

Hezbollah Leader Urges More Anti-U.S. Protests

BEIRUT (AP) — In a rare public appearance, the leader of the militant Hezbollah group exhorted hundreds of thousands of supporters Monday to keep up the campaign against an anti-Islam video that has unleashed deadly violence and anger at the United States across the Muslim world.

Although the massive, well-organized rally in Beirut was peaceful, protesters in Afghanistan set fires near a U.S. military base, clashed with police in Pakistan, where one demonstrator was killed, and battled with officers outside the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country.

The turmoil surrounding the low-budget video that mocks the Prophet Muhammad showed no sign of ebbing in the week after protesters first swarmed the walls of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. Four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya, died amid a demonstration in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi.

At least 10 protesters have died in the riots, and the targeting of Western diplomatic sites has forced Washington to increase security in several countries. Diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut destroyed classified material as a security precaution, according to a State Department status report.

The appeal for sustained protests by Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah group, could stoke more fury over the video, "Innocence of Muslims." Nasrallah has rarely been seen in public since his group battled Israel in a month-long war in 2006, fearing Israeli assassination. Since then, he has communicated with his followers and gives news conference mostly via satellite link.

Libyans Found Stevens Alive After Attack

CAIRO (AP) — Libyans tried to rescue Ambassador Chris Stevens, cheering "God is great" and rushing him to a hospital after they discovered him still clinging to life inside the U.S. Consulate, according to witnesses and a new video that emerged Monday from last week's attack in the city of Benghazi.

The group of Libyans had stumbled across Stevens' seemingly lifeless form inside a dark room and didn't know who he was, only that he was a foreigner, the man who shot the video and two other witnesses told The Associated Press.

The account underlines the confusion that reigned during the assault by protesters and heavily armed gunmen that overwhelmed the consulate in Benghazi last Tuesday night, killing four Americans, including Stevens, who died from smoke inhalation soon after he was found. U.S. officials are still trying to piece together how the top American diplomat in Libya got separated from others as staffers were evacuated, suffocating in what is believed to be a consulate safe-room.

The Libyans who found him expressed frustration that there was no ambulance and no first aid on hand, leaving him to be slung over a man's shoulder to be carried to a car.

"There was not a single ambulance to carry him. Maybe he was handled the wrong way," said Fahd al-Bakoush, a freelance videographer who shot the footage. "They took him to a private car."

Iran's Nuclear Chief Criticizes Agency, U.S.

VIENNA (AP) — Iran's nuclear chief said Monday that "terrorists and saboteurs" might have infiltrated the International Atomic Energy Agency in an effort to derail his nation's atomic program. It was Tehran's harshest attack on the integrity of the U.N. organization and its investigation of allegations that Iran is striving to make nuclear arms.

Fereydoun Abbasi also rebuked the United States in comments to the IAEA's 155-nation general conference, reflecting Iran's determination to continue defying international pressure aimed at curbing its nuclear program and nudging it toward cooperation with the IAEA inspection.

Revealing what he said were two sabotage attempts on his country's nuclear program, he challenged the perpetrators to launch new attacks, saying his country is determined to learn how to protect its interests through such assaults.

The defiant speech was bound to give a greater voice to hardline Israeli leaders who say that both diplomatic efforts and economic penalties have had no effect on Iran, leaving military strikes as the only alternative to stopping it from developing nuclear weapons.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a proponent of such an option, made a direct appeal to American voters on Sunday to elect a president willing to draw a "red line" with Iran.

1 Year Later Occupy Wall Street In Disarray

NEW YORK (AP) — Occupy Wall Street began to disintegrate in rapid fashion last winter, when the weekly meetings in New York City devolved into a spectacle of fistfights and vicious arguments.

Punches were thrown and objects were hurled at moderators' heads. Protesters accused each other of being patriarchal and racist and domineering. Nobody could agree on anything and nobody was in charge. The moderators went on strike and refused to show up, followed in quick succession by the people who kept meeting minutes. And then the meetings stopped altogether.

In the city where the movement was born, Occupy was falling apart.

"We weren't talking about real things at that point," says Pete Dutro, a tattoo artist who used to manage Occupy's finances but became disillusioned by the infighting and walked away months ago. "We were talking about each other."

The trouble with Occupy Wall Street, a year after it bloomed in a granite park in lower Manhattan and spread across the globe, is that nobody really knows what it is anymore. To say whether Occupy was a success or a failure depends on how you define it.

Laureate Arrives In U.S., A Milestone Journey

WASHINGTON (AP) — Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, renowned for her peaceful struggle against military rule, began a marathon tour of the U.S. Monday, the latest milestone in her remarkable journey from political prisoner to globe-trotting stateswoman.

The Nobel Peace laureate will be presented with Congress' highest award during a 17-day visit that comes as the Obama administration considers easing remaining sanctions on the country, also known as Burma. In the latest step toward political opening, Myanmar announced a new round of prisoner releases, hours before Suu Kyi touched down in Washington.

Suu Kyi meets Tuesday with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and is likely to visit the White House. She then goes to New York, the American Midwest and California in a whirlwind of speaking engagements and award ceremonies, as if making up for lost time for the years of confinement that prevented her from traveling overseas since the late 1980s.

Obama Chides China, Uses As Campaign Wedge

BY JULIE PACE AND CHARLES BABINGTON
 Associated Press

CINCINNATI — President Barack Obama lodged an unfair-trade complaint against China Monday and immediately used it as a wedge against Republican challenger Mitt Romney, whose beleaguered campaign hit another pothole — in the form of private remarks made to donors — just as it was trying to reassure anxious supporters.

Obama told voters in Ohio, where the auto industry is important, of his administration's new push for the World Trade Organization to sanction China for subsidizing exports of vehicles and auto parts — and costing American jobs.

Romney responded quickly and dismissively. Obama "may think that announcing new trade cases less than two months from Election Day will distract from his record, but the American businesses and workers struggling on an uneven playing field know better," the Republican said.

Referring to his own criticism of Obama, he said, "If I'd known all it took to get him to take action was to run an ad citing his inaction on China's cheating, I would have run one long ago."

It was Romney's own campaign, however, that preoccupied many GOP activists around the country Monday. Just as aides were trying to calm unhappy supporters, a video surfaced showing Romney telling wealthy donors that almost half of all Americans "believe they are victims" entitled to extensive government support.

"I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives," he tells the donors.

Romney was referring to the 46 percent of Americans who do not owe federal income

taxes; he put the figure at 47 percent in his videotaped remarks. Many of those Americans pay other forms of taxes. While many such households are poor, some families making \$100,000 a year or more pay no federal income tax because of various deductions and credits.

Obama's campaign manager, Jim Messina, called Romney's comments "shocking."

The Romney campaign said "Mitt Romney wants to help all Americans struggling in the Obama economy."

Hours before the video was reported by Mother Jones magazine, Romney allies tried to dampen growing complaints that the campaign fumbled opportunities at its August convention, on foreign unrest and, most crucially, on the U.S. economy, which is seen as Obama's weakest point.

Campaign adviser Ed Gillespie, in a conference call with reporters, said voters want more details about Romney's tax and spending proposals, and he promised they will come.

"We're not rolling out new policies," Gillespie said, but the campaign wants people to "understand when we say we can do these things, here's how we're going to get them done, and these are the specifics."

Obama, however, continued to taunt Romney for gaps in his deficit-cutting promises. It wasn't immediately clear when Romney might start offering more specifics.

Deficit hawks have long urged politicians of all stripes to tell voters the painful truth that services must be cut and/or taxes must be raised to slow federal deficit spending.

Romney addressed another sensitive area Monday, immigration, in his speech to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles.

He pledged to work with both parties to

Romney Puts Greater Emphasis On Specific Plans

BY KASIE HUNT AND KEN THOMAS
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican candidate Mitt Romney seems to have gotten the message from GOP critics.

The party's presidential nominee plans to spend more time talking about his policy proposals in the coming weeks — a tacit acknowledgment that it will take more than criticizing President Barack Obama on the economy to win in November. By doing so, he's heeding the advice of Republicans who have been pushing him to fill in the gaps for voters still trying to understand what a Romney presidency would look like as polls show the president ahead nationally and in key states.

But don't expect new proposals or any additional details about Romney's plans. He's mostly repackaging previously announced positions as he grapples for a way to curb Obama's momentum before next month's debates. Romney aides, meanwhile, are working behind the scenes to calm dissension in the GOP ranks and reassure nervous donors and consultants about the state of a race some Republicans worry may be getting away from their nominee.

"Our campaign is doing well," Romney insisted Monday in a Telemundo interview, hours after his advisers held a conference call to outline the path ahead. The candidate dismissed the notion that his campaign was in trouble and brushed aside reports of staff infighting, saying the public doesn't focus on what he called "process stories."

"I've got a terrific campaign," Romney added. "My senior campaign people work extraordinarily well together. I work well with them."

His effort to emphasize his proposals began Monday with a pair of new TV ads focused on "The Romney Plan" after aides spent the weekend huddling at the campaign's Boston headquarters to figure out how to shift the dynamics of the race before the debates begin Oct. 3. Romney has spent a significant amount of time preparing for those face-to-face match ups with Obama.

Advisers say Romney is working to convince voters that he is running on a serious plan to change the country, and that the

strategy shift was intended to reinforce the campaign's core message that Romney is the candidate with a five-point plan to fix the economy and get Americans back to work.

"We're not rolling out new policies ... so much as we are making sure people understand when we say we can do these things, here's how we're going to get them done and these are the specifics," Ed Gillespie, a top Romney strategist, told reporters Monday.

Voters "know that he has a plan, which is a good thing, but we also know that they'd like to know a little bit more of the specifics, and we're going to meet the demands," Gillespie said.

Romney pollster Neil Newhouse also acknowledged that Romney needs to do more to distinguish himself from the president.

"I'm not sure that voters really understand the differences between the plans Mitt Romney has and Obama has," Newhouse said. "And I think that's one thing we're committed to trying to do in moving forward is defining the differences between the two candidates on taxes."

Some Republicans welcomed Romney's attempts to emphasize his plans more.

"Many swing voters are ready to throw Obama out of office if Mitt Romney gives them some clear substance of how he will help them if elected," said Keith Appell, a Republican strategist not aligned with Romney's campaign.

Romney sought to start filling in the gaps Monday in a speech to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles. But he broke no new ground and instead discussed plans he already has proposed.

Romney talked about his plans to cut the federal deficit

and balance the budget. He said he would cut federal funding for Amtrak, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Legal Services Corporation and the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities.

The former Massachusetts governor also said he would try to stem the growth of federal programs by limiting their funding to the rate of inflation, and for Medicaid, the rate of inflation plus 1 percent.

He said he would reduce federal government employment by 10 percent "through attrition, by combining agencies and departments to reduce overhead" but did not specifically cite an agency or department he would pare back. Romney said these efforts would reduce spending by \$500 billion a year by the end of 2016.

Gillespie demurred when pressed Monday to detail more government agencies or departments Romney would cut.

"We've talked about job training," he said, also citing the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Romney doesn't typically talk about plans to cut the Housing Department in public; reporters standing on a sidewalk outside a private fundraiser

"permanently fix our immigration system." He said a fair and efficient system would never be achieved "if we do not first get control of our borders."

The careful language underscored the fine line Romney must walk between appealing to Latino voters and angering conservatives who oppose proposals for pathways to citizenship for some illegal immigrants.

Republican activists have watched with growing concern as opinion polls suggest Obama has opened a small lead over Romney since the parties' late-summer conventions. Some conservative writers have complained for months that Romney needs to put more details behind his pledges to tame the deficit while also preserving all tax cuts and expanding military spending. Others say Romney mishandled a chance to criticize Obama's foreign policy last week when the Republican nominee issued sharp remarks in the opening hours of fast-changing and complicated episodes of violence aimed at American facilities in the Middle East.

On Sunday, Politico reported significant tension and disarray in the Romney campaign. Particularly chaotic, according to the account, were efforts to draft Romney's acceptance speech at the Tampa, Fla., convention. The speech drew lackluster reviews in general, and rebukes from some for making no mention of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Romney played down the reports in an interview with Telemundo. "I've got a terrific campaign," he said. "My senior campaign people work extraordinarily well together. I work well with them."

With 50 days until the election, Romney's camp unveiled new TV ads and planned a renewed focus on policy in campaign appearances by the nominee, his running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan, and top surrogates.

in April overheard him telling donors of a plan to do so.

In the speech, Romney also said he will cut taxes on small businesses. That's often how he characterizes his plan to lower tax rates on everyone by 20 percent — including the small-business owners who often file their taxes as individuals in the highest tax bracket and would benefit from such a cut.

There are questions, though, about how to make those numbers add up. Keeping the other part of his tax promise — making sure rich people pay the same share of the overall tax burden as they do now — means he'll have to find more revenue for the government elsewhere, by closing some loopholes and eliminating tax breaks.

Some of those tax breaks, such as deductions for home mortgages, charitable contributions and health care, are very popular. Romney has refused to say which ones he'd eliminate to make the numbers add up.

Romney's running mate, Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, demurred when pressed about whether Romney would eliminate or retain the mortgage interest deduction. "I don't want to get into all these things," Ryan said.

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