

Lawmakers Debate Syrian Progress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers assessing the agreement on Syria's chemical weapons argued Sunday about whether President Barack Obama was outfoxed by the Russians and had lost leverage in trying to end the civil war, or whether his threat of military action propelled the breakthrough.

Obama said the turn to diplomacy had laid "a foundation" toward political settlement of the conflict.

The deal announced Saturday in Geneva by U.S. and Russian diplomat sets an ambitious timetable for elimination of Syria's chemical weapons by mid-2014, with rapid deadlines including complete inventory of its chemical arsenal within a week and immediate access by international inspectors to chemical weapons sites.

The agreement came in response to an Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack near Damascus, the capital, that the U.S. believes was carried out by the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Republican lawmakers said that committing to remove or destroy Syria's chemical weapons was laudable, the agreement fell short by not mandating military action should Assad fail to comply.

Wave Of Bombings Kills 58 In Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A wave of car bombings and other attacks in Iraq killed at least 58 people in mostly Shiite-majority cities on Sunday, another bloody reminder of the government's failure to stem the surge of violence that is feeding sectarian tensions.

Iraq is experiencing its deadliest bout of violence since 2008, raising fears the country is returning to a period of widespread killing such as that which pushed it to the brink of civil war following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. More than 4,000 people have been killed in attacks since the start of April, including 804 just in August, according to United Nations figures.

Sunday's deadliest attack was in the city of Hillah, 95 kilometers (60 miles) south of Baghdad, where a car bomb near an outdoor market killed nine civilians and wounded 15 others, a police officer said. A few minutes later, another car bomb went off nearby, killing six civilians and wounding 14, he added.

In the nearby town of Iskandariyah, 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the capital, another car bomb hit a parking lot, killing four civilians and wounding nine, police said.

Another car bomb went off in an industrial area of the Shiite city of Karbala, killing five and wounding 25, a police officer said. Karbala is 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Baghdad. In the aftermath, security officials inspected burnt-out cars in front of what appeared to be a smashed row of workshops.

Church Bombing Anniversary Recalled

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Hundreds of people black and white, many holding hands, filled an Alabama church that was bombed by the Ku Klux Klan 50 years ago Sunday to mark the anniversary of the blast that killed four little girls and became a landmark moment in the civil rights struggle.

The Rev. Arthur Price taught the same Sunday school lesson that members of 16th Street Baptist Church heard the morning of the bombing — "A Love That Forgives." Then, the rusty old church bell was tolled four times as the girls' names were read.

Bombing survivor Sarah Collins Rudolph, who lost her right eye and sister Addie Mae Collins in the blast, stood by as members laid a wreath at the spot where the dynamite device was placed along an outside wall.

Rudolph was 12 at the time, and her family left the church after the bombing. She said it was important to return in memory of her sister, who was 14, and the three other girls who died: Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley Morris, both 14, and Denise McNair, 11.

"God spared me to live and tell just what happened on that day," said Rudolph, who testified against the Klansmen convicted years later in the bombing.

5 Children, Man Killed In Ohio Blaze

TIFFIN, Ohio (AP) — A fast-moving fire claimed the lives of a man and five children under the age of 7 on Sunday morning when it swept through a mobile home in northwest Ohio.

The fire was reported shortly before 8 a.m. Sunday in a mobile home park in Tiffin, about 50 miles southeast of Toledo. Firefighters got all six people out in about 12 minutes, but all were pronounced dead at a hospital, Tiffin Fire Chief William said.

Owanna Ortiz said her first cousin, Anna Angel, was the children's mother and lived in the home with them and the man who died. Ortiz said the family didn't have a car and had to get around on bicycles.

"If she had to get somewhere, they had two strollers they had to take, but they made it work," Ortiz said.

A stroller, a little pink bicycle and an adult bicycle with a bike trailer attached to the back could be seen outside the home with its charred and broken windows.

Federal Reserve

Summers Won't Be Considered

BY JULIE PACE AND MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawrence Summers, who was considered the leading candidate to succeed Ben Bernanke as Federal Reserve chairman, has withdrawn from consideration, the White House said Sunday.

Summers' withdrawal followed growing resistance from critics, including some members of the Senate committee that would need to back his nomination. His exit could open the door for his chief rival, Janet Yellen, the Fed's vice chair. If chosen by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate, Yellen would become the first woman to lead the Fed.

In the past, Obama has mentioned only one other candidate as possibly being under consideration: Donald Kohn,

a former Fed vice chair. But Kohn, 70, has been considered a long shot.

The administration also reached out to former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner early in the process. Geithner said he was not interested in being considered.

Obama is expected to announce a nominee for the Fed chairmanship as early as this month. Bernanke's term ends Jan. 31, 2014.

Some economists said Sunday that they think Summers' exit significantly boosts the likelihood of a Yellen nomination.

"The odds that the president will nominate Janet Yellen are now much higher," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

Still, Zandi added, "There is a chance that there is some dark horse candidate,

possibly Tim Geithner."

David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors and the author of several books on the Fed, said he saw Yellen's selection as a virtual certainty.

"There is a strong view that making a woman Fed chair is an important step," Jones said. "There is no question that her experience qualifies her for the role."

Summers and his allies had been engaged in an unusually public contest with Yellen supporters, with each side lobbying the administration.

An openly waged succession battle is something that the Fed, which will turn 100 in December, has never before witnessed. The selection of a chairman has long been a matter handled privately by a president and his senior advisers.

Syria Says Deal Is A 'Victory'

BY RYAN LUCAS AND MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — A high-ranking Syrian official called the U.S.-Russian agreement on securing Syria's chemical weapons a "victory" for President Bashar Assad's regime, but the U.S. warned Sunday "the threat of force is real" if Damascus fails to carry out the plan.

The comments by Syrian Minister of National Reconciliation Ali Haidar to a Russian state news agency were the first by a senior Syrian government official on the deal struck a day earlier in Geneva. Under the agreement, Syria will provide an inventory of its chemical arsenal within one week and hand over all of the components of its program by mid-2014.

"We welcome these agreements," Haidar was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti agency. "On the one hand, they will help Syrians get out of the crisis, and on the other hand, they averted a war against Syria by removing the pretext for those who wanted to unleash one."

He added: "These agreements are a credit to Russian diplomacy and the Russian leadership. This is a victory for Syria, achieved thanks to our Russian friends."

There has been no official statement from the Syrian government, and it was not clear whether Haidar's comments reflected Assad's thinking.

The deal, hashed out in marathon negotiations between U.S. and Russian diplomats, averts American missile strikes against the Assad regime, although the Obama administration has warned that the military option remains on the table if Damascus does not comply. President Barack Obama said last week the U.S. Navy will maintain its increased presence in the eastern Mediterranean Sea to keep pressure on Syria and to be in position to respond if diplomacy fails.

"The threat of force is real, and the Assad regime and all those taking part need to understand that President Obama and the United States are committed to achieve this goal," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday in Jerusalem, where he briefed Israeli leaders on the agreement.



MICHAEL CIAGLO/COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/MCT
Floodwaters rush down Cheyenne Creek as storms to hit the front range in Colorado Springs, Colo., Friday.

Major Floods Transform Colorado's 'Gore-Tex Vortex'

BY HANNAH DREIER AND JERI CLAUSING
Associated Press

LYONS, Colo. — The cars that normally clog Main Street in Lyons on the way to Rocky Mountain National Park have been replaced by military supply trucks. Shop owners in Estes Park hurriedly cleared their wares in fear that the Big Thompson River will rise again. A plywood sign encouraged residents mucking out their homes to "Hang in there."

Days of rain and floods have transformed the outdoors mountain communities in Colorado's Rocky Mountain foothills affectionately known as the "Gore-Tex Vortex" from a paradise into a disaster area with little in the way of supplies or services — and more rain falling Sunday.

The string of communities from Boulder to Estes Park, the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, is a base for backpackers and nature lovers where blue-collar and yuppie sensibilities exist side by side. Now, roadways have crumbled, scenic bridges are destroyed, the site of the bluegrass festival is washed out and most shops are closed.

Chris Rodes, one of Lyons' newest residents, said the change is so drastic that he is considering moving away just two weeks after settling there. "It's not the same," Rodes said. "All these beautiful

places, it's just brown mud."

Estes Park town administrator Frank Lancaster said visitors who would normally flock there during the golden September days should stay away for at least a month, but it could take a year or longer for many of the mountain roadways to be repaired.

Meanwhile, people were still trapped, the nearby hamlet of Glen Haven has been "destroyed" and the continuing rain threatened a new round of flooding, he said.

"We are all crossing our fingers and praying" he said.

The residents who remained or began trickling back — if they were allowed to do so — were left to watch out for one another. Restaurateurs and grocers in Lyons were distributing food to their neighbors as others arrived in groups carrying supplies.

From the mountain communities east to the plains city of Fort Morgan, numerous pockets of individuals remained cut off by the flooding. Sunday's rain hampered the helicopter searches, and rescuers trekked by ground up dangerous canyon roads to reach some of those homes isolated since Wednesday.

The surging waters have been deadly, with four people confirmed dead and two more missing and presumed dead after their homes were swept away.

Some 1,500 homes have been destroyed and about 17,500 have been damaged, ac-

cording to an initial estimate released by the Colorado Office of Emergency Management on its website.

In addition, 11,700 people left their homes, and a total of 1,253 people have not been heard from, state emergency officials said.

With phone service being restored to some of the areas over the weekend, officials hoped that number would drop as they contacted more stranded people.

As many as 1,000 people in Larimer County were awaiting rescue Sunday, but airlifts were grounded because of the rain, Type 2 Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team commander Shane Del Grosso said.

Hundreds more people are unaccounted for to the south in Boulder County and other flood-affected areas.

OBITUARIES

Mildred Nelson

Mildred Rose Nelson, 96, of Yankton died Sept. 14, 2013, at Avera Brady Health & Rehabilitation, Mitchell.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18, at the United Church of Christ Congregational, Yankton, with the Rev. Paul Opsahl officiating. Burial will be

in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitation with the family present is at 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral at the church on Wednesday.

To send an online sympathy card, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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Solitaires

A social group of ladies who have lost their spouse which meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Hospitality Center on the grounds of Wintz & Ray Funeral Home.

Please join us for our next social on

Wednesday, Sept. 18th

6pm Potluck

**6:45 Speaker – Andy Henrickson,
Life Long Learning Opportunities**

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Calendars
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October 16
November 20

*Honoring
Their Memory*

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*Our care and concern does not
end with the funeral service.
This week we remember with
family and friends the
anniversary of the deaths of:*

Florence F. Weber
who passed away on
September 19, 2012

Teresa Potts
who passed away on
September 20, 2012

Hazel M. German
who passed away on
September 21, 2012

Daniel Winter
who passed away on
September 21, 2012

**Helen Dorothy
Maruska**
who passed away on
September 21, 2012

Carolyn Howen
who passed away on
September 20, 2007

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