

Afghan Police Kill 4 U.S. Troops At Checkpoint

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan police killed four American soldiers coming to their aid after a checkpoint attack Sunday, the third assault by government forces or insurgents disguised in military uniforms in as many days.

The escalating violence — including a NATO airstrike that killed eight Afghan women and girls gathering firewood — is straining the military partnership between Kabul and NATO as the U.S. begins to withdraw thousands of troops sent three years ago to route the Taliban from southern strongholds.

The attacks drew unusually strong criticism Sunday from the U.S. military's top officer, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, who called the problem of rogue Afghan soldiers and police turning their guns on allied troops "a very serious threat" to the war effort.

This year, 51 international service members have died at the hands of their Afghan allies or those who have infiltrated their ranks. At least 12 such attacks came in August alone, leaving 15 dead.

The surge in insider attacks is a sign of how security has deteriorated as NATO prepares its military exit from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. The U.S. is days away from completing the first stage of its own drawdown, withdrawing 33,000 troops that were part of a military surge three years ago. The U.S. will remain with about 68,000 troops at the end of September.

Voters Are Weighing Own Economic Evidence

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's monthly jobs report has become Washington's most anticipated and studied economic indicator, pounced upon by politicians, economists and journalists for snap judgments as the presidential election nears. But in the real world, most everybody else just looks around and figures things out for themselves.

Is that steel plant closing? Are Ford or General Motors rehiring? How much are those groceries? What's a full tank of gas going to run me? How much is our house worth? How's that 401(k) doing? When will I find another job? Will our college-educated daughter ever find work and move out.

These are the kinds of questions economists and pollsters say are on people's minds more than government statistics.

"People are not looking at these government reports to decide how the economy is doing, or how well they or their neighbors are doing. They know from their own daily experience," Democratic pollster Mark Mellman said.

"The flow of economic news matters," but only to supplement what their own eyes tell them, Mellman added.

Israeli PM Makes Appeal To US Voters On Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took his case on Iran directly to U.S. voters Sunday, telling the American public in televised interviews that the White House must be willing to draw a "red line" on Tehran's nuclear program, comparing Tehran's nuclear program to Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and reminding Americans of the devastating repercussions of failed intelligence.

His remarks were an impassioned election-season plea from a world leader who insists he doesn't want to insert himself into U.S. politics and hasn't endorsed either candidate. But visibly frustrated by U.S. policy under President Barack Obama, the hawkish Israeli leader took advantage of the week's focus on unrest across the Muslim world and America's time-honored tradition of the Sunday television talk shows to appeal to Americans headed to the polls in less than two months.

Tehran claims its nuclear program is peaceful. Netanyahu said the U.S. would be foolish to believe that, using football metaphors and citing example of past terrorist attacks on U.S. soil to appeal to his American audience.

Black Christians Weigh Religious Concerns

NEW YORK (AP) — Some black clergy see no good presidential choice between a Mormon candidate and one who supports gay marriage, so they are telling their flocks to stay home on Election Day. That's a worrisome message for the nation's first African-American president, who can't afford to lose any voters from his base in a tight race.

The pastors say their congregants are asking how a true Christian could back same-sex marriage, as President Barack Obama did in May. As for Republican Mitt Romney, the first Mormon nominee from a major party, congregants are questioning the theology of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its former ban on men of African descent in the priesthood.

In 2008, Obama won 95 percent of black voters and is likely to get an overwhelming majority again. But any loss of votes would sting.

"When President Obama made the public statement on gay marriage, I think it put a question in our minds as to what direction he's taking the nation," said the Rev. A.R. Bernard, founder of the predominantly African-American Christian Cultural Center in New York. Bernard, whose endorsement is much sought-after in New York and beyond, voted for Obama in 2008. He said he's unsure how he'll vote this year.

It's unclear just how widespread the sentiment is that African-American Christians would be better off not voting at all. Many pastors have said that despite their misgivings about the candidates, blacks have fought too hard for the vote to ever stay away from the polls.

Decision 2012 | The White House

Obama Starting China Trade Case

BY JULIE PACE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will launch a new trade enforcement case against China Monday, using the power of incumbency to counter Republican Mitt Romney's criticism that he is ceding American jobs to the Asian power.

Senior administration officials said the president will announce the new case, targeting Chinese subsidies for exports of automobiles and automobile parts, Monday during a campaign trip to Ohio. The swing state has a large manufacturing base where many blame China for depressing its industry.

Obama and Romney have both pushed China — and through it, the economy — to the forefront of the White House race as they seek to refocus after a week dominated by foreign policy and the turbulent events at U.S. embassies throughout the Middle East.

Romney has accused Obama of being weak on China to the detriment of U.S. workers. The president countered with claims that Romney has investments in Chinese companies and outsourced jobs to China while running the private equity firm Bain Capital.

On Monday, with both candidates returning to the campaign trail after a weekend out of the spotlight, Obama will try to gain the upper hand in the debate.

Officials said the administration will launch enforcement action at the World Trade Organization because it says China is illegally subsidizing exports in their autos and auto parts



sectors. The U.S. says the practice puts American parts manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage and encourages the outsourcing of production to China.

The officials requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the trade action publicly ahead of the president.

The administration is taking the issue to the WTO because its attempts to get China to address the subsidies on its own have been unsuccessful, the officials said.

Jobs in the U.S. auto parts sector dropped by roughly half between 2001 and 2010, while U.S. imports of auto parts from China have increased seven-fold, according to the Obama administration.

The administration is also escalating another case it brought against China at the WTO in July that accuses China of imposing unfair duties on more than \$3 billion in exports of U.S. autos. The duties cover more than 80 percent of American auto exports to China, said the officials.

The cases stem from the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center Obama set up earlier this year to target unfair practices around the world, particularly in China.

Obama and Romney started trading barbs on China late last week.

Romney released a television advertise-

ment Thursday accusing Obama of "failing American workers" and ignoring unfair trade practices by China. And in his weekly podcast Saturday, Romney said: "In 2008, candidate Obama promised to take China 'to the mat.' But since then, he's let China run all over us."

Obama countered with a TV spot focused on its claims that Romney outsourced jobs to China while working in the private sector. Obama's campaign also released a new web video Saturday in which deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter said Romney holds investments in Chinese companies.

The maneuvering came as a new national survey by The New York Times and CBS News found that Romney has lost his longstanding edge on the question of who voters view as most likely to restore the economy and create jobs. Despite that, the poll found the race narrowly divided.

Romney's shift to China also indicated a need to shore up support among the working-class voters he needs to turn out in big numbers come November. Obama's quick counter underscored the importance of holding onto his recent gains in manufacturing-heavy Ohio.

Obama and Romney are both embarking on a week heavy with travel through battleground states and appeals to key constituencies. The candidates are courting voters in a series of must-win states and reaching out to a number of voting groups that could determine the election, from working-class white voters in states like Ohio and Wisconsin to Latino voters in Florida.

Chicago

Teachers Union To Continue Strike

BY TAMMY WEBBER  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago teachers union decided Sunday to continue its weeklong strike, extending an acrimonious standoff with Mayor Rahm Emanuel over teacher evaluations and job security provisions central to the debate over the future of public education across the United States.

Emanuel said he would seek a court order to end the strike, which he said is illegal under state law.

Union delegates declined to formally vote on a proposed contract settlement worked out over the weekend with officials from the nation's third largest school district. Schools will remain closed Monday.

Union president Karen Lewis said teachers want the opportunity to continue to discuss the offer that is on the table.

"Our members are not happy," Lewis said. "They want to know if there is anything more they can get."

She added: "They feel rushed."

She said the union's delegates will meet again Tuesday, and the soonest classes are likely to resume is Wednesday.

"We felt more comfortable being able to take back what's on the table and let our constituents look at it and digest it. We can have a much better decision come Tuesday," said Dean Refakes, a physical education teacher at Gompers Ele-

mentary School and a delegate.

Emanuel said the issues teachers are striking over are "deemed by state law to be non-striable."

"This was a strike of choice and is now a delay of choice that is wrong for our children," he said in a written statement.

The walkout, the first in Chicago in 25 years, had instantly canceled classes for 350,000 students who just returned from summer vacation and forced tens of thousands of parents to find alternatives for idle children, including many whose neighborhoods have been wracked by gang violence in recent months.

The walkout was the first for a major American city in at least six years. And it drew national attention because it posed a high-profile test for teachers unions, which have seen their political influence threatened by a growing reform movement. Unions have pushed back against efforts to expand

charter schools, bring in private companies to help with failing schools and link teacher evaluations to student test scores.

The strike carried political implications, too, raising the risk of a protracted labor battle in President Barack Obama's hometown at the height of the fall campaign, with a prominent Democratic mayor and Obama's former chief of staff squarely in the middle. Emanuel's forceful demands for reform had angered the teachers last year as the cash-strapped city began bargaining with a number of unions.

The teachers walked out Sept. 10 after months of tense contract talks that for a time appeared to be headed toward a peaceful resolution.

Emanuel and the union agreed in July on a deal to implement a longer school day with a plan to hire back 477 teachers who had been laid off rather than pay regular teachers more to work longer

hours. That raised hopes the contract would be settled before the start of fall classes, but bargaining stalled on other issues.

Emanuel decried the teachers' decision to leave classrooms, calling the walkout unnecessary and a "strike of choice."

Almost from the beginning, the two sides couldn't even agree on whether they were close to a deal. Emanuel said an agreement was within easy reach and could be sealed with school in session. The union insisted that dozens of issues remained unresolved.

Chicago's long history as a union stronghold seemed to work to the teachers' advantage. As they walked the picket lines, they were joined by many of the very people who were most inconvenienced by the work stoppage: parents who had to scramble to find baby sitters or a supervised place for children to pass the time.

phone > data > video > television advertising >

# Groundbreaking service when you're ready to break ground.

This land may look undeveloped. But at Midcontinent Business Solutions,™ we see it a little differently.

Under the surface, our phone, data and video network is growing where new businesses grow. Miles of fiber and broadband connections with reliable, local service that's ready when you need it.

When your business breaks ground, count on Midcontinent Business Solutions™ below ground.

> BUSINESS BROADBAND PACKAGES

Up to 6 mos. service

FREE

with speeds of up to 100 Mbps x 15 Mbps

Business Broadband Service starts at just

\$65

PER MO.

for up to 30 Mbps x 5 Mbps

Just call 1.800.888.1300 or visit [midcontinent.biz](http://midcontinent.biz)

Making Your Business Better.

Limited time offer. Some restrictions apply. Contract or contract extension required. Video package is Basic Cable with set top box and does not include public viewing packages. An HDTV is required to receive HD programming. Actual Internet speeds may vary depending on your computer's capacity and web traffic. Speeds may also be impacted by third party equipment (such as your computer or router). All services not available in all areas. To find out what services are available in your area, visit [midcontinent.biz](http://midcontinent.biz).

## Congratulations Adam Walsh

Home Federal Bank recently promoted Adam Walsh to the position of Business Banker in Yankton.

In his new role, Adam works with large and small businesses to help them manage everyday cash flows and anticipate their financial needs as they grow.

Stop in to congratulate Adam on his promotion at our Open House September 18 - 21!

## Open House September 18 - 21

**Yankton | 2408 Broadway | 605-260-8674**

Community. Driven. Banking.

# HOME FEDERAL BANK

Member FDIC  
Equal Housing Lender  
A Subsidiary of HF Financial Corp.  
NASDAQ: HFFC