

Emmy Awards Held Sunday Night

BY LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — “Homeland” struck a nerve with Emmy Award voters on Sunday, being crowned best drama series and earning Damian Lewis and Claire Danes lead acting awards.

On the comedy side, Jon Cryer of “Two and a Half Men” and “Modern Family” won again and Jimmy Kimmel proving a game but uneven host.

Lewis’ win denied Bryan Cranston of “Breaking Bad” wins his fourth Emmy Award as lead actor in a drama and made “Mad Men” star Jon Hamm an also-ran once more.

“I’m one of those pesky Brits, I apologize,” said Lewis, who plays an American in the espionage thriller. “I don’t really believe in judging art, but I thought I’d show up just in case.”

Danes, eye-catching in a bright yellow dress that gracefully draped the pregnant actress, was effusive.

“My husband, my love, my life, my baby daddy, this doesn’t mean anything without you,” she said to her spouse, actor Hugh Dancy.

Backstage, Danes said she particularly appreciated one fan: President Barack Obama has said he’s a fan of “Homeland,” about a Marine and former POW who’s suspected of working for al Qaeda.

“No pressure,” the actress said. “It’s way cool that he is a fan. It speaks to the relevancy of the show and it’s hugely validating.”

The acting trophies, along with a best writing award for the show, gave “Homeland” momentum as it headed toward the best drama award.

Aaron Paul won best supporting drama actor for “Breaking Bad” and “Homeland” won the best writing award.

At Least 9 Killed, 6 Missing In Avalanche

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — An avalanche hit climbers on a high Himalayan peak in Nepal on Sunday, leaving at least nine dead and six others missing, officials said. Many of the climbers were French or German.

Police official Basanta Bahadur Kuwar said the bodies of a Nepalese guide and a German man were recovered and that rescue pilots had spotted seven other bodies on the slopes of Mount Manaslu in northern Nepal, the eighth highest mountain in the world.

In Madrid, Spain’s Foreign Ministry said one of those killed was Spanish, but did not release the person’s identity.

The identities of the other victims were still being confirmed.

Ten other climbers survived the avalanche but many were injured and were flown to hospitals by rescue helicopters, Kuwar said.

Growing Violence May Force Peace Agreement

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli officials said Sunday they would resist any Egyptian attempts to reopen the military arrangements under the countries’ historic peace deal, despite the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Egypt’s Sinai peninsula.

But following a series of attacks staged by militants in the Sinai, including a raid that killed an Israeli soldier last week, Israel may have no choice but to allow Egypt to beef up its forces in the largely demilitarized border area.

Friday’s shooting is likely to fuel new Egyptian calls to reopen the peace treaty. In recent years, as shadowy militant groups have grown more active in the Sinai, Egyptian security officials have said they need to be allowed more firepower to bring the area under control. Ansar Jerusalem, a group inspired by al-Qaida that is hostile to both Israel and Egypt, claimed responsibility for the latest attack.

For now, Israel is standing tough. Israel’s hard-line foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, said Sunday that Israel would not agree to reevaluate the terms of the peace deal.

“There is no chance that Israel will agree to any kind of change,” he told Israel Radio. “The Egyptians shouldn’t try to delude themselves or delude others, and they should not rely on this demand.”

U.S. Fuel Prices Drop Over Past Two Weeks

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — The average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline dipped by less than one penny — about a third of a cent — over the past two weeks.

That’s according to the Lundberg Survey of fuel prices, released Sunday, which puts the price of a gallon of regular at \$3.83.

Midgrade costs an average of \$4.00 a gallon, and premium is \$4.12.

Diesel held steady at \$4.14 a gallon.

Of the cities surveyed in the lower 48 states, Jackson, Miss., has the nation’s lowest average price for gas at \$3.51. Chicago has the highest at \$4.25.

Man Target Of German Nazi War Crimes Probe

BERLIN (AP) — Germany has launched a war crimes investigation against an 87-year-old Philadelphia man it accuses of serving as an SS guard at the Auschwitz death camp, The Associated Press has learned, following years of failed U.S. Justice Department efforts to have the man stripped of his American citizenship and deported.

Johann “Hans” Breyer, a retired toolmaker, admits he was a guard at Auschwitz during World War II, but told the AP he was stationed outside the facility and had nothing to do with the wholesale slaughter of some 1.5 million Jews and others behind the gates.

The special German office that investigates Nazi war crimes has recommended that prosecutors charge him with accessory to murder and extradite him to Germany for trial on suspicion of involvement in the killing of at least 344,000 Jews at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in occupied Poland.

The AP also has obtained documents that raise doubts about Breyer’s testimony about the timing of his departure from Auschwitz.

The case is being pursued on the same legal theory used to prosecute late Ohio autoworker John Demjanjuk, who died in March while appealing his conviction in Germany on charges he served as a guard at the notorious Sobibor death camp, also in occupied Poland.

Obama Responds To Romney’s
Tough Talk On Foreign Policy

BY JOSH LEDERMAN AND
STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, defending his foreign policy record at a time of anti-American rage in the Muslim world, fired back at suggestions from Republican Mitt Romney that the president has been weak with allies and enemies alike.

In an interview airing the night before Obama meets with other world leaders at the United Nations, the president said, “If Gov. Romney is suggesting that we should start another war, he should say so.”

It was Obama’s most direct rebuttal yet to persistent skepticism by his White House rival on his handling of an unraveling situation in the Middle East. Romney has charged the U.S. stance has been marred by miscalculations, mixed messages and appeasement.

As far back as May, Romney was condemning Obama’s response to unrest in Syria, dubbing it a “policy of paralysis” and calling for more assertive measures, such as arming the opposition to Syrian President Bashar Assad. As deadly anti-American protests erupted earlier this month in Libya and elsewhere, Romney sought to undercut what polling shows is a significant foreign policy edge for Obama by calling the president’s handling of the situation “disgraceful” and decrying a lack of U.S. leadership in the region.

In a companion interview to Obama’s appearance on CBS’ “60 Minutes,” Romney broadened his reproach to include Israel, criticizing Obama’s failure to meet with the U.S. ally’s head of state, Benjamin Netanyahu, during the annual U.N. gathering. Romney called it a mistake that “sends a message throughout the Middle East that somehow we distance ourselves from our friends.”

The White House has said scheduling precluded a meeting between the two leaders, who won’t be in New York at the same time. With the final six weeks of a hard-fought election hanging over the U.N. summit, Obama has opted out of face-to-face meetings with any of his counterparts — not just Netanyahu — during his compressed U.N. visit.

But Obama pushed back on the notion that he feels pressure from Netanyahu, dismissing as noise the Israeli leader’s calls for the U.S. to lay out a “red line” that Iran’s nuclear program mustn’t cross to avoid American military intervention.

“When it comes to our national security decisions, any pressure that I feel is simply to do what’s right for the American people,” Obama said. “And I am going to block out any noise that’s out there.”

In a wide-ranging interview conducted the day after U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens was killed in an attack on Benghazi, Obama defended his foreign policy successes, noting he’d followed through on a commitment to end the war in Iraq and had nabbed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

He also waxed optimistic that winning a second term would give him a mandate to overcome obstructionism from congressional Republicans whose No. 1 goal, he said, has been to prevent his re-election.

“My expectation is, my hope is that that’s no longer their number one priority,” Obama said. “I’m hoping that after the smoke clears and the election season’s over that that spirit of cooperation comes more to the fore.”

Romney, in an interview conducted last week, sought to deflect attention from his running mate, Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, over their differences in Medicare policy: “I’m the guy running for president, not him.”

While reaffirming his commitment to lowering all income tax rates by 20 percent, Romney expressed no unease about his refusal to offer specifics, such as which loopholes and deductions he’d eliminate to pay for the cuts.

“The devil’s in the details. The angel is in the policy, which is creating more jobs,” Romney said, adding that he doesn’t want to see overall government revenue reduced.

Addressing the seemingly unshakable charge of flip-flopping on policy issues, Romney pointed the finger at Obama, noting his changes of heart on gay marriage and military tribunals for terrorism suspects.

“Have I found some things I thought would be effective? Absolutely,” Romney said. “You don’t learn from experience, you don’t learn from your mistakes — why, you know, you ought to be fired.”

The series of interviews also offered glimpses into both candidates’ personal habits, including their late-night routines. Romney said his nightly prayer is a time to connect both with the divine and with his own thoughts, and said he asks God mainly for wisdom and understanding.

Obama, describing himself as “a night guy,” said that after first lady Michelle Obama and their



GARY PORTER/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT
A supporter waves a “Forward” sign during President Barack Obama’s campaign visit to the BMO Harris Pavilion at the Summerfest grounds in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Saturday, September 22, 2012.

daughters retire around 10 p.m., he hunkers down for reading, writing and occasionally a moment alone on the Truman Balcony, with the Washington Monument and Jefferson Memorial in view.

“Those are moments of reflection that, you know, help gird you for the next challenge and the next day,” Obama said.

The “60 Minutes” interviews came as Romney’s campaign strove to turn the page on a week of public stumbles and Republican hand-wringing, promising a redoubled effort in the most competitive states to undercut Obama’s economic record as voters tune in for the final six weeks of a deadlocked race.

A secretly recorded video released last Monday showed Romney writing off his prospects for winning over the almost half of Americans who he said pay no taxes, are dependent upon government and see themselves as victims dominated the week. Ahead of an evening campaign stop at a Denver-area high school Sunday, Romney huddled with senior advisers in Los Angeles to rehearse for the three upcoming presidential debates, which his

aides see as the best opportunity to get his campaign and its message back on track.

Amid mounting pressure to spend less time raising money and more time explaining his plans to voters, Romney was refocusing his schedule on the most competitive states. “We’re going to keep on campaigning hard,” he told reporters Sunday. “I think the fundraising season is probably a little quieter going forward.”

Romney blamed Obama’s decision to bypass traditional spending limits during the 2008 campaign. “I’d far rather be spending my time out in the key swing states campaigning door to door if necessary, but in rallies and various meetings,” he said. “But fundraising is part of politics when your opponent decides not to live by the federal spending limits.”

After Colorado, Romney was to begin a three-day bus tour in Ohio on Monday followed by a stop in Virginia — states that Obama won in 2008 but that Republicans claimed four years earlier.

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