

# News

## World cont'd from pg 12

is once again using toxic agents such as chlorine against its opponents.

In the east, the U.S. military launched rare airstrikes on pro-government fighters following a coordinated assault on U.S.-backed forces accompanied by U.S. advisers. That has increased fears that American troops meant to fight Islamic State militants increasingly are being dragged into the war.

### South African Police Raid Business Family Linked to Zuma

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African police on Wednesday raided the home of a business family linked to President Jacob Zuma as the nation awaited word from the embattled leader on whether he will obey a ruling party order to quit.

Agents from the Hawks, an elite police investigative unit, entered the compound of the Gupta family in an affluent Johannesburg neighborhood. Three people were arrested in operations at various addresses, the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported.

The family is suspected of using its connections to Zuma to influence Cabinet appointments and win state contracts and has been a flashpoint for national anger over corruption in state enterprises during Zuma's tenure. Both the Guptas and Zuma say they've done nothing wrong.

A judicial commission is preparing to investigate the alleged graft associated with the India-born Gupta brothers,

who moved to South Africa around the time of the transition from white minority rule to democracy in the 1990s. One of Zuma's sons, Duduzane, had a business relationship with the Guptas.

Meanwhile, there was no immediate response from Zuma to an announcement Tuesday by the ruling African National Congress party that the president must leave office. The ANC party, which has lost popularity because of the scandals linked to Zuma, is trying to resolve a leadership crisis that has disrupted one of Africa's biggest economies.

### GOP Women Frustrated By Trump's Approach to Abuse Charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump White House's handling of abuse charges against men in its midst is frustrating prominent Republican women as the party's yearslong struggle to attract female voters stretches into the 2018 midterm elections.

"It's the mixed signals. They've just got to be stronger, more consistent, clearer in the message" to women, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., said Tuesday. "It's difficult being a Republican woman to have to fight through that all the time."

The thrice-married Trump added a new chapter to his difficult history with female voters in the past week by refusing to offer public words of support to the ex-wives of two senior presidential aides. Rob Porter, the president's staff secretary, resigned last week after ex-wives Colbie Holderness and Jennifer Willoughby came forward with allegations of abuse. DailyMail.com published photos of Holderness with



In this Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018 file photo, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chairs the weekly cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem. Israeli media reports Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018 say police recommending Netanyahu indictment on corruption charges, including bribery.

a black eye. Porter denied harming either of them.

A second White House official, Trump speechwriter David Sorensen, left the White House last Friday after his ex-wife, Jessica Corbett, described physical abuse that included being thrown into a wall and burned by a cigarette. He too denied the allegations.

But Trump has had only good things to say about Porter and voiced sympathy for him. The president has refused to express support for the women involved or personally condemn domestic abuse.

### A Westminster Wow: Bichon Frise Becomes America's Top Dog

NEW YORK (AP) — Flynn the bichon

frise won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club on Tuesday night, a choice that seemed to surprise almost everyone in the crowd at Madison Square Garden.

Fans who had been loudly shouting for their favorites fell into stunned silence when judge Betty-Anne Stenmark announced her decision.

No matter, the white powder puff was picked and walked off as America's top dog.

Guided by expert handler Bill McFadden, Flynn beat out Ty the giant schnauzer, Biggie the pug, Bean the Sussex spaniel, Lucy the borzoi, Slick the border collie and Winston the Norfolk terrier.

"It feels a little unreal," McFadden said. "I came in expecting nothing except hoping for a good performance, and I think I got it."

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