

NK: Imprisoned American Returns Home

SEATTLE (AP) — Kenneth Bae arrived home after years of imprisonment in North Korea, expressing his gratitude to the U.S. government for securing his release and revealing that his time there offered lessons.

And his sister said he had one stipulation for his first meal back home: No Korean food.

"He said, 'I don't want Korean food, that's all I've been eating for the last two years,'" Terri Chung said Sunday outside her Seattle church. "We had a late night eating pizza."

Bae and Matthew Miller, another American who had been held captive in North Korea, landed Saturday night at a Washington state military base after a top U.S. intelligence official secured their release.

"It's been an amazing two years, I learned a lot, I grew a lot, I lost a lot of weight," Bae, a Korean-American missionary with health problems, said at Joint Base-Lewis-McChord Saturday night. Asked how he was feeling, he said, "I'm recovering at this time."

WH Preps To Deal With Iran Issue

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — The Obama administration is facing its last best chance to curb Iran's nuclear program — not just to meet an end-of-the-month deadline for a deal, but also to seal one before skeptical Republicans who will control Congress next year are able to scuttle it.

Years of negotiations to limit Tehran's nuclear production entered the final stretch Sunday as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and European Union senior adviser Catherine Ashton in Oman's capital. With no immediate agreement in sight, officials said the discussions were expected to continue into Monday.

The stakes are high as the Nov. 24 deadline approaches. A deal could quell Mideast fears about Iran's ability to build a nuclear bomb and help revive the Islamic Republic's economy.

It also would deliver a foreign policy triumph for the White House, which is being hammered by prominent Republican senators over its handling of the civil war in Syria and the growth of the Islamic State militancy in Iraq. Those same critics seek to put the brakes on U.S.-Iranian bartering, if not shut it down completely, once they seize the majority on Jan. 3.

The Obama administration "needs to understand that this Iranian regime cares more about trying to weaken America and push us out of the Middle East than cooperating with us," Republican Sens. John McCain of Arizona, the incoming chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said in a statement last week.

Midterms Shape Presidential Contest

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 2016 presidential race was about the new Republican-controlled Congress even before the polls closed Tuesday night.

As the GOP rout became clear late on election night, would-be Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton found herself with a ready-made foil in the Republican-led Congress that begins next year just as a few high-profile senators seized on their new status as a springboard into 2016.

Some Republican governors already have begun to try to distance themselves from unpopular congressional leaders in both parties.

"I think governors make much better presidents than members of Congress," said Gov. Scott Walker, R-Wis., who just won his third election in four years and is contemplating a presidential bid.

Republicans are facing their most unpredictable presidential primary campaign in a generation, while Clinton remains the overwhelming favorite for Democrats who are reeling from heavy losses in last week's midterm elections.

HealthCare.gov Can't Afford Meltdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a bright look to its rebuilt website, version 2.0 of President Barack Obama's health insurance overhaul represents another chance to win over a skeptical public.

But more than possible computer woes lurk as HealthCare.gov's second open enrollment season begins Nov. 15.

The risks include an unproven system for those renewing coverage and a tax hit that could sting millions of people. Those tax issues are the result of complications between the health care law and income taxes, and they will emerge during next year's filing season.

"Things will not be perfect," said Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell, trying to set expectations. "We are aiming for a strong consumer experience, and it will be better."

The Obama administration cannot afford to repeat last year's online meltdown. Congress will be entirely in Republican hands in 2015, and GOP lawmakers will be itching to build the case for repeal. The Supreme Court's decision Friday to hear another challenge to the law is also casting a shadow.

Germans Celebrate Fall Of Berlin Wall

BERLIN (AP) — The citizens of Berlin on Sunday released almost 7,000 balloons into the night sky, many carrying messages of hope to mark the 25th anniversary since the fall of the wall that once divided their city.

The symbolic act recalled the giddy night of Nov. 9, 1989, when thousands of people from the communist East streamed through the Berlin Wall to celebrate freedom with their brethren in the West.

"For peace and freedom," Berlin mayor Klaus Wowereit told a crowd of ten thousands that had gathered at the city's iconic Brandenburg Gate as he gave the signal to release the balloons, which has been placed, illuminated, along a 15-kilometer (9-mile) stretch of the former border.

Earlier he thanked the former leaders of Poland, Hungary and the Soviet Union — Lech Walesa, Miklos Nemeth and Mikhail Gorbachev — for having helped set the stage for Germany's peaceful revolution.

Gorbachev — who is still a popular figure in Germany — was greeted with affectionate shouts of "Gorbi, Gorbi" by the crowds.

ISIS Leader Hurt In Strike

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
AND VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi officials said Sunday that an airstrike wounded the leader of the Islamic State group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Pentagon officials said they had no immediate information on such a strike or al-Baghdadi being wounded.

Iraq's Defense and Interior Ministries issued statements saying al-Baghdadi had been wounded, without elaborating.

An Interior Ministry intelligence official told The Associated Press that al-Baghdadi was hit during a meeting Saturday with militants in the town of Qaim in Iraq's western Anbar province. The official, citing informants within the militant group, said the strike wounded al-Baghdadi. A senior Iraqi military official

also said he learned in operational meetings that al-Baghdadi had been wounded.

Both officials said the operation was carried out by Iraqi security forces. Neither knew the extent of al-Baghdadi's apparent injuries.

Both spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss confidential material. State television later also reported that al-Baghdadi had been wounded.

Al-Baghdadi, an ambitious Iraqi militant believed to be in his early 40s, has a \$10 million U.S. bounty on his head. Since taking the reins of the group in 2010, he has transformed it from a local branch of al-Qaida into an independent transnational military force, positioning himself as perhaps the pre-eminent figure in the global jihadi community.

The reclusive leader is purported to have made only one public appearance, delivering a sermon at a mosque in Iraq's

second-largest city of Mosul, as seen in a video posted online in June. Al-Baghdadi's purported appearance in Mosul came five days after his group declared the establishment of an Islamic state, or caliphate, in the territories it holds in Iraq and Syria. The group proclaimed al-Baghdadi its leader and demanded that all Muslims pledge allegiance to him.

Since then, part of the Islamic State group's core strategy has been to establish administration over lands that it controls to project an image of itself as a ruler and not just a fighting force. In parts of Syria under its control, the group now administers courts, fixes roads and even polices traffic. It recently imposed a curriculum in schools in its Syrian stronghold, Raqqa, scrapping subjects such as philosophy and chemistry, and fine-tuning the sciences to fit with its ideology.

AG Pick Hailed As Civil Rights Defender

BY ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Loretta Lynch was a federal prosecutor in New York when she encountered an astonishing case of police brutality: the broomstick sodomy of a Haitian immigrant in a precinct bathroom.

The 1997 assault on Abner Louima set off street protests, frayed race relations and led to one of the most important federal civil rights cases of the past two decades — with Lynch a key part of the team that prosecuted officers accused in the beating or of covering it up.

President Barack Obama's nomination of Lynch to be attorney general comes as the department she would take over continues to investigate the police shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old in Ferguson, Missouri and seems partly intended to convey the message that police misconduct and civil rights will remain a principal focus even after the departure of Eric Holder.

If confirmed by the Senate, Lynch would be the first black woman in the job and would follow the first black attorney general.

Lynch has overseen corruption, terrorism and gang cases in her years as a federal prosecutor. But it's her involvement some 15 years ago in the Louima prosecution that gave her high-profile ex-



Attorney General Eric Holder listens to Loretta Lynch, the U.S. attorney in Brooklyn, as President Barack Obama nominates Lynch to succeed Holder as attorney general during an event in the Roosevelt Room on Saturday in Washington.

perience in step with a core priority of the Justice Department.

"It is certainly significant that she has a personal history of involvement in prosecuting police misconduct," said Samuel Bagenstos, the former No. 2 official in the department's civil rights division. "Obviously that will be helpful, and probably suggests that police misconduct cases will continue to be a priority of the Lynch Justice Department just as they were with the Holder Justice Department."

Lawyers say Obama likely selected Lynch, 55, the current U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, on the strength of a varied career and stature within the department.

"She has spent years in the trenches as a prosecutor, aggressively fighting terrorism, financial fraud, cybercrime, and while vigorously defending civil rights," Obama said in introducing Lynch at the White House ceremony Saturday. He said her prosecution of the officers in the Louima case was "one of her proudest achievements."

But there's also no doubt that selecting someone with civil rights experience could reaffirm the government's commitment to that cause. That figures to be an especially important signal to send as community members in Ferguson brace for the real prospect that state and federal investigations into the shooting death of Michael Brown will close without criminal charges, outcomes that could disillusion civil rights activists and community members.

OBITUARIES

Harold Hancock

Harold Hancock, 97 of Scotland died Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014, at the Good Samaritan Society in Scotland.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at St. Benedict Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Ken Lulf officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories.

Visitations begin at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Wayne Hill

Wayne Hill, 85, of Creighton, Nebraska, and formerly of Niobrara, Nebraska, died Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014 at Avera Creighton Hospital, Creighton.

Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are pending under the Opsahl-Kostel

Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

Delores Kortan

Delores Kortan, 86, of Billings, Montana, died Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014.

Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are pending under the care of the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

Sharon Bose

Sharon M. Bose, 67 of Laurel, Nebraska, died Fri-

day, Nov. 7, 2014, at the Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa, after an ATV accident.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Coleridge, Nebraska, with the Rev. Debra Valentine officiating. Burial will be in the Lawn Ridge Cemetery in Coleridge.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m. today (Monday) with a prayer service at 7 p.m. at the church. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Tuesday at the church.

The Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington is in charge of arrangements. To view the video tribute, or to send online condolences, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Roland Weber

Roland A. Weber, 66, of Yankton died Friday, Nov. 7, 2014, at the Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton.

A gathering of family and friends is at 4-8 p.m. today (Monday) at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

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Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Wilfred Schurman who passed away November 12, 2013
Michael Preston who passed away November 13, 2013
Eleanor Lorraine Steward who passed away November 13, 2013

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.
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