

World Leaders Back New Libyan Administration

PARIS (AP) — World leaders lined up behind Libya's new de facto administration Thursday and a U.N.-led effort to stabilize the country after decades under Moammar Gadhafi's rule.

But the struggle for Libya's future is not over and NATO's military operation will continue as long as needed to protect civilians, British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy said.

Leaders and envoys from 60 nations and world bodies such as the United Nations and NATO met in Paris for talks with Libya's rebel-led National Transitional Council to map out Libya's future after Gadhafi's ouster.

"We cannot afford a failed pariah state on Europe's borders," Cameron said. "We will all lose if the Arab Spring gives way to a cynical winter of repression."

There were also warnings about Libya's continued instability, its tribal tensions and ravaged infrastructure.

White House Projects Bleak Election Year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Thursday predicted that unemployment will remain at 9 percent next year, a gloomy scenario for President Barack Obama's re-election campaign.

The bleak figures from the Office of Management and Budget, which also projected overall growth this year at just 1.7 percent, serve as further confirmation of a sputtering economy while dramatizing the challenge Obama will face in making his case for re-election. The 1.7 percent growth rate is a full percentage point less than the administration predicted at the beginning of the year.

The economy promises to be the leading-edge issue of the 2012 White House sweepstakes, and Obama already is facing a host of Republican rivals challenging his financial policies. No president in modern times has won re-election with unemployment as high as 9 percent, and Obama's poll numbers have suffered in recent weeks amid a steady drumbeat of bad economic news.

On the deficit, the White House report also projects red ink totaling \$1.3 trillion for the budget year coming to a close on Sept. 30.

U.S. Documents Posted To Web Uncensored

LONDON (AP) — Uncensored copies of WikiLeaks' massive tome of U.S. State Department cables circulated freely Thursday across the Internet, leaving a whole new batch of U.S. sources vulnerable to embarrassment and potential retribution.

The United States, meanwhile, denied ever cooperating with the anti-secrecy group, and blasted Wikileaks for allegedly threatening national security and the safety of confidential informants.

WikiLeaks has blamed Britain's the *Guardian* newspaper for the breach, saying that an investigative journalist had revealed the password needed to unlock the files in a book published earlier this year.

Guardian journalists countered that it was sloppy security at Julian Assange's anti-secrecy website which helped expose the cables to the world.

In a 1,600-word-long editorial posted to the Internet, WikiLeaks accused the *Guardian's* investigative reporter David Leigh of betrayal, saying that his disclosure had jeopardized months of "careful work" that WikiLeaks had undertaken to redact and publish the cables.

"Revolutions and reforms are in danger of being lost as the unpublished cables spread to intelligence contractors and governments before the public," WikiLeaks said in its statement.

Family Charged In \$40 Million Psychic Scam

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Rose Marks and her family of fortunetellers offered hope, but prosecutors said it came with a steep price.

The Florida family claimed to confer with gods, spirits and even Michael the Archangel to cure diseases and break curses, asking for and accepting jewelry, gold coins and luxury cars in return.

In all, authorities said, the family amassed a \$40 million fortune from a psychic scam dating back 20 years.

They used "magicians' tricks" to frighten victims, who lived as far away as Denmark and Japan, to give them the money, prosecutors said. The victims included a best-selling author who gave \$20 million.

Marks, 60, and eight family members pleaded not guilty last week. Their lawyers said they believe their Gypsy religion gave them the ability to heal psychically and that business was legitimate.

Study: Earth's Orbit Is Littered With Space Junk

WASHINGTON (AP) — Space junk has made such a mess of Earth's orbit that experts say we may need to finally think about cleaning it up.

That may mean vacuuming up debris with weird space technology — cosmic versions of nets, magnets and giant umbrellas, according to the chairman of an expert panel that issued a new report on the problem Thursday.

There are 22,000 objects in orbit that are big enough for officials on the ground to track and countless more smaller ones that could do damage to human-carrying spaceships and valuable satellites. The International Space Station has to move out of the way of debris from time to time.

"We've lost control of the environment," said retired NASA senior scientist Donald Kessler, who headed the National Academy of Sciences report.

LIBYA

Gadhafi Vows No Surrender

BY BEN HUBBARD AND MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — In a fiery broadcast from hiding, Moammar Gadhafi warned Thursday that loyalist tribes in his main strongholds were armed and preparing for battle, a show of defiance hours after rebels extended a deadline for the surrender of the fugitive leader's hometown.

The rebels, who have been moving troops toward remaining Gadhafi bastions across Libya, had shifted the deadline for the town of Sirte in hopes of avoiding the bloodshed that met their attack on Tripoli.

"We want to save our fighters and not lose a single one in battles with Gadhafi's forces," said Mohammed al-Rajali, a spokesman for the rebel leadership in the eastern city of Benghazi. "In the end, we will get Sirte, even if we have to cut water and electricity" and let NATO pound it with airstrikes.

World leaders meeting in Paris on Libya's future after Gadhafi said the NATO military operations would continue as long as needed.

The rebels say the advance on Sirte is going well, and that their forces have already captured one nearby city. They also say they are closing in on Gadhafi, who came to power 42 years ago Thursday in a military coup that toppled King Idris.

The rebels have been hunting for Gadhafi

"We won't surrender again; we are not women. We will keep fighting."

MOAMMAR GADHAFI

since he was forced into hiding after they swept into Tripoli on Aug. 20 and gained control of most of the capital after days of fierce fighting.

"We won't surrender again; we are not women. We will keep fighting," Gadhafi said in a blustery tone in the audio statement, broadcast by Syrian-based Al-Rai TV. His voice was recognizable, and Al-Rai has previously broadcast statements by Gadhafi and his sons.

Gadhafi said the tribes in Sirte and Bani Walid are armed and "there is no way they will submit." He called for continued resistance, warning "the battle will be long and let Libya burn."

In a second late-night audio also broadcast on the Syrian channel, Gadhafi spoke in more measured tones and called for a long insurgency.

"We will fight them everywhere," he said. "We will burn the ground under their feet."

He said NATO was trying to occupy Libya and steal its oil.

"Get ready to fight the occupation. ... Get ready for a long war, imposed on us," Gadhafi added. "Get ready for the guerrilla war."

He called Sirte "the capital of the resistance."

The rebels, who have effectively ended Gadhafi's rule, dismiss his threats as empty rhetoric.

The rebels believe he may be in one of their three key targets. The fighters, backed by NATO airstrikes, have been pushing recently toward Sirte as well as Bani Walid, 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli, and the southern city of Sabha.

All three were given a Saturday deadline to surrender. While the deadline extension was officially only for Sirte, rebels said it would also apply to Bani Walid and Sabha.

Pro-Gadhafi forces control most of Sabha and large numbers of soldiers — including mercenaries from other African countries — are camped on its outskirts, said Abdul Awidat, a Sabha resident currently in Tripoli.

Awidat told The Associated Press that he has spoken by satellite phone with people in the southern area in the past two days who said pro-Gadhafi forces have taken up positions in buildings and are recruiting young men as fighters and handing out weapons.

"There is no information that Gadhafi or any of his senior leadership are in Sabha," he added.

Unemployment Applications Fall

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Fewer people applied for unemployment benefits last week, a sign that the job market may be improving slightly.

Weekly applications fell 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 409,000 last week, the Labor Department said Thursday. It was the first decline in three weeks.

A strike by Verizon workers drove applications higher during the previous two weeks. The strike has ended and is no longer affecting applications.

The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose last week to 410,250. Still, that was mostly because of the strike. It has come down from 440,250 in May.

Applications typically need to drop below 375,000 to signal sustainable job growth. They haven't been at that level since February.

The downward trend suggests employers aren't stepping up layoffs amid renewed concerns about the economy's health. A sharp reduction in growth has fueled fears that the economy could be at risk of another recession.

Stocks fell sharply in late July and early August. A batch of grim economic data, along with Standard & Poor's downgrade of long-term U.S. debt, led to a sell-off. Stocks have recovered some of their losses. The Dow Jones industrial average is about 9 percent below its July 21 level.

The government reports Friday on job growth in August. While the report is always important, economists will pay particular attention to the data to see if businesses pulled back on hiring in response to the plunge in stock prices and the gloomy economic outlook.

The economy expanded at an annual pace of just 0.7 percent in the first six months of this year, the weakest six months of growth since the recession officially ended in June 2009. Economists

expect growth will only improve to about a 2 percent pace in the second half of this year.

Recent data suggests the July-September quarter is off to better start.

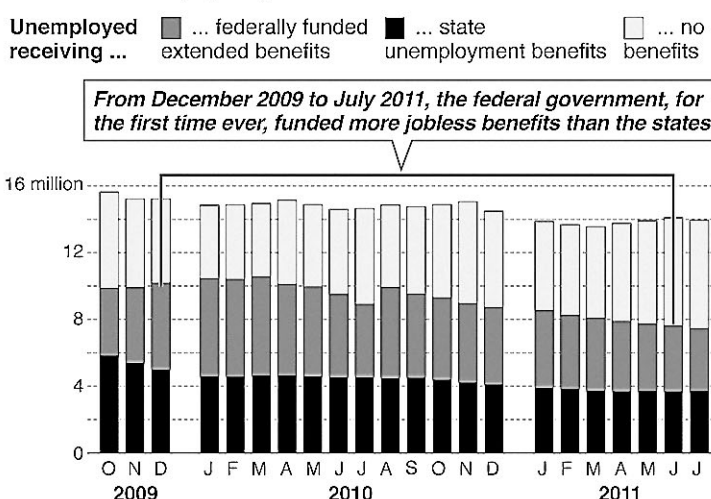
Employers added 117,000 net jobs in July, about double the pace of the previous two months.

Consumer spending rose that month by the most in five months, partly because Americans bought more cars and spent more to cool their homes. And businesses ordered more goods from factories, particularly autos and airplanes, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

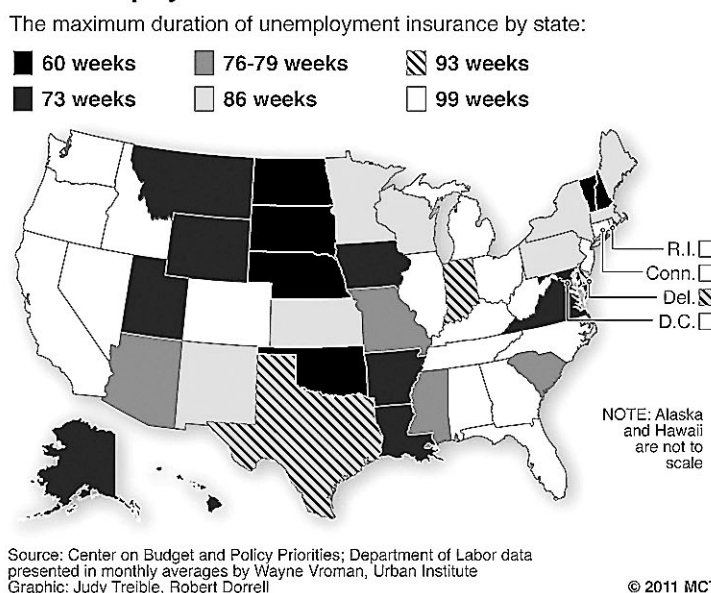
Maxing out jobless benefits

More than 8 million Americans lost jobs in the Great Recession, prompting the federal government to extend jobless benefits, pushing the maximum duration of state and federal unemployment insurance to 99 weeks.

Federal funds pay larger share



How unemployment insurance varies



Post-Irene Frustrations Rise In Wait For Power

BY DAVID KLEPPER
AND MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

WARWICK, R.I. — Cold showers. Meals in the dark. Refrigerators full of spoiled food. No TV. No Internet. Up and down the East Coast, patience is wearing thin among the millions of people still waiting for the electricity to come back on after Hurricane Irene knocked out the power last weekend.

"It's like 'Little House on the Prairie' times," said Debbie McWeeny, who went to a Red Cross shelter in Warwick to pick up food and water after everything in her refrigerator went bad. "Except I'm not enjoying it at all."

With the waters receding across much of the flood-stricken region, homeowners are mucking out their basements and dragging soggy furniture to the curb. But the wait for power drags on, with an estimated 1.38 million homes and businesses still without electricity, down from a peak of 9.6 million.

And criticism of the utility companies is mounting. In Rhode Island, a state senator is calling for an investigation, and Massachusetts' attorney general is demanding information from utilities on how they are dealing with the crisis, including how many crews are in the field and their response time.

The industry has defended its efforts, noting it warned the public that a storm like Irene was bound to cause prolonged outages and pointing out that flooding and toppled trees caused severe damage to utility poles, substations and other equipment.

OBITUARIES

Florence Goertz

FREEMAN — Florence Goertz, 90, of Freeman passed away at her home on Wednesday Aug. 31st.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Sept. 3rd at 10:30 a.m. at the Salem Zion (North) Church of rural Freeman with burial in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. on Friday at the Walter Funeral Home in Freeman with family

present from 6-7 p.m..
Florence Gering married Reuben Goertz in 1941. Reuben died in 1993.

Survivors include a son Richard (Karen) Goertz of AK; 3 daughters, JoEllen (Dennis) Korermer of Freeman, Bernette (Steve) Weier of IA, and Paulette (Duane) Ohnstad of CO; 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

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September 2, 2011

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