



Demonstrators from three separate immigrants' rights groups march during a massive May Day rally in Los Angeles, California. Thousands turn out for the International Workers' Day immigration-rights marches and rally.

## Zimbabwe's opposition disputes official results

AP, Harare

Zimbabwe's opposition challenged official results Friday that says leader has won the first round of the presidential election with 47.9 percent of the vote more than longtime President Robert Mugabe but not enough to avoid a runoff.

Mugabe won 43.2 percent of votes in the March 29 election, the Electoral Commission said in announcing the long-delayed results from the presidential election.

"No candidate has received a majority of votes counted. A sec-

ond election will be held at a date to be announced," the commission said in a statement.

Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai who has maintained that he won the vote outright with more than 50 percent of the vote has said previously that he will not participate in any runoff.

Tsvangirai's polling agent, Chris Mbanda, told The Associated Press Friday that the announcement ignored the party's objections to the verification of the vote count.

"We have been overruled. We are in dispute. It is not fair," Mbanda said.

Officials from the MDC and Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party had been asked to confirm the Electoral Commission's tally as part of the verification process.

Even before the announcement, Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change challenged the process, saying Thursday there were 120,000 unaccounted votes that could give them outright victory.

Earlier Friday, Tsvangirai's spokesman George Sibotshwe said the MDC anticipated needing another three or four days to examine the verification of the results.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Obama's distractions give Hillary hope

AP, Louisville

Hillary Rodham Clinton has an unmistakable bounce in her step these days a sense of energy and optimism that somehow belies the daunting challenge she faces in wrestling the Democratic presidential nomination from Barack Obama.

"I feel good. We're making progress every day," she told supporters Thursday in Kentucky, which holds its primary May 20. "Wish I could be here for the Derby. ... I hope everyone's going to place a little money on the filly," a reference perhaps to horse Eight Belles and herself.

Buoyed by her convincing win in Pennsylvania's primary April 22, Hillary Clinton has been campaigning intensively before Indiana and North Carolina's contests next week. She's greeted by large crowds who respond enthusiastically to her plans for improving the faltering economy, and several polls out this week suggest she would be the stronger

candidate to face Republican John McCain this fall, both nationally and in important swing states.

Obama, meanwhile, is still contending with the fallout from the controversy surrounding his former pastor and polls showing a tight contest in Indiana, where he once led.

While Obama has won several superdelegate endorsements this week, including that of former DNC chairman and one-time Clinton backer Joe Andrew, the former first lady has secured a few of her own after weeks of superdelegate drought. On Tuesday, she got a boost in North Carolina with the endorsement of Democratic Gov. Mike Easley, another superdelegate.

All of which has given her advisers at least a glimmer of hope that, after a long period of being thought a sure loser, Clinton has regained enough momentum to persuade uncommitted superdelegates to give her candidacy another look. While it may still be a long shot,

advisers believe she is in a stronger position to make that argument now than she has been for much of the primary season.

"There is a settled view among Democrats and in the general electorate that Senator Hillary Clinton is the better candidate to have knowledge and leadership to turn the economy around," Clinton strategist Geoff Garin said, noting what he called the former first lady's "continued success and Senator Obama's continued difficulty connecting with blue-collar and middle-income voters, both men and women."

Indeed, Clinton advisers say conversations with uncommitted superdelegates suggest they are concerned about Obama's persistent weakness among some key demographic groups, particularly Catholic and Hispanic voters. In nominating contests so far this year, Clinton has bested Obama among both groups by a margin of 60 percent to 36 percent.

## Brown suffers blow in local polls

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown admitted Friday that his party had suffered a "bad" blow in key local elections, as forecasts predicted the worst results for Labour since the 1960s.

As results poured in, Labour -- with Brown leading them into elections for the first time since taking office last year -- was set to finish in third place behind the opposition Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, the BBC said.

The ruling party could face further humiliation in the London mayoral race, which pitched the current mayor, Labour's Ken Livingstone, against the Conservatives' maverick Boris Johnson.

"It's clear to me that this has been a disappointing night, indeed a bad night for Labour," Brown told reporters.

"We have lessons to learn from that and then we will move forward."

Linking his party's performance to the effects of the global credit crunch in Britain, he added: "The real test of leadership is not what happens in a period of success but what happens in difficult circumstances."

Amid speculation Livingstone would be voted out as part of the backlash against the government, Brown added that he had spoken to

Livingstone last night and thanked him "for the campaign he has run and the message he has put across."

The Conservatives have 44 percent of the vote, the Liberal Democrats 25 percent and Labour 24 percent, according to BBC projections, which added that this result would be its worst in local polls since the late 1960s.

With results from 100 out of 159 local councils officially

announced, the Conservatives had won 45 local councils, Labour 14 and the Liberal Democrats six. The remainder were not controlled by any single party.

Labour lost six councils and 162 councillors and the Conservatives gained eight councils and 147 councillors.

Senior government figures blamed on the global economic downturn and insisted Brown --

who succeeded Tony Blair in Downing Street last June -- was still the best man for the job.

Harriet Harman, Labour's deputy leader, told BBC television: "We all think these are disappointing results and we recognise the economic context with people feeling the pinch..."

"But we are determined to listen and confident to take the country forward."

## Olmert questioned over alleged corruption

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's fraud squad on Friday questioned Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who has been dogged by corruption scandals that surfaced after he took office in 2006, police said.

The investigators, led by the head of the National Fraud Squad Lieutenant Commander Shlomi Ayalon, questioned Olmert in his Jerusalem residence well before the announced time to avoid the throng of media gathered outside.

Public radio said the authorities had requested an hour-long interview following an important new development that emerged in recent days in investigations into corruption claims.

But the authorities would not say why Attorney General Menachem Mazuz took what local media said was the unusual step of permitting an "urgent" questioning under caution of Olmert.

## Bush unveils new US sanctions on Myanmar

AFP, Washington

US President George W. Bush said Thursday he had imposed fresh US sanctions on state-owned Myanmar companies whose earnings support the country's military regime.

"Today I've issued a new executive order that instructs the Treasury Department to freeze the assets of Burmese state-owned companies that are major sources of funds that prop up the junta," Bush said.

The order targets "companies in industries such as gems and timber that exploit the labour of the down-trodden Burmese people but enrich only the generals."

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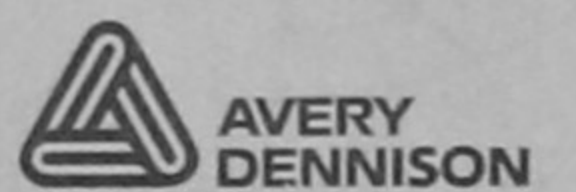
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This undated handout image provided on May 1 by IntelCenter shows a video still image of Adan Hashi Ayrow. According to the Mujahideen Youth Movement (MYM) (al-Shabbab) spokesman Muqtar Robow Abu Mansur, the group's leader Adan Hashi Ayrow was killed in a missile strike by the US last night, along with Muhidin Ma'alin Umar, another MYM official.

## US missile strike kills al-Qaeda leader in Somalia

AP, Mogadishu

US missiles destroyed the house of the man identified by the US military as the top al-Qaeda commander in Somalia, killing him and 10 others Thursday in a pre-dawn attack that analysts warned could torpedo peace talks.

The killing of Adan Hashi Ayrow comes amid escalating fighting and a spiralling humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa nation. Islamic fighters have staged a

series of attacks on towns in the months leading up to the UN-sponsored talks, scheduled to start May 10. The insurgents typically hold the towns for a few hours, free people from jails, then withdraw with captured weapons.

Somali government officials have said Ayrow, who was believed to be in his 30s, trained in Afghanistan before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and headed al-Qaeda's cell in Somalia.

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