

Iran accuses Western media of trying to break up nation

Western leaders voice anger over Tehran's crackdown

AFP, Tehran/ Paris

Iran accused global broadcasters the BBC and Voice of America yesterday of seeking to break up the Islamic republic with their coverage of the post-election unrest.

"The heads of VOA and BBC Persian are officially the spiritual children of (Benjamin) Netanyahu and (Avigdor) Lieberman and their aim is to weaken the national solidarity, threaten territorial integrity and disintegrate Iran," foreign ministry spokesman Hassan Ghashghavi told reporters.

He was referring to the prime minister and foreign minister of arch-foe Israel.

"This is the agenda given to VOA and BBC Persian after their budgets were approved by the US Congress and the British parliament. Those who work there are all in the same line."

He said the BBC and US cable news network CNN had set up a "situation room and a psychological war room."

BJP seeks to retool Hindutva

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India's main opposition party Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday wrapped up a two-day soul-searching exercise in the wake of its defeat in general elections seeking to repack its core ideology Hindutva as an "inclusive and tolerant philosophy, which was not averse to change with changing times".

In his valedictory speech at the party's national executive meeting here, the first since the party lost the Lok Sabha election in May, senior BJP leader LK Advani said cautioned against "narrow bigoted anti-Muslim" interpretation of Hindutva.

The political resolution adopted at the meeting said "Hindutva is not to be understood or construed narrowly confined to religious practices or expressed in extreme forms. It is related to the culture and ethos of the people... a way of life... and therefore inclusive".

Advani said "how can a people believing in

the dictum truth is one, sages call it variously ever become champions of a state which would uphold the interests of one religion at the cost of others?" The BJP's Hindutva, he added, "was in accordance with the 1995 Supreme Court

Advanis remarks assume significance as a meeting of BJP office bearers ahead of the national executive session heard two of BJPs most prominent Muslim faces Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Syed Shahbaz Hussain attacking those in the party who had defended party leader Varun Gandhi for his alleged hate speech during election campaign.

"What kind of Hindutva are we talking about?" Naqvi and Hussain are understood to have said in the closed-door meeting of party office-bearers meeting. The national executive session had a free and frank discussion on what Hindutva means and should mean. Referring to Naqvi and Hussain, Advani warned against any "narrow or bigoted anti-Muslim interpretation of Hindutva".



Russian police and forensic experts stand near the destroyed automobile of Russia's Ingushetia region leader Yanus-Bek Yevkurov in Nazran yesterday.

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A picture obtained on Sunday shows Iranian riot police blocking protesters on a street of Tehran. Thousands of Iranians clashed with police as they defied an ultimatum from supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for an end to protests over last week's disputed presidential election.

PHOTO AFP

Somali president declares state of emergency

AFP, Mogadishu

Somalia's president, clinging to power by his fingernails in his Mogadishu palace, yesterday declared a state of emergency in a bid to contain a deadly six-week-old insurgent offensive.

Sharif Sheikh Ahmed's announcement came amid growing talk of fresh foreign military action to flush out hardline Islamist groups, less than six months after Ethiopia ended a two-year intervention which failed to do just that.

The measure should have little impact on the ground in a country plagued by chaos since 1991 and over which Sharif's forces have no control but could facilitate his administration's request for foreign military assistance.

"As of today, the country is under a state of emergency," Sharif said at press conference in the capital, during a brief lull in fighting that has killed at least 300 people nationwide since May 7.

The president said the government had decided to announce the emergency "after witnessing the intensifying violence across the country."

Ingush leader wounded in suicide attack

AP, Nazran

A suicide car bomber drove into the convoy of the president of the troubled Russian region of Ingushetia Monday and detonated the vehicle, critically wounding the president and killing or wounding others, officials said.

Yunus Bek Yevkurov was the third top official to be wounded or killed in the region bordering Chechnya in the past three weeks and the fourth in Russia's turbulent North Caucasus this month.

The suicide car bombing was a sharp escalation of the attacks that have targeted police and government officials in the North Caucasus with growing frequency, and provided more evidence of their effectiveness.

The explosion occurred around 8:30 a.m. as Yevkurov travelled outside the Ingush regional centre, Nazran. An Ingush Interior Ministry official said a car manoeuvred around a police escort vehicle and drove directly into the convoy and then exploded.

The official asked not to be named since the Interior Ministry had not yet authorised the release of the information.



Supporters of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) run toward the gate of the government administration building in Singha Durbar in Kathmandu on Sunday. Maoist demonstrators have been protesting daily following the collapse of the ex-rebels' government after Nepalese president vetoed the Maoist government from sacking the head of the army.

22 killed in Iraq attacks as US pullback looms

AFP, Baghdad

Twenty-two people were killed, seven of them in a car bombing west of Baghdad, as a spate of attacks hit Iraq on Monday just days before US troops must leave Iraq's cities.

Seventy-six people were wounded in the attacks. Security and hospital officials said the dead included three Iraqi soldiers, three university students on their way to sit their final exams, and a four-year-old child.

The car bomb, which also wounded 13 people, targeted municipal offices in Abu Ghraib, a town on Baghdad's western outskirts notorious as the site of the 2006 scandal over abuse of prisoners by US jailers, defence and interior ministry officials said.

The predominantly Sunni Arab town was once a bastion of al-Qaeda, but the Jihadis have since been beaten back by Sunni groups allied with US forces and the Iraqi government.

In Baghdad's sprawling Shia slum neighbourhood of Sadr City, a roadside bomb hit a minibus, killing three students on their way to sit exams.

Twelve other students and the minibus driver were wounded in the morning rush-hour attack.

In Diyala province, one of Iraq's most dangerous, three Iraqi soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb that struck their patrol east of the provincial capital Baquba and destroyed their Humvee, a military official said.

And in Khaleda, also in Diyala province northeast of Baghdad, a former al-Qaeda member who had recently been released from the US prison facility at Camp Bucca was assassinated by a gunman, the official added.

N Korea threatens to harm US if attacked

AP, AFP, Seoul/Washington

North Korea reminded the US yesterday that it has nuclear weapons and warned it will strike back if attacked, as a US destroyer continued to trail a North Korean cargo ship suspected of carrying illicit weapons.

The Kang Nam, previously involved in weapons shipments, is the first vessel monitored under new UN sanctions adopted after the North's nuclear test last month. It could become a test case for interception of North Korean ships at sea some strategic Pyongyang has said it would consider an act of war.

President Barack Obama said the US is ready to cope with "any contingencies" amid reports the North appears to be preparing for a long-

range missile test planned sometime around July 4, the Independence Day holiday. Defence Secretary Robert Gates has ordered additional protections for Hawaii as a precaution.

Obama assured Americans, in an interview to be aired Monday, that the United States was "fully prepared" for a potential North Korean missile launch toward US territory.

"This administration -- and our military -- is fully prepared for any contingencies," Obama told CBS when asked about the possibility that North Korea could fire a missile toward Hawaii on or about July 4, the US Independence Day.

Asked if that meant Washington was "warning of a military response," Obama answered: "No. It's just we are prepared for any contingencies."

Mullah Omar reasserts control of Taliban

Three soldiers killed in Afghan suicide attack

AP, Washington/Kandahar

Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar is reassessing direct control over the militant group, ordering attacks and shuffling field commanders in Afghanistan, The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday.

Citing unnamed US officials and insurgents in Afghanistan, the newspaper said this represents a change in strategy because until recently, the conduct of the Taliban's war against the US-led coalition had been left to local commanders.

Omar, who heads a Taliban leadership council called the Quetta "Shura," had been focusing on fundraising, religious guidance and

strategic advice to fighters, according to the report.

But since the beginning of the year, Omar has ordered a spate of suicide bombings and assassinations in southern and eastern Afghanistan that presage a bloody phase to come in the Afghan war, the paper said.

Meanwhile, three Afghan soldiers were killed when a suicide bomber rode a motorcycle packed with explosives into a military convoy in Kandahar province on Monday, officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on the soldiers as they patrolled the highway that goes through Kandahar's troubled Zherai district to the western city of Herat.

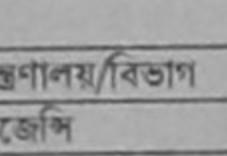
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১. মুক্তপালয়/বিভাগ	১. শহীদীয় সরকার, প্রস্তাৱন্তৰ ও সমৰায় মহান্দলীয়।
২. এজেন্সি	২. ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
৩. সংস্থানীক সভার নাম	৩. নির্বাচী প্রক্রিয়ালয় (যান্ত্রিক-২), ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
৪. সংস্থানীক সভার কোড	৪. প্রোজেক্ট (যান্ত্রিক-২)।
৫. সংস্থানীক সভার জেলা	৫. ঢাকা।
৬. আহ্বানের সূত্র	৬. প্রোজেক্ট (যান্ত্রিক-২)/প্রোজেক্ট (০৮-০৯)।
৭. আহ্বানের তাৰিখ	৭. আন্তঃক্ষেত্র প্রক্রিয়ালয় (যান্ত্রিক-২)।
৮. সংস্থানীক প্রক্রিয়ালয়	৮. উন্নুকে প্রক্রিয়ালয় (যান্ত্রিক-২)।
৯. বাস্তুর নাম	৯. শহীদীয় বিভাগ প্রতিপক্ষ দলের বাস্তু।
১০. দলের প্রতিপক্ষ দলের নাম	১০. ২০/০৬/২০০৯ই়ে।
১১. দলের প্রতিপক্ষ দলের তাৰিখ	১১. ০৫/৭/২০০৯ই়ে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।
১২. দলের প্রতিপক্ষ দলের সময়	১২. ১১২০০ মিনিট।
১৩. দলের প্রতিপক্ষ দলের পদবী	১৩. ০৫/৭/২০০৯ই়ে সময় ১১০০০ মিনিট।
১৪. দলের প্রতিপক্ষ দলের পদবী	১৪. ০৫/৭/২০০৯ই়ে সময় ১১০০০ মিনিট।
১৫. দলের প্রতিপক্ষ দলের পদবী	১৫. নির্বাচী প্রক্রিয়ালয় (যান্ত্রিক-২) এবং