call," adding that if the U.S. were to strike Iran, the U.S. might have its hands full.

"I think I was very clear about the decision space here; not much decision space to work with because both outcomes—having a weapon, and striking—generate unintended consequences that are difficult to predict," he said.

Iran insists that it is only using its nuclear program to make energy while the United Nations and the U.S. say the country is attempting to make nuclear weapons.

If Iran were to properly develop a working nuclear weapon, other countries in the Middle East would probably also try to develop their own, said Mullen.

PLEASE SEE IRAN ON P5

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## Reader's gift cow a dream come true for Tanzanian volunteer

By PETER VALK  
Epoch Times Staff

The kindness of strangers still exists, as an elder from rural Tanzania learned after he was given a gift of a cow and calf from a total stranger in San Francisco.

Each week, The Epoch Times asks locals around the world a question and publishes the answers in a column called Global Q&A. In early March the featured question was, "What one improvement would you like to make to your home?"

While respondents in Asia, Europe, and North America mentioned items such as heat pumps and spare bedrooms, a man from Tanzania wanted a different sort of home improvement.

"Because I'm old and weak now

and cannot work in my field any more, I would like to have a cow that could give me milk to improve my health. I can also make some money from it as there is a high demand for milk here," said Abel Thomas Simwaba, a retired laboratory assistant from the village of Mahango in Tanzania.

Little did Simwaba know that five weeks later his wish would be fulfilled.

Upon reading the column, a woman contacted the San Francisco edition of The Epoch Times saying she wanted to donate a cow to Simwaba—or Babu as he is called, meaning grandfather in Swahili—if he could still be found.

The reporter who spoke with Simwaba initially said he could contact him, but thought it best to find out the price of the cow

first to make sure the reader was serious before telling Babu the news.

He reported back that the price would be between 200,000 and 300,000 Tanzanian shillings (\$145-\$220) for a calf, and up to 600,000 (\$440) for a cow ready to milk.

The reader agreed to the price. However, reaching Simwaba proved difficult—it turns out he is a very busy man.

After retiring 30 years ago, Simwaba exchanged the relative comfort of his city life in Kilimanjaro for a tougher existence in a small village of rice farmers. Mahango has no electricity, only a few public taps with running water, and is separated from the nearest town by five miles of dusty road.

PLEASE SEE COW ON P5



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (L) and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich speak at a news conference after they signed documents in Kharkiv on April 21. VLADIMIR RODIONOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Russia gains sea power while Ukraine gets cheap gas

By ANDREY VOLKOV  
Epoch Times Staff

KYIV, Ukraine—Ukraine has won its battle for cheaper gas from Russia, and in exchange has agreed to allow the Russian navy to

remain long-term in the Crimean Peninsula.

Since Ukraine's new President Viktor Yanukovich took office in February, he has been seeking to negotiate lower consumer gas prices.

PLEASE SEE RUSSIA ON P5

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