

Croatia Conservative Leads In Vote Count

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — Croatia's conservative opposition is leading in an official preliminary vote count against the ruling center-left coalition in the Balkan country's first parliamentary election since joining the European Union in 2013 — held amid deep economic woes and a massive migrant surge.

The state electoral commission said Sunday that with about 35 percent of the vote counted, the conservatives, led by former intelligence chief Tomislav Karamarko, won 60 seats in the 151-seat parliament, while Social Democrats, led by incumbent Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic, had 58.

The result indicates both blocs have failed to win an outright majority in Sunday's vote and the forming of the new government will depend on several small parties that entered parliament. The kingmaker could be the third-placed party, Most, or Bridge, with a projected 19 seats.

The vote's outcome could disrupt the flow of migrants crossing the small country if the conservatives form the government and return to power and carry out pledges to implement tough measures against the surge. Since September, Croatia has seen an influx of more than 330,000 people fleeing war and poverty and seeking a better life in wealthier EU states such as Germany.

The conservatives have criticized Milanovic's government for allowing a free flow of migrants and have hinted they would build fences and deploy the army to the border to stop the flow.

Passengers Wait To Leave Egypt Resort

CAIRO (AP) — International passengers departing Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh continued to line up for flights on Sunday, as the first of three teams of Russian inspectors was dispatched to the country to examine airport security following the Oct. 31 airline disaster.

The Russian flight's crash in the Sinai Peninsula that killed all 224 people onboard continues to generate fallout, after the Islamic State claimed responsibility for its downing and U.S. and British officials say intelligence shows it was likely brought down by a bomb on board.

Britain and several airlines have stopped normally scheduled flights to the resort, while Russia has suspended all flights to Egypt because of security concerns.

U.S. lawmakers weighed in on the issue Sunday. Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, told ABC's "This Week" if it's confirmed the plane was brought down by an Islamic State bomb, then "ISIS has now fully eclipsed al-Qaida as the gravest terrorist threat in the world."

British Foreign Secretary Phillip Hammond told the BBC on Sunday that if the bomb is confirmed, it will require a potential rethinking of airport security in all areas where the extremist group is active.

Homelessness In Hawaii Growing Issue

HONOLULU (AP) — Two days before the city planned to dismantle her sidewalk home, Kionina Kaneso had no idea where she and her daughter and grandchildren would sleep.

A full-time fast-food worker, Kaneso had bad experiences at shelters before and was hesitant to live in another, ending up instead in one of the nation's largest homeless encampments. Desperate, she decided to try one again.

But there was no more space for families.

"Where can I go?" Kaneso asked.

Homelessness in Hawaii has grown in recent years, leaving the state with 487 homeless per 100,000 people, the nation's highest rate per capita, above New York and Nevada, according to federal statistics. Since 2010, the rise has come even as the national rate has fallen during the economic recovery.

Myanmar: Millions Vote In Elections

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — With tremendous excitement and hope, millions of citizens voted Sunday in Myanmar's historic general election that will test whether the military's long-standing grip on power can be loosened, with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party expected to secure an easy victory.

In a country that was under military rule for almost a half-century, many of the eligible 30 million voters cast ballots for the first time in what was billed as the nation's freest election ever. It was the first time even for Suu Kyi, the epitome of the democracy movement who had defied the junta for decades.

Wearing her trademark thazin flowers in her hair, a smiling Suu Kyi arrived at the polling station near her lakeside residence, where she was mobbed by hundreds of journalists. She quickly cast her vote and left without speaking to reporters.

Syria

Lawmakers Dodging War Powers Despite US Mission

BY DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the battle against the Islamic State group, members of Congress talk tough against extremism, but many want to run for cover when it comes to voting on new war powers to fight the militants, preferring to let the president own the battle.

They might not be able to run for long.

The U.S. military intervention in Iraq and Syria is creeping forward, putting more pressure on Congress to vote on a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force. It would be the first war vote in Congress in 13 years.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., a leading force in the Senate for a new authorization, said the reluctance to vote runs deep and that many in Congress prefer to criticize President Barack Obama's policy in Iraq and Syria without either authorizing or stopping the fight.

"There is sort of this belief that if we do not vote, we cannot be held politically accountable. We can just blame the president," Kaine said.

"We are forcing people to be deployed far from home in a theater of war, and risking their lives and losing their lives and members of Congress are like 'I'm afraid of this vote because somebody might try to hold me accountable for it.'"

The vote in 2002 to authorize the invasion of Iraq was politically perilous for many lawmakers — and is shadowing 2016 presidential candidates today.

"I know lawmakers who still go over to Arlington Cemetery — to the gravesites of folks killed in the Iraq War and wonder 'Why did I vote for this?'" Kaine said.

Fellow Democrat Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut agreed, saying crafting a plan to fight IS isn't easy. "It's very convenient

for Congress just to force the president to do it and blame him if it fails," Murphy said. "If we pass an AUMF, then we own the strategy."

To fight IS, Obama has relied on congressional authorizations given to President George W. Bush for the war on al-Qaida and the invasion of Iraq. Critics say the White House's use of post-9/11 congressional authorizations is a legal

in light of the United States' "deepening entanglement in Syria and Iraq."

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has asked the Obama administration to brief committee members as early as next week on the legal justifications for recent deployments to Syria and elsewhere.

Generally, conservatives want Congress to approve broad authorities for the president to fight IS militants with no limits on ground troops. They say banning U.S. combat troops or restricting the fight to just Iraq and Syria only

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SEN. TIM KAINE

stretch at best. And they note that the battle has grown exponentially.

Since August 2014, the U.S.-led coalition has conducted nearly 8,000 airstrikes in Iraq and Syria. There are 3,400 U.S. military personnel currently deployed to Iraq. More than \$4.7 billion has been spent so far in fighting IS. The exodus of refugees from Syria has intensified and Russia has entered the conflict.

"I think we are seeing an example of mission creep right now," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., who signed the letter calling for a new AUMF. "I think we should go ahead. We are gradually ceding over our war-making authority to the president. Big mistake. No matter which side you are on, you ought to want Congress to do this. And you ought to be able to hold your member accountable for how they ultimately vote."

After President Barack Obama announced late last month that he was deploying some 50 Special Operations forces to northern Syria, lawmakers released a flurry of statements urging passage of new war powers legislation.

On Friday, a bipartisan group of 35 House members called on new Speaker Paul Ryan to schedule and debate on a war authorization as quickly as possible

emboldens the militants, who would seek safe haven elsewhere. Other lawmakers want to give the president authority to train and equip local forces and conduct airstrikes but not launch a combat mission on the ground.

In February, the administration proposed a three-year authorization to fight IS, unrestricted by national borders. The fight could be extended to any "closely related successor entity" to the IS extremists, but the measure did not authorize large-scale ground operations.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said Obama's proposal was "nonsense" because the White House knew it would get no real support on Capitol Hill. "He just throws something over the transom and says 'Hey, good luck guys.' He's not serious."

After Obama sent over his draft of a new AUMF, 30 members of the House asked former Speaker John Boehner to bring it up for debate and a vote. Instead, Boehner suggested the president rip it up and start over.

"Congress only has itself to blame," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif. "The administration offered a draft that Congress didn't like, but Congress can amend it."

Decision 2016

Under Scrutiny, Carson Says Questions On His Background Aren't 'Real' Scandals

BY LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson said Sunday that he's facing an unprecedented level of scrutiny about the veracity of his life story and questioned whether the issues dogging him over his autobiography are important to the nation's search for the next president.

"Every single day, every other day or every week, you know, they're going to come out with, 'Well, you said this when you were 13,'" the retired neurosurgeon said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"The whole point is to distract the populace, to distract me," Carson added. "If you've got a real scandal, if you've got something that's really important, let's talk about that."

Moving on, at least in the short term, is unlikely. The



Carson

accuracy of Carson's autobiography has dominated his campaign in the past few days, and there are likely to be more questions asked on Tuesday during the next GOP presidential debate. The scrutiny reflects Carson's transformation from political outsider to the top of the polls in the unsettled nomination fight, second only to billionaire developer Donald Trump. And in early voting Iowa, some polls show Carson's leading.

Trump on Sunday tried to keep the allegations alive. On several news shows, he mentioned examples from Carson's autobiography, "Gifted Hands," about Carson's

bad temper when he was young. Carson claimed that he tried to hit his mother with a hammer and unsuccessfully tried to stab someone. Several times, Trump quoted Carson as describing his younger self as having a "pathological" temper — and then demurred on his own opinion of Carson's character and veracity.

"I just don't know. I mean, I'm not involved. I don't really know," Trump said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Carson insists no other candidate has received the level of scrutiny that he has. Asked on NBC whether he is getting more than President Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton, Carson replied: "Not like this. Not even close."

Scrutiny of his past is par for any major candidate for president, not only Carson. Obama's citizenship was questioned and he later released

a birth certificate showing that he was born in Hawaii. Clinton's marital dalliances were probed during his 1992 campaign. The Miami Herald staked out then-Sen. Gary Hart's townhouse in 1987 and caught him in an extramarital affair. Hillary Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, last month testified about the private email server she kept at her house and used for government business while she was secretary of state.

Carson is a newcomer to presidential politics, so much about his life, career and published works are being raked over for the first time, and his longtime status as an American success story examined. Carson strongly disputed that there was any dishonesty intended.

MMC

From Page 1

and is sponsored by the MMC Benedictine Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Social Justice.

Andrew Henrickson, Director of MMC's Benedictine Institute of Leadership, Ethics and Social Justice and Director of Theatre, told the *Press & Dakotan* that hosting Remedy Drive presented a chance to bring in a concert with purpose.

"We have had concerts for the last few years in the spring," Henrickson said. "But this was an opportunity to have a concert that had a really strong message. So we were looking for a topic that is relevant and a topic that is being addressed by our nation and certainly by our state. We kind of lucked out that Remedy

Drive. For their lead singer — trafficking has become his personal cause in the last few years, so we're able to put together this event."

Zach said Exodus, which mainly operates in Southeast Asia, employs a number of tactics to assist foreign authorities in combatting trafficking.

"Matt brought me over for the first time last year and I've been over four times so far," he said. "We go into brothels, we identify underage girls, we use high-tech surveillance gear and covert gear to get evidence of what's going on and then we partner with local authorities to rescue these girls out of the terrible situation they're in."

While Zach said they tend to keep where they're currently operating under wraps, he was able to mention some areas of recent success.

"I can say we've had a lot of recent success in India," he said. "Also, in May when I was

flying out of the region, there was a big bust that was made with some of the gear Exodus Road and the Remedy Drive community helped fund in Thailand."

He added that the experience of helping trafficked girls is unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

"It's dark," he said. "It's like nothing I could've prepared for. I meet a girl in a club, she's 13 or 14 or 15 and it happens five to ten times per night. I ask her what her name is, ask her where she's from. She may speak English; she may not speak English. I might be able to get by in her language and it's really devastating to see it because there's not a club that I've gone into where I don't suspect that some of these girls are in mid-early teens. Selling minors is commonplace."

These experiences started becoming the foundation of

what would become Remedy Drive's latest album, "Commodity."

Zach said Thursday's event will be a totally different concert experience than most people are used to.

"We have redetermined this idea of playing a concert," he said. "We decided, 'This is what we have. I have a rock band. I have concerts. I have an album. I'm going to use that to help these girls with the hopes to convince people with ordinary things in their lives — ordinary pursuits and ordinary careers — to use whatever they're already doing in the direction of freedom.' ... It's heavy. Imagine walking into a show and you are just expecting a concert — maybe the advertising wasn't quite as good or specific as (MMC) has done — and suddenly you're confronted with the fact that there's three times as many slaves in the world

today as there was in Abraham Lincoln's day."

The concerts include music interspersed with stories of Zach's Exodus Road experiences abroad.

Henrickson said this type of format does a lot that a straight lecture or forum on human trafficking couldn't do, using church as an example.

"Music speaks to people in different ways, whether or not a person is at church. Sometimes the music speaks louder than the pastor," he said. "I think that alone reinforces what is being said when you have David's experiences. I think that will be a rare opportunity to hear from someone who has been on the front lines of this topic. That those experiences inspired the music and to have the music right there and to have that music be live in the fairly intimate setting of Marian Auditorium, I just think it's going to be a special even-

ing that will speak to people on many levels."

Zach said the format has been received well.

"What's exciting is it's working," he said. "We raised \$6,000 last weekend. (We) bought a car for undercover operatives in India using some of those funds. ... There's a heaviness to it, but I believe people leave with a sense of hope and a sense of empowerment."

Individuals or groups wanting to guarantee seating are encouraged to visit www.mtmc.edu/arts_r_email_requests_to_mmcboxoffice@mtmc.edu

For more information on the forum, contact Andy Henrickson at (605) 668-1533 or ahenrickson@mtmc.edu.

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