

China's 'iron lady' steps down from key political post

AFP, Beijing

China's most powerful woman, Vice Premier Wu Yi, signalled her retirement yesterday, ending a career as a tough negotiator and troubleshooter that earned plaudits at home and abroad for "the iron lady."

Wu, 69, was not named to the Communist Party's new Central Committee at the close of a five-yearly party Congress, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Her failure to win another term on the committee appeared linked to her age and means she will step down from the vice premiership when China's parliament names a new government in March next year.



Chinese President Hu Jintao (L), former president Jiang Zemin (C) and Premier Wen Jiabao (R) raise their hands to vote during the closing session of the ruling Communist's 17th five-yearly Party Congress inside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

New leaders, economic plans in China as Congress ends

AFP, Beijing

China's Communist Party yesterday endorsed Hu Jintao's new economic model for the country, while opening the way for a top leadership reshuffle that will likely see the president consolidate his power.

Following the end of its five-yearly Congress, Hu, 64, is almost certain to be given a second term as party chief on Monday alongside a revamped line-up of leaders in the nation's most powerful political organ.

That body, the party's Standing Committee of the Politburo, currently has nine members but will see as many as four new faces in Monday's reshuffle, following the complex political events that took place at the Congress.

Hu gave a glowing assessment of the week-long gathering, which brought more than 2,200 top cadres to Beijing, to outline the party's goals for the next five years, as well as finalise the leadership manoeuvrings.

"It has drawn up a grand blueprint for continuing to build a

moderately prosperous society," Hu said in a closing speech at the Great Hall of the People, although there was little in the way of much-touted democratic reforms.

While much speculation has focused on the new generation of leaders, and whether any of them will emerge as the clear frontrunner to succeed Hu in 2012, the president appeared to use the Congress to cement his hold over the party.

In that regard, the Congress appointed many Hu allies to the new 204-member Central

Committee, which as its first task will on Monday formally approve the new Standing Committee.

The Congress also saw the party's constitution amended to include Hu's economic model for the country that he has termed "scientific development".

This broadly means a greater emphasis on addressing environmental concerns and China's army of poor as the nation develops, rather than a sole focus on break-neck economic growth as was the case under Hu's predecessor Jiang Zemin.

30 Taliban killed, bomb hits Afghan music shop

AFP, AP, Kabul

Security forces said yesterday they killed about 30 rebels in new operations while two Afghan civilians died in separate incidents in an insurgency, which is now heading for its seventh year.

A bomb meanwhile exploded in a music shop in a small eastern town and hurt the shopkeeper, an official said, adding the attack may have been carried out by Taliban extremists who say secular music is un-Islamic and corrupting.

The Afghan defence ministry said 20 "enemies of the people" were killed in an overnight operation by Afghan and US-led coalition forces in Kunar province on the eastern border with Pakistan.

US-led coalition soldiers and Afghan forces killed about 50 militants in two days of major fighting near a Taliban-controlled town in southern Afghanistan's poppy-growing belt, officials Saturday.

Taliban forces fired rocket-propelled grenades and small arms at a combined coalition-Afghan patrol near the town of Musa Qala in Helmand province, sparking a battle that lasted several hours and involved the use of military aircraft, the coalition said in a statement. Nearly three dozen militants were killed.

The battle was the second in two days near Musa Qala. The coalition said it killed more than a dozen insurgents Friday after the militants ambushed a patrol. Attack

aircraft helped repel that initial attack, though the fighters tried to reinforce their numbers throughout the engagement, which lasted several hours, the coalition said.

Fighters allied to the Taliban movement that was in government between 1996 and 2001 are active in the east but so are militants with other radical factions.

The coalition said separately it killed two militants in the province Sunday. Kunar governor Shalazai Diddar said a woman was also killed and three children hurt in the same incident.

About eight more rebel fighters were killed in days of operations that wound up Saturday in Taliban strongholds in the central province of Ghazni, deputy provincial police

Mohammad Zaman told AFP. Also in Ghazni, the Taliban killed a tribal elder whom they accused of supporting government forces, he said.

Three more insurgents were killed Saturday in a gunfight with police in Jogothu district about 80km south of Kabul, the interior ministry said.

A German engineer was held hostage in the district for three months until he was freed this month in exchange for prisoners and a ransom, according to one of the Afghan captives.

In Paktia in the east meanwhile a bomb blew up a police vehicle and killed a policeman, provincial spokesman Din Mohammad Darwish said.

S Korea pushes to keep troops in Iraq

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's government has decided to extend the stay of its troops in Iraq until next year but will cut the size of its contingent in half, defence officials said Sunday.

"The withdrawal of troops from Iraq, originally due by the end of December, will be postponed until next year," a defence ministry spokesman told AFP.

"But the number will be reduced from the current 1,200 to 600."

The spokesman said President Roh Moo-Hyun's cabinet would likely debate the measure on Tuesday before sending it to parliament next week for approval.

Iran insists no nuclear shift after Larijani exit

AFP, Tehran

Iran insisted yesterday that its policy in the nuclear crisis with the West would not change after the sudden resignation of chief negotiator Ali Larijani, amid fears his successor would take an even tougher line.

Larijani, who was seen as having a moderating influence on nuclear policy, stepped down following a prolonged disagreement with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over the handling of Iran's position in the standoff.

His successor, deputy foreign

minister Saeed Jalili, is a hardliner and a close confidant of the president, and is believed by analysts to share Ahmadinejad's unrelenting refusal of offering any concession to the West.

But foreign ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini insisted the change in personnel did not herald any switch in policy.

"The resignation of Mr Larijani was agreed by the president but the policies and strategies of the Islamic republic on the nuclear issue are unchangeable goals," he told reporters.

Ahmadinejad's senior adviser

Mojtaba Samareh Hashemi told state news agency IRNA: "With the replacement of individuals there is no change in the Islamic republic's nuclear policies."

Government spokesman Gholam Hossein Elham, who announced the resignation on Saturday, said Larijani had already offered to quit "several times" -- a clear indication he was unhappy with Tehran's nuclear policy.

However Larijani will still join his successor for talks on Iran's nuclear programme with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana in Rome on Tuesday, Hosseini said.

Israel accuses Fatah militants of trying to ambush Olmert

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday accused militants from Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement of trying to ambush Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's convoy in the West Bank last summer.

Yuval Diskin, the head of Israel's domestic Shin Beth security service, gave details of the August 6 plot during a weekly meeting of the Israeli cabinet, a senior government official present at the meeting told AFP.

"On August 6, while Prime Minister Olmert was travelling to Jericho to meet Abu Mazen (Abbas), Fatah terrorists tried attacking his convoy," the official

said, quoting Diskin.

"The terror plot was thwarted and the meeting was held as planned," the official added.

The news came as Olmert prepared to embark on a trip to France and Britain to discuss preparations for an Israeli-Palestinian peace conference expected to be held next month.

"We feel great displeasure over this issue and we will not ignore it. But I do not have any intention to stop the negotiation efforts with the Palestinians," Olmert told reporters before his departure.

"What bothered us was the unacceptable way they dealt with the suspects. This is part of a behaviour pattern that has to change," he added.

Jindal wins Louisiana governor's race

AP, Baton Rouge

US Rep Bobby Jindal became the nation's youngest governor and the first nonwhite to hold post in Louisiana since Reconstruction when he carried more than half the vote to defeat 11 opponents.

Jindal, the Republican 36-year-old son of Indian immigrants, had 53 percent with 625,036 votes with about 92 percent of the vote tallied. It was more than enough to win Saturday's election outright and avoid a Nov. 17 runoff.

"My mom and dad came to this country in pursuit of the American dream. And guess what happened. They found the American Dream to be alive and well right here in Louisiana," he said to cheers and



applause at his victory party. His nearest competitors: Democrat Walter Boasso with 208,690 votes or 18 percent; Independent John Georges had

116,747 votes or 14 percent; Democrat Foster Campbell had 151,101 or 13 percent. Eight candidates divided the rest.

"I'm asking all of our supporters to get behind our new governor," Georges said in a concession speech.

The Oxford-educated Jindal had lost the governor's race four years ago to Gov Kathleen Blanco. He won a congressional seat in conservative suburban New Orleans a year later but was widely believed to have his eye on the governor's mansion.

Blanco opted not to run for re-election after she was widely blamed for the state's slow response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

New book may reopen rift between Blair-Brown

AFP, London

The long-running feud between British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his predecessor Tony Blair threatened to reignite Sunday after a new book detailed claims of foul-mouthed rows between the pair.

The fractious relationship between the former and current prime minister has made headlines ever since Labour came to power in 1997, amid claims that Brown was increasingly unhappy at Blair reneging on a deal to hand over powers sooner.

With Brown now in the job he coveted for so long and Blair a Middle East envoy and no longer a member of parliament, a line appeared to have been drawn under the matter.

But biographer Anthony Seldon's book "Blair Unbound", written after interviews with many Blair loyalists but few named sources from the Brown camp, could reopen old wounds.



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan casts his vote during a referendum at a school in Istanbul yesterday. Voters went to polls across Turkey for a referendum on constitutional reforms that would provide for the election of the president by popular vote.

Polish election could break twins grip on power

AFP, Warsaw

Poles yesterday voted in a general election which could see the liberal opposition win power from the outspokenly conservative Kaczynski twins.

Opposition parties have seized on the strained ties with neighbouring Germany and the rest of Europe that have marked the rule of President Lech Kaczynski and his identical twin brother, Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

With the liberal Civic Platform (PO) seen gaining votes, the prime minister apologised for political errors he has made in a key speech before campaigning ended.

Ethiopian rebels claim killing 140 govt troops

AFP, Nairobi

Ethiopian rebels yesterday claimed they had killed at least 140 government troops in an attack in the Ogaden region, where the army is carrying out a crackdown.

The Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) said in a statement that almost 1,000 of its fighters attacked Ethiopian troops near Wardhere early Saturday, killing more than 140 troops, with "many more wounded".

Wardhere is about 650km

southeast of Addis Ababa.

"Thousands of rounds of ammunition and military hardware, including communications equipment, were captured by ONLF forces during the operation," it added.

The army officers were escorting Abay Tsehaye, a senior official in the Ethiopian ruling party, when they came under attack.

"Abay Tsehaye and a few senior officers escaped by helicopter after all land routes out of the area were blocked by ONLF forces," it said.

N Korea accuses South Korea navy of intrusion

AP, Seoul

North Korea on Sunday accused South Korean warships of intrusions into its territorial waters, saying the actions were an attempt to undermine a recent accord aimed at easing tensions along the Cold War's last frontier.

The North's Navy Command claimed 54 South Korean warships intruded deep into the North's waters near the disputed western sea border last week, despite its repeated radio-broadcast warnings to sail back to the South.

"The behaviour is an unpardonable and undisguised provocation" to a joint declaration signed by the leaders of the two Koreas earlier this month and "the product of

their political and strategic attempt to drive the North-South relations to the phase of confrontation again," the command said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency.

The North Korean navy "will never remain an onlooker to the South Korean naval warships' reckless military provocation," it said.

A South Korean Defence Ministry official disputed and downplayed the North Korean claim, saying South Korean navy vessels didn't violate the border.

"It's a routine claim. We don't pay attention much to it," he said on condition of anonymity in line with ministry policy.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Lohagara, District: Chittagong

Invitation for Tender (Works)

Tender Notice Number: 02/2007-08

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned works as per terms and conditions stated below:

Package No.	Name of works	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender documents (Tk)
GPSRRP/WD 1.350	Re-const. of Amirabad Janakolliyan GPS	38500.00	270 days	750.00
GPSRRP/WD 1.351	Re-const. of Tewarkhil GPS	38500.00	270 days	750.00
GPSRRP/WD 1.352	Re-const. of Kalauzan Harina GPS	38500.00	270 days	750.00
GPSRRP/WD 1.353	Re-const. of Purbo Kalauzan GPS	38500.00	270 days	750.00
GPSRRP/GP 4.398	Supply of Fur. at Amirabad Janakolliyan GPS	3500.00	90 days	150.00
GPSRRP/GP 4.399	Supply of Fur. at Tewarkhil GPS	3500.00	90 days	150.00
GPSRRP/GP 4.400	Supply of Fur. at Kalauzan Harina GPS	3500.00	90 days	150.00
GPSRRP/GP 4.401	Supply of Fur. at Purbo Kalauzan GPS	3500.00	90 days	150.00

- Source of funds : Government Primary School Reconstruction & Renovation Project (Phase-II) (GOB).
- Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting : Date: 12-11-2007, Time: 12.00 noon and Place: Office of the undersigned.
- Last date, time and places of selling tender documents : Date: 21-11-2007, Time: 4.00pm and Places: Office of the undersigned/the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Chittagong/the Upazila Engineer, LGED, Upazila: Satkania, Dist: Chittagong.
- Last date, time and places of receiving tender : Date: 22-11-2007, Time: 12.00 noon and Places: Office of the undersigned/the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Chittagong/the Upazila Engineer, LGED, Upazila: Satkania, Dist: Chittagong.
- Date, time and place of opening of tender : Date: 22-11-2007, Time: 4.00pm and Place: Office of the undersigned.
- Tender shall be valid for a period of 60 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified above. Interested tenderer may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in Cash/Treasury Chalan/Bank Draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

ASM Rashedur Rahman
Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Lohagara
District: Chittagong
Ph: 03034-56026

GD-3643