

Israel's Netanyahu Loses Key Coalition Partner

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel plunged toward a political crisis Tuesday after the largest party in the government quit, leaving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in charge of a hard-line coalition opposed to most Mideast peace moves.

The moderate Kadima Party voted to pull out of the government in a feud over attempts to reform the country's military draft. The move, just two months after Kadima joined the coalition, appeared to push the country closer to early elections, a scenario that would paralyze Mideast diplomacy for months.

Even if Netanyahu manages to hold the truncated coalition together, the sudden crisis has broader implications for Mideast peace, leaving him in charge of a narrow parliamentary majority dominated by religious and nationalist hard-liners who oppose concessions to the Palestinians.

Kadima leader Shaul Mofaz brought the party into the coalition to work with Netanyahu on ending a contentious, decades-old system that has granted draft exemptions to tens of thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jewish seminary students. But with a court-ordered Aug. 1 deadline to revise the law, the sides were unable to forge a compromise.

"We made a real effort to push toward a new law that would change the balance of service," Mofaz, a former military chief of staff, told a news conference.

Romney Attacks Obama With New Approach

IRWIN, Pa. (AP) — A fiery Mitt Romney on Tuesday accused President Barack Obama of believing the government is more vital to a thriving economy than the nation's workers and dreamers, scrambling to get back on message by declaring of Obama, "I'm convinced he wants Americans to be ashamed of success."

The new Romney approach came as Democrats pressed for the release of more of Romney's tax returns and hounded the Republican candidate over discrepancies in when he left his private equity firm. The conservative magazine National Review urged Romney to release more of his tax records.

Obama has been trying to keep Romney focused on matters other than the sluggish economy, even releasing a single-shot TV ad Tuesday that suggests Romney gamed the system so well that he may not have paid any taxes at all for years.

As the campaign's tenor grew combative, Romney seized on comments Obama uttered while campaigning in Virginia last week. The president, making a point about the supportive role government plays in building the nation, said in part: "Somebody helped to create this unbelievable American system that we have that allowed you to thrive. Somebody invested in roads and bridges. If you've got a business, you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen."

Obama later added: "The point is, is that when we succeed, we succeed because of our individual initiative, but also because we do things together."

Clinton Smashes Travel Record For SOS

WASHINGTON (AP) — If diplomatic achievements were measured by the number of countries visited, Hillary Rodham Clinton would be the most accomplished secretary of state in history.

While historians will debate and eventually rate her tenure as America's top diplomat, Clinton is already assured of a place in the State Department record book.

When her plane touched down at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington early Tuesday morning, the former first lady completed an epic 13-day journey of 27,000 miles — about 2,000 miles more than the circumference of the Earth — through and over Europe to Asia and then doubling back to the Middle East.

One well-traveled Clinton staffer described the France-Afghanistan-Japan-Mongolia-Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia-Egypt-Israel itinerary as "especially absurd, even for us."

Despite the mind- and body-numbing time zone hopping, Clinton joked that she was ready for more.

OBITUARIES

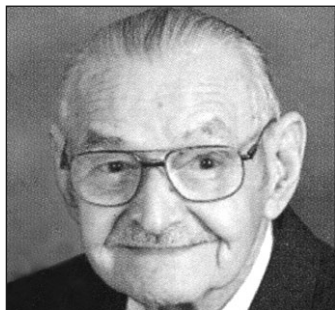
Frank Peschl

Mass of Christian Burial for Frank Peschl of Tyndall will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 19 at St. Leo Catholic Church in Tyndall with Fr. Joe Forcelle as Celebrant. Organist is Marcene Kniffen. Interment will follow in St. Leo Cemetery, Tyndall with military graveside rites. Casketbearers will be Frank's grandchildren, Kevin Hayden, Mika Kunz, Mike Peschl, Pam Novak, Kim Wenzel and Trevor Rokusek.

Visitation will be held from 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall. There will be a wake service on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. at the church.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established by the family in Frank's memory.

Frank Peschl was born on Tuesday, April 8, 1913 in Yankton, South



Peschl

Dakota to John and Mary (Spahn) Peschl. He grew up in Yankton and attended Yankton Elementary and High Schools. He graduated from Yankton High School in 1931. Following high school, he went into business with John Marek at the Standard Market in Yankton. In 1941, he moved to Tyndall and started Peschl's Market and Lockers. He kept that business until 1971 when he sold it to his son. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South

Pacific during World War II. Frank married Kathryn Brennan on October 16, 1934. Four children were born to this union. Kathryn died in 1970. On August 4, 1973 Frank married Norma Evers. He was a member of St. Leo Catholic Church. Frank passed away on Sunday, July 15, 2012 having achieved the age of 99 years, 3 months, and 7 days.

Frank is survived by his wife, Norma, of Tyndall; three children: John T. (Ginger) Peschl of Tyndall, Kay (Tom) Hayden of Plymouth, Minnesota, and Theresa (Dennis Johnson) Rokusek of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota; two step-children: Roger (Connie) Evers of York, Nebraska and Mary Vanderlinde of Grand Rapids, Minnesota; eight grandchildren: Mike (Barb) Peschl, Karen (Bob) Schmidt, Pam (Rick) Novak and Kim (Bill) Wenzel of Tyndall, Kevin (Anne) Hayden, Mika (James) Kunz, Jason (Missy) Rokusek and Trevor (Michelle Grant) Rokusek, all of Minneapolis, Minnesota; twelve

great-grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, and five step-great-grandchildren; one brother, Ernest Peschl; and many nieces and nephews.

Frank was preceded in death by his first wife, Kathryn; a daughter, Michaelene; five brothers: Albert, John, Joe, Jim and Fred; and four sisters: Ann Boswell, Betty Peschl, Mary Nedved and Dorothy Svatos.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 18, 2012

Goglin Funeral Home

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

Nellie Sahagun

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Friends and family are invited to attend memorial services for Nellie E. Sahagun, 71, of Bloomfield, Neb., at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 21, 2012, at First Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomfield. Pastor Adam Salinas will officiate, with a luncheon to follow.

Brockhaus Funeral Home, Bloomfield, is in charge of arrangements.

Nellie died Sunday, July 15, 2012, at her home.

Bobbie Christopherson

ROSAMOND, Calif. — Bobbie M. Christopherson, 87, of Rosamond, Calif., and formerly of Yankton, died early Monday morning, July 16, 2012, at her daughter's residence in Rosamond.

Graveside services are at 10 a.m. Friday at the Gayville Cemetery, Gayville, with the Rev. Paul M. Opsahl officiating.

Visitations are 4-6 p.m. Thursday evening at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

Elaine Cooper

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Elaine C. Cooper, 69, of Hartington, Neb., died Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at the Golden Living Center, Hartington.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartington, with the Rev. Amanda Jertson officiating. Burial will be in the Hartington City Cemetery.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Thursday, with a prayer service at 7 p.m., at the Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Friday at the church.

Rodney Mikkelsen

IRENE — Rodney R. Mikkelsen, 75, of Irene died Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at Wakonda Her-

itage Manor.

Arrangements are pending with Hansen Funeral Home, Irene.

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Clashes Spread In Syrian Capital

BY ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces attacked rebels with helicopter gunships in the heart of Damascus on Tuesday, escalating a campaign to crush their opponents as clashes spread to new areas, illustrating the rebels' growing reach.

Cracks of gunfire and explosions echoed inside the capital for a third day, including a firefight near the country's parliament, in an unprecedented challenge to government rule in President Bashar Assad's seat of power.

Neighboring Iraq called on its citizens living in Syria to return home, as the fighting overshadowed another round of diplomatic maneuvering to end the civil war, with special envoy Kofi Annan in Moscow in an attempt to rescue his faltering peace plan.

Plumes of gray smoke billowed over the Damascus skyline and helicopter gunships strafed the area, activists said — a sign the regime is growing desperate to push the rebels away from the heavily-guarded capital.

Terrified families fled the city or said they were prepared to leave at a moment's notice. Residents said they were packing "getaway bags" in case they had to run for their lives.

"The streets are completely empty, the shops are closed. People are terrified of what's next."

OMAR QABOUNI

"My bag has my family's passports, our university degrees, some cash and medicine," a 57-year-old father of two told The Associated Press, asking that his name not be used for fear of reprisals. "It is very hard to imagine leaving your home and everything you worked to get, but it's a matter of life and death."

Clashes were concentrated in the neighborhoods of Kfar Souseh, Nahr Aisha, Midan and Qadam — a mixture of lower- and middle-to-upper-class districts in the city's southwest where street battles first erupted Sunday. Heavy clashes were also reported in Qaboun, a neighborhood in northeast Damascus.

"The streets are completely empty, the shops are closed. People are terrified of what's next," said Omar Qabouni, an activist in Qaboun. He said eight people were killed Tuesday in mortar and tank shelling by gov-

ernment forces. He estimated that about 300 rebels were taking part in the fighting.

Activists and residents said the fighting also reached new areas Tuesday, with brief firefights erupting in Sabeh Bahrat Square, Baghdad Street and Sahet Arnous in downtown Damascus, about 400 yards (meters) from the Syrian parliament.

The clashes broke up quickly as the rebels fled, but were a significant indicator of the rapidly spreading violence and the deep reach of the rebels as they become more confident and better armed.

The Damascus clashes were a sign the civil war was likely to worsen as the Syrian regime struggles to halt the opposition's growing momentum.

"The Syrian army's increasing deployment of artillery and helicopter gunships underscores that the regime is prepared to escalate its use of force concurrently with the armed opposition's improving capabilities," wrote Torbjorn Soltvedt, senior analyst at Maplecroft, a British-based risk analysis company in a report released Tuesday.

Syria's state-run news agency said troops were still chasing "terrorist elements" who had fled from Nahr Aisha to Midan. The Syrian regime refers to armed rebels as terrorists.

Despite Protests, Boy Scouts Reaffirm Ban On Gays

BY DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — After a confidential two-year review, the Boy Scouts of America on Tuesday emphatically reaffirmed its policy of excluding gays, angering critics who hoped that relentless protest campaigns might lead to change.

The Scouts cited support from parents as a key reason for keeping the policy and expressed hope that the prolonged debate over it might now subside. Bitter reactions from gay-rights activists suggested that result was unlikely.

The Scouts' national spokesman, Deron Smith, told The Associated Press that an 11-member special committee, formed discreetly by top Scout leaders in 2010, came to the conclusion that the exclusion policy "is absolutely the best policy" for the 102-year-old organization.

Smith said the committee, comprised of professional scout executives and adult volunteers, was unanimous in its conclusion — preserving a long-standing policy that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000 and has remained controversial ever since.

As a result of the committee's

decision, the Scouts' national executive board will take no further action on a resolution submitted at its recent national conference asking for reconsideration of the membership policy.

The Scouts' chief executive, Bob Mazzuca, contended that most Scout families support the policy, which applies to both adult leaders and Scouts.

"The vast majority of the parents of youth we serve value their right to address issues of same-sex orientation within their family, with spiritual advisers and at the appropriate time and in the right setting," Mazzuca said. "We fully understand that no single policy will accommodate the many diverse views among our membership or society."

The president of the largest U.S. gay-rights group, Chad Griffin of the Human Rights Campaign, depicted the Scouts' decision as "a missed opportunity of colossal proportions."

"With the country moving toward inclusion, the leaders of the Boy Scouts of America have instead sent a message to young people that only some of them are valued," he said. "They've chosen to teach division and intolerance."

States Saying No To 'Obamacare' Could See Downside

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For Gov. Rick Perry, saying "no" to the federal health care law could also mean turning away up to 1.3 million Texans, nearly half the uninsured people who could be newly eligible for coverage in his state.

Gov. Chris Christie not only would be saying "no" to President Barack Obama, but to as many as 245,000 uninsured New Jersey residents as well.

The Supreme Court's recent ruling gave governors new flexibility to reject what some Republicans deride as "Obamacare." But there's a downside, too.

States that reject the law's Medicaid expansion risk leaving behind many of their low-income uninsured residents in a coverage gap already being called the new "doughnut hole" — a reference to a Medicare gap faced by seniors.

Medicaid is a giant federal-state health insurance program for the poor, now mostly covering children, mothers and disabled people. The expansion in Obama's health care overhaul was originally expected to add roughly 15 million uninsured low-income people, mainly adults without children, who currently are not eligible in most states. Washington would pick up the entire cost for the first three years, with the federal share then dropping to 90 percent. The Medicaid expansion accounts for about half the total number of uninsured people projected to get coverage under the law.

If every state were to reject that Medicaid expansion — as the Supreme Court ruling now allows — some low-income people would still be picked up by other coverage provisions meant to help the middle class.

But nearly 11.5 million uninsured people below the federal poverty line would be left behind in a new coverage gap, according to recent estimates from the

Urban Institute. That brings to mind the infamous "doughnut hole" in the Medicare prescription drug benefit, in which seniors with high drug costs find themselves paying out of pocket much of the year.

Those who fall into the new gap would neither qualify for Medicaid in their states under current rules nor be eligible for subsidized private insurance in new state marketplaces that Obama's law calls exchanges.

Low-income children and mothers would continue to have insurance through Medicaid. Then, starting in 2014, millions of people over the poverty line would have subsidized private coverage through the new exchanges. "And then this group in the middle has nothing," said Matt Salo, executive director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors. His organization takes no position on what states should do.

Things only get trickier from there.

Many states might actually go along with the Medicaid expansion.

"This is a lot of federal dollars that will lead to a lot of people having health care," said Salo. That means federal taxes from states opting out would be helping to subsidize coverage elsewhere.

And hospitals in opt-out states would still get hit with cuts programmed in the law under the assumption that every state would take the Medicaid expansion and fewer uninsured people would be needing charity care.

"You are still paying for that coverage expansion but not getting the benefit of it," said Herb Kuhn, president of the Missouri Hospital Association. "So you as a state are exporting your dollars to another state. If you have some adjoining state that accepts (the Medicaid expansion) then you are basically sending your dollars to your neighbor."



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