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Josh Ledgerman
Associated Press

Eight years ago, Barack Obama cast himself as the rare candidate who could transcend the polarizing politics of the past and bridge divisions that had left Washington hopelessly functioning for years. Ultimately, the gold was too wide. If anything, the political climate in the United States worsened.

So, standing before the last, biggest audience he has left, Obama on Wednesday found a successor to carry forward the hopes and aspirations that once rallied billions to his side.

“It can be frustrating, this business of democracy. Trust me, I know,” Obama told an adoring audience as he outlined Hillary Clinton’s approach. “Hillary knows, too.”

While Obama gushed over his former rival and possible successor, his own credentials to make that argument seemed weakened by the long list of goals he tried unsuccessfully to fulfill. The more the fact that the country is considering Donald Trump — Obama’s opponent in so many ways — is a stark reminder that many Americans reject his approach.

Though Obama called the U.S. out of recession dinouh, many Americans struggling financially feel left behind. While he secured a sweeping health overhaul and economic reforms that reshaped the American economy, the same gridlock he promised to break through stopped him from delivering new laws and policies to fix immigra- tion, tighten gun restrictions and reduce the role of money in politics.

These are the same priorities that Clinton is putting at the core of her own campaign. The question for voters is whether she can do what Obama could not.

In front of thousands of die-hard, cheering Democrats, Obama could do no wrong. But heading into the fall, it’s un- clear how his depiction of the country will be received by the broader voting public.

“By so many measures, our country is stronger and more prosperous than it was when we started,” Obama said. “And through every victory and every setback, I’ve insisted that change is never easy, and never quick — that we wouldn’t meet all of our challenges in one term, or one presidency or even in one lifetime.”

Just 19 percent of Americans said the country is heading in the right direction and 55 percent said their personal finances feel left behind. The gulf was too wide. Ultimately, the gulf was too wide.

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禹波 (YUSHENG) | ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Donald Trump, however, has received few endorsements from vital Republican party members, including Sen. Ted Cruz, former presidential candidate Mitt Romney, and the entire Bach family. With both Democrat and Republican nominees so vulnerable to hackers, the email leak will move forward to the general elections in November.

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White Sulphur Springs—The New Orleans Saints have returned to the Mountain State for year 3 of training camp at Jim Justice’s Greenbrier Resort.

Coming off a disappointing 7-9 season last year, head coach Sean Payton and the rest of the team looked to start the year on the right foot, as the Saints hope to return to the playoffs for the first time in three seasons.

On an unusually cool day in Greenbrier County, New Orleans officially kicked-off its 2016 campaign, led by quarterback Drew Brees, the offense moved up and down the field with relative ease, as key players such as Alvin Kamara and Brandin Cooks returned to the field from injury, running free in attendance with flashy jukes and high speeds.

Newly added tight end Coby Fleener also danced in his first appearance in a Saints uniform.

Fleener, who was traded by the Indianapolis Colts earlier this offseason, looks to fill a very large gap left by the absence of All-Pro tight end Dwayne Allen. The 6’4”, 251-pounder was able to come back down twice in his first appearance in a Saints uniform.

The Saints training camp was over Monday at 9:30 am. In the coming weeks, the Saints will travel to Foxborough, Mass. and Houston, Texas for joint practices with the Patriots and Texans respectively.

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Mohammed said one of the biggest questions she’s faced with is, “Why Saudi Arabia?”

“Every time I got asked this, there is a part of me that wants to say, ‘Why not Saudi Arabia?’” and prance away like a gazelle,” Mohammed said. “In reality it is a pretty good question. Why would an independent girl from the heart of Appalachia choose to pack up and move to not only one of the hottest regions of the world, but a place that would ban her from driving?”

Her reasons included — but were not limited to — “the great job, her love for the Middle East, the fact she’s Muslim and the fact that they liked her.”

Mohammed just recently took a vacation in the United States, and said it was a very liberating experience, and she was able to do all the regular things she used to do that she can no longer do in a Middle Eastern country: drive, watch movies in a cinema, go out to eat in a restaurant.

“Think I’m back in Barzilai but I like it,” Mohammed said. “I have a few new things that will make me entertained inside my house: colored lights, Wi-Fi connection, an oven, but it will never replace the freedom and independence I have here.”

Mohammed plans on staying in the Middle East until her husband finishes his residency, and she recently took a job in Riyadh.

Mohammed’s journey, which she refers to on her blog as “The adventures of an American woman in Arabia,” can be followed on her website at karimaneghmouche.wordpress.com.

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