

New York City Marathon Canceled

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York City Marathon was canceled Friday by Mayor Michael Bloomberg after mounting criticism that it was wrong to hold the race while the region is still recovering from Superstorm Sandy.

With people in storm-ravaged areas still shivering without electricity and the death toll in New York City at more than 40, many residents recoiled at the prospect of police officers being assigned to protect Sunday's race.

An estimated 40,000 runners from around the world had been expected to take part in the 26.2-mile event. The race had been scheduled to start in Staten Island, one of the hardest-hit areas by this week's storm.

A few hours after Bloomberg insisted the race would be held, he reversed himself when top city officials lined up against him.

"We would not want a cloud to hang over the race or its participants, and so we have decided to cancel it," the mayor said in a statement. "We cannot allow a controversy over an athletic event — even one as meaningful as this — to distract attention away from all the critically important work that is being done to recover from the storm and get our city back on track."

Fuel Shortage Means Gridlock For Gasoline

NEW YORK (AP) — When it came to fuel supplies and patience, the New York metro area was running close to empty Friday.

From storm-scarred New Jersey to parts of Connecticut, a widespread lack of gasoline or electricity to pump it brought grousing, gridlock and worse, compounding frustrations as millions of Americans struggled to return to normal days after Superstorm Sandy. A man pulled a gun in one gas-line fracas that led to an arrest.

Lines of cars, and in many places queues of people on foot carrying bright red jerry cans for generators, waited for hours for the precious fuel. And those were the lucky ones. Other customers gave up after finding only closed stations or dry pumps marked with yellow tape or "No Gas" signs.

"EMPTY!" declared the red-type headline dominating the *New York Daily News'* front page.

"I drove around last night and couldn't find anything," said a relieved Kwabena Sintim-Misa as he finally prepared to fill up Friday morning in Fort Lee, N.J., near the George Washington Bridge, where the wait in line lasted three hours.

Battered By Sandy, Staten Islanders Feel Alone

NEW YORK (AP) — Gazing at her bungalow, swept from its foundation and tossed across the street, Janice Clarkin wondered if help would ever come to this battered island off the coast of Manhattan.

"Do you see anybody here?" she asked, resignation etched on her face. "On the news, the mayor's congratulating the governor and the governor's congratulating the mayor. On what? People died."

Staten Island was devastated beyond recognition by Superstorm Sandy and suffered the highest death toll of all of New York City's boroughs, including two young brothers who were swept from their mother's arms by the swirling sea and drowned. Yet days after the waters receded, residents feel ignored and forgotten.

That sense of isolation is deeply rooted on Staten Island, a tight-knit community that has long felt cut off from the bright lights of Manhattan — the city from which the island once tried to secede.

"It's always been that way. We're a forgotten little island," said Catherine Friscia, who stood with tear-filled eyes across the street from the Atlantic Ocean in front of homes filled with water and where the air smelled like garbage and rotting fish.

Video Of Summary Executions Raises Concerns

BEIRUT (AP) — A video that appears to show a unit of Syrian rebels kicking terrified, captured soldiers and then executing them with machine guns raised concerns Friday about rebel brutality at a time when the United States is making its strongest push yet to forge an opposition movement it can work with.

U.N. officials and human rights groups believe President Bashar Assad's regime is responsible for the bulk of suspected war crimes in Syria's 19-month-old conflict, which began as a largely peaceful uprising but has transformed into a brutal civil war.

But investigators of human rights abuses say rebel atrocities are on the rise.

At this stage "there may not be anybody with entirely clean hands," Suzanne Nossel, head of the rights group Amnesty International, told The Associated Press.

The U.S. has called for a major leadership shakeup of Syria's political opposition during a crucial conference next week in Qatar. Washington and its allies have been reluctant to give stronger backing to the largely Turkey-based opposition, viewing it as ineffective, fractured and out of touch with fighters trying to topple Assad.

Final 10-mile Trek For Shuttle Atlantis

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Accompanied by astronauts and shuttle workers, Atlantis made a slow, solemn journey to retirement Friday, the last space shuttle to orbit the world and the last to leave NASA's nest.

Atlantis emerged just before dawn from the massive Vehicle Assembly Building and, riding atop a 76-wheeled platform, began the 10-mile trek to the Kennedy Space Center's main tourist stop.

About 200 workers gathered in the early morning chill to see the spaceship out in the open for the final time. They were joined by the four astronauts who closed out the shuttle program aboard Atlantis more than a year ago.

"My opinion is it looks better vertically," said Christopher Ferguson, the commander of Atlantis' final flight.

"It's a short trip. It's taking a day," he added. "It traveled a lot faster in its former life. But that's OK. ... it's got a new role."

Economy Adds 171K Jobs; Rate Rises To 7.9 Pct.

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
 AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers added 171,000 jobs in October, and hiring was stronger in August and September than first thought. The solid job growth showed that the economy is strengthening slowly but consistently.

The unemployment rate rose to 7.9 percent from 7.8 percent in September, mainly because more people began looking for work. The government uses a separate survey to calculate the unemployment rate, and it counts people without jobs as unemployed only if they're looking for one.

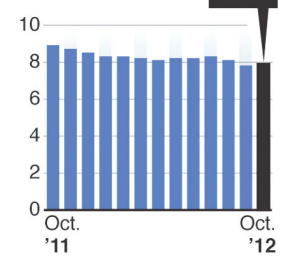
Friday's report was the last major snapshot of the economy before Tuesday's elections. It's unclear what political effect the report might have. By now, all but a few voters have made up their minds, particularly about the economy, analysts say.

Since July, the economy has created an average of 173,000 jobs a month. That's up from 67,000 a month from April through June. Still, President Barack Obama will face voters with the highest unemployment rate of any incumbent since Franklin Roosevelt.

The work force — the number of people either working or looking for work — rose by 578,000 in

Jobless rate

Percent of civilian labor force that is unemployed, by month, seasonally adjusted:



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 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

October. And 410,000 more people said they were employed.

The influx of people seeking jobs "could be a sign that people are starting to see better job prospects and so should be read as another positive aspect to the report," said Julia Coronado, an economist at BNP Paribas.

Investors were pleased by the news. The Dow Jones industrial average futures were flat before it came out at 8:30 a.m. EDT. When stock trading began an hour later, the Dow was up about 50 points.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note climbed to 1.77 percent from 1.72

percent, a sign that investors were moving money out of bonds and into stocks.

Friday's report included a range of encouraging details.

The government revised its data to show that 84,000 more jobs were added in August and September than previously estimated. The jobs gains in October were widespread across industries. And the percentage of Americans working or looking for work rose for the second straight month.

The economy has added jobs for 25 straight months. There are now 580,000 more than when Obama took office.

But there were also signs of the economy's persistent weakness. Average hourly pay dipped a penny to \$23.58. In the past year, pay has risen just 1.6 percent. That has trailed inflation, which rose 2 percent.

The number of unemployed increased 170,000 to 12.3 million, pushing up the unemployment rate.

The October jobs report was compiled before Superstorm Sandy struck the East Coast earlier this week and devastated many businesses.

The nascent housing recovery is finally generating jobs. Construction companies added 17,000 positions, the most since January. Manufacturers added

13,000 jobs after shedding workers in the previous two months.

Professional services such as architects and computer systems providers also added jobs. So did retailers, hotels and restaurants, and education and health care. Government overall shed 13,000 jobs, after three months of gains.

The economy has shown many signs of picking up a bit in recent weeks. Americans are buying more high-cost items, like cars and appliances. Auto companies reported steady sales gains last month despite losing three days of business to the storm in heavily populated areas of the Northeast.

Yet businesses remain nervous about the economy's future course. Many are concerned that Congress will fail to reach a budget deal before January. If lawmakers can't strike an agreement, sharp tax increases and spending cuts will take effect next year and possibly trigger another recession.

American companies are also nervous about the economic outlook overseas. Europe's financial crisis has pushed much of that region into recession and cut into U.S. exports and corporate profits.

Romney, Obama Fight Into Final Weekend

HILLIARD, Ohio (AP) — President Barack Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney fought spiritedly into the final weekend of the marathon and unpredictably close 2012 campaign Friday, with sharpened closing arguments over which is the better man to lead the country out of economic doldrums.

Both candidates argued they were the true agent of change, facing a rival who may talk a good game without the right policies to deliver.

"Candidate Obama promised change, but he couldn't deliver it," Romney charged. "I promise change, but I have a record of achieving it."

Obama retorted that Romney is "a very talented salesman," trying to repackage the old-school Republican policies that left so many Americans in financial trouble. "We know what change looks like," Obama told an Ohio crowd. "And what the governor is offering ain't it."

Both candidates were plunging into a hectic pace of campaigning. Obama was eager to fend off Romney in the key battleground of Ohio even as Romney pushed to expand the contest to other states, most notably Pennsylvania, to secure the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

Obama directly took on Romney for the first time over the Republican's ads airing in Ohio on the auto industry bailout. The ads accuse Obama of taking General Motors and Chrysler into bankruptcy, selling Chrysler to an Italian company and building Jeeps in China. Chrysler and GM have protested the ads and disputed the suggestion that Jeep construction was being moved overseas. But the Romney campaign is standing by the ad.



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Frank helped with mandatory livestock price reporting legislation passed in South Dakota and on the federal level. This legislation is one of the reasons we have better cattle prices today. Kloucek believes in local control of our schools. His vote has always been for our students. He always stands up for family farms and puts our rural communities at the top of his list. This past summer Frank worked very hard to get conservation reserve acres released for haying and grazing.

Frank is one of the hardest working legislators in the capitol according to his fellow legislators. As a life long resident in Bon Homme County, registered republican, friend and neighbor of Frank and his family, I encourage you to vote for Rep Frank Kloucek for District 19 Senate.

Michael Neth; Scotland, SD

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