

Apple Adds Product Features And Spotify

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple announced a major new foray into streaming music on Monday as it showed off a host of new software features for its iPhones, iPads and Mac computers.

The \$10-a-month music service is called Apple Music and combines on-demand listening, a 24/7 radio station hosted by live DJs and a forum for artists to give fans behind-the-scenes content from upcoming releases.

The service, which was announced during Apple's annual software conference Monday, will be launched later this month in more than 100 countries. It comes at a time when iTunes songs and album sales are falling, while streaming music leaders like Spotify and Deezer are gaining subscribers and revenue.

The music service was the biggest news of the company's five-day conference, but Apple also announced a host of new upgrades and services coming later this year to the operating software for its popular iPhones, iPads and Mac computers.

The new features including enhancements to Siri, the company's voice-activated digital assistant, as well as Apple Pay, Apple Maps and the Apple Watch. Executives also mentioned a new streaming TV service that Apple is reportedly hoping to announce later this year.

Obama Concedes Iraq Setbacks

ELMAU, Germany (AP) — Acknowledging military setbacks, President Barack Obama said Monday the United States still lacks a "complete strategy" for training Iraqi forces to fight the Islamic State. He urged Iraq's government to allow more of the nation's Sunnis to join the campaign against the violent militants.

Nearly one year after American troops started returning to Iraq to assist local forces, Obama said the Islamic State remains "nimble, aggressive and opportunistic." He touted "significant progress" in areas where the U.S. has trained Iraqis to fight but said forces without U.S. assistance are often ill-equipped and suffer from poor morale.

IS fighters captured the key Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi last month, prompting Defense Secretary Ash Carter to lament that Iraqi troops lacked "the will to fight." That was a strikingly negative assessment of a military that has been the beneficiary of billions in U.S. assistance dating back to the war started during the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush in 2003.

Still, Obama indicated that simply increasing the number of Americans in Iraq would not resolve the country's issues. The U.S. currently has about 3,000 troops there for train-and-assist missions.

"We've got more training capacity than we have recruits," he said at the close of a two-day Group of Seven meeting at a luxury resort tucked in the Bavarian Alps.

Law Challenged; 'Twisted' Interpretation

ELMAU, Germany (AP) — With a crucial legal decision looming, President Barack Obama said Monday the Supreme Court should not even have considered the latest challenge to his signature health care law but he voiced confidence the justices "will play it straight" — and leave the law intact.

Obama weighed in on the merits of the case against the five-year-old Affordable Care Act as the high court prepares to announce a decision sometime later this month that could wipe out health insurance for millions of people.

Wrapping up a two-day international summit Monday, Obama told reporters there was no reason for the health program to end up in court, maintaining that "the thing is working."

"Frankly, it probably shouldn't even have been taken up," he said.

The remark was a direct and provocative challenge to a court that holds the fate of one of Obama's top legislative achievements in its hands. To prevail, Obama needs the votes of Chief Justice John Roberts or Justice Anthony Kennedy, one of whom most likely voted to hear the case in the first place.

Inmates May Have Had Inside Help

DANNEMORA, N.Y. (AP) — Investigators questioned prison workers and outside contractors Monday to try to find out who may have helped two killers obtain the power tools they used to break out of a maximum-security institution in an audacious, "Shawshank Redemption"-style escape.

The manhunt stretched into a third day, with law officers questioning drivers and searching trunks at checkpoints near the Clinton Correctional Facility in far northern New York, even though authorities said David Sweat and Richard Matt could be anywhere — perhaps Canada or Mexico.

With authorities warning that the men were desperate and dangerous, some residents were nervous over the escape from the 3,000-inmate prison in the middle of the small town of Dannemora, close to the Canadian border. But others figured the killers were long gone.

"We always joke about it. We're so close to the prison — that's the last place that anyone who escaped would want to be," Jessica Lashway said as she waited for the bus with her school-age children a few doors down from the hulking, fortress-like prison.

Sweat, 34, and Matt, 48, sliced through a steel wall, crawled down a catwalk, broke through a brick wall, cut their way in and out of a steam pipe and emerged through a manhole to make their escape, discovered early Saturday, authorities said.

Court Strikes Down Passport Law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Siding with the White House in a foreign-policy power struggle with Congress, the Supreme Court ruled Monday that Americans born in the disputed city of Jerusalem can't list Israel as their birthplace on passports.

In a 6-3 ruling, the court said Congress overstepped its bounds when it approved the passport law in 2002. The case mixed a dispute between Congress and the president with the thorny politics of the volatile Middle East.

The ruling ended a 12-year-old lawsuit by a Jerusalem-born American, Menachem Zivotofsky, and his U.S.-citizen parents.

The law the court struck down Monday would have forced the State Department to alter its long-standing policy of not listing Israel as the birthplace for Jerusalem-born Americans. The policy is part of the government's refusal to recognize any nation's sovereignty over Jerusalem until Israelis and Palestinians resolve its status through negotiations.

Justice Anthony Kennedy said in his majority opinion that the president has the exclusive power to recognize foreign nations, and that determining what a passport says is part of that power.

Syrian Air Raids Kill 49 In Northwestern Village

BY BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Government airstrikes on a northwestern Syrian village Monday killed at least 49 people and left survivors screaming in anguish as they pulled bodies from the rubble, according to activists and videos of the chaotic aftermath.

The Local Coordination Committees said two air raids on the village of Janoudiyeh in Idlib province killed 60 people and wounded others. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the air raid killed 49 people, including six children. It said the death toll could rise as some people are still missing.

Conflicting reports often emerge in the chaotic aftermath of such events.

The Observatory said the air raid struck a public square in Janoudiyeh, near the town of Jisr al-Shughour, which was captured by insurgents in April. It said the village has become home to many displaced people from nearby areas.

A video uploaded onto the Internet by activists showed a chaotic, smoke-filled scene, with people running past damaged cars, and bodies scattered on the



street. Women screamed as men hurriedly covered bodies and pulled wounded people from the rubble before an ambulance arrived.

"My son was killed!" a man screamed. "We need cars!" another man shouted, as a third, covered in blood, sat on the debris.

Another amateur video showed dead bodies lined up on a floor. Activists asked people who recognize the bodies to inform local authorities. A body covered with a blanket had a paper that read "unknown woman."

The videos appeared genuine and corresponded to other AP reporting.

Activists say thousands of people have been killed in government airstrikes

since Syria's conflict began in March 2011. The war has killed more than 220,000 people.

The latest air raids came shortly after Syria's prime minister called on young men to fulfill their mandatory military service obligation, promising better pay for troops on the front lines as well as one hot meal a day.

President Bashar Assad's army has faced a severe shortage of manpower as thousands of soldiers have deserted or dodged national service. Analysts have said the military's dwindling ranks are a key factor behind the advance of the Islamic State group as well as rebels and other insurgents in recent months.

"Today we must unite more than ever in backing our army and to fulfill the call of duty through mandatory military service," Prime Minister Wael al-Halqi told parliament, adding that the army "is the real guarantor for the unity of our land."

Syrian men with university degrees must spend 18 months in the military, usually after graduation, while those with a high school degree or less must serve for two years starting at age 18. Since the Syrian conflict

began in March 2011, many have been forced to extend their service, according to residents and activists.

In March, insurgents seized the northern city of Idlib — the second provincial capital to fall out of the government's hands — and last month the Islamic State group overran the historic central town of Palmyra. Rebels in southern Syria captured a border crossing with Jordan and a nearby strategic town earlier this year.

"Losing any city or any area in Syria does not mean that the war is lost," al-Halqi said. He added that the army will strike back against militants, saying "wherever they step will be their graves."

He said that on the orders of Assad himself, a plan is being drawn up that would pay an extra 10,000 Syrian pounds (\$35) per month to soldiers on the front lines, starting next month.

He added that "the heroes standing on the front lines will receive a meal of hot food."

There have been complaints on social media that the troops' diet mainly consists of bread, as well as boiled eggs or potatoes.

Federal Judge Orders Last 'Angola 3' Inmate Released In Louisiana

BY CAIN BURDEAU
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The last of the "Angola Three" inmates, whose decades in solitary confinement in connection with the death of a prison guard drew international condemnation and became the subject of two documentaries, was ordered released Monday.

The ruling would free 68-year-old Albert Woodfox after more than 40 years in solitary, which human rights experts have said constitutes torture.

U.S. District Judge James Brady of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, ordered the release of Woodfox and took the extraordinary step of barring Louisiana prosecutors from trying him for a third time.

A spokesman for the Louisiana attorney general said the state would appeal Brady's ruling to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "to make sure this murderer stays in prison and remains fully accountable for his actions."

Woodfox was placed in solitary confinement in 1972 after being charged in the death of a Louisiana State Penitentiary guard in April of that year.

Woodfox has been tried twice in the guard's death, but both convictions were overturned. The state is seeking to bring him to trial a third time. But Brady said a third trial could not be fair.

In making his rare ruling, Brady said the "exceptional circumstances" of the case had led him to bar the state from seeking a third trial. In his ruling, he cited a "lack of confidence" that Louisiana "to provide a fair third trial"; the inmate's age and poor health; the unavailability of witnesses; "the prejudice done onto Mr. Woodfox by spending over forty-years in solitary confinement," and "the very fact that Mr. Woodfox has already been tried twice."

Woodfox is in solitary confinement at a prison in St. Francisville, Louisiana, awaiting trial.

His lawyers were headed there Monday to seek his release.

"We are thrilled that justice has come for our innocent friend," said Tory Pegrum of the International Coalition to Free the Angola 3, who is working with Woodfox's lawyers on his release.

At the same time, though, state prosecutors were working to keep Woodfox in prison.

Aaron Sadler, a spokesman for Louisiana's Attorney General Buddy Caldwell, said the state was seeking an emergency stay of Brady's ruling from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

"With today's order, the court would see fit to set free a twice-convicted murderer," said Sadler. "This order arbitrarily sets aside jury decisions and gives a free pass to a murderer based on faulty procedural issues."

Woodfox and two other state prisoners became known as the Angola Three due to their long stretches in solitary confinement at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.

Other members of the Angola Three were prisoners Robert King and Herman Wallace. Woodfox and Wallace had said they were singled out for harsh treatment, including isolation, because of their political activism.

Wallace, convicted with Woodfox of murder in the death of guard Brent Miller, died last fall only days after a judge freed him and granted him a new trial. King was released in 2001 after his conviction in the death of a fellow inmate in 1973 was reversed.

17 Killed In Bus Accident In Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Authorities in Peru say a truck carrying students and teachers home from a parade fell into a ravine in the Andes Mountains, killing 17 people and injuring 33.

Hospital director Rosa Pascual says five of the injured are in "grave condition" following the accident Sunday near the remote community of Cahuac, 263 kilometers (163 miles) northeast of the capital, Lima. Fifteen of the dead were students aged 9 to 15.

Gov. Ruben Alva said Monday that the truck was returning from a flag day parade when it fell 300 meters (985 feet) into the ravine.

School director Yonel Espinoza said the students decided to get in the back of the truck because they wanted to avoid the 90-minute walk from the parade site back to Cahuac.

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