

Al-Qaida's No. 2 Leader In Yemen Killed

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — An airstrike killed al-Qaida's No. 2 leader in Yemen along with six others traveling with him in one car on Monday, U.S. and Yemeni officials said, a major breakthrough for U.S.-backed efforts to cripple the group in the impoverished Arab nation.

Saeed al-Shihri, a Saudi national who fought in Afghanistan and spent six years in the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, was killed by a missile after leaving a house in the southern province of Hadramawt, according to Yemeni military officials. They said the missile was believed to have been fired by a U.S.-operated, unmanned drone aircraft.

Two senior U.S. officials confirmed al-Shihri's death but could not confirm any U.S. involvement in the airstrike.

The U.S. doesn't usually comment on such attacks although it has used drones in the past to go after al-Qaida members in Yemen, which is considered a crucial battleground with the terror network.

Yemeni military officials said that a local forensics team had identified al-Shihri's body with the help of U.S. forensics experts on the ground. The U.S. and Yemeni military officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information to the media.

Late Monday, after speculation surfaced that the attack was carried by a U.S. drone, Yemen's Defense Ministry issued a statement saying al-Shihri and six companions were killed during an operation by Yemeni armed forces in Wadi Hadramawt, but it did not elaborate on how they were killed.

Afghans Take Control Of Bagram Prison

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) — President Hamid Karzai welcomed Monday's handover of the main American-run prison to Afghan forces as a victory for Afghan sovereignty, though he and U.S. officials remain locked in a dispute over the fate of hundreds of Taliban and terror suspects behind bars.

The United States is withholding the transfer of scores of inmates, reportedly out of concern that Afghan authorities may simply let some detainees go and no longer hold dangerous prisoners without charge.

American irritation was apparent at the ceremony at the prison, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of Kabul.

No higher ranking American officers attended, although the Afghan government sent its defense minister, army chief of staff and other officials.

Karzai also did not attend, though he released a statement calling the handover a "very big step regarding the sovereignty of Afghanistan."

"Now, the Bagram prison is converted to one of Afghanistan's regular prisons where the innocents will be freed and the rest of the prisoners will be sentenced according to the laws of Afghanistan," the statement said.

Syrian Defector: No Intervention Needed

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's most prominent defector said in an interview that aired Monday that he opposes any foreign military intervention in the country's civil war and that he is confident the opposition can topple President Bashar Assad's regime.

But Manaf Tlass, a Syrian general who was the first member of Assad's inner circle to join the opposition, said the rebels need weapons.

"The Syrian people must not be robbed of their victory, they must be given support, aid, arms," Tlass said in a recorded interview that aired Monday on French television station BFM.

He called on outside powers to give the opposition "all the aid and support" needed to topple Assad.

Foreign military intervention, however, "could not provide a solution" to the conflict, he said. The uprising against Assad's regime began in March 2011 with mostly peaceful protests against the family dynasty that has ruled Syria for four decades. But the battle has transformed into a civil war, and activists estimate that at least 23,000 people have been killed.

Ohio At Heart Of Presidential Campaign

BY THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

MANSFIELD, Ohio — It's all about Ohio — again.

The economy has improved here, and so has President Barack Obama's standing, putting pressure on Republican Mitt Romney in a state critical to his presidential hopes.

No Republican has won the White House without winning Ohio, and Romney hopes to catch Obama here by slashing at his jobs record in working-class regions.

"America doesn't have to have the long face it has had under this president," the Republican shouted Monday to a cheering audience in hard-scrabble Mansfield, just weeks after Obama visited. "We can get America rolling again, growing again."

In a sign of the state's importance, hardly a week goes without the candidates appearing in Ohio. Same goes for their running mates; Republican Paul Ryan was campaigning in the Appalachian southeast Wednesday, following a similar weekend trip by Vice President Joe Biden, who is to return to the state Wednesday.

Less than two months from

Three-state swing

ELECTION 2012

Three swing states, all carried by President Barack Obama in 2008 by varying margins, have 37 electoral votes at stake this year, or about 14 percent of the 270 total needed for election.

	Nevada	Ohio	Virginia
Electoral votes			
Current (2012)	6	18	13
Change since 2008	+1	-2	No Change
Unemployment			
July 2012	13.8%	8.9%	6.4%
July 2008	12.0	7.2	5.9
Margin of victory (in percentage points, winner in parentheses)			
1992 (Clinton)	Dems 2	Dems 2	GOP 4
1996 (Clinton)	Dems 1	Dems 6	GOP 2
2000 (Bush)	GOP 4	GOP 4	GOP 9
2004 (Bush)	GOP 3	GOP 2	GOP 8
2008 (Obama)	Dems 12	Dems 5	Dems 6

Source: votesmart.org, Congressional Quarterly Guide to U.S. Elections, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, uselectionsatlas.org
Graphic: Tom Reinken, Doug Stevens, Los Angeles Times © 2012 MCT

Election Day, both parties say their internal campaign polling shows Obama with a narrow lead in Ohio, a Midwestern state that offers 18 Electoral College votes and has played an important role in determining every recent White House race.

Numbers tell the story of the high stakes and, perhaps, show why Obama has been able to maintain an edge — and why Romney remains within striking distance.

The candidates and supportive outside groups have spent a

Chicago Teachers Strike In Bitter Contract Dispute

BY DON BABWIN
AND SOPHIA TAEEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — For the first time in a quarter century, Chicago teachers walked out of the classroom Monday, taking a bitter contract dispute over evaluations and job security to the streets of the nation's third-largest city — and to a national audience — less than a week after most schools opened for fall.

The walkout forced hundreds of thousands of parents to scramble for a place to send idle children and created an unwelcome political distraction for Mayor Rahm Emanuel. In a year when labor unions have been losing ground nationwide, the implications were sure to extend far beyond Chicago, particularly for districts engaged in similar debates.

"This is a long-term battle that everyone's going to watch," said Eric Hanuskek, a senior fellow in education at the Hoover Institu-

tion of Stanford University. "Other teachers unions in the United States are wondering if they should follow suit."

The union had vowed to strike Monday if there was no agreement on a new contract, even though the district had offered a 16 percent raise over four years and the two sides had essentially agreed on a longer school day. With an average annual salary of \$76,000, Chicago teachers are among the highest-paid in the nation, according to the National Council on Teacher Quality.

But negotiators were still divided on job security measures and a system for evaluating teachers that hinged in part on students' standardized test scores.

The strike in a district where the vast majority of students are poor and minority put Chicago at the epicenter of a struggle between big cities and teachers unions for control of schools.

Emanuel, who has sought

major reforms while also confronting the district's \$700 million budget shortfall, acknowledged his own fight with the union, even as he urged a quick resolution.

"Don't take it out on the kids of Chicago if you have a problem with me," he told reporters Monday.

As negotiators resumed talks, thousands of teachers and their supporters took over several downtown streets during the Monday evening rush. Police secured several blocks around district headquarters as the crowds marched and chanted.

The protesters planned to rally through the evening at an event that resembled a family street fair. Balloons, American flags and homemade signs hung above the crowd.

Teacher Kimberly Crawford said she was most concerned about issues such as class size and the lack of air conditioning.

"It's not just about the raise," she said. "I've worked without a

raise for two years."

The strike quickly became part of the presidential campaign. Republican candidate Mitt Romney said teachers were turning their backs on students and Obama was siding with the striking teachers in his hometown.

Obama's top spokesman said the president has not taken sides but is urging both the sides to settle quickly.

Emanuel, who just agreed to take a larger role in fundraising for Obama's re-election, dismissed Romney's comments as "lip service."

But one labor expert said that a major strike unfolding in the shadow of the November election could only hurt a president who desperately needs the votes of workers, including teachers, in battleground states.

"I can't imagine this is good for the president and something he can afford to have go on for more than a week," said Robert Bruno, a professor of labor and employment relations at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

OBITUARIES

Priscilla Schneider

Priscilla Schneider, age 70, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Saturday, September 8, 2012 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

A gathering of friends and family will be from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday, September 17, 2012, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7 p.m. led by Reverend Dani Jo Ninke.

Priscilla Schneider was born August 29, 1942 in Plainview, Nebraska to Charles and Hazel (Albers) Schneider. She grew up on a farm near Bloomfield, Nebraska and graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1960. She worked at Dale Electronics, which is now Vishay Dale Electronics, in Columbus Nebraska for several years until she transferred to Vishay in Yankton, South Dakota, where she worked for 27 years until her retirement.

Priscilla enjoyed reading, playing BINGO, traveling on bus tours, theatrical shows and mu-



Schneider

Schneider of Yankton and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

To post an online sympathy message visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 11, 2012



Online condolences at: www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Lila Iverson

Lila M. Iverson, 89, of Vermillion passed away Monday, Sept. 10, at the Yankton Care Center in Yankton.

Lila Swanson was born Feb. 9, 1923 in Yankton to Herman and Ethel (Zurcher) Swanson. She attended Crofton and Yankton High School, graduating in 1941. Lila married Glenn Iverson on June 1, 1947 in Meckling. She was a member of the Bergen Lutheran Church in Meckling.

Lila is survived by her three sons; David (Maureen) of Normal, Ill., Chuck (Karla) of Yankton and Dwight (Monica) Iverson of Vermillion, 13 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Memorial services will be 11 a.m. Friday, September 14 at the Bergen Lutheran Church in rural Meckling, with burial of ashes at the church cemetery. A visitation will be Thursday, September 13 from 5-7 p.m. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to

the Bergen Lutheran Church. hansenfuneralhome.com
Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 11, 2012

Magdalene "Maggie" Manas

Magdalene Claudine "Maggie" Manas, infant daughter of Terry and Lacey Manas, rural Utica, SD, passed away early Saturday morning, September 8, 2012 at the Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, September 14, 2012 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Lesterville, SD with Msgr. Carlton Hermann and Rev. Joe Forcelle officiating. Burial will be in the Nikodym Cemetery, rural Utica, SD. Visitations will begin at 5:00 PM, Thursday, September 13, 2012 at the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tabor with a 7 p.m. wake service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Jennings Hewitt

Jennings Hewitt passed away on August 27, 2012 in Shertz, TX. A Memorial Service was conducted

on Sept. 5, 2012 in Shertz. Condolences can be sent to the Hewitt family at 746 Shady Hollow, New Braunfels, TX 78132.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Verlin "Tab" Woods
10:30 AM, Wednesday
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home
Yankton

Bonnie Johnson
11:00 AM, Saturday
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Fonda Iowa

Priscilla Schneider
7:00 PM Prayer Service, Monday
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton

WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. 605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

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