

Blasts At Aleppo University Kill More Than 80

BEIRUT (AP) — Twin blasts inside a university campus in Syria's largest city on Tuesday set cars ablaze, blew the walls off dormitory rooms and left more than 80 people dead, anti-regime activists said.

What caused the blasts remained unclear. Anti-regime activists trying to topple President Bashar Assad's regime said his forces carried out two airstrikes. Syrian state media, for its part, blamed rebels fighting the Syrian government, saying they fired rockets that struck the campus.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and a commercial capital, has been harshly contested since rebel forces, mostly from rural areas north of the city, pushed in and began clashing with government troops last summer.

Entire neighborhoods have been destroyed since in fighting and frequent shelling and airstrikes by government forces who seek to dislodge the rebels.

Egypt's Underprivileged Fall Victim In Crash

BADRASHEEN, Egypt (AP) — Packed in a rickety train speeding through the night, the poorly fed, pale-looking Egyptian conscripts were coming from some of Egypt's most dirt-poor villages to serve in one of the most miserable, lowly jobs of the security forces — as grunts in an anti-riot force usually deployed against protesters.

At a station just outside of Cairo before dawn Tuesday, the train's last car jumped the track, slammed into a parked train, and then was dragged for several kilometers. The car was torn to pieces, young recruits were sent flying along the tracks, and others were mangled.

In the end, 19 recruits mostly in their early 20s were killed and more than 100 were injured, some with arms or legs torn off.

The accident was the latest example of Egypt's decrepit infrastructure turning lethal for the country's poorest — and a reminder that the revolution two years ago has brought no relief in the lives of a population where poverty is worsening. The crash brought a new wave of anger at Islamist President Mohammed Morsi for failing to carry out reforms or overhaul the country's crumbling public services.

After daybreak Tuesday, a military helicopter hovering over the wreckage of the train enraged bystanders gathered at the site near Badrasheen station, 12 miles (20 kilometers) south of Cairo.

Facebook Unveils New Search Feature

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP) — Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg unveiled a new search feature on Tuesday in the company's first staged event at its Menlo Park, Calif., headquarters since its May initial public offering.

Called "graph search," the new service lets users search their social connections for information about people, interests, photos and places. It'll help users who, for instance, want to scroll through all the photos their friends have taken in Paris or search for the favorite TV shows of all their friends who happen to be doctors.

Until now, Facebook users were unable to search for friends who live in a certain town or like a particular movie. With the new feature, people can search for friends who, say, live in Boston who also like "Zero Dark Thirty".

Zuckerberg says the search feature is "privacy aware," which means users can only search for content that has been shared with them. Still, the company will have to make it clear to users that the new feature isn't unearthing information about them that wasn't already available.

Facebook is stressing that graph search will be made available to users very slowly, beginning Tuesday. Though the company has focused on refining its mobile product for much of last year, the search feature will only be available on Facebook's website for now, and only in English. It will likely take more than a year for search to be available to all of Facebook's more than 1 billion users as the company's engineers and designers tweak the service based on how people use it.

New York Passes First U.S. Gun Control Law Since Connecticut Massacre

BY MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press

"When there's a pileup of events, when the federal government does not do it, the state of New York has to lead the way."

JOSEPH LENTOL

ALBANY, N.Y. — Jumping out ahead of Washington, New York enacted the nation's toughest gun restrictions Tuesday and the first since the Connecticut school shooting, including an expanded assault-weapon ban and mandatory background checks for buying ammunition.

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the measure into law less than an hour after it won final passage in the Legislature, with supporters hailing it as a model for the nation and gun-rights activists condemning it as a knee-jerk piece of legislation that won't make anyone safer and is too extreme to win support in the rest of the country.

Owners of an estimated 1 million previously legal semiautomatic rifles, like the Bushmaster model used to kill 20 children and six seven adults in Newtown, Conn., a month ago, will be able to keep their weapons, but will have a year to register them with police.

"When there's a pileup of events, when the federal government does not do it, the state of New York has to lead the way," said state Assemblyman Joseph Lentol, a Brooklyn Democrat and co-sponsor.

In addition to outlawing a broader array of military-style weapons, the measure restricts ammunition magazines to seven bullets, down from the current 10, creates a more comprehensive database of people barred from owning guns, and makes New York the first state to require background checks to buy bullets. The system will also help flag customers who buy large amounts of ammo.

In another provision, therapists, doctors and other mental health professionals will be required to tell state authorities if a patient threatens to use a gun illegally. The patient's weapon could then be taken away.

Richard Aborn, president of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City, said Cuomo clearly understood gun violence is a complex issue requiring solutions more comprehensive than simply banning a particular weapon.

House Approves \$50.7 Billion In Superstorm Aid

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — More than 10 weeks after Superstorm Sandy brutalized parts of the heavily populated Northeast, the House approved \$50.7 billion in emergency relief for the victims Tuesday night as Republican leaders struggled to close out an episode that exposed painful party divisions inside Congress and out.

The vote was 241-180, and officials said the Senate was likely to accept the measure early next week and send it to President Barack Obama for his signature. Democrats supported the aid in large numbers, while majority Republicans opposed it by a lopsided margin.

"We are not crying wolf here," said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., one of a group of Northeastern lawmakers from both parties who sought House passage of legislation roughly in line with what the

Obama administration and governors of the affected states have sought.

Democrats were more politically pointed as they brushed back Southern conservatives who sought either to reduce the measure or offset part of its cost through spending cuts elsewhere in the budget.

"I just plead with my colleagues not to have a double standard," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney of New York. "Not to vote tornado relief to Alabama, to Louisiana, to Mississippi, Missouri, to — with Ike, Gustav, Katrina, Rita — but when it comes to the Northeast, with the second worst storm in the history of our country, to delay, delay, delay."

One key vote came on an attempt by Rep. Rodney Freylinghuysen to add \$33.7 billion to an original allotment of \$17 billion in aid. That roll call was 228-192 and Democrats broke 190-2 in favor,

while Republicans opposed it overwhelmingly, 190-38.

Similarly, on final passage, 192 Democrats joined 49 Republicans in support. Opposed were 179 Republicans and one Democrat.

Earlier, conservatives failed in an attempt to offset a part of the bill's cost with across-the-board federal budget cuts. The vote was 258-162.

Rep. Mark Mulvaney, R-S.C., arguing for the reduction, said he wasn't trying to torpedo the aid package, only to pay for it. "Are there no savings, are there no reductions we can put in place this year so these folks can get their money?" he asked plaintively.

Critics said the proposed cuts would crimp Pentagon spending as well as domestic accounts and said the aid should be approved without reductions elsewhere. "There are times when a disaster simply goes beyond our ability to budget. Hurricane Sandy is one of those

times," said Rep. Hal Rogers of Kentucky, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Sandy roared through several states in late October and has been blamed for 140 deaths and billions of dollars in residential and business property damage, much of it in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. It led to power outages and interruptions to public transportation that made life miserable for millions, and the clamor for federal relief began almost immediately.

The emerging House measure includes about \$16 billion to repair transit systems in New York and New Jersey and a similar amount for housing and other needs in the affected area. An additional \$5.4 billion would go to the Federal Emergency and Management Agency for disaster relief, and \$2 billion is ticketed for restoration of highways damaged or destroyed in the storm.

Taxes

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Some of the biggest exemptions go to farmers, ranchers and agribusiness. The industry received at least \$1.2 billion in exemptions last year, including \$630 million for farm animals and \$300 million for water and veterinary medicines.

The governor said he has spoken with farmers and ranchers who are willing to talk about the trade-off.

"You may be surprised, but many are willing to have that discussion," Heineman said. "They want simplicity and fairness. They want a modern tax code that rewards productivity, profits and job creation rather than having their lawyers and accountants spending time mining the tax code for exemptions."

Lawmakers have signaled an interest in eliminating both individual and corporate taxes this year, with several bills already introduced. But they had mixed reactions to Heineman's plan.

"This is a major tax shift reducing the burden on high-income earners and people at the top of the tax bracket," said Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, of Omaha. "The Warren Buffets of the world are going to see a significant reduction in their taxes and lower-income families are not going to see as much of a reduction."

Speaker of the Legislature Greg Adams said he anticipates a battle over the tax exemptions.

"Conceptually, I think the idea of trying to find balance is a good one, but the devil is in the details on which tax exemptions and how

much," Adams said.

State Sen. Brad Ashford, who is running for Omaha mayor, said the governor's proposal could produce a cash windfall for Nebraska cities. Cities are allowed to impose a sales tax of up to 1.5 percent, and ending exemptions for certain goods and services would allow them to collect more.

Heineman said he could agree to a plan that would lower income tax rates instead of eliminating the tax altogether. The governor's proposal also would exempt military retirement pay and Social Security income from state income taxes.

Also Tuesday, Heineman unveiled his proposal for a new, two-year budget that sets the stage for a showdown on several issues. It includes no money to expand Medicaid coverage, an optional part of the federal health care law. Some lawmakers are expected to push for expanded coverage as a way to lower health care costs, and Heineman has promised to oppose them.

Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha, the new chairman of the Legislature's budget-writing committee, said it's too soon to know whether he would support the governor's budget plan. But he said the governor's proposal is a good way to start the conversation about the state's priorities.

"There's a lot of potential for common ground between the Legislature and the governor and his proposal," Mello said.

Obama

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alone can make any noticeable difference.

"It is a simple fact that there are limits to what can be done within existing law," White House spokesman Jay Carney said Tuesday. "Congress has to act on the kinds of measures we've already mentioned because the power to do that is reserved by Congress."

New York's Assembly on Tuesday easily passed the toughest gun control law in the nation and the first since the Connecticut school shootings. The statewide measure includes a tougher assault weapons ban and provisions to try to keep guns out of the hands of mentally ill people who make threats.

Obama will announce his proposals in a midday event at the White House, flanked by children who wrote to him about gun violence following the massacre of 20 students and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Law enforcement officials, mayors from across the country and supportive congressional lawmakers are also expected to attend.

Obama has pledged urgent action to prevent future mass shootings, and his plan — coming just one month after the Newtown attacks —

is swift by Washington standards. The president's framework is based on recommendations from Vice President Joe Biden, who led a wide-ranging task force on gun violence. Beyond the gun control measures, Biden also gave Obama suggestions for improving mental health care and addressing violent images in video games, movies and television.

The vice president's proposals included 19 steps that could be achieved through executive action.

Obama may order the Justice Department to crack down on people who lie on background checks; only a tiny number are now prosecuted. Such a step has support from the National Rifle Association, which has consistently argued that existing laws must be enforced before new ones are considered.

He also could take steps ordering federal agencies to make more data on gun crimes available and conduct more research on the issue, something Republican congressional majorities have limited through language in budget bills. And he may order tougher penalties against gun trafficking and give schools flexibility to use grant money to improve safety.

OBITUARIES

Wanda Miller

Wanda Darlene Miller, age 62, of Yankton, SD and formerly of Terrell, TX passed away on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at her residence.

Memorial Service will be 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 17, 2013 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton with Chaplain Mary Hochstein assisting with the service. Burial of her cremated remains will take place at Ellis Chapel in Wills Point, TX, at a later date.

Wanda was born on December 28, 1950 to Eugene Ralph and Nellie Marie (Potter) Burch in Terrell, TX. She married David Rogers in 1968 in Mesquite Texas. In 1989 she married Terry Miller in Terrell, TX.

Wanda is survived by her two daughters, Shelli (Lou) Porras of Mitchell, SD and Kelli Aguirre of Yankton, SD; brother, Gary Burch of Terrell, TX; sister, Rhonda (Carey) Streetman of



Miller

Terrell, TX; grandchildren William Tagg Jr. of Sioux Falls, SD, Zachary Tagg of Mitchell, SD, Nicholas (Erica) Tagg of Anchorage, AK, Kelsey Tagg of Mitchell, SD, Antonio Aguirre Jr., Austin Aguirre, and Ashli Aguirre, all of Yankton, Allen Porras, Yankton; Nathan Porras, Yankton; and Dale Porras, Crofton, Neb.

Wanda is preceded in death by her parents and her son-in-law, William Tagg Sr.
Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 16, 2013

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www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Josephine Kast

Josephine A. Kast, 97, of Yankton died Friday, Jan. 4, 2013, at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 21, at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Menominee, Neb., with the Rev. David Fulton officiating. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Wake service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

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Maxine Iverson

Maxine J. Iverson, 85, of Vermillion died Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013, at Prairie Estates Care Center, Elk Point.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Dennis Tweedy 10:30 AM, Wednesday Trinity Lutheran Church Yankton	Gary F. Pinkelman 10:30 AM, Thursday Holy Family (Sts. Peter & Paul) Catholic Church Bow Valley
Susan Hesse 10:30 AM, Friday St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Fordyce	

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WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Wednesday, January 16
7:40 am YC Observer (Kathy Church)
8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)
8:45 am Mount Marty (Kristi Tacke)

Thursday, January 17
7:40 am Yankton Conv/Vis (Lisa Scheve)
8:20 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm)

Joseph Yaggie

Joseph J. Yaggie, 96, of Yankton died Monday evening, Jan. 14, 2013, at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton, surrounded by his family.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. John Rutten officiating. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Yankton.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Friday at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a 7:30 p.m. rosary and an 8 p.m. Scripture service. Visitations

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