

Egyptian Protesters:

Police To Blame For Soccer Deaths

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL AND SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO — Security forces clashed Thursday with stone-throwing protesters enraged by the failure of police to prevent a soccer riot that killed 74 people, as sports violence spiraled into a new political crisis for Egypt.

The deaths Wednesday night in a post-match stadium riot in the Mediterranean city of Port Said fueled anger at Egypt's ruling military and the already widely distrusted police forces. Many in the public and in the newly elected parliament blamed the leadership for letting it happen — whether from a lack of control or, as some alleged, on purpose.

Survivors of the riot described a nightmarish scene in the stadium. Police stood by doing nothing, they said, as fans of the winning home team, Al-Masry, attacked supporters of the top Cairo club, Al-Ahly, stabbing them and throwing them off bleachers.

A narrow exit corridor turned into a death trap as crowds of fans fled into it, only to be crushed against a locked gate as their rivals attacked them from behind.

A network of zealous Al-Ahly soccer fans known as Ultras vowed vengeance, accusing the

police of intentionally letting rivals attack them because they have been among the most aggressive of Egypt's revolutionaries. Ultras were at the forefront of the anti-government uprising — first against toppled leader Hosni Mubarak a year ago and now against the military that took his place in power.

"Either they will die or we will die," one Ultra said, referring to the police, as he joined a march by some 10,000 people on the Cairo headquarters of the Interior Ministry, which oversees the security forces. He would only give his first name, Islam, for fear of reprisal by police.

The march turned into a call for the ruling military council of generals, led by Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, to surrender power.

"Say it out loud, the council must leave!" the marchers chanted, shouting to people in residential buildings along the way. "Get down from your balconies, Tantawi killed your children!"

The military has faced protests for months led by secular and liberal youth groups demanding an end to its rule — and the soccer riot added to criticism that the generals have mismanaged the transition from Mubarak's rule. Opponents accuse the generals of being as autocratic as the ousted president and of preserving much of his regime. They say elements in the police and former regime figures have

been working behind the scenes to undermine the revolution and prevent real change.

"We dreamed of change. They fooled us and brought us a field marshal instead," protesters chanted Thursday as they reached the Interior Ministry, near Tahrir Square. Some called for the execution of the military rulers. Many raised flags of the Al-Ahly club and Zamalek, another top Cairo team with its own group of Ultras.

The crowds approached the ministry from multiple sides. Some tried to dismantle walls of large concrete blocks that had been erected on streets leading to the ministry after November clashes. Others tore away barbed wire barriers.

Protesters hurled stones at lines of riot police, who responded with heavy barrages of tear gas that sent the crowd scattering, some passing out and falling. Protesters set tires on fire, sending up black smoke as motorcyclists ferried away the injured. One young man who climbed atop a traffic light waving a flag was unmoved even as he was engulfed in a cloud of gas.

"We are just across the street from the ministry," said one protester, Taha Mahfouz, wearing a helmet and waving a club that he had taken from riot police. "They can't protect their own stuff. How can they protect the country?"

The Health Ministry said 388 protesters were injured, most overcome by gas.

Bernanke Defends Fed Against GOP Critics

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Ben Bernanke defended the Federal Reserve's decision to hold interest rates at record-low levels for the next three years, during a contentious hearing before federal lawmakers.

The Fed chairman told the House Budget Committee Thursday that the central bank's plan is an appropriate step to combat high unemployment while inflation is stable.

Bernanke was challenged immediately on the issue by the panel's chairman, Paul Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican, who said the Fed's move would risk higher inflation and hurt growth.

"I think this policy runs the great risk of fueling asset bubbles, destabilizing prices and eventually eroding the value of the dollar," Ryan told Bernanke. "The prospect of all three is adding to uncertainty and holding our economy back."

Bernanke disagreed. He said prices have stabilized since spiking in early 2011 and the dollar has shown no signs of weakening.

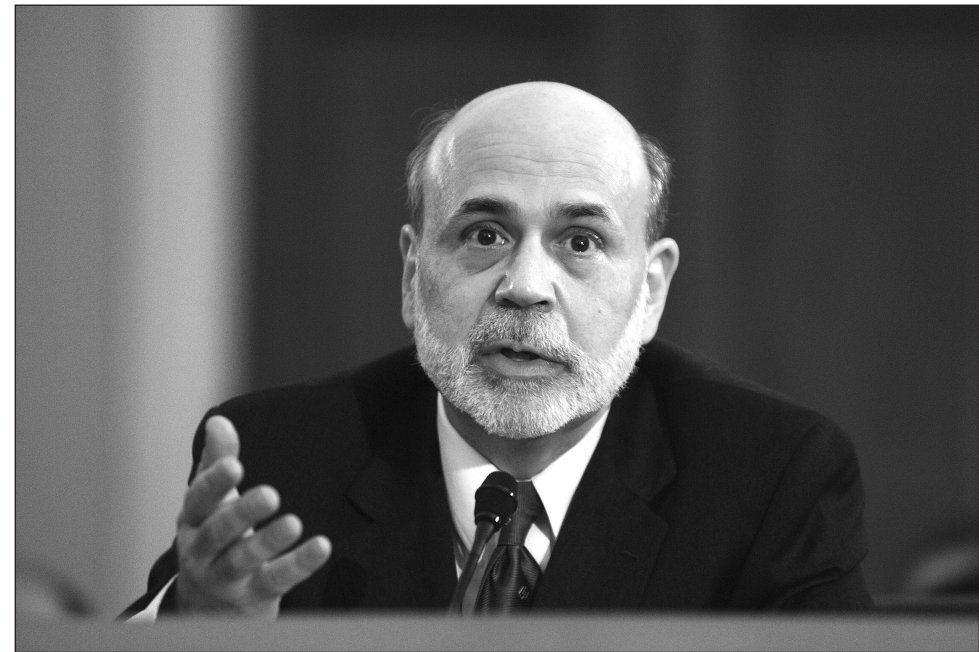
Bernanke testified one week after the Fed signaled that a full recovery could take at least three more years. As a result, the Fed said it doesn't plan to raise its benchmark interest rate from a record low before late 2014 at the earliest.

The questions from lawmakers covered a range of topics, from Europe's debt crisis to the surging federal deficit.

Bernanke didn't stray far from remarks he made last week after the Fed's policy meeting. He said the economy has shown improvement, but that the pace has been frustratingly slow. He noted that many threats remain, including Europe's debt crisis and the nation's rising debt.

"We still have a long way to go before the labor market can be said to be operating normally," Bernanke told the committee.

Bernanke generally received praise from De-



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT
Ben Bernanke, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, testifies before a House Budget Committee hearing in Washington, D.C., U.S., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012. Bernanke said the economy has shown signs of improvement.

mocrats, while Republicans were more critical.

One member even accused Bernanke and the Fed of overstepping their authority.

Rep. Scott Garrett, R-N.J., said the Fed ventured into Congress's territory when it issued a white paper last month exploring proposals to rescue the troubled housing market. He compared the action to lawmakers approving a resolution instructing the Fed on monetary policy — the Fed's use of interest rates to try to boost or slow the economy.

"I was taken aback when the Fed issued an

unsolicited white paper on housing policy and it mirrored in many ways the administration's policies on housing," Garrett, scolded Bernanke.

Bernanke apologized if Garrett felt the Fed went too far. He said that the weak housing sector was holding back overall growth and that this was of great concern for the Fed. He said the central bank did not endorse any actions but instead just explored various policy options.

"We were trying to provide pros and cons," Bernanke said.

Trump Backs Romney After A Puzzling Vegas Day

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — With his trademark flair for spectacle, Donald Trump endorsed Mitt Romney for president Thursday on the famed Las Vegas strip — just hours after Newt Gingrich's advisers were spreading the word that The Donald would be anointing him instead.

Trump's endorsement seemed likely to affect this Saturday's Nevada caucuses — and the GOP nomination fight in general — about as much as a Sin City breeze disturbs the real estate mogul's legendary hair. But he managed to create a stir of a different sort, at least for a day.

Romney said he was glad to get the support, but he seemed almost bemused to be caught up in the Trumpian drama.

"There are some things you just can't imagine happening. This is one of them," Romney said with a smile, looking out at the reporters and cameras jammed into the lobby of the hotel complex that bears Trump's name. The real estate mogul had entered to applause, with Romney and his wife, Ann, at his side.

"Mitt is tough, he's smart, he's sharp and he's not going to allow bad things to continue to happen to this country we all love," Trump said. He vigorously shook Romney's hand and said, "Go out and get 'em. You can do it."

But the endorsement was just the finale for a puzzling chain of events that began Wednesday when Trump's office announced he would be flying to Las Vegas for a "major announcement" related to the presidential contest. Trump had announced last spring he would not run for the Republican nomination but had hinted as recently as last month that he might run for president as an independent.

What would he say in Las Vegas? Gingrich advisers suggested Trump had sent "signals" that he planned endorse the former House speaker. The Gingrich team began leaking word of an impending endorsement to news organizations including The



Trump

Associated Press.

Nope. Reporters learned Thursday that Trump would be endorsing Romney instead.

Earlier, on a tour of a Las Vegas manufacturing facility, Gingrich made clear he had

gotten the message.

"No," the former House speaker replied when asked if he was expecting Trump's endorsement. He added that he was amazed at the attention Trump

was getting.

Romney hasn't always been Trump's man.

In an interview with CNN last April, Trump dismissed Romney as a "small business guy" and suggested Bain Capital, the venture capital firm where Romney made his millions, had bankrupted companies and destroyed jobs.

"He'd buy companies, he'd close companies, he'd get rid of jobs," Trump said.

Romney, for his part, turned down an invitation to participate in a presidential debate that Trump planned to moderate in Iowa in December, leading Trump

to cancel the event. And while Romney, like most of the GOP hopefuls, visited Trump at his office in Manhattan to discuss campaign strategy, he slipped in and out of the building without speaking to reporters.

Document: NYPD Sought To Spy On Shiites

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Police Department recommended increasing surveillance of thousands of Shiite Muslims and their mosques, based solely on their religion, as a way to sweep the Northeast for signs of Iranian terrorists, according to interviews and a newly obtained secret police document.

The document offers a rare glimpse into the thinking of NYPD intelligence officers and how, when looking for potential threats, they focused their spying efforts on mosques and Muslims. Police analysts listed a dozen mosques from central Connecticut to the Philadelphia suburbs. None has been linked to terrorism, either in the document or publicly by federal agencies.

The Associated Press has reported for months that the NYPD infiltrated mosques, eavesdropped in cafes and monitored Muslim neighborhoods with plainclothes officers. Its spying operations were begun after the 2001 terror attacks with help from the CIA in a highly unusual partnership.

The May 2006 NYPD intelligence report, entitled "US-Iran Conflict: The Threat to New York City," made a series of recommendations, including: "Expand and focus intelligence collections at Shi'a mosques."

The NYPD is prohibited under its own guidelines and city law from basing its investigations on religion. Under FBI guidelines, which the NYPD says it follows, many of the recommendations in the police document would be prohibited.

Sunken Italy Treasure Beckons Fortune Seekers

ROME (AP) — In the chaotic evacuation of the Costa Concordia, passengers and crew abandoned almost everything on board the cruise ship: jewels, cash, champagne, antiques, 19th-century Bohemian crystal glassware and thousands of art objects, including 300-year-old woodblock prints by a Japanese master.

Now, a veritable treasure lies beneath the pristine Italian waters where the luxury liner ran aground last month.

Though some objects are bound to disintegrate, there is still hoard enough to tempt treasure seekers — just as the Titanic and countless shipwrecks before have lured seekers of gold, armaments and other riches for as far back as mankind can remember.

It may be just a matter of time before treasure hunters set their sights on the sunken spoils of the Costa Concordia, which had more than 4,200 people on board.

"As long as there are bodies in there, it's considered off base to everybody because it's a grave," said Robert Marx, a veteran diver and the author of numerous books on maritime history, underwater archaeology and treasure hunting. "But when all the bodies are out, there will be a mad dash for the valuables."

Rep. Issa Vows To Get Justice Documents

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Eric Holder clashed with Republicans at a House committee hearing Thursday over demands that the Justice Department turn over more documents about a flawed gun-smuggling investigation.

Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., said the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will do what is necessary to force the Justice Department to produce information on its handling of congressional inquiries on Operation Fast and Furious.

The attorney general said he will consider Issa's demand. But he said the department, with one exception, was inclined to follow a longstanding tradition of withholding internal documents about how to respond to congressional inquiries in order to preserve the ability to get candid advice from top officials.

"I think you're hiding behind something here," Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., told Holder. "You ought to give us the documents. ... It appears we're being stonewalled."

Issa has threatened to seek a contempt of Congress ruling against Holder for failing to provide the material. The lawmaker alleges the Justice Department is engaging in a cover-up.

Facebook To Face Pressure To Up Revenue

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — For all the huge numbers in Facebook's IPO papers, a surprisingly small figure stands out: \$4.39, the amount the site generated per user last year.

It's one of the company's major challenges because the total is paltry compared with competing Internet companies. Google makes more than \$30 a year from each registered user. Even struggling Yahoo and AOL make \$7 and \$10, respectively.

Once Facebook goes public, Wall Street will surely demand more. That means the social network will almost certainly have to attract a lot more users or be more aggressive with its advertising, perhaps by mining personal data even more than it does now.

But can Facebook do all that without spoiling the user experience?

The company may have a tough time increasing the number of ads on a site that has become primarily a home for online conversations.

ATTENTION TAXPAYERS:

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX
INCREASE OF \$1,400,000RESOLUTION FOR OPT OUT
AND VOTE TO BE HELD

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF Yankton School District 63-3 do state that the above said board is unable to operate under the tax limitation measure currently in statute. We therefore OPT OUT of such limitation in the amount of \$1,400,000 starting with calendar year 2012 taxes payable in the calendar year 2013. This opt out will be for 2 years, which will be through taxes payable in the calendar year 2014. This action has been taken by the board and approved by at least a two-thirds vote of the board.

Also, be it resolved that the GOVERNING BOARD OF YANKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 63-3 will conduct an election to approve or disapprove the tax levy opt out pursuant to SDCL 10-12-43. The election will be held on February 28, 2012. Signed Kathy Greeneway, Board Chairman; Verlin Ailts, Board Member; Jim Fitzgerald, Board Member, Chris Specht, Board Member and Jay Williams, Board Member. Adopted this 23rd day of January, 2012.

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