

Military In Burkina Faso Confirms Coup

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) — Burkina's military seized the airwaves and installed a general loyal to the ex-president Thursday as the new head of state, carrying out a coup weeks before national elections.

The developments capped a dramatic year in this West African country where President Blaise Compaore was ousted in a popular uprising last October after he tried to prolong his 27-year rule.

That paved the way for the formation of a transitional government, but soldiers arrested the interim president and prime minister late Wednesday and announced hours later that they had been removed from office.

The political unrest sparked violence in the streets, and the presidential guard opened fire with live ammunition to disperse crowds protesting the coup, witnesses said late Wednesday. Associated Press journalists saw the bodies of at least six victims at a morgue in the capital of Ouagadougou on Thursday.

Members of the presidential guard wandered about the city in pickups and on motorcycles seeking to disperse any gatherings late Thursday.

AP Investigation Prompts Rescue

AMBON, Indonesia (AP) — More than 2,000 fishermen have been rescued this year from brutal conditions at sea, liberated as a result of an Associated Press investigation into seafood brought to the U.S. from a slave island in eastern Indonesia.

Dozens of Burmese men in the bustling port town of Ambon were the latest to go home, some more than a decade after being trafficked onto Thai trawlers. Grabbing one another's hands, the men walked together toward buses last week. As they pulled away for the airport, some of those still waiting their turn to go home cheered, throwing their arms in the air.

"I'm sure my parents think I'm dead," said Tin Lin Tun, 25, who lost contact with his family after a broker lured him to Thailand five years ago. Instead of working in construction, as promised, he was sold onto a fishing boat and taken to Indonesia. "I'm their only son. They're going to cry so hard when they see me."

The reunion he envisions has played out hundreds of times since March, after the AP tracked fish — caught by men who were savagely beaten and caged — to the supply chains of some of America's biggest food sellers, such as Wal-Mart, Sysco and Kroger, and popular brands of canned pet food like Fancy Feast, Meow Mix and Iams. It can turn up as calamari at fine restaurants, as imitation crab in a sushi roll or as packages of frozen snapper relabeled with store brands that land on our dinner tables. The U.S. companies have all said they strongly condemn labor abuse and are taking steps to prevent it.

In response, a multimillion-dollar Thai-Indonesian fishing business has been shut down, at least nine people have been arrested and two fishing cargo vessels have been seized. In the U.S., importers have demanded change, three class-action lawsuits are underway, new laws have been introduced and the Obama administration is pushing exporters to clean up their labor practices. The AP's work was entered into the congressional record for a hearing, and is scheduled to be brought up for discussion again later this month.

Muslim Group: We Don't Fault School

IRVING, Texas (AP) — One of the largest Muslim groups in Texas said Thursday that it does not fault police and school officials who handcuffed and suspended a 14-year-old Muslim boy after he brought a homemade clock to class that they mistook for a possible bomb.

Instead, Khalid Hamideh of the Islamic Association of North Texas blamed political leaders for espousing inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric and creating a "climate of fear."

"We're not pointing a finger at the school district or the police department," Hamideh said. "Under the current climate that exists in this country, you can't really blame them because when they see something like that, they have to react."

The association operates the mosque attended by the family of Ahmed Mohamed, the suburban Dallas student who became a sensation on social media after word spread about his clock and the way he was treated.

Ahmed was pulled from class Monday after he showed the device to a teacher. He was questioned by the principal and police, then handcuffed and taken to the police station.

Croatia Puts Army On Alert

BATINA, Croatia (AP) — Croatian leaders put the army on alert after chaos erupted Thursday on the border with Serbia, where thousands of asylum-seekers poured into the country, some trampling each other in a rush to get on the few available buses and trains. Dozens were injured in the mayhem.

The masses descended on Croatia after Hungary erected a barbed wire-fence and took other tough measures to stop them from using it as a gateway into Western Europe.

As Hungarian officials hailed their success in putting a halt to the influx and moved ahead with plans to build more border fences, leaders in Croatia pleaded that their country was at full capacity and unable to cope with waves of people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa.

Croatian Interior Minister Ranko Ostojic said he had a message for migrants: Don't try to go to Western Europe through his country.

"Don't come here anymore. Stay in refugee centers in Serbia and Macedonia and Greece," Ostojic told reporters. "This is not the road to Europe. Buses can't take you there. It's a lie."

Chile Withstands 8.3-Magnitude Quake

COQUIMBO, Chile (AP) — Parts of this port city were a disaster zone Thursday after an 8.3-magnitude quake hit off the coast, killing at least 11 people and likely causing billions in damage. Overturned cars and splintered boats sat mud next to furniture, toppled adobe homes and fishing nets tangled in trees.

The most stunning thing about Wednesday night's earthquake, however, may be the relatively low amount of havoc caused by such a powerful shake.

While the quake led more than 1 million to evacuate coastal areas and no doubt caused much anxiety, seismologists said Chile's heavy investment in structural reinforcement of buildings and constant refinement of its tsunami alert system helped prevent what would have been a catastrophe in less prepared nations.

"Chile has good codes and good compliance, which together have reduced the vulnerabilities of their building stock over the decades," said Richard Olson, director of Florida International University's Extreme Events Institute. "I would rather be there in one of their cities than in many other countries in an earthquake."

Living in one of the world's most seismically active places, the Andean nation's 17 million people have little choice but become experts in earthquakes. The strongest earthquake ever recorded happened in Chile: a magnitude-9.5 tremor in 1960 that killed more than 5,000 people.

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's Trial Begins

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The commanders of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's platoon, company and battalion testified Thursday that his disappearance from his post in Afghanistan six years ago put a strain on their forces and put his fellow soldiers in danger.

Attorneys for Bergdahl, who is charged with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, will get to present their own evidence and call witnesses on Friday on the second day of the hearing to determine if Bergdahl should face a court-martial. His lead attorney, Eugene Fidell, said after Thursday's proceedings that he would call four witnesses, though he declined to say if Bergdahl would be one of them.

Military prosecutors focused on trying to substantiate the misbehavior charge, which carries a possible life sentence and which would require them to prove that Bergdahl's actions put other soldiers in harm's way.

Capt. John Billings, who led Bergdahl's platoon, described the 45-day search for the Idaho native as grueling, saying soldiers got little food or sleep and endured temperatures in the high-90s.



President Barack Obama meets with U.S. Army Specialist Alek Skarlatos, U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Spencer Stone and Anthony Sadler, the three young Americans who responded heroically on the train in Paris last month, in the Oval Office of the White House on Thursday, Sept. 17 in Washington, D.C.

Obama: Trio Who Thwarted Train Attack Are 'Best Of America'

BY NANCY BENAC
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This time, they suited up.

The three young Americans who thwarted a gunman on a Paris-bound passenger train last month got their moment in the Oval Office on Thursday — and they dressed for it.

President Barack Obama praised Alek Skarlatos, Spencer Stone and Anthony Sadler for teamwork, courage and quick-thinking actions that averted "a real calamity."

He celebrated them as three friends who had been headed for a fun reunion in Paris when they "ended up engaging a potential catastrophic situation and pinning down someone who clearly was intent on doing a lot of harm to a lot of people, inflicting terror on the French people."

The three sat attentively

on an Oval Office couch and chair as Obama praised them as "the very best of America."

They previously had been awarded France's highest honor by President Francois Hollande. They showed up for that hastily scheduled ceremony at the ornate Elysee Palace a little underdressed, in polo shirts and khakis.

This time, Oregon National Guardsman Skarlatos and Airman 1st Class Stone were in military uniform, and Sadler, a senior at Sacramento State University, wore a sport coat and open-collared dress shirt.

"It's these kinds of young people who make me extraordinarily optimistic about the future," Obama said.

The three last month subdued a man with ties to radical Islam who boarded the train with a Kalashnikov rifle, a pistol and a box cutter. A British businessman and a French-American also have

been praised for their efforts to stop the gunman.

As for what the future holds, Obama said Stone, whose hand was injured in the attack, is "making real progress" and intends to pursue work in medicine, Sadler is studying sports medicine and therapy, and Skarlatos, "as soon as he's finished on 'Dancing with the Stars,' plans to get into law enforcement."

"Whatever they do," the president added, "they're going to do it well."

After visiting the White House, the three were off to the Pentagon to pick up more honors.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James presented Stone with the Purple Heart in recognition of the injuries he suffered, and he also received the Airman's Medal. Skarlatos was awarded the Soldier's Medal, and Sadler was given the Secretary of Defense's

Medal of Valor.

"When some took cover and ran, when others were unsure what to do, these three friends said, 'Let's go,'" Defense Secretary Ash Carter said.

Carter said their rallying cry recalled the stirring words of those aboard the hijacked airliner on 9/11 who shouted, "Let's roll," before charging the cockpit and forcing the plane to crash in a Pennsylvania field before it could reach its intended target.

It's been a head-snapping month for the three twenty-somethings since their quick actions on the train transformed them into instant celebrities.

In addition to their official honors, the three have appeared in a California parade, Sadler had a turn on "The Tonight Show" with Jimmy Fallon, and Skarlatos is "DWTS" material on ABC.

Poland's Pro-Defense Forces Hold First Nationwide Rally

BY MONIKA SCISLOWSKA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Hundreds of members of pro-defense forces marched in downtown Warsaw on Thursday to show their readiness to defend Poland if needed, amid concerns over the conflict in neighboring Ukraine and Russia's role in it.

"We have come here to tell Poland that we are ready to defend her and to see to the security of our countrymen in time of need," retired Gen. Boguslaw Pacek said before the parade.

Pacek is the head of the Federation of Pro-Defense Organizations and their liaison with the professional military. The federation was formally initiated in cooperation with the armed forces in March, in response to grassroots actions by ordinary Poles and paramilitary organizations.

It includes scouts and high school students who want to join the police and the military, or to support them in times of peace or conflict. They learn to shoot, offer first aid and read maps. They draw inspiration from pre-World War II educational and sport organizations that were preparing young Poles to help defend

the country and who later fought in the clandestine Home Army and in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against the Germans.

"I think everyone, even women, should train to be able to fight and defend the country," said Aneta Brudzynska, 17, a female student of a pre-military training class in Przemysl, in the southeast.

"The situation is unstable and who knows in which direction it will go."

Pacek said that around 50,000 people belong to the federation now, and he expects the number to grow to about 100,000 in the next year.

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Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. is pleased to announce the association of

April K. Willman

MD, FAAP, Board Certified Pediatrician

Dr. Willman completed her residency in pediatrics at the University of Missouri in Columbia and received her medical degree from the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota. She completed her undergraduate work at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Dr. Willman will join Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. September 22, 2015. She specializes in pediatric care for newborns and children up to 18 years and has expertise in caring for premature babies, providing support for parents and children to develop healthy lifestyles, and cares for acute and chronic illnesses in children. Part of her practice is the evaluation and care for physical and emotional development, including ADHD.

She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Willman and her husband, Dave, are the parents of two children and reside in Yankton.

Dr. Willman will begin seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. September 22, 2015.

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Please call today to schedule an appointment.