



Member of a rightist group offer silent prayers for the victims of the atomic bombing with anti-U.S. banners near the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Thursday. Japan marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Thursday. A banner, left, reads “Is U.S. righteous? human rights? Don’t make a fool of victims!”

Japan marks 70th anniversary of Hiroshima atomic bombing

Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan — Japan marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Thursday, with Mayor Kazumi Matsui renewing calls for U.S. President Barack Obama and other world leaders to step up efforts toward making a nuclear weapons free world.

Tens of thousands of attendants stood for a minute of silence at 8:30 a.m. at the ceremony in Hiroshima’s peace park near the epicenter of the 1945 attack, marking the moment of the atomic blast. Then dozens of doves were released as a symbol of peace.

The U.S. bomb, “Little Boy,” the first one used at war, killed 140,000 people, and a second bomb “Fat Man,” dropped over Nagasaki three days later, killed another 70,000, prompting Japan’s surrender in World War II.

Matsui called the nuclear weapons “the ultimate inhumanity and the absolute evil” that must be abolished, and criticized nuclear powers for keeping them as threats to achieve their national interests. He said the world still bristles

with more than 15,000 nuclear weapons.

He renewed an invitation to Obama and other world leaders to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to see the scars themselves.

“President Obama and other policy-makers, please come to the A-bombed cities, hear the hibakusha (survivors) with your own ears, and encounter the reality of the atomic bombings,” he said. “Surely, you will be impelled to start discussing a legal framework, including a nuclear weapons convention.”

The anniversary comes as Japan is divided over Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s push to pass unpopular legislation to expand the country’s military role internationally, a year after his Cabinet’s decision to loosen Japan’s war-renouncing constitution by adopting a new interpretation of it.

“We must establish a broad national security framework that does not rely on use of force but is based on trust,” Matsui said. He urged the Japanese government to stick with “the pacifism of the Japanese Constitution” to lead the global effort of no proliferation.

Abe said that as the sole country to

face a nuclear attack, Japan had a duty to push for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He pledged to promote the cause through international conferences to be held in Hiroshima later this month.

With the average age of survivors now exceeding 80 years for the first time this year, passing on their stories is considered an urgent task. There were 5,359 “hibakusha,” or survivors, who died over the past year, bringing the total death toll from the Hiroshima bombing to 297,684.

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The sea of people who attended the ceremony this year also included U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and representatives from more than 100 countries, including Britain, France and Russia.

“Little Boy,” dropped from the Enola Gay, a B-29 bomber, destroyed 90 percent of the city and killed an estimated 140,000 people, including those who succumbed to injuries and radiation sickness in the ensuing weeks.

Candidate who didn’t even vote wins Mississippi Democratic nomination

By EMILY WAGSTER
PETTUS
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The 46-year-old truck driver who won the Democratic nomination for Mississippi governor says he spent nothing on his campaign and knows nobody in politics. He didn’t even vote in the primary because he says he was busy.

Robert Gray can’t explain how he defeated the trial lawyer who was the favored candidate of the party establishment in Tuesday’s primary.

Gray, who has lived in the Jackson area most of his life, visited the state Capitol on Wednesday for what he said was the first time — and it was at the request of reporters trying to answer the biggest question in this Republican-dominated state: Who the heck is this guy?

“Everybody’s been trying to figure out who I am. I guess I’m a quiet person, by nature,” said Gray, who uses the CB handle “Silent Knight,” because, well, he’s not exactly chatty.

Democrats controlled Mississippi politics for decades, but they’ve been steamrolled in most governor’s races for a generation. Now, many longtime Democrats worry that Gray will simply be the next hapless victim of a well-funded Republican machine.

“Does anybody know or has anybody ever seen Democratic gubernatorial nominee Robert Gray?” Marty Wiseman, a Democratic-leaning retired political scientist, said on Facebook.

Wiseman questioned how someone who made few appearances could carry most counties and win a three-person primary without a runoff: “Something ain’t right about all this.”

Gray has driven a big rig since the early 1990s and said he is making his first run for



Robert Gray of Jackson, who won the Democratic primary for governor over two candidates, is interviewed in the hallway of the state Capitol in Jackson, Miss., Wednesday.

office because Republican Gov. Phil Bryant is failing to help improve life in a state where poverty is a persistent problem. Gray said he wants to expand Medicaid and spend more on schools and highways. He has never worked on legislation, but he listens to a lot of public radio while he’s driving, and he uses the word “infrastructure” as casually as any policy wonk.

Bryant, 60, has held office for about 25 years, a little longer than Gray has been hauling freight. Bryant moved up from state representative to auditor to lieutenant governor and then to governor.

Gray said he’s not daunted by Bryant’s \$2.8 million campaign fund: “I hope he spends it, because, believe it or not, that helps the economy.”

Other low-budget candidates have won Democratic nominations in the conservative South in recent years. In 2014 in Tennessee, Democrat Charlie Brown, who had no campaign organization, lost the governor’s race by a wide margin to Republican incum-

bent Bill Haslam. In 2010 in South Carolina, unemployed Army veteran Alvin Greene won the Democratic primary for a U.S. Senate seat with few public appearances and no campaign cash; he lost the general election to Republican Sen. Jim DeMint.

Mississippi Democratic

chairman Rickey Cole met privately with Gray on Wednesday at the party headquarters, and said he believes that the nominee will appeal to voters who are sick of slick politicians.

“He brings to the race an authenticity that’s totally unscribed,” Cole said.

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BRIEFLY

Obama: Critics of Iran nuclear deal ‘selling a fantasy’

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama assailed critics of his Iran nuclear deal Wednesday as “selling a fantasy” to the American people, warning Congress that blocking the accord would damage the nation’s credibility and increase the likelihood of more war in the Middle East.

Besides challenging opponents at home, Obama cast Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as an isolated international opponent of the historic accord, saying, “I do not doubt his sincerity, but I believe he is wrong.”

The agreement would require Iran to dismantle most of its nuclear program for at least a decade in exchange for billions of dollars in relief from international sanctions. But Netanyahu and some critics in the U.S. argue that it would not stop Iran from building a bomb.

The president’s blunt remarks, in an hour-long address at American University, were part of an intense lobbying campaign by the White House ahead of Congress’ vote next month to either approve or disapprove the international agreement. Opponents of the agreement have streamed to Capitol Hill, too, to make their case, and they have spent tens of millions of dollars on advertisements.

The stakes are high, Obama said, contending that it isn’t just Iran’s ability to build a bomb that is on the line but also “America’s credibility as the anchor of the international system.”

Obama’s diplomatic overtures to Iran, a centerpiece of his foreign policy agenda, have put him at odds with Republicans and some Democrats, as well as with Netanyahu, who has campaigned vigorously against the deal.

Netanyahu and U.S. critics of the Iran deal say Obama is presenting a false choice between accepting the deal at hand and going to war to stop Iran from building a bomb.

Half of blacks say police have treated them unfairly

WASHINGTON (AP) — A majority of blacks in the United States — more than 3 out of 5 — say they or a family member have personal experience with being treated unfairly by the police, and their race is the reason.

Half of African-American respondents, including 6 in 10 black men, said they personally had been treated unfairly by police because of their race, compared with 3 percent of whites. Another 15 percent said they knew of a family member who had been treated unfairly by the police because of their race.

This information, from

a survey conducted by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, comes as the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Missouri, approaches its first anniversary and the nation continues to grapple with police-related deaths of black Americans.

White Americans who live in more diverse communities — where census data show at least 25 percent of the population is non-white — were more likely than other whites to say police in their communities mistreat minorities, 58 percent to 42 percent. And they’re more likely to see the police as too quick to use deadly force, 42 percent to 29 percent.

Larry Washington, 30, of Merrillville, Indiana, described his encounter with a white police officer when he was arrested for theft in Burbank, Illinois, as a teenager. “When I got to the police station, the officer who arrested me told me that I looked like I wanted to do something about it,” Washington said, adding, “And he kept calling me ‘nigger.’”

“It’s been like this for a long time,” Washington said. “It’s just now that everybody starting to record it and stuff, it’s just hitting the spotlight. Most Caucasians, they think it’s just starting to go on when it’s been like this.”

Debris found on island is from Flight 370

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — A piece of a wing found washed up on Reunion Island last week is from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 that vanished last year, Malaysia’s prime minister announced Thursday, saying he hoped the news ends the “unspeakable” uncertainty of the passengers’ families.

Yet authorities in France, the U.S. and Australia were more cautious, stopping short of full confirmation. Some relatives said the mixed messages were causing them yet more confusion and anxiety.

The disappearance of the Boeing 777 jetliner 515 days ago while on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, has been one of the biggest mysteries in aviation history. Officials believed it crashed in the southern Indian Ocean, killing all 239 people aboard, but it is unknown why the plane went down.

U.S. and French officials involved in the investigation were more cautious, stopping short of full confirmation but saying it made sense that the metal piece of the wing, known as the flaperon, came from Flight 370.

The Australian government, which leads the seabed search for wreckage west of Australia, was also less certain than Malaysia, saying in a statement that “based on high probability, it is MH370.”

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