

Gaza Militants Agree To Cease-Fire With Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) — Gaza militants agreed to a cease-fire with Israel to stop three days of violence, a Hamas official said Sunday, after a deadly attack on Israelis near the Egypt-Israel border set off a round of Israeli airstrikes and rocket barrages from Gaza.

The sudden flareup also threatened Israel-Egypt relations, after Egypt said five of its policemen were killed by Israeli fire as Israel's troops and aircraft pursued the militants responsible for killing eight people Thursday. Egypt complained strongly as thousands demonstrated in Cairo, and Israel apologized.

The senior Hamas official said Sunday afternoon that militant groups in Gaza agreed that the truce would go into effect Sunday evening. Hamas security personnel would enforce the agreement brokered by Egypt, the official said. He said Egypt told the groups that Israel would agree to halt its airstrikes only if the Palestinians stopped the rocket fire first.

A spokesman for Israel's government would not comment, and it was not clear if the cease-fire indeed had the backing of all of Gaza's armed factions.

Syria's Assad Repeats Reform Vows

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's president said Sunday he was "not worried" about security in his country and warned against any foreign military intervention in a speech designed to portray confidence as the regime comes under blistering international condemnation for its crackdown on dissent.

The remarks by Bashar Assad, who spoke during an interview with state-run television, came just days after the United States and its European allies called for him to step down, and hours after a diplomat said Assad's regime was "scrubbing blood off the streets" ahead of a U.N. visit.

In a now-familiar refrain, Assad promised imminent reforms — including parliamentary elections by February — but insisted the unrest was being driven by a foreign conspiracy, not true reform seekers.

GOP May Let Payroll Tax Rise As Scheduled

WASHINGTON (AP) — News flash: Congressional Republicans want to raise your taxes. Impossible, right? GOP lawmakers are so virulently anti-tax, surely they will fight to prevent a payroll tax increase on virtually every wage-earner starting Jan. 1, right?

Apparently not.

Many of the same Republicans who fought hammer-and-tong to keep the George W. Bush-era income tax cuts from expiring on schedule are now saying a different "temporary" tax cut should end as planned. By their own definition, that amounts to a tax increase.

The tax break extension they oppose is sought by President Barack Obama. Unlike proposed changes in the income tax, this policy helps the 46 percent of all Americans who owe no federal income taxes but who pay a "payroll tax" on practically every dime they earn.

There are other differences as well, and Republicans say their stand is consistent with their goal of long-term tax policies that will spur employment and lend greater certainty to the economy.

Libya: Gadhafi Defenses Collapse

BY KARIN LAUB AND BEN HUBBARD
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — Libyan rebels raced into Tripoli in a lightning advance Sunday that met little resistance as Moammar Gadhafi's defenders melted away and his 40-year rule appeared to rapidly crumble. The euphoric fighters celebrated with residents of the capital in the city's main square, the symbolic heart of the regime.

Opposition fighters captured Gadhafi's son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam. The prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands said he would contact the rebels to discuss his handover for trial on charges of crimes against humanity.

Associated Press reporters with the rebels said the fighters rebels easily advanced 20 miles on Sunday from the west, took town after town — welcomed by residents — overwhelmed a major military base, then swept into the capital in a stunning turning of the tide in the 6-month-old Libyan civil war.

The fighters and Tripoli residents who support them flooded Green Square, shooting in the air in celebration, clapping and waving the rebels' tri-color flag, according to television footage of the scene. Some set fire to the green flag of Gadhafi's regime and shot holes in a poster with his image.

"Now we don't call it the Green Square, but we call it the Martyrs Square," said Nour Eddin Shatouni, a 50-year-old engineer who was among the residents who flowed out of their homes to join the celebrations. "We were waiting for the signal and it happened. All mosques chanted 'God is great' all at once. We smelled a good scent, it is the smell of victory. We know it is the time."

Green Square holds profound symbolic value. The regime has held pro-Gadhafi rallies there nearly every night since the revolt began in February, and the historic Red Fort that overlooks the square is a favorite scenic spot for the Libyan leader to deliver speeches to his loyalists.

Thousands of Libyans also celebrated in the streets of Benghazi, the rebels' de facto capital in the east. Firing guns into the air and shooting fireworks, they cheered and waved the rebel tri-color flags, dancing and singing in the city's main square.

Gadhafi's whereabouts Sunday were unknown. But he delivered a series of angry and

defiant audio messages broadcast on state television, calling on his supporters to march in the streets of the capital and "purify it" from "the rats." He was not shown in the messages.

His defiance raised the possibility of a last-ditch fight over the capital, home to 2 million people. Government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim claimed the regime has "thousands and thousands of fighters" and vowed: "We will fight. We have whole cities on our sides. They are coming en masse to protect Tripoli to join the fight."

But it appeared that key parts of Gadhafi's military were peeling away.

The rebels' way into Tripoli was opened when the military unit in charge of protecting Gadhafi and the capital surrendered, ordering his troops to drop their weapons, the rebel information minister Mahmoud Shammam said.

In a sign of the coordination among rebels, as the main force moved into the city from the west, a second force of 200 opposition fighters from the city of Misrata further east landed by boat in the capital, bringing weapons and ammunition for Tripoli residents who join the rebellion, said Munir Ramzi of the rebels' military council in Misrata.

The rebels' speedy leap forward over just a few dramatic hours was a stunning reversal for Gadhafi, who earlier this month had seemed to have a firm grip on his stronghold in the western part of Libya, despite months of NATO airstrikes on his military. Rebels had been unable to make any advances for weeks, bogged down on the main fronts with regime troops in the east and center of the country.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Gadhafi's regime was "clearly crumbling" and that the time to create a new democratic Libya has arrived.

The sooner Gadhafi "realizes that he cannot win the battle against his own people, the better," he said in a statement, adding that NATO will continue to strike his troops if they make "any threatening moves toward the Libyan people."

Gadhafi is the Arab world's longest-ruling, most erratic, most grimly fascinating leader — presiding for 42 years over this North African desert republic with vast oil reserves and just 6 million people. For years, he was an international pariah blamed for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people. After years of denial,

Gadhafi's Libya acknowledged responsibility, agreed to pay up to \$10 million to relatives of each victim, and declared he would dismantle all weapons of mass destruction.

That eased him back into the international community.

But on February 22, days after the uprising against him began, Gaddafi gave a televised speech amid violent social unrest against his autocratic rule. In the speech, he vowed to hunt down protesters "inch by inch, room by room, home by home, alleyway by alleyway." The speech caused a furor that fueled the armed rebellion against him and it has been since mocked in songs and spoofs across the Arab world.

The rebel force that moved toward Tripoli Sunday, taking town after town, was greeted by thousands of jubilant civilians who rushed out of their homes to cheer the long convoys of pickup trucks packed with fighters shooting in the air. One man grabbed a rebel flag that had been draped over the hood of a slow-moving car and kissed it, overcome with emotion.

Some of the fighters were hoarse, shouting: "We are coming for you, frizz-head," a mocking nickname for Gadhafi. In villages, mosque loud-speakers blared "Allahu Akbar," or "God is great."

"We are going to sacrifice our lives for freedom," said Nabil al-Ghawal, a 30-year-old dentist holding a rifle in the streets of Jazour, a suburb just six miles west of Tripoli. Heavy gunfire erupted nearby.

Once they reached Tripoli, the rebels took control of one neighborhood, Ghot Shaal, on the western edge of the city. They set up checkpoints as a convoy of more than 10 trucks rolled in to advance further into the city. Resistance was minimal, with rebels reporting occasional fire from snipers on rooftops.

Rebel chief Mustafa Abdel-Jalil in Benghazi confirmed to the AP that the rebels arrested Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam but refused to give the details of the capture.

"We have captured Seif al-Islam and he is in safe hands," he said.

In the Netherlands, the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, said his office would talk to the rebels on Monday about Seif al-Islam's transfer for trial. "It is time for justice, not revenge," Moreno-Ocampo told the AP.

OBITUARIES

Alice Oertle

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Alice G. Oertle, age 84, of Bloomfield, NE passed away August 19, 2011 at the Golden Living Center, Hartington, NE.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday August 23, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at Welter Funeral Home in Huron, South Dakota with Rev. Ron Brugger officiating. Burial of the cremated remains will be in the Riverside Cemetery, Huron, SD. Local arrangements by the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, SD.

Alice was born on June 17, 1927 in Huron, South Dakota to Raymond and Ruth (Leckness) Wilson. Alice graduated from



Oertle

Huron High School in 1945. Alice married Raymond Oertle on December 20, 1950. They had 4 daughters; Janice and KC Paulson of Ramsey, Minnesota, Jeanne Masterson of

Yankton, South Dakota, Debra and John Zeiman of Newton, Iowa, and Diane and Bud Phillips of Crofton, Nebraska. Alice is survived by her 4 daughters, 12 grandchildren, Michelle and Dennis Mehrer, Richard Masterson, Larry Masterson, Tammy Ugofsky, Joshua Zeiman, Abigail Zeiman, Raymond Phillips, Ryan Phillips, Re-

becca Phillips, Rachel Phillips and Jeremiah Phillips. She is also survived by 13 great grand children and 3 great great grandchildren. Alice was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Brother Robert and 1 daughter Linda Monroe. Alice will be cremated and her remains will be interred with her husband, Raymond, at Riverside Cemetery in Huron, South Dakota.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 22, 2011



Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Helen Sathe

Helen Sathe, age 92, of Yankton, passed away Friday, August 19, 2011 at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno, SD.

A committal service of her cremated remains will be 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Yankton, SD with Rev. Mark Lichter officiating.

The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, is in charge of arrangements.

Helen was born January 17, 1919 in Yankton to Frank and Minnie (Tramp) Albrecht. She grew up in Yankton and graduated from Yankton High School in 1937. For a short time she worked on the family farm before marrying Loren Quick in Yankton, SD. They made their



Sathe

home in Gayville, SD. In the late 40's, early 50's they moved to San Bernardino, CA. She moved back to the Yankton area and married Bob Sathe in Wakonda, SD where they lived and ran "The Pitt" bar and hotel. Later they moved to Yankton where Bob managed the Elk's bar in the Elk's Lodge of Yankton, SD. They moved to California and together owned and managed apartment complexes. After 20 years in California, Bob and Helen moved back to Yankton. Her hobby was raising flowers and her love of cats. Her favorite game was bingo and

playing cards. Helen is survived by one brother Arnold (Doris) Albrecht of Yankton, SD and two sisters-in-law Loretta Albrecht of Yankton, SD and Amelia Phillips of CA and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Bob, siblings Alvina Foley, Pauline Kamback, Alfred "Mike" Albrecht, Irma Bilinsky, Francis Albrecht, Louis Albrecht, and James Albrecht.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 22, 2011



Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Clement Blacksmith Sr.

MARTY — Clement Blacksmith Sr., 88, of Marty died Saturday, Aug. 19, 2011, at the Golden Living Center, Armour.

Funeral services are at 1 p.m. Wednesday at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Marty. Burial is in the Holy Fellowship Episcopal Ceme-

tery, Greenwood, with military honors.

Wake services begin today (Monday) at the Sheila Blacksmith residence in Marty.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, is in charge of arrangements.

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Insolvency Looms For S.S. Disability

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Laid-off workers and aging baby boomers are flooding Social Security's disability program with benefit claims, pushing the financially strapped system toward the brink of insolvency.

Applications are up nearly 50 percent over a decade ago as people with disabilities lose their jobs and can't find new ones in an economy that has shed nearly 7 million jobs.

The stampede for benefits is adding to a growing backlog of applicants — many wait two years or more before their cases are resolved — and worsening the financial problems of a program that's been running in the red for years.

New congressional estimates say the trust fund that supports Social Security disability will run out of money by 2017, leaving the program unable to pay full benefits, unless Congress acts. About two decades later, Social Security's much larger retirement fund is projected to run dry as well.

Much of the focus in Washington has been on fixing Social Security's retirement system. Proposals range from raising the retirement age to means-testing benefits for wealthy retirees. But the disability system is in much worse shape and its problems defy easy solutions.

The trustees who oversee So-

cial Security are urging Congress to shore up the disability system by reallocating money from the retirement program, just as lawmakers did in 1994. That would provide only short-term relief at the expense of weakening the retirement program.

Claims for disability benefits typically increase in a bad economy because many disabled people get laid off and can't find a new job. This year, about 3.3 million people are expected to apply for federal disability benefits. That's 700,000 more than in 2008 and 1 million more than a decade ago.

"It's primarily economic desperation," Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue said in an interview. "People on the margins who get bad news in terms of a layoff and have no other place to go and they take a shot at disability."

The disability program is also being hit by an aging population — disability rates rise as people get older — as well as a system that encourages people to apply for more generous disability benefits rather than waiting until they qualify for retirement.

Retirees can get full Social Security benefits at age 66, a threshold gradually rising to 67. Early retirees can get reduced benefits at 62. However, if you qualify for disability, you can get full benefits, based on your work history, even before 62.

Also, people who qualify for Social Security disability auto-

matically get Medicare after two years, even if they are younger than 65, the age when other retirees qualify for the government-run health insurance program.

Congress tried to rein in the disability program in the late 1970s by making it tougher to qualify. The number of people receiving benefits declined for a few years, even during a recession in the early 1980s. Congress, however, reversed course and loosened the criteria, and the rolls were growing again by 1984.

The disability program "got into trouble first because of liberalization of eligibility standards in the 1980s," said Charles Blahous, one of the public trustees who oversee Social Security. "Then it got another shove into bigger trouble during the recent recession."

Today, about 13.6 million people receive disability benefits through Social Security or Supplemental Security Income. Social Security is for people with substantial work histories, and monthly disability payments average \$927. Supplemental Security Income does not require a work history but it has strict limits on income and assets. Monthly SSI payments average \$500.

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