

Syrian Rebels Attack Government Complex

BEIRUT (AP) — Rebels backed by captured tanks launched a fresh offensive on a government complex housing a police academy near the northern city of Aleppo on Sunday, while the government hit back with airstrikes to try to protect the strategic installation, activists said.

If rebels capture the complex on the outskirts of Aleppo, it would mark another setback for President Bashar Assad. In recent weeks, his regime has lost control of key infrastructure in the northeast including a hydroelectric dam, a major oil field and two army bases along the road linking Aleppo with the airport to its east.

Rebels also have been hitting the heart of Damascus with occasional mortars shells or bombings, posing a stiff challenge to the regime in its seat of power.

On Saturday, opposition fighters in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour overran a military post believed to have once been the site of a partly built nuclear reactor that Israeli warplanes bombed in 2007.

Castro Expected To Receive New Term In Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba's parliament reconvened Sunday with new membership and was expected to name Raul Castro to a new five-year-term as president. All were watching whether younger politicians might be tapped for other top leadership posts, providing hints of a possible future successor.

Castro fueled speculation on Friday when he talked of his possible retirement and suggested he has plans to resign at some point. It was unclear whether the 81-year-old leader was joking, but he promised his speech Sunday would be "interesting."

If a fresh face is named as one of his top deputies, it could indicate that his administration is settling on who might carry the country forward when those who fought in the 1959 revolution can no longer do so.

Raul Castro turns 82 this year and would be 86 when a new term ends. His top two lieutenants are also in their 80s.

Pistorius' Brother Faces Charge In 2008 Death

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The murder case involving Olympic star Oscar Pistorius took another unexpected turn Sunday with the news that his older brother, Carl, is himself facing charges for the death of a woman in a traffic accident.

Carl Pistorius faces a charge of unlawful, negligent killing for a 2008 road death, "in which a woman motorcyclist sadly lost her life," Kenneth Oldwage, the Pistorius family lawyer said on Sunday. The accident happened in Vanderbijlpark, south of Johannesburg. The charge of "culpable homicide" was dropped and then reinstated and will be challenged in court, the lawyer told The Associated Press.

It is the second time someone associated with the Pistorius case has been found to face a serious charge that has been dropped and then reinstated. It was revealed that the chief police investigator in the case is facing charges of seven counts of attempted murder for shooting at a vehicle with seven passengers.

Palestinian's Death Stokes Fears Of Third Uprising

BY KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — The mysterious death of a 30-year-old Palestinian gas station attendant in Israeli custody stoked new West Bank clashes Sunday, along with Israeli fears of a third Palestinian uprising.

A senior Palestinian official alleged that Arafat Jaradat was tortured by Israel's Shin Bet security service, citing an autopsy he said revealed bruising and two broken ribs.

Israel's Health Ministry said the autopsy did not conclusively determine the cause of death, but that the bruising and broken ribs were likely the result of attempts to revive the detainee.

Jaradat's death came at a time of rising West Bank tensions, including several days of Palestinian marches in support of four hunger-striking prisoners in Israeli lockups. In all, Israel holds nearly 4,600 Palestinians, including dozens who have never been formally charged.

Frozen Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, the recent re-election of Israeli hard-line Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a Palestinian cash crisis and the Palestinians' sense of being abandoned by the Arab world seem to have created fertile ground for a third Palestinian revolt.

Over the weekend, Israel's army chief convened senior commanders to discuss the growing unrest.

Jaradat's death "is liable to become the opening shot" in a third uprising, Israeli military commentator Alex Fishman wrote in the Yediot Ahronot daily Sunday, arguing that the "Palestinian street has been boiling with anger for a number of weeks now."

However, Israeli officials have previously expressed concern about a new uprising, only to see bursts of Palestinian protests fizzle.

The first uprising, marked by stone-throwing protests and commercial strikes, erupted in the late 1980s and led to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The second uprising broke out in 2000, after failed talks on a final peace deal, and it was far deadlier, with Israel reoccupying the West Bank after bombings and shootings.

In recent years, the West Bank has been relatively calm. Despite recent tensions, the

Palestinian self-rule government has not broken off security coordination with Israel in their joint campaign against Islamic militants.

Palestinian activists also say they learned from the mistakes of the armed revolt a decade ago and are turning to more creative protests against Israel's 45-year rule over lands they want for a future state.

Former Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub, speaking in Hebrew on Israel Radio, tried to reassure Israelis, declaring Sunday "on behalf of the entire Palestinian leadership that there is no plan to lead to bloodshed."

Jaradat, a father of two from the West Bank village of Saer, died in Megiddo Prison in northern Israel on Saturday, six days after his arrest on suspicion of stone throwing.

Jaradat's attorney, Kamil Sabbagh, said his client told an Israeli military judge Thursday during a hearing that he was being forced to sit for long periods during interrogation. The detainee also complained of back pain and seemed terrified to return to the Shin Bet lockup, although he did not have any apparent signs of physical abuse, Sabbagh said.

Pope's Last Blessing From Window Draws Crowd

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI gave his pontificate's final Sunday blessing from his studio window to the cheers of tens of thousands of people packing St. Peter's Square, but sought to reassure the faithful that he wasn't abandoning the church by retiring to spend his final years in prayer.

The 85-year-old Benedict is stepping down on Thursday evening, the first pope to do so in 600 years, after saying he no longer has the mental or physical strength to lead the world's 1.2 billion Catholics.

But while he has lately looked tired and frail, the crowd filling the cobblestone square seemed to energize him, and he spoke in a clear, strong voice, repeatedly



Benedict XVI

thanking the faithful for their closeness and affection as they interrupted him, again and again, with applause and cheers. Police estimated some 100,000 people turned out.

Benedict told the crowd that God is calling him to dedicate himself "even more to prayer and meditation," which he will do in a secluded monastery being renovated for him on the grounds behind Vatican City's ancient walls.

"But this doesn't mean abandoning the church," he said, as many in the crowd looked sad at his departure from regular view. "On the contrary, if God asks me, this is because I can continue to

serve it (the church) with the same dedication and the same love which I have tried to do so until now, but in a way more suitable to my age and to my strength."

The phrase "tried to" was the pope's adlibbed addition to his prepared text.

Benedict has one more public appearance, a Wednesday general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Benedict smiled at the crowd after an aide parted the white curtain at his window, telling the people, "thank you for your affection."

Heavy rain had been forecast for Rome, and some drizzle dampened the square earlier in the morning. But when Benedict appeared, to the peal of church bells as the clock struck noon, blue sky

crept through the clouds.

"We thank God for the sun he has given us," the pope said, sounding cheerful.

As cheers continued in the crowd, the pontiff simply turned away from the window and stepped back down into apartment, which he will leave on Thursday, taking a helicopter to the Vatican summer residence in the hills outside Rome while he waits for the monastery to be ready.

A child in the crowd held up a sign on a yellow placard, written in Italian, "You are not alone, I'm with you." Other admirers held homemade signs, saying "Grazie."

No date has yet been set for the start of the conclave of cardinals, who will vote in secret to elect Benedict's successor.

OBITUARIES

Lois Sedlacek

Mass of Christian Burial for Lois L. Sedlacek of Tyndall will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 25 at St. Leo Catholic Church in Tyndall with Fr. Joe Forcelle as Celebrant. Organist is Marcene Kniffen. Piano soloist will be grandson Wesley Brandt. Interment will follow at 1:30 p.m. on Monday at St. George Catholic Cemetery in Scotland. Casketbearers are Joseph Kuchta, Ed Sedlacek, George Sedlacek, Alvin Sternhagen, Doug Sternhagen and Steve Sternhagen.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Lois LaNere Sedlacek was born Tuesday, August 8, 1944 at Yankton, South Dakota to Benjamin and Vera (Fischer) Schmoll. In 1963, she graduated from the Mitchell Area Vocational Technical School of Practical Nursing. Lois was united in marriage to John Sedlacek on December 29, 1966 in Scotland, South Dakota. Always a hard worker, Work was very important to Lois and she excelled at being a nurse, farm wife and homemaker. She found her 37 years at St. Michael's Hospital in



Lois Sedlacek

Tyndall to be very rewarding. She and John enjoyed traveling together to attend the Iowa Beef Expo, Black Hills Stock Show, the Nebraska Cattleman's Classic, and the livestock show at the South Dakota State Fair. She was an active supporter of the local 4-H programs and enjoyed 4H Achievement Days. She also enjoyed working in her garden. Lois especially loved to go to her grandchildren's ballgames, concerts, dance recitals, school functions and activities. Lois died on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at St. Michael's Hospital Avera, surrounded by her family, following a

1-1/2 year battle with ovarian cancer. She had attained the age of 68 years, 6 months and 13 days.

Lois' memory will be treasured by her husband, John Sedlacek, of Tyndall; daughter Mary (Sid) Brandt of Tabor; three sons: Jeff Sedlacek of Tripp, Mark Sedlacek of Scotland and Jared Sedlacek of Tripp; two grandchildren: Wesley Brandt and Ava Brandt; a sister, Myra (Jim) Weber of Tripp; and her mother-in-law, Helen Sedlacek of Scotland. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ben and Vera Schmoll.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 25, 2013

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Judy Hoelsing

Judith Theresa Marie Hoelsing, 63, of St. Boniface Catholic Parish, Menominee, Neb., died at her residence on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Menominee, with Father Paul Hoelsing and Father David Fulton officiating. Burial is in St. Boniface Cemetery.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, with a vigil service at 7 p.m., at the church. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Wednesday at the church.

The Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington is in charge of arrangements.

Jonathon Graham

Jonathon C. Graham, 22, of Bow Valley, Neb., died Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, at the Park View Haven Nursing Home, Coleridge, Neb.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Bow Valley, with the Rev. Eric Olsen officiating. Burial of his cremated remains will be in Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Bow Valley.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to services on Tuesday at the church.

The Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington, is in charge of arrangements.

Lyle Buchanan

Lyle R. Buchanan, 96, of Irene died Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, at the Wakonda Heritage Manor, Wakonda.

A memorial service is at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 1, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton, with Pastor Dana Steinwand officiating. Interment will be in the Yankton City Cemetery with military honors provided by the Yankton Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post 791.

A gathering of friends and family is 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home with the family present from 6-8 p.m.

To send an online sympathy card, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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John Wescott

John F. Wescott, 73, of Yankton died Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, at his home in Yankton.

Arrangements are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

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Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Richard Ryken
who passed away on
February 27, 2012

Joyce D. Pfeiffer
who passed away on
February 28, 2012

Virgil M. Pederson
who passed away on
February 29, 2012

Isaac N. Thompson
who passed away on
March 2, 2012

Gilbert Mjoen
who passed away on
February 25, 2008

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.

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Maynard Huether

Funeral services for Maynard A. Huether, 72, of Tripp will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 27 at Frieden's Reformed Church in Tripp with Rev. Greg Way officiating. Interment will follow in Frieden's Cemetery, Tripp, with military graveside rites by the Jelkin-Harms American Legion Post #142 of Tripp and the South Dakota Army National Guard Military Funeral Honor Guard.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp. There will be a 7:00 p.m. prayer service on Tuesday evening at the church.

Maynard passed away surrounded by his family on Sunday, February 24, 2013 at the Ft. Mead Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Sturgis.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be directed to HorsePower — a disabled youth horse therapy program in Sioux Falls, SD. Donations may be mailed to: HorsePower, 26659 Blue Sage Lane, Suite 100, Sioux Falls, SD 57106, or sent electronically at: <http://handriders.wordpress.com/donations>.

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