

Assad: Syria To Submit Weapons Data

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad publicly agreed Thursday to a Russian plan to secure and destroy his chemical weapons, but said the proposal would work only if the U.S. halts threats of military action.

Assad also said his government will start submitting data on its chemical weapons stockpile a month after signing the convention banning such weapons, while the U.N. said Thursday that it received a letter from Syria stating its intention to join. The treaty states that a nation becomes a party 30 days after such a letter is submitted.

But American officials, meeting with their Russian counterparts in Geneva, insisted on a speedier Syrian accounting of their stockpiles.

Assad's remarks to Russia's state Rossiya 24 news channel were his first since the Russian plan was announced Monday as a way to avert a potential U.S. military strike in response to the Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack that killed hundreds near Damascus.

He said that Syria is relinquishing control over its chemical weapons because of Russia.

Twitter To Go Public

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter is going public. The short messaging service aptly tweeted on Thursday it has filed confidential documents for an initial public offering of stock.

But the documents are sealed, as Twitter is taking advantage of federal legislation passed last year that allows companies with less than \$1 billion in revenue in its last fiscal year to avoid submitting public IPO documents.

San Francisco-based Twitter Inc. posted on its official Twitter account Thursday afternoon that it has "confidentially submitted an S-1 to the SEC for a planned IPO."

The confidentiality will likely help Twitter avoid the public hoopla that surrounded the initial public offerings of other high-profile social networking companies, including Facebook Inc., which went public in May 2012.

Twitter's IPO has been long expected. The company has been ramping up its advertising products and working to boost ad revenue in preparation.

Women Regain Jobs Faster Than Men

WASHINGTON (AP) — The slowly recovering U.S. job market has helped women rebound faster than men: They've now regained all the jobs they lost to the Great Recession. Men are still 2.1 million jobs short.

And the gender gap is expected to persist until the job market is much healthier.

To understand why, consider the kinds of jobs that are, and aren't, being added.

Lower-wage industries, like retail, education, restaurants and hotels, have been hiring the fastest. Women are predominant in those areas. Men, by contrast, dominate sectors like construction and manufacturing, which have yet to recover millions of jobs lost in the recession.

"It's a segregated labor market, and men and women do work in different industries, and even in different areas within industries," says Heidi Hartmann, an economist and president of the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Voyager 1 First to Leave Solar System

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NASA's Voyager 1 probe has left the solar system, boldly going where no machine has gone before.

Thirty-six years after it rocketed away from Earth, the plutonium-powered spacecraft has escaped the sun's influence and is now cruising 11 1/2 billion miles away in interstellar space, or the vast, cold emptiness between the stars, NASA said Thursday.

And just in case it encounters intelligent life out there, it is carrying a gold-plated, 1970s-era phonograph record with multicultural greetings from Earth, photos and songs, including Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode," along with Beethoven, Bach, Mozart and Louis Armstrong.

Never before has a man-made object left the solar system as it is commonly understood.

"We made it," said an ecstatic Ed Stone, the mission's chief scientist, who waited decades for this moment.

Somalia

American Jihadi Slain By Rivals

BY ABDI GULED AND JASON STRAZIUSO
Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — An American who became one of Somalia's most visible Islamic rebels and was on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list with a \$5 million bounty on his head was killed Thursday by rivals in the al-Qaida-linked extremist group al-Shabab, militants said.

The killing of Omar Hammami, an Alabama native known for his rap-filled propaganda videos, may discourage other would-be jihadis from the U.S. and elsewhere from traveling to Somalia, terrorism experts said.

Hammami, whose nom de guerre was Abu Mansoor Al-Amriki, or "the American," was killed in an ambush in

southern Somalia following months on the run after falling out with al-Shabab's top leader, the militants said.

Reports of Hammami's death have cropped up every few months in Somalia, only for him to resurface. But J.M. Berger, a U.S. terrorism expert who closely follows the inner workings of al-Shabab, said he thinks the current reports are accurate.

The rebels did not immediately present proof of Hammami's death.

Hammami was highly critical of al-Shabab's leadership over the past year and freely shared his views in Internet videos and on Twitter, making him a marked man.

Somalia has long been an attractive destination for foreign fighters, and al-Shabab counts several hundred foreign

fighters among its ranks, including about two dozen Somali-Americans from Minneapolis recruited over the past several years.

Hammami's death will hurt the group's recruitment efforts, said Abdurizak Bihi, an advocate for the Somali community in Minnesota and the uncle of a young man killed in Somalia in 2008.

"We always knew the Somalis inside Somalia knew that al-Shabab was bad," Bihi said. "We were concerned about the Somalis in the diaspora ... who never really knew the facts on the ground and were always manipulated and misled."

"So that's why it's a victory. They now know exactly what al-Shabab is, as much as the Somalis inside."



MICHAEL CIAGLO/COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/MCT
A worker at the Cliff House tries to help a man move his van out of the flash flood zone on Canon Avenue in Manitou Springs, Colorado, as storms continue to dump rain over the Waldo Canyon burn scar on Thursday.

Colorado Flooding Cuts Off Mountain Towns, Kills Three

BY P. SOLOMON BANDA
Associated Press

LYONS, Colo. — Heavy rains sent walls of water crashing down mountainsides Thursday in Colorado, cutting off remote towns, forcing the state's largest university to close and leaving at least three people dead across a rugged landscape that included areas blackened by recent wildfires.

After a rainy week, up to 8 more inches fell in an area spanning from the Wyoming border south to the foothills west of Denver. Flooding extended all along the Front Range mountains and into some cities, including Col-

orado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Greeley, Aurora and Boulder.

Numerous roads and highways were washed out or made impassable by floods. Floodwaters poured into homes, and at least a few buildings collapsed in the torrent.

Boulder County appeared to be hardest hit. Sheriff Joe Pelle said the town of Lyons was completely cut off because of flooded roads, and residents were huddling together on higher ground. Although everyone was believed to be safe, the deluge was expected to continue into Friday.

"It is not an ordinary disaster," Pelle said. "All the

preparation in the world ... it can't put people up those canyons while these walls of water are coming down."

Jason Stillman, 37, said he and his fiancée were forced to evacuate their home in Lyons at about 3 a.m. after a nearby river began to overflow into the street.

Stillman, who was staying at a friend's house on higher ground, went back to his neighborhood in the afternoon and saw how fast-moving water had overturned cars and swept away homes at a nearby trailer park.

"From what I could tell, my house is sitting in Class 3 rapids," he said. When he returns, "it's going to be a sobering experience."

Tropical Depression Forms Near Eastern Mexico

MIAMI (AP) — A tropical depression has formed off the eastern coast of Mexico and threatens to bring heavy rains and major flooding to parts of the region.

The National Hurricane Center said Thursday night that the depression is about 165 miles (266 kilometers) east-northeast of Veracruz, Mexico. It has maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (56 kph) and is moving westward at 5 mph (8 kph).

A tropical storm warning is in effect for eastern Mexico from Coatzacoalcas to Barra de Nautla.

Forecasters said a slow and erratic motion is expected over the far-southern Gulf of Mexico over the coming days.

Some strengthening is expected over the next two days, with the system likely becoming a tropical storm on Friday.

The depression is expected to dump 10 to 15 inches of rain over a large part of eastern Mexico, with some mountainous areas getting as much as 25 inches. Forecasters say these rains are likely to result in life-threatening flash floods and mud slides.

OBITUARIES

Robert Vesper

Robert D. Vesper, age 76, of Mission Hill, SD passed away early Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at the Avera Heritage Manor Nursing Home, Wakonda, SD.

Memorial services will be 3:00 p.m. Friday, September 13, 2013 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with Rev. Paul M. Opsahl officiating. Military Rites by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post #791 Honor Guard, the South Dakota Army Reserve National Guard Honor Guard, and the Patriot Guard standing a flag line during the visitation and service. Burial of the cremated remains will be at the Vesper Cemetery, rural Avon, SD immediately following refreshments.

Visitations will be two hours prior to the service at the funeral home.

Robert was born July 27, 1937 in rural Avon on the farm to John and Marie (Ehresmann) Vesper. He married Eva Dean Justice on May 4, 1957 in Angola, IN. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1964. He worked as an over the road truck driver until he retired in 1998. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion and the DAV. Robert enjoyed camping, playing cards, and spending time with his family. He also en-



Vesper

joyed his endless pursuit of that sack of \$100.00 bills. Robert is survived by his wife, Eva Dean of Mission Hill, SD; four sons: Jim (Debbie) Vesper of Audubon, IA, Bobby Vesper of Council Bluffs, IA, John Vesper (Todd Sorenson) of Sioux City, IA, and Josh Vesper of Yankton, SD; two daughters, Linda Hansen of Sioux City, IA, and Susie (Jeff) Hoagland of Missouri Valley, IA; one brother, Don (DeeAnn) of Hill City, SD; aunt, Ella Bartunek of Sioux Falls, SD; ten grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Marie Vesper, two brothers, Earl and Maynard Vesper.

The family request that memorials to be directed to Yankton County EMS, 805 Capital Street, Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 13, 2013

OPSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

DeLayne Graber

DeLayne Graber, 74, of Freeman passed away Tuesday at Avera Hospital.

DeLayne married Rita Fliginger in 1961.

DeLayne is survived by his wife Rita a son David of Wayne, Nebraska and a son Tom of Longmont, CO. 4 grandchildren and two brothers Ken of AZ and James of Marion.

Memorial services will be Saturday at 11:00 at the Salem Mennonite Church of rural Freeman.

Visitation will begin at 4:00 with the family present from 6:00 to 7:00 at the Walter Funeral Home.

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Adeline 'Addie' Ryken

Adeline "Addie" (Richert) Ryken, 82, of Yankton died Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, at the Wakonda Heritage Manor, Wakonda.

A Celebration of Addie's life, a time of gathering for family and friends, will be held at Riverside Park in Yankton on Sunday, Sept. 15, from 1:30-3 p.m.

Addie's online obituary and arrangements are under the care of the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton: www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com/.

Donald Kuca

Donald Kuca, 79, of Dante died Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013, at the Good Samaritan Society, Tyndall.

Funeral Mass is at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 16, at the Assumption Catholic Church, Dante. Burial is in St.

John Catholic Cemetery, rural Wagner with military honors.

Visitation is 2-5 p.m. Sunday at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner. Rosary/Wake services are 7 p.m. Sunday at the church in Dante.

GOT NEWS?

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