

Obama Names Susan Rice Security Adviser

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defying Republican critics, President Barack Obama named outspoken diplomat Susan Rice as his national security adviser Wednesday, giving her a larger voice in U.S. foreign policy despite accusations that she misled the nation in the aftermath of the deadly attack on Americans in Benghazi, Libya.

The appointment, along with the nomination of human rights advocate Samantha Power to replace Rice as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, signals a shift by Obama toward advisers who favor more robust American intervention overseas for humanitarian purposes. But it's unclear whether that philosophy will alter the president's policies in Syria, where he has resisted pressure to use U.S. military force to stem that country's civil war.

Rice's appointment provides a measure of redemption after the contentious Benghazi investigations forced her from consideration as Obama's second-term secretary of state. The president, who vigorously defended Rice from the GOP criticism at the time, lauded his close friend Wednesday as a "patriot who puts her country first."

"Susan is a fierce champion for justice and human decency. But she's also mindful that we have to exercise our power wisely and deliberately," Obama said in a White House Rose Garden ceremony.

Judge Rules In Favor Of Girl Who Needs Lung

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A federal judge in Philadelphia has made a dying 10-year-old eligible to seek donor lungs from an adult transplant list.

U.S. District Judge Michael Baylson says he is granting the temporary request because of the severity of Sarah Murnaghan's condition.

Her mother, Janet Murnaghan, says the family is thrilled by the ruling. It's in effect until a June 14 court hearing.

The family is challenging organ transplant rules that say children under age 12 must wait for pediatric lungs to become available. The Murnaghans say that rarely happens.

Sarah's doctors believe they can perform a successful transplant with adult lungs.

Sarah has been hospitalized at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for three months with end-stage cystic fibrosis.

TSA Drops Plan To Allow Knives On Planes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Transportation Security Administration is abandoning a plan to allow passengers to carry small knives, souvenir bats, golf clubs and other sports equipment onto planes in the face of fierce congressional and industry opposition, the head of the agency said Wednesday.

By scuttling the plan to drop the knives and sports equipment from TSA's list of prohibited items, the agency can focus its attention on other priorities, including expanding its Pre-Check program to identify ahead of time travelers who don't pose a security risk, TSA Administrator John Pistole told The Associated Press.

Pistole had unveiled the proposal to loosen the rules for carry-ons in March, saying the knives and other items can't enable terrorists to cause a plane to crash. He said intercepting them takes time that would be better used searching for explosives and other more serious threats. TSA screeners confiscate over 2,000 of the small folding knives a day from passengers.

Soldier Pleads Guilty In Afghan Massacre

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. (AP) — The American soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians, many of them women and children who were asleep in their villages, pleaded guilty to murder Wednesday and acknowledged to a judge that there was "not a good reason in this world" for his actions.

Staff Sgt. Robert Bales' plea ensures that he will avoid the death penalty for the middle-of-the night slayings that so inflamed tensions with the Afghan population that the American military suspended combat operations.

Prosecutors say Bales slipped away before dawn on March 11, 2012, from his base in Kandahar Province. Armed with a 9 mm pistol and an M-4 rifle equipped with a grenade launcher, he attacked a village of mud-walled compounds called Alkoza, then returned and woke up a fellow soldier to tell him about it.

The soldier didn't believe Bales and went back to sleep. Bales then left to attack a second village known as Najiban.

Relatives of the victims were outraged at the idea that Bales could escape execution when they spoke to The Associated Press in April in Kandahar.

Syrian Troops, Hezbollah Capture Key Town

BAALBEK, Lebanon (AP) — Syrian troops and their Lebanese Hezbollah allies captured a strategic border town Wednesday after a grueling three-week battle, dealing a severe blow to rebels and opening the door for President Bashar Assad's regime to seize back the country's central heartland.

The regime triumph in Qusair, which Assad's forces had bombarded for months without success, demonstrates the potentially game-changing role of Hezbollah in Syria's civil war. The gain could also embolden Assad to push for all-out military victory rather than participate in peace talks being promoted by the United States and Russia.

The Shiite militant group lost dozens of fighters in the battle for Qusair, underlining its commitment in support of Assad's regime and edging the fight in Syria further into a regional sectarian conflict pitting the Middle East's Iranian-backed Shiite axis against Sunnis.

Most of the armed rebels in Syria are members of the country's Sunni Muslim majority, while Assad has retained core support among the country's minorities, including his own Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, along with Christians and Shiite Muslims.

6 Dead, 13 Hurt In Building Collapse

BY KATHY MATHESON AND KEITH COLLINS

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A building that was being torn down collapsed with a thunderous boom Wednesday, raining bricks on a neighboring thrift store, killing six people and injuring at least 13 others in an accident that witnesses said was bound to happen.

Early reports from Mayor Michael Nutter had been that one woman had died in the Wednesday morning accident, but rescuers using buckets and their bare hands to move bricks and rubble kept working through the evening. Body bags were removed from the collapse site at night, and authorities then turned off the floodlights that had lit it. Nutter held a late-night news conference to update people on what happened.

One woman was pulled from the rubble of the Salvation Army thrift store two hours after the 10:45 a.m. collapse when rescuers heard her voice, city fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers said. Rescuers had been prepared to dig through the rubble all night because they didn't know how many people were in the thrift store when the building collapsed on it.

Survivors were taken to hospitals with mostly minor injuries, and some had been treated and released by evening.

Officials from the Department of Labor and Occupational Safety and Health Administration were at the scene.

The collapse involved an empty building that once housed a first-floor sandwich shop and apartments above. The thrift shop was on one side. The other side was an adult bookstore and theater that had been taken down within the last few months.

Several witnesses said they had been casting a wary eye on the demolition site and questioned how the workers were tackling the job. That raised questions about how closely the highly visible spot on Market Street, one of Philadelphia's signature boulevards, was being monitored.

Roofer Patrick Glynn said he had been watching workers take down the doomed building over the past few weeks, and he said he suspected a collapse was inevitable because of the methods the workers were using.

"For weeks they've been standing on the edge, knocking bricks off," he said. "You could just see it was ready to go at any time. I knew



MICHAEL BRYANT/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT
A Philadelphia firefighter, center, lays in the rubble with his hand thrust into the empty area as emergency personnel go through the rubble looking for survivors after a four-story building being demolished collapsed Wednesday in Philadelphia.

it was going to happen."

Glynn and Anthony Soli were working on a roof atop a nearby building when they heard what sounded like two loud bangs or explosions. They immediately ran down the scaffolding and helped pull out two women and a man.

Steve Cramer, who has been working as a window washer across the street for several days, said the demolition crew left 30 feet of a dividing wall up with no braces and it compromised the integrity of the building.

"We've been calling it for the past week — it's going to fall, it's not going to fall," his co-worker Dan Gillis said.

There were no existing violations on the building and the demolition company had proper permits for the work they were doing, according to Carlton Williams, of the city's Department of Licenses and Inspections.

The city issued a demolition permit for the four-story structure on Feb. 1. City officials said the property owner was STB Investments Corp.; messages left at the company's New York offices and a local agent's number after business hours Wednesday were not immediately returned. Officials said the contractor was Griffin Campbell Construction in Philadelphia; a message left at a number provided for the firm was not immediately returned.

A demolition expert wondered what precautions were taken to protect the Salvation Army store, especially since it remained open. Stephen Estrin, a Florida contractor who has testified as an expert at several trials involving building collapses, also questioned whether the demolition was being done by hand or with machinery. A piece of equipment with a claw device was seen amid the debris Wednesday.

"This is an inner-city demolition of a masonry building, which would normally be done manually because of the inherent risk — predictable if certain things are not done very slowly and very carefully — of a collapse," Estrin said. "One of the problems with claw work is it sets up a vibration in the walls."

Witnesses said they heard a loud rumbling sound immediately before the collapse. More than 100 rescuers and several police dogs searched through the rubble.

"I was standing there looking out my window, watching the men at work on the building, and the next thing I know I heard something go kaboom," said Veronica Haynes, who was on the fifth floor of an apartment building across the street. "Then you saw the whole side of the wall fall down ... onto the other building."

Bernie DiTomo was driving past the Salvation Army store in his pickup truck, on his way to an ap-

pointment, when the collapse happened.

"The next thing you know, I heard a rumble, and a building and a sign fell on my truck," he said.

He said he lay down in the seat of his cab. It was probably over in about 30 seconds, he said. There was a lot of dirt and dust, but he was able to open the door and get out, unhurt. His truck remained nearby, partially covered in debris, as he watched recovery efforts from across the street.

High school student Jordan McLaughlin said a thick cloud of dust immediately enveloped the area.

"It was hard to breathe," he said.

The accident happened on the western edge of downtown, between the city's business district and its main train terminal, 30th Street Station. The block had long been a seedy link between gleaming skyscrapers and the busy area around the station.

Maj. John Cranford, of the Salvation Army in Philadelphia, said officials were coordinating with the police and fire department and sent their own disaster response team to the site to serve survivors and first responders.

"Our No. 1 concern is for the safety of our customers and the employees who were involved," he said. "We ask for the public to pray for those involved."

Weak Signals On Economy Send Stocks Plunging

BY STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK — A series of weak economic reports sent the stock market plunging to its lowest level in a month on Wednesday.

Companies like miners, banks and chemical makers, whose fortunes are most closely tied to the prospects for growth, led the market lower.

The troubling data included weak hiring at private companies, a plunge in mortgage applications and sluggish orders to U.S. factories.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 217 points and finished at 14,960, a drop of 1.4 percent. It was the first close below 15,000 since May 6 and the biggest decline in seven weeks.

Stocks started lower and declined steadily throughout the day. After rising every month this year and climbing to record levels this spring, some investors said a significant pullback was overdue.

"The rally is tired and people

are taking some profits," said Brad Reynolds, at investment adviser LJP.

Investors were also unnerved by a sharp 11.5 percent drop in mortgage applications last week. That was a disappointment because the rebound in housing has been one of the key factors supporting the stock market's record-breaking rally this year.

Housing stocks slumped in response. Beazer Homes fell 60 cents, or 3.1 percent, to \$18.78. D.R. Horton dropped 27 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$22.65.

The fall in applications came as mortgage rates rose to the highest point since April 2012. The increase is being driven by higher yields in the bond market. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbed as high as 2.2 percent last week, the highest in more than two years.

There was also disappointing news on hiring, another one of the key supports for the market's rally this year.

A measure of employment in

the service sector fell to the lowest level since last July. That was a troubling sign because service companies, a broad category that includes entertainment, transportation and health care, have been the main source of job gains.

Earlier Wednesday, payroll provider ADP said U.S. businesses added just 135,000 jobs in May, the second straight month of weak gains. Both increases are much lower than those reported by ADP over the winter, which averaged more than 200,000 a month from November through February.

The stock market's recent bout of volatility began May 22 as traders parsed comments from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and minutes from the last meeting of the Fed's policy committee for clues about when the bank would pull back on its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases.

Since then investors have become increasingly sensitive to economic reports as they try to anticipate when the Fed will act.

The bank's bond-buying program, which is intended to keep interest rates low and encourage lending, has supported markets this year. On some days stocks have rallied after poor economic reports led traders to anticipate that the Fed would keep the stimulus going.

On Wednesday, though, the stock market's decline was unambiguous.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended down 22.48 points, or 1.4 percent, at 1,608.90. The index is 3.6 percent below its record close of 1,669 reached May 21. It's still up 12.8 percent this year.

The Nasdaq composite dropped 43.78 points, or 1.3 percent, to 3,401.48. The index closed at its lowest level in a month.

With Health Insurance, One Size Doesn't Fit All.

That's why Wellmark provides a variety of health insurance options to fit your lifestyle and your budget.

CALL TODAY to learn more.



Tom Cihak Linda Behl

Cihak Insurance

311 Walnut, Yankton, SD
665-9393

An Authorized Independent Agent For



Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
©2012 Wellmark, Inc.
SD-13-P-12

DO YOU KNOW YOUR NUMBERS? TAKE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR HEALTH

When you know numbers, you can take action to reduce your chances of developing heart disease, diabetes and other major chronic illnesses.

The Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Lab provides health screenings at reduced rates. Walk-in, no appointment or doctor order necessary, and make sure you know your numbers.

TESTS AVAILABLE INCLUDE:

- **Complete Blood Count \$6**
Helps to determine general health status
- **Comprehensive Lab Profile \$12**
Profile of kidneys and liver, as well as blood sugar and proteins
- **Lipid Panel Screen \$10**
Measures good and bad cholesterol and risk of heart disease
- **Hemoglobin A1c \$15**
Determines average blood glucose over past 3 months
- **Thyroid Profile \$18**
Evaluates thyroid gland function and helps diagnose thyroid disorders.
Walk-in testing available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
12-hour fasting is required for some tests.

Avera
Sacred Heart Hospital

Look no further.

For more information, call the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Lab at (605) 668-8169.

What business is there for you before, during and after your time of need?

Answer in the June 11th edition of the Press & Dakotan

P&D CLASSIFIEDS
WORK FOR YOU!
(605) 665-7811