

## Iran's Opposition Struggling Near Election

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Despite four years of non-stop pressure, arrests and intimidation, Iran's dissidents still find ways to show their resilience.

Protest messages still ricochet around social media despite Iran's cyber cops' attempts to control the Web. Angry graffiti pops up and then quickly painted over by authorities. Mourners at the funeral of a dissident cleric flashed V-for-victory gestures and chanted against the state.

But just a look at the sidewalks around Tehran's Mellat Park shows how far Iran's opposition has fallen as the country prepares for Friday's presidential election.

Four years ago, girls on rollerblades sped around the park delivering fliers for the reform camp's candidate-hero Mir Hossein Mousavi. Emerald-colored head scarves and wrist bands representing Mousavi's Green Movement were in such demand that bloggers would list shops with available fabric.

This time, there are just a few subdued election placards for candidates considered fully in sync with Iran's ruling clerics. Security forces and paramilitary volunteers are never far away.

## Turkey's Leader Denounces Anti-Gov't Protests

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — In a series of increasingly belligerent speeches to cheering supporters Sunday, Turkey's prime minister demanded an end to the 10-day anti-government protests that have spread across the country, saying those who do not respect the government will pay.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his patience was running out with the protesters, who have occupied Istanbul's main Taksim Square for more than a week and have held hundreds of demonstrations in dozens of cities across the country.

Raising the stakes for those opposing him on Turkish streets and squares, Erdogan said he plans to bring out his supporters for rallies in Ankara and Istanbul next weekend.

Erdogan's increasingly fiery tone could inflame tensions, with tens of thousands of anti-government protesters in the country's largest city, Istanbul, and thousands in the capital, Ankara, remaining on the streets. On two occasions, including one in the southern city of Adana on Saturday night, clashes have been reported between Erdogan supporters and protesters.

Protests have been held in 78 cities across the country since May 31, sparked by a violent police crackdown on a peaceful protest objecting to the redevelopment of Taksim Square and its Gezi Park.

## Anti-Hezbollah Protester Killed In Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Men wielding batons and wearing yellow arm bands evoking Lebanon's Hezbollah attacked protesters outside the Iranian Embassy in Beirut Sunday during a rally against the militant group's participation in the Syrian civil war. One protester was killed, a senior Lebanese military official and witnesses said.

A military statement said the protesters had just arrived at the embassy area when clashes broke out and a civilian opened fire. The embassy is in a predominantly pro-Hezbollah area.

Witnesses saw men wearing yellow armbands — the color of Hezbollah's flag — attacking the protesters with batons. It was unclear if they were affiliated with the militant Shiite group, and the identity of the gunman was unknown, a senior security official said.

The official identified the man killed as a 28-year-old member of the small Lebanese Option Party, which had called for the anti-Hezbollah protest. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The Syria conflict is increasingly spilling over into Lebanon, home to a fragile mosaic of more than a dozen religious and ethnic groups. Hezbollah's overt participation in the conflict, backing forces of Syria's President Bashar Assad in a successful campaign to drive rebels out of Qusair near the Lebanese border, heightened tensions.

## Mandela's Family Visits Him In Hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Nelson Mandela received visits from family members on Sunday at a hospital where the former president and anti-apartheid leader was being treated for a recurring lung infection, while South Africans expressed their appreciation for a man widely regarded as the father of the nation.

There was no official update on 94-year-old Mandela after his second night in the hospital. His condition was described as "serious but stable" on Saturday.

The office of President Jacob Zuma had said that Mandela was taken to a Pretoria hospital after his condition deteriorated at around 1:30 a.m. on Saturday.

The anti-apartheid leader has now been taken to a hospital four times since December, with the last discharge coming on April 6 after doctors diagnosed him with pneumonia and drained fluid from his lung area.

Members of Mandela's family on Sunday were seen visiting the Pretoria hospital where he is believed to be staying. They included Makaziwe Mandela, the eldest of the ex-leader's three surviving children, and Ndileka Mandela, one of his 17 grandchildren.

## No Charges Expected In Fatal Shooting By Boy

PRESCOTT VALLEY, Ariz. (AP) — Authorities aren't expected to seek charges in the death of an Arizona man who was accidentally shot by his 4-year-old son.

Justin Stanfield Thomas was fatally shot Friday after he and his son traveled from Phoenix to a friend's home 90 miles away in the northern Arizona community of Prescott Valley for a surprise visit.

Prescott Valley Police Brandon Bonney says the boy found the loaded gun in the home within minutes of arrival, asked a question about it and pulled the trigger.

Thomas later died at a hospital.

Bonney says the gun should have been locked away, but that Thomas' friend, whose identity hasn't been released, was caught off guard by the unannounced visit.

No children lived in the house.

The child is now with his mother.

## NYC Blows Up Building To Make Room For Park

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City officials have blown up a vacant building to make way for a new park.

The 11-story brick apartment building on Governors Island formerly housed Coast Guard families. The Trust for Governors Island says the building has been vacant since 1996 and does not meet current building codes.

The implosion just after at 7:30 a.m. Sunday took about 10 seconds. It was overseen by the city Fire Department and the Department of Buildings.

Governors Island, a longtime military base, is in New York Harbor off the tip of lower Manhattan. The city now controls the island and is redeveloping it, with some of it becoming parkland.

The island was open to the public Sunday as normal after the implosion.

## Obama, Xi Show New Start With Walk In Desert

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — It may not have been Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev's Cold War walk by a frozen lake.

But President Barack Obama and Chinese leader Xi Jinping's 50-minute stroll through an estate in the California desert could mark a notable moment in the relationship between the heads of the world's two largest economies.

At the very least, it was a rare opportunity Saturday for the presidents to dispense with coats, ties and advisers, and hold extended one-on-one talks.

Tom Donilon, Obama's national security adviser who helped orchestrate the two-day summit, says the walk was an important moment to "establish and deepen their personal relationship" as the leaders address major issues.

## Obama Plays Golf Before Returning To DC

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP) — President Barack Obama has squeezed in a morning round on a Southern California golf course.

The White House says the president played the nine-hole course at the Sunnylands estate in Rancho Mirage on Sunday.

Obama played the course on Saturday with Mike Ramos and Bobby Titcomb, childhood friends from Hawaii, where Obama grew up. White House aide Marvin Nicholson rounded out the foursome.

Obama arrived at the estate once owned by billionaire philanthropist Walter Annenberg on Friday for a summit with China's president.

Those talks wrapped up on Saturday, and Obama stayed at Sunnylands through the weekend.

He was scheduled to return to the White House Sunday evening.

# 5th Victim In Calif. Shooting Dies

BY TAMI ABDOLLAH

Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — A woman who was critically wounded in the Santa Monica shooting spree died Sunday, bringing the total number of victims killed by the gunman to five.

Marcela Franco, 26, died of her injuries at UCLA Medical Center, according to Santa Monica College spokeswoman Tricia Ramos.

Franco had been a passenger in a Ford Explorer driven by her father, campus groundskeeper Carlos Navarro Franco, 68, who also was killed in Friday's attack. They were going to the school to buy textbooks for classes the young woman was enrolled in for the summer, president Chui L. Tsang said in a statement posted on the college's website.

"Her family was with her by her side" when she died, Tsang said.

Police Sgt. Richard Lewis confirmed the suspect's identity Sunday as John Zawahri. Meanwhile, investigators trying to determine why he planned the shooting spree focused on a deadly act of domestic violence that touched off the mayhem.

The heavily armed man's attack against his father and older brother at their home led to the violence in Santa Monica streets, lasting just a matter of minutes until he was shot to death in a chaotic scene at the college library by police.

Authorities had not immediately named the shooter or the two men found dead in the house because next of kin was out of the country and hadn't been notified. Lewis said his name was released Sunday after his mother cut her trip short and came back to the country.

Lewis said she was being interviewed by investigators.

"A big piece of the puzzle just came home," he said.

Investigators were looking at family connections to find a motive because the killer's father and

## Violent day in Santa Monica



A string of incidents left as many as six victims dead on Friday, as well as a suspected gunman, shot by police on a college campus. A second person was reportedly in custody.

### 1. 11:52 a.m. local time

Shots fired, house on fire on Yorkshire Avenue; two bodies later found inside

### 2. Cloverfield, Pico boulevards

Shots fired at city bus and cars; at least one person killed



### 3. 20th and Pearl streets

Multiple shots fired here, two more people reportedly killed; college police first encounter suspect

### 4. Santa Monica College

Suspect pursued into library, police shoot him, he dies at the scene

Source: Los Angeles Times, NBC, AP

Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2013 MCT

brother were the first victims, an official briefed on the probe who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly told The Associated Press.

The husband of a woman shot during the rampage said a bullet nicked his wife's ear and she'll likely have to live with shrapnel in her shoulder. Debra Lynn Fine, 50, was released in good condition late Saturday from Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, according to a hospital statement.

Bullets missed his wife's vital organs by inches, Russell Fine told the AP Sunday.

"She will have some shrapnel for the rest of her life," he said.

"One bullet clipped her right ear and took some small bit with it. She will probably have some reconstructive surgery for that."

She was resting at home.

The killer, who died a day shy of his 24th birthday, was connected to the home that went up in

flames after the first shootings, said police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks. His father, identified as 55-year-old Samir Zawahri, and 24-year-old brother Christopher, lived in the house.

SWAT team officers searched the mother's Los Angeles apartment and officers interviewed neighbors about the son who lived with her, said Beverly Meadows who lives in the adjoining unit.

Public records show that Meadows' neighbor is Randa Abdou, 54, the ex-wife of Samir Zawahri and former co-owner of the house where the first shooting took place.

Lewis said a small cache of ammunition was found in a room of the burned down house.

The elder Zawahri brought his family to the neighborhood of small homes and apartment buildings tucked up against Interstate 10 in the mid-1990s, according to property records.

Not long after arriving on York-

shire Avenue, the couple went through a difficult divorce and split custody of their two boys, said Thomas O'Rourke, a neighbor.

When the sons got older, one went to live with his mother while the other stayed with the father.

Standing next to the weapons and ammo found at multiple crime scenes, Seabrooks said at a Saturday news conference that the "cowardly murderer" planned the attack and was capable of firing 1,300 rounds.

The killer had a run-in with police seven years ago, but Seabrooks wouldn't offer more details because he was a juvenile at the time.

The gunman was enrolled at Santa Monica College in 2010, Seabrooks said.

After neighbors watched in shock as he shot at his father's house and it went up in flames, he opened fire on a woman driving by, wounding her, and then carjacked another woman.

He directed her to drive to the college, ordering her stop along the way to shoot at a city bus and people on the street. Two people on the bus were injured.

Police had received multiple 911 calls by the time the mayhem shifted to the college, a two-year school with about 34,000 students located more than a mile inland from the city's famous pier, promenade and expansive, sandy beaches.

On campus, he opened fired on a Ford Explorer driven by Navarro Franco, who plowed through a brick wall into a faculty parking lot.

Joe Orcutt heard gunshots and went to see what happened in the parking lot. He said he saw the Explorer in the brick wall and was looking for the shooter when, suddenly, there he was 30 feet away firing at people like it was target practice.

The gunman then moved on foot across campus, firing away. Students were seen leaping out windows of a classroom building and running for their lives. Others locked themselves behind doors or bolted out of emergency exits.

# Lawyers Slam Demolition Work At Collapse Site

BY RON TODT

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Attorneys for four people suing over the collapse of a downtown building that killed six people last week lambasted the demolition work after surveying the site Sunday.

Lawyers and consultants walked gingerly on piles of debris, indicating to photographers and videographers what they wanted documented. Meanwhile, other consultants on a hoist far above scanned the site where a four-story building under demolition gave way and toppled onto an attached Salvation Army thrift store Wednesday, killing two employees and four customers and injuring 13 others.

Afterward, attorney Robert Mongeluzzi, who said his firm represents three plaintiffs in lawsuits against the property owner and contractor, said his initial examination indicated that the building that collapsed had brick-bearing walls and wooden girders without steel support and should have been demolished by hand rather than using heavy equipment. In addition, he said, the backhoe appeared to not be high enough to pull the wall

down on the side away from the thrift store.

"Of course, a demolition from the top down by hand would have been much more time-consuming and expensive but was really the only way to get this done safely," he said.

Although Mongeluzzi said his consultant saw no evidence of steel in the rubble, attorney Jonathan Cohen, who represents the fourth plaintiff, said he had seen at least one steel I-beam, but it wasn't where it should have been "in a well-done demolition."

Both attorneys said they wanted to see the steel I-beam that authorities removed from the site shortly after the collapse. Mongeluzzi called its role "a mystery," and Cohen said he believed it may have been used to help knock down the structure.

A demolition permit indicates that contractor Griffin Campbell was being paid \$10,000 for the job, an amount Mongeluzzi said made him question whether an engineering survey was done.

"In this world, you get what you pay for," he said. "This was a \$10,000 demolition project, according to the permit that the

owner selected, and unfortunately, six people of Philadelphia are the ones who paid that price."

An attorney for property owner Richard Basciano and STB Investments declined to comment Sunday. A mailbox on a cellphone for contractor Griffin Campbell was full, and a woman answering the phone at his house said he wasn't in and hung up.

Mongeluzzi's firm represents thrift store employee Nadine White, whose lawsuit accuses Campbell of violating several federal safety regulations and says Basciano should have picked a more qualified and competent contractor. He said the firm also represents Jennifer Reynolds, a thrift store customer injured in the collapse, and Bernard Ditomo, whose car was hit by a sign when the building fell. Their lawsuits haven't yet been processed.

Cohen, representing thrift store customer Linda Bell, said his firm was taking digital scans of the debris field to do a "virtual excavation" and recreate the collapse. Attorneys received permission Friday from a judge to examine, videotape and photograph the debris.

"We'll be able to show — at

some point, a jury — what this looks like now, how it changed from where it used to stand before they sent in a guy with a backhoe to rip down what was literally a house of cards," he said.

Cohen said Bell, a mother of three, regularly took the bus to the thrift store to shop for toys for the children in her south Philadelphia neighborhood. When the wall collapsed, she fell into the basement and was covered by rubble for more than an hour, he said.

"She's having a very difficult time talking about this," he said. "She's resting at home with family and doing the best she can."

A heavy equipment operator surrendered Saturday to face charges in the deaths, police said. Sean Benschop, 42, who has a lengthy police record, faces six counts of involuntary manslaughter, 13 counts of recklessly endangering another person and one count of risking a catastrophe.

Authorities believe Benschop was using an excavator at the time of the crash. His attorney called the collapse an accident for which his client wasn't responsible.

## For Christie, Benefits Trump GOP Gripes

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is showing that he's willing to withstand Republican criticism for long-term gain.

Last week, the GOP governor declined to appoint a Republican to fill out the remaining 17 months of the late Democratic Sen. Frank Lautenberg's term. Christie scheduled a special election for October instead.

And before that, Christie recently made a second appearance with President Barack Obama along the Jersey shore following Superstorm Sandy.

Some Republicans have criticized the moves, saying he puts his own political needs ahead of the party.

Christie says he just wanted to give people a voice by scheduling the special election for October, three weeks before he stands for re-election.

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