

Car Slams Into Pedestrians In West Bank

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Hamas militant slammed a minivan into a crowd waiting for a train Wednesday in Jerusalem, killing one person and wounding 13. Hours later, the Israeli military said a Palestinian motorist drove into a group of soldiers in the West Bank, injuring three.

The incidents and a similar attack two weeks earlier raised concern that Israel could be facing a new type of threat. Police said they would put concrete barricades in front of train stations as a first step.

Police identified the van's driver — who was killed by police — as Ibrahim al-Akari, a 38-year-old Palestinian. His wife said he was angered by a confrontation between police and Palestinians at the Al-Aqsa Mosque earlier in the day in which part of the shrine was damaged.

Hamas praised the van attack as a defense of the mosque, which is part of a complex in the city's most sensitive and sacred site — the compound known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

It was not clear how much damage there was at the mosque. Israeli police had dispersed dozens of masked Palestinians who threw rocks and firecrackers near the site in the Old City ahead of a visit by a group of Jewish activists.

WHO Picks New Chief For Africa Office

COTONOU, Benin (AP) — With nearly 5,000 dead of Ebola in West Africa, the World Health Organization elected a new director Wednesday of its Africa office, which has been accused of bungling the response to the outbreak in its early stages.

The new chief, Matshidiso Moeti, is a doctor from Botswana and a WHO veteran who stepped down as deputy director for Africa in March, the same month the crisis was announced.

The results of the five-candidate election were made public at a meeting of the U.N. agency in Benin and came amid the worst outbreak of the dreaded disease ever seen.

"I hope, with all the control efforts that are now in place, the situation will have improved by the time I take office in February," Moeti told reporters.

Moeti is unlikely to play a major role in ending the disaster, since the United Nations has already taken more direct charge of the control efforts. But she could be key to preventing another such crisis.

Laws Target Feeding Homeless In Public

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — To Arnold Abbot, feeding the homeless in a public park in South Florida was an act of charity.

But to the city of in Fort Lauderdale, the 90-year-old man was committing a crime.

Abbott and two South Florida ministers were arrested last weekend as they handed out food. They were charged with breaking a new ordinance restricting public feeding of the homeless, and each faces up to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

"One of the police officers said, 'Drop that plate right now,' as if I were carrying a weapon," Abbott said.

The conflict pits organizations with charitable intentions against residents and businesses who don't want their neighborhoods to become magnets for the homeless.

Abducted Woman Found In Maryland

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A woman seen on surveillance video being abducted off a Philadelphia street was found safe outside Baltimore on Wednesday, and the man who snatched her was arrested, police said.

Charlesha Freeland-Gaither was spotted in Jessup, Maryland, in a car with the man and was rescued soon after, police said, without going into details. The man was nabbed after he stepped out of the car, they said.

"We got a very dangerous predator off the street," police Chief Charles Ramsey said.

Freeland-Gaither, who had some minor injuries, was generally doing OK, police said. She and the man didn't know each other, they said.

The man, Delven Barnes, was being held Wednesday night on an unrelated Virginia warrant alleging attempted capital murder, assault and malicious injury with acid, explosives or fire, police said. Barnes couldn't be reached for comment while in custody.

Teen Planned Attack At Maryland School

MONKTON, Md. (AP) — Charging documents say a Maryland teen told police he planned to kill his parents and shoot people at his school to make up for years of bullying.

Baltimore County police say in a tweet that 16-year-old Sash Alexander Nemphos of Monkton is facing adult charges in the plot.

The District Court of Maryland documents released Wednesday say Nemphos was confronted Saturday by police over thefts from a car and business, including a handgun.

The documents say the 10th-grader told police he was going to take the gun, drive to his school Monday, shoot the school officer, and then take the officer's gun to "kill as many teachers and students as he could."

The documents say the teen also said he had made several bombs to blow up the school.

Obama, McConnell Pledge To Work Together

BY DAVID ESPO AND JULIE PACE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One day after sweeping Republican election gains, President Barack Obama and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell pledged to try to turn divided government into a force for good rather than gridlock on Wednesday, yet warned of veto showdowns as well.

Trade legislation loomed as one possibility for quick compromise, and immigration as an early irritant.

"There is no doubt that Republicans had a good night," the president said at the White House, referring to big gains that left the GOP in control of the Senate, with an expanded House majority and in possession of a handful of governorships formerly in Democratic hands.

To voters who handed the GOP control of Congress, he said, "I hear you. ... It's time for us to take care of business." He cited construction of roads, bridges and other facilities as one area ripe for cooperation, and trade as another.

At the same time, he noted, "Congress will pass some bills I cannot sign. I'm pretty sure I will take some actions that some in Congress will not like."

Obama and McConnell, in line to be the Senate's majority leader, presented differing profiles at news conferences a little more than an hour apart.

The 53-year-old president now faces a Congress under two-house control by Republicans for the first time in his tenure — and a lame duck status that becomes more of a check on his political power with each passing day.

McConnell, 72 and famously taciturn, smiled and joked with reporters on the day after achieving a lifelong ambition.



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT
U.S. President Barack Obama speaks on the midterm elections that saw his party lose the Senate during a press conference in the East Room of the White House on Wednesday, in Washington, D.C.

Still, the two said they had had a pleasant telephone conversation earlier in the day.

"I would enjoy having some Kentucky bourbon with Mitch McConnell," said Obama, who once joked at a black-tie dinner that the Kentucky senator wouldn't be much of a drinking buddy.

Said McConnell, "In our system the president is the most important player" who can veto legislation or persuade lawmakers of his own party to back compromise.

Obama said that unless Congress takes action by the end of the year, he will order a reduction in deportations of working immigrants living in the country illegally.

He made his pledge a short while after McConnell warned him against acting unilaterally.

"It's like waving a red flag in front of a bull to say if you guys don't do what I want I'm going to do it on my own," McConnell said at a news conference in Kentucky.

McConnell also cited trade and taxes among areas ripe for compromise.

"There will be no government shutdown or default on the national debt," he said, making clear he doesn't agree with some tea party-backed

lawmakers who have supported one or the other in the past — or may want to in the future.

McConnell is expected to take office in January as Senate majority leader, and he and House Speaker John Boehner will have the authority to set the congressional agenda.

Boehner ceded the Republican limelight to McConnell for the day. The Ohio Republican is in line for a third term as House leader — and his first with a Republican majority in the Senate.

In an op-ed for Thursday's editions of *The Wall Street Journal*, the Republican leaders made their case for a GOP legislative agenda aimed at jobs and the economy. Their list of priorities for the 114th Congress included addressing the tax code, terrorism, school choice, government regulations, the national debt and other longtime targets that Republicans have been unable to strike during the Obama administration.

At his news conference, McConnell said, "When America chooses divided government, I don't think it means they don't want us to do anything. It means they want to

do things for the country."

Beyond that, he made it clear Congress will vote on legislation to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada through the United States, and work to repeal portions of the health care law that stands as Obama's signature domestic accomplishment. He said a tax on medical devices and a mandate for individuals to purchase health insurance are also Republican targets.

Obama ruled out ending the requirement for purchasing of health care. But he pointedly did not reject repeal of the tax, which many Democrats as well as Republicans have already signaled they are ready to jettison.

Republicans are also expected to mount a major attack on federal deficits.

In the second midterm elections of Obama's presidency, Republicans were assured of a gain of seven Senate seats. They bid for another in Alaska, where challenger Dan Sullivan led Sen. Mark Begich. Also uncalled was a race in Virginia, where Democratic Sen. Mark Warner faced challenger Ed Gillespie.

In Louisiana, Rep. Bill Cassidy led Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu into a Dec. 6 runoff.

Despite the reverses, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada announced he intended to remain as the Democratic leader. There was no sign of opposition.

House Republicans were within hailing distance of their largest majority since World War II, 246 seats in 1946, when Harry Truman sat in the White House.

Even so, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she would seek another term as Democratic leader.

Only one governor's race remained uncalled, in Alaska, where independent Bill Walker led Republican Gov. Sean Parnell.

Palestinians: Stop Israeli Acts At Muslim Sites

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The Palestinians and Jordanians urged the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday to demand that Israel immediately stop provocations and incitement against Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, warning that further escalation could lead to another crisis threatening peace in the Middle East.

The warning followed what the Palestinians described as the illegal storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque earlier Wednesday by Israeli extremists protected by more than 300 Israeli security forces, which led to a confrontation with Palestinian worshippers. A Hamas militant reportedly angered by the confrontation later drove a minivan into a crowd waiting for a train, killing one person and wounding 13. Hours later, a Palestinian motorist drove into a group of soldiers in the West Bank, injuring three.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Ron Prosor sent what the Israeli Mission called a "sarcastic letter" to the Security Council listing acts of incitement by the Palestinian leadership, including last month's drive-by shooting of a Jewish activist who has pushed for greater Jewish access to the sacred hilltop compound.

Prosor's letter noted the council's failure to "utter a word" about "this blatantly

dangerous provocation."

The compound is revered by both Jews and Muslims. Jews call it the Temple Mount because of the Jewish temples that once stood there. Muslims refer to it as the Haram al-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, marking the place where they believe Islam's Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he won't allow changes to a long-standing ban on Jewish worship at the Muslim-run site, despite demands from ultranationalists in his coalition government. But Palestinian U.N. Ambassador Riyad Mansour said Wednesday that "actions blatantly intended to assert Israeli control over the compound continue unabated."

Mansour said in a letter to the Security Council that stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets were fired early Wednesday at Palestinian worshippers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque, seriously injuring at least 30 people.

He said the extremists desecrated holy sites, including by entering one mosque in the compound and climbing on the altar wearing shoes in "a shameful sign of disrespect" for Muslims, who leave their shoes outside as a sign of respect.

Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Dina Kavar said in a separate letter to the council that Israeli special forces and police pro-

hibited Muslim worshippers from entering and allowed religious and political extremists inside the compound.

"This blatant and unlawful use of force against one of the holiest sites on earth for Muslims have resulted in fires breaking out, damage to mosaic works on ceilings and to the structure of the building, burning of the carpets and rugs and damage to other facilities," she said.

Jordan's King Abdullah II is the custodian of the holy sites in Jerusalem, and Kavar accused Israeli forces of violating the 1994 peace treaty between the two countries by detaining Jordanian employees responsible for administering and maintaining the sites.

Jordan recalled its ambassador to Israel, and Kavar urged the Security Council to hold Israel accountable for Wednesday's attack and take steps to stop further violations against Muslim holy sites.

Kavar told The Associated Press that Jordan would like the council to adopt a presidential statement, which becomes part of its official record, and will be presenting "elements" for the text to members on Thursday.

"Definitely the situation deserves that," she said. "The situation is very uncomfortable and dangerous, and they've gone way overboard in the last violation."

N O M I N A T E T H E 2 0 1 4

Yankton Citizen Of The Year

NOMINATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Please Mail Your Nominations To:

Citizen Of The Year, Yankton Press & Dakotan

319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078

or visit www.yankton.net/coy

My nomination for the 2014 Yankton Citizen of the Year is:

This person should be the Citizen of the Year because:

MY NAME: _____

MY ADDRESS: _____

MY PHONE NUMBER: _____

PRESS&DAKOTAN

Recovery

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to get the engineer to evaluate current damage and design the appropriate repair that meets current standards and reduces the likelihood of future failure," he said. "We just recently received the needed information from the engineering firm."

Second, several of the affected bridges were old wooden plank bridges, Garvin said. Several of those bridges need to be replaced because of damages from the storm.

"Standards have changed in the last 50 years or so since those bridges were constructed," he said. "There are lots of extra hoops to jump through with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) before you can make any repairs that don't put the damaged structure back to pre-disaster condition."

FEMA references everything to pre-disaster condition, Garvin said. The applicant must prove the need for an "improved" project to bring it up to today's standards, he added.

Cedar County officials are making whatever repairs are possible at this time, Garvin said. The gravel has been replaced, and street signs and road signs have been put back up.

"The road department has made mention that they spent a significant amount of

time on storm damage repair this year, and it seems as if they didn't get much else done," he said.

"The wet conditions this summer haven't helped any. It seemed as if they would just get a road back into shape, we would get several inches of rain in one storm and they had to go back and fix the road they just finished repairing."

The extra repairs have placed a strain on the Cedar County road budget, Garvin said.

"Obtaining the FEMA disaster assistance funding for Public Assistance has been time consuming for not only the county but for FEMA as well when it comes to this disaster," he said.

"To date, the county has not received any funding from FEMA because of all the documentation that must be compiled and approved. Once we submit our engineer's proposal, the FEMA engineer must approve it, and it must go through an environmental and historical preservation review at the state and federal levels. "

The precautions are necessary for a number of reasons, Garvin said.

"(They are) all very necessary steps to protect the environment, preserve our history and avoid costly mistakes that may be not be discovered until several years later," he said. "The theme seems to be 'Do it right the first time,' with everything from the engineering to the paperwork."

The overall tornado dam-

age figure covers both public and private property, according to Cedar County Assessor Don Hoelsing.

"That damage estimate includes all losses, such as power lines, pivots, machinery, buildings and whatever should be in that amount," he said. "The tax loss to the county will not show up until next year because we use Jan. 1 as the assessment date for each year."

The county has been in contact with some of the property owners and will update their files, Hoelsing said.

"The list of property owners who had damage that we got from Kevin Garvin will be reviewed so we should be able to contact those who have not got in touch with us," the assessor said.

Whatever property has been destroyed needs to be reported to the county assessor, Garvin said.

"If it was on the tax records on Jan. 1 of this year, it is still taxable in 2014," he said. "If it was destroyed, it can be removed so (the property owners) don't have to pay taxes on it in 2015."

The tornadoes have long passed, but the work looks to remain for some time, Garvin said.

"It seems as if there isn't a day goes by lately that were not dealing with FEMA or disaster-related issues and paperwork," he said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.