

Egypt’s Top Prosecutor To Appeal Verdicts

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt’s top prosecutor is appealing the verdicts in the trial of Egypt’s ousted president and others, acquitting Hosni Mubarak and his two sons on corruption charges and clearing senior police officers of complicity in killing protesters, an official said on Sunday.

Under Egyptian law, the prosecutor must appeal the entire verdict, which also included convictions and life sentences for Mubarak and his former security chief for failing to stop the killing of protesters in the uprising that ousted him last year.

Six top police commanders, who faced the same charge of complicity in killing protesters, were acquitted for what the judge said was lack of concrete evidence.

The official, who is at the prosecutor’s office, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters.

The verdicts triggered a wave of street protests on Saturday. Tens of thousands took to the streets in Cairo and elsewhere in Egypt. They chanted slogans against the generals who took over from Mubarak when the popular uprising forced him to step down 15 months ago.

Syria’s Assad Compares Crackdown To Surgery

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad defended his government’s crackdown on opponents Sunday, saying a doctor performing messy emergency surgery does not have blood on his hands if he is trying to save a patient.

In his first speech since January, Assad appeared unmoved by scathing international criticism of his ferocious response to the 15-month-old revolt against his rule, which has killed up to 13,000 people, according to activist groups. He also denied responsibility for last week’s Houla massacre of more than 100 people, saying not even “monsters” would carry out such an ugly crime.

He said terrorists have pushed his country into war.

“When a surgeon in an operating room ... cuts and cleans and amputates, and the wound bleeds, do we say to him your hands are stained with blood?” Assad said in a televised speech to parliament. “Or do we thank him for saving the patient?”

Assad insisted the revolt was the work of foreign-backed extremists — not reformers seeking change.

Thames Becomes Royal Highway For Jubilee

LONDON (AP) — The River Thames became a royal highway Sunday, as Queen Elizabeth II led a motley but majestic flotilla of more than 1,000 vessels in a waterborne pageant to mark her Diamond Jubilee.

In a colorful salute to the island nation’s maritime past, an armada of skiffs and sailboats, rowboats and paddle steamers joined a flower-festooned royal barge down a 7-mile (11-kilometer) stretch of London’s river.

With a crowd of rain-soaked spectators estimated by organizers at 1.25 million cheering from the riverbanks, the pageant was the largest public event in four days of celebrations of the monarch’s 60 years on the throne. On Monday, the queen will join thousands of revelers at an outdoor concert beside Buckingham Palace, headlined by pop royalty including Paul McCartney and Elton John.

With any luck, the weather will improve. Sunday was dismal and damp, with rain scuttling plans for a ceremonial fly past, but that didn’t stop Union Jack-waving spectators forming a red, white and blue wave along the pageant route.

“It would have been wonderful if it had been sunny like last Sunday but we have come prepared,” said 57-year-old Christine Steele. “We have got blankets, brollies (umbrellas), flags and bunting. We even got our glittery Union Jack hats and wigs, and the Champagne is on ice.”

Is New Technology Ruining Conversation?

CHICAGO (AP) — Anna Schiferl hadn’t even rolled out of bed when she reached for her cell phone and typed a text to her mom, one recent Saturday. Mom was right downstairs in the kitchen. The text? Anna wanted cinnamon rolls for breakfast.

Soon after, the 13-year-old could hear mom’s voice echoing through the house.

“Anna,” Joanna Schiferl called, “if you want to talk to me, you come downstairs and see me!”

Anna laughs about it now. “I was kind of being lazy,” the teen from suburban Chicago concedes. “I know that sounds horrible.”

Well, maybe not horrible, but certainly increasingly typical.

Wis. Recall Offers Few Clues On U.S. Race

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Five months before Election Day, you’d think there would be no better harbinger about who will win the White House than a contentious statewide vote in a critical battleground state that never moved on from the 2010 campaign.

You’d be wrong.

Yes, there will be tea leaves to read after Wisconsin voters decide Tuesday whether to recall rookie Republican Gov. Scott Walker, a tea party-supported GOP hero who might be the only politician in America to rival President Barack Obama in contentious achievement that inspires loathing among opponents.

A win for Walker and some will say Mitt Romney is sure to be the first GOP candidate to carry Wisconsin since the party’s last winner here: Ronald Reagan in 1984. A loss for Walker will lead others to say the presumptive Republican nominee should give up on the state.

Don’t listen.

More Advanced Therapies Aimed At Cancer

CHICAGO (AP) — New research shows a sharp escalation in the weapons race against cancer. Scientists are reporting success with several high-tech approaches long dreamed of but not possible or proven to work until now.

At a weekend conference of more than 30,000 cancer specialists in Chicago, researchers described new tools to make the immune system attack a broad range of cancers, new “smart bomb” drugs that target the disease while sparing healthy cells, and new ways to predict which patients will benefit from which treatments.

One of the best things about all of this: People feel better while going through treatment because the new approaches have fewer side effects.

‘Family Feud’ Host Richard Dawson Dies At 79

NEW YORK (AP) — Richard Dawson brought a saucy, unabashedly touchy-feely style to TV game shows as host of “Family Feud.”

The British-born entertainer, who died Saturday at age 79 from complications related to esophageal cancer, earlier had made his mark in the unlikely 1960s sitcom hit “Hogan’s Heroes,” which mined laughs from a Nazi POW camp whose prisoners hoodwink their captors and run the place themselves.

But it is as the kissing, wisecracking quizmaster of “Feud” that he will be remembered.

The show, which initially ran from 1976 to 1985, pitted a pair of families against each other as they tried to guess the most popular answers to poll questions such as “What do people give up when they go on a diet?”

Dawson made his hearty, soaring pronouncement of the phrase “Survey says...” a national catchphrase among the show’s fans.

‘Snow White’ Puts Bite On Weekend Box Office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — “Snow White & the Huntsman” is the fairest in the land at the weekend box office.

According to studio estimates Sunday, Universal Pictures’ action yarn inspired by the fairy-tale princess debuted strongly at No. 1 with \$56.3 million domestically. That’s about \$20 million higher than industry expectations.

“Snow White” bumped Sony’s “Men in Black 3” from the top spot and into second-place with \$29.3 million. The Will Smith-Tommy Lee Jones sequel raised its total to \$112.3 million after two weekends.

Disney’s superhero sensation “The Avengers” remained strong at No. 3 with \$20.3 million, lifting its domestic total to \$552.7 million. “The Avengers” climbed past “The Dark Knight” at \$533.3 million to become No. 3 all-time on the domestic revenue chart, behind “Avatar” at \$760.5 million and “Titanic” at \$658.5 million.

Vietnam

Panetta Sends Message To China

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

CAM RANH BAY, Vietnam — U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta used a visit Sunday to Vietnam to make clear Washington’s intent to aid allies in the Asia-Pacific region develop and enforce maritime rights in the South China Sea, which Beijing largely claims.

On a historic stop in Cam Ranh Bay, the strategic deep water port that was a U.S. base during the Vietnam War, Panetta could gaze out from the flight deck of the USNS Richard E. Byrd toward the sea and reflect on the significance of the harbor, which represents both a painful past for the American military and a challenging but hopeful future.

“The new defense strategy that we have put in place for the United States represents a number of key elements that will be tested in the Asia-Pacific region,” Panetta told reporters gathered under a blazing sun on the deck of the cargo vessel.



Panetta

He said the U.S. would “work with our partners like Vietnam to be able to use harbors like this as we move our ships from our ports on the West Coast toward our stations here in the Pacific.”

Panetta never mentioned China as he spoke to crew members on the Byrd and later to reporters. But with the South China Sea as a backdrop, he left no doubt that the U.S. will maintain a strong presence in the region and wants to help allies protect themselves and their maritime rights.

His visit, however, is likely to irritate Chinese leaders who are unhappy with any U.S. buildup in the region and view it as a possible threat.

Panetta, in remarks Saturday to a defense conference in Singapore,

rejected such claims about the shift in U.S. military focus. But U.S. officials are wary of China’s increased military buildup and expanding trade relations with other countries in the region.

“Access for United States naval ships into this facility is a key component of this relationship (with Vietnam) and we see a tremendous potential here for the future,” he said.

This is Panetta’s first visit to Vietnam, and his stop at the harbor made him the most senior U.S. official to go to Cam Ranh Bay since the Vietnam War ended.

Right now U.S. warships do not go into the harbor, but other Navy ships, such as the Byrd, do. The Byrd is a cargo ship operated by the Navy’s Military Sealift Command; it has a largely civilian crew. It is used to move military supplies to U.S. forces around the world. Navy warships go to other Vietnam ports, such as Danang.

While Panetta suggested the U.S.

may want to send more ships to Cam Ranh Bay in the future, he and other defense officials did not detail what requests he may make in meetings with Vietnamese leaders.

On Sunday, the port served more as a symbol of America’s growing military relationship with Vietnam, underscoring Washington’s desire to build partnerships in the region in part to counter China’s escalating dominance.

For Panetta, who was in the military during the Vietnam era but did not serve in country, it was an emotional opportunity.

“For me personally this is a very moving moment,” he said, noting that on Memorial Day he was at the Vietnam memorial in Washington commemorating the 50th anniversary of the war.

“Today I stand on a U.S. ship here in Cam Ranh Bayh Bay to recognize the 17th anniversary of the normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam,” he said.

Florida Teen Killing

Zimmerman Back In Police Custody

BY JENNIFER KAY  
Associated Press

MIAMI — George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch volunteer charged with murder in the killing of Trayvon Martin, surrendered to police Sunday and was booked into a central Florida jail two days after his bond was revoked.

Zimmerman’s legal team said in a tweet Sunday afternoon that he was in police custody. Circuit Judge Kenneth Lester revoked Zimmerman’s bond on Friday, saying the defendant and his wife had lied to the court in April about their finances so he could obtain a lower bond.

About 40 minutes before the 2:30 p.m. Sunday deadline to surrender, the Seminole County jail website listed Zimmerman as an inmate. He was being held without bail and had \$500 in his jail account, the website showed.

Seminole County Sheriff Donald Eslinger said Zimmerman turned himself in to two sheriff’s office employees around 1:25 p.m. near the jail, and was then driven there. Zimmerman arrived in a white minivan and did not respond to questions from reporters as he walked inside, handcuffed and wearing blue jeans, sneakers and a button-down shirt.

“He is quiet and cooperative,” Eslinger said at a news conference after Zimmerman’s surrender.

The sheriff’s office said the 28-year-old Zimmerman would be in a cell by himself, separated from the general population, because the case is so high-profile. The 67-square-foot cell is equipped with a toilet, two beds, a mattress, a pillow, a blanket and bed sheets. Zimmerman will not have access to a TV.

Prosecutors said last week that Zimmerman and his wife told the judge at a bond hearing in April that they had limited money, even though he had raised about \$135,000 through a website set up for his legal defense. They suggested more has been collected since and deposited in a bank account. Defense attorneys say the matter is a misunderstanding.

The judge said Friday he would schedule a hearing after Zimmerman was back in custody so he could explain himself.

Defense attorney Mark O’Mara announced earlier Sunday on his website that Zimmerman had arrived in Florida late Saturday evening



JOSHUA C. CRUEY/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

George Zimmerman arrives at the Seminole County Jail after his bond was revoked in Sanford, Fla., on Sunday.

ahead of his surrender.

Zimmerman, who was charged in April with second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of the 17-year-old Martin in Sanford, was ordered by a judge Friday to return to jail. After his release, Zimmerman stayed at an undisclosed location for his safety.

Zimmerman’s legal team said Sunday that they will ask for a new bond hearing to address the judge’s concerns, and that they hope Zimmerman’s voluntary surrender will show he is not a flight risk.

The money that Zimmerman has raised is in an independent trust and cannot be directly accessed by Zimmerman or his attorneys, according to the press release.

He has pleaded not guilty to the second-degree murder charge. He maintains that he shot Martin in self-defense under Florida’s so-called “stand your ground” law because the teen, who was unarmed, was beating him up. Zimmerman

claims the teenager had confronted the then-neighborhood watch volunteer about following Martin in a gated community in Sanford, about 25 miles northwest of Orlando.

Zimmerman had called 911 to complain about suspicious activity. Martin was walking from a convenience store to the home of his father’s fiance in the same gated community where Zimmerman lived.

Legal experts say Zimmerman’s credibility could become an issue at trial, noting that the case hinges on jurors believing Zimmerman’s account of what happened the night in February when Martin was killed.

Police in Sanford did not immediately arrest Zimmerman, citing the Florida stand-your-ground law that gives wide latitude to the use of deadly force in an altercation if someone believes he or she is in danger of being killed or seriously injured.

3 Injured, 4 Homes Are Destroyed In N.J. Inferno

PERTH AMBOY, N.J. (AP) — An intense, fast-moving fire destroyed four connected homes and seriously injured three people, including an infant.

Forty-seven people, including 10 children, were left homeless by the five-alarm blaze, which was reported around 3:45 a.m. Sunday, officials said. Two residents — a father and son — initially were unaccounted for, but authorities said they later learned the two weren’t home when the fire occurred.

A couple and their baby daughter suffered burns and were hospitalized in serious but stable condition Sunday afternoon, authorities said. Further details on their injuries were not disclosed.

Roughly 75 firefighters from 11 fire companies battled the stubborn blaze, which damaged several other homes and burned for several hours before it was brought under control. The fire was still smoldering early Sunday afternoon. The cause remained under investigation.

Witnesses said it appeared to be “raining ashes” as crews worked to extinguish the flames, and fire officials said 30 homes not affected by the fire were briefly evacuated as a precaution.

Most of the displaced residents were taken to a shelter set up at a school. Some later left to stay with family and friends, but Red Cross officials said many people would likely be spending the night at the shelter.



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