

## UN Summit Approves 15-Year Blueprint

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — With the bang of a gavel, international leaders approved an ambitious 15-year plan Friday to tackle the world's biggest problems, from eradicating poverty to preserving the planet to reducing inequality. Now comes the tough part: Drumming up support and money to achieve the goals and transform the world.

Pope Francis gave his backing to the new development agenda in an address to the U.N. General Assembly before the summit to adopt the 17-point plan opened, calling it "an important sign of hope" at a very troubled time in the Middle East and Africa.

When General Assembly President Mogens Lykketoft struck his gavel to approve the development road map, leaders and diplomats from the 193 U.N. member states stood and applauded loudly.

Then, the summit immediately turned to the real business of the three-day meeting — implementation of the goals, which is expected to cost \$3.5 trillion to \$5 trillion every year until 2030.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set the stage, saying the agenda "embodies the aspirations of people everywhere for lives of peace, security and dignity on a healthy planet."

## Saudi Arabia Accused Of Neglect At Hajj

MINA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia faced new accusations of neglect Friday in the hajj disaster that killed over 700 people, the second tragedy at this year's pilgrimage overseen by the kingdom's rulers who base their legitimacy in part on protecting Islam's holiest sites.

Leading the criticism was regional Shiite powerhouse Iran, which always seeks an opportunity to undermine its Sunni adversary.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said in New York that at least 140 Iranians were killed. He suggested that "ineptitude" by the Saudi authorities involved in organizing the hajj was to blame for the two accidents this month that have resulted in at least 830 deaths.

In Tehran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned a Saudi envoy for the second time in as many days to hear protests over the incident, a vice president blamed Saudi "mismanagement," and thousands marched in the streets and denounced the Saudi royal family.

Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars and undertaken massive construction projects to make the annual hajj safer for the world's Muslims, and the last serious loss of life had occurred nine years ago.

## Slaying Among 6 Killings Going Ignored

SAN MIGUEL TECOMATLAN, Mexico (AP) — Unlike the families of the 43 students who disappeared a year ago, Julio Cesar Mondragon's loved ones were left with a body to bury. But there is little comfort in that, because Mondragon's corpse bore witness to the horror of his final moments.

His autopsy showed several skull fractures, internal bleeding and other injuries consistent with torture. His face had been flayed, a tactic often used by the drug cartels to incite terror. Photos of his bloody skull were uploaded to the Internet.

International attention has been focused on the 43 students who vanished a year ago Saturday, but six others died at the hands of police in those hours, including Mondragon, a 22-year-old father of girl who is now 1 year old. According to an independent group of experts, the disappearances and the killings were the result of a long, coordinated attack against students from the Raul Isidro Burgos Rural Normal School of Ayotzinapa who had come to the southern city of Iguala to commandeer buses for a protest.

But the events of last Sept. 26 were far from isolated. Some 25,000 people have been reported missing in Mexico since 2007, and hundreds from the Iguala area in the last year alone. The disappearance of the students has drawn attention to others who have been lost, as well as brutal drug cartels, official corruption, government indifference and languishing legal cases.

According to Mexico's former attorney general, the 43 disappeared in an attack by police and the Guerreros Unidos drug gang because they were mistaken for rival gang members. The attorney general said last November they were killed and burned to ash in a giant pyre in the nearby Cocula garbage dump.

## UN Session Starts, Deal Is Discussed

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is holding out the possibility for improved relations with the United States if the international nuclear deal that has caused controversy in both the U.S. and Iran gets fully implemented later this year.

Asked specifically about the possibility of freeing *Washington Post* journalist Jason Rezaian, who has been held for over a year in an Iranian prison, Rouhani said he favored freeing U.S. prisoners in Iran and all Iranians held in U.S. jails, but the matter was mainly in the hands of Iran's judiciary.

Speaking to a group of editors Friday after arriving for the annual U.N. General Assembly, Rouhani said implementation of the nuclear deal would improve the atmosphere to allow progress to be made.

Rouhani started his meeting with editors by pointing out the July nuclear framework agreement reached among Iran, the European Union, Germany, the United States and other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council had altered the diplomatic landscape for Iran at this year's assembly. The deal lays out a plan of action for Iran to eliminate nuclear stockpiles and enrichment capacity for the next 15 years in exchange for lifting most economic sanctions against Iran.

"This year, we have passed the threshold," Rouhani said.

# Speaker Boehner Resigns From Congress, Victory For Tea Party

BY ERICA WERNER

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Plunging Congress into deeper turmoil, House Speaker John Boehner abruptly announced his resignation Friday, shutting down a Tea Party drive to depose the nation's highest-ranking Republican but opening up fresh troubles for the GOP.

The 13-term Ohio lawmaker, second in line to the presidency, shocked his rank-and-file when he told them of his plans in an emotional closed-door meeting. He said he would step down from the speaker's job he's held for nearly five years, and from Congress, at the end of October.

One important result: A government shutdown threatened for next week is all but sure to be averted — but only for now. A new December deadline and a potentially market-rattling fight over the government's borrowing limit still lie ahead.

Boehner's announcement came one day after a high point of his congressional career, a historic speech by Pope Francis to Congress at the speaker's request.

It also came before what would have been a new low: a potential floor vote to oust him as speaker, pushed by Republican Tea Partiers convinced he was capitulating in a struggle over Planned Parenthood funding that threatened a government



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/TNS

**His Holiness Pope Francis shakes hands with Speaker of the House John Boehner as Vice President Joe Biden looks on at a joint session of Congress at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, Sept. 24.**

shutdown next Thursday. Such a formal challenge against a speaker has not been used in the House for over 100 years.

On Friday, an upbeat Boehner declared that he'd decided to spare the House, and himself, the chaos such a vote would bring.

"It's become clear to me that this prolonged leadership turmoil would do irreparable harm to the institution," he said.

"I don't want my members to have to go through this. I certainly don't want the institution to go through this," he said. Of his resigna-

## Pope Francis Mingles With High & Low In NY Visit

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sweeping through the landmarks of America's biggest city, Pope Francis on Friday offered comfort to 9/11 victims' families at ground zero, warnings to world leaders at the United Nations and encouragement to schoolchildren in Harlem as he mixed the high and low ministry so characteristic of his papacy.

In the early evening, he led a jubilant parade through Central Park past a crowd of about 80,000 and celebrated Mass at Madison Square Garden, usually the site of basketball games and rock concerts, but this time the scene of a solemn service celebrating New York in all its diversity. "Living in a big city is not always easy," Francis told 18,000 people at the Garden, easily one of the most respectful crowds the arena has ever seen. "Yet big cities are a reminder of the hidden riches present in our world in the diversity of its cultures, traditions and historical experiences."

Francis' itinerary for his only full day in New York was packed with contrasts befitting a head of state dubbed the "slum pope" for his devotion to the poor. He moved from the corridors of power to the grit of the projects with lush Central Park in between.

He drew huge, adoring crowds while also managing to connect one-on-one

with countless New Yorkers, despite extraordinarily tight security that closed off many streets and kept most spectators behind police barricades.

"As he passed by, you felt a cool, refreshing peace, as if he were spreading a huge blanket of peace through the crowd," Ruth Smart of Brooklyn said of the procession in Central Park. "Even though the crowd exploded in a roar, it was pure joy."

On Saturday morning, he flies to Philadelphia for a big

Vatican-sponsored rally for Catholic families. As many as 1 million people are expected for the closing Mass on Sunday, the last day of Francis' six-day, three-city visit to the U.S., the first of his life.

As Friday's Mass came to a close with a sustained and thunderous roar of applause, the toll of the long day seemed evident as an exhausted Francis walked with assistance down the stairs of the altar. The Vatican spokesman said Francis, who suffers from sciatica and a bad knee,

is feeling the effects of missed physiotherapy appointments while he's been on the road but still has energy for the final two days of the trip.

In his speech at the U.N., the pope declared the environment itself has rights, and that mankind has no authority to abuse them, presenting his environmental mantra live before world leaders in hopes of spurring concrete commitments at the upcoming climate-change negotiations in Paris.

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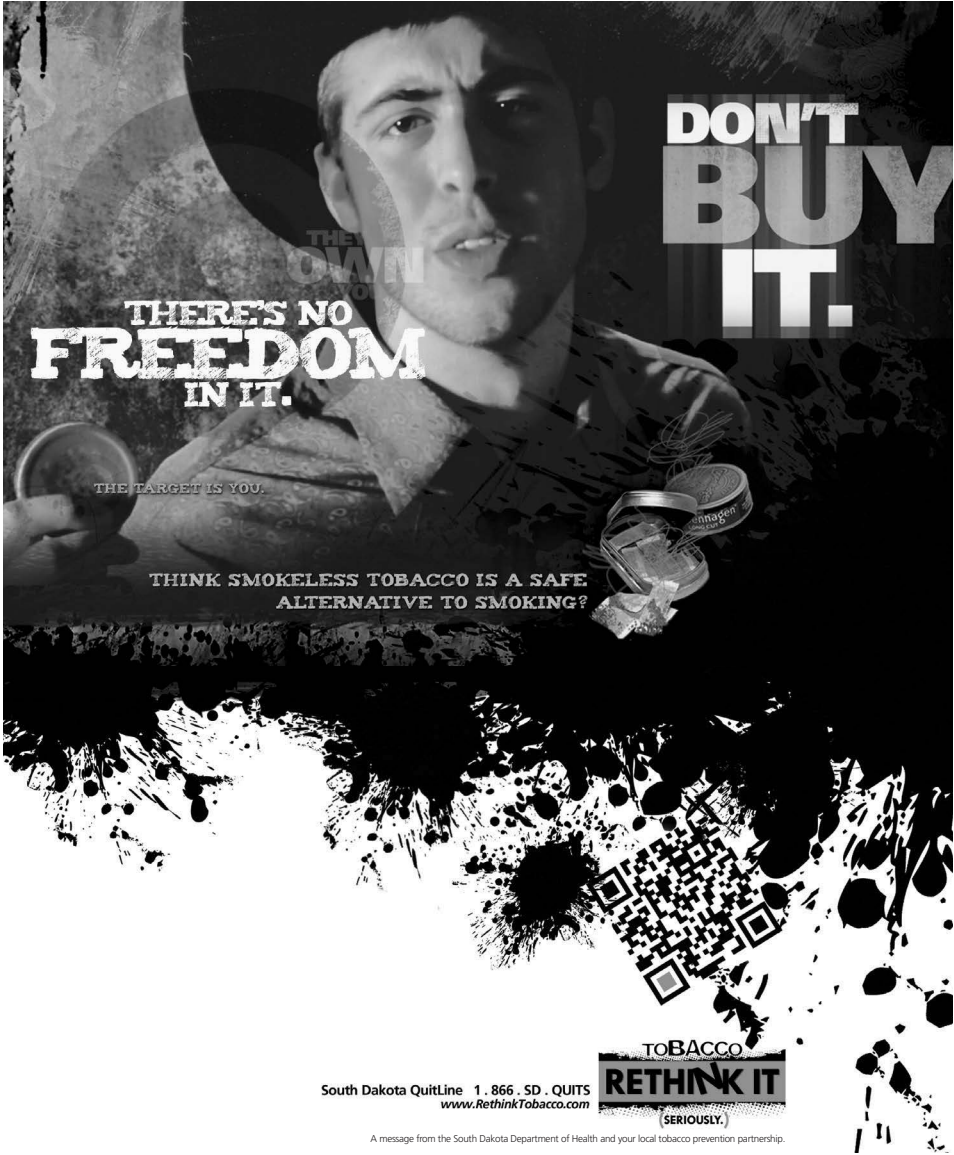
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