



PHOTO: AFP

Mourning fans crowd the Walk of Fame Star of pop icon Michael Jackson on Friday after his unexpected death in Los Angeles, California.

## Jackson family confused over will, AEG role

AP, Los Angeles

Most of Michael Jackson's family members have gathered in their Encino compound, where they are contemplating funeral arrangements and caring for his three children. They are feeling confused, upset and angry by the lack of information about those who were around the pop superstar in his final days, a person close to the family told The Associated Press.

Jackson's family wants to know more specifics about what role AEG, the concert promoter that was staging his 50-date concert series at London's O2 Arena, was playing in his life, said the person, who requested anonymity because of the delicate nature of the situation. They also want to know more about the role of his advisers and representatives, who they believe were put in place by the promoter.

Jackson never communicated to his family who he had in place to handle his business affairs, the person said, adding that they were told by the singer's phalanx of

advisers that the singer likely had a will, but it may be many years old. The family is distrustful of what they are being told but they are determined to find out more, the person said.

"There are decisions going down without the family being in the loop; it's becoming an issue," the person said.

Randy Phillips, AEG Live president and chief executive, said earlier Friday that it was Jackson who insisted that Dr. Conrad Murray, a financially troubled cardiologist who was with the entertainer when he collapsed Thursday, be put on the tour payroll.

"As a company, we would have preferred not having a physician on staff full-time because it would have been cheaper without the hotels and travel, but Michael was insistent that he be hired," Phillips said. "Michael said he had a rapport with him."

Jackson collapsed Thursday at his rented home in Los Angeles. Police seized Murray's car in search of evidence, but have insisted that the doctor has been cooperative and do not consider him a criminal suspect.

## Pandith will play leading role in engaging Muslims, says Hillary

PTI, Washington

United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said Farah Pandith will play a "leading role" in engaging Muslims across the world in her new capacity as Special Representative to Muslim Communities.

Pandith, a Kashmiri-origin Muslim woman, was appointed by Clinton as the US Special Representative to Muslim Communities early this week. This is part of the Obama Administration's effort to reach out to the Muslim communities across the world.

## Ahmadinejad slams Obama, West over polls remarks

### Tehran seizes pro-Mousavi party documents

AFP, Tehran

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad repeated yesterday claims that Barack Obama is interfering in his country, after the US president again criticised the political crackdown in Iran.

"He (Obama) who spoke of reforms and changes, why did he interfere and comment in a way that disregards convention and courtesy," Ahmadinejad was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as asking.

On Friday, Obama said Iran's "outrageous" crackdown on demonstrators would hit his hopes for direct talks with Iran. "There is no doubt that any direct

dialogue or diplomacy with Iran is going to be affected by the events of the last several weeks," Obama said, referring to deadly clashes between security forces and demonstrators protesting what they claim was Ahmadinejad's fraudulent reelection.

However, Obama said talks under the auspices of the five permanent US Security Council members and Germany over Iran's nuclear programme would likely continue.

Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany have authorised European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana to discuss the issue with Tehran.

The United States and other Western countries suspect Iran of using its nuclear energy programme as a cover for seeking to develop atomic weapons.

Tehran roundly denies that, saying the programme is purely for civilian use.

Obama also replied to Ahmadinejad's demands for an apology and accusations that the US president, despite a measured early response to the crackdown, had meddled in Iran's internal affairs.

Earlier Iranian officials have political party that had backed opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi in the June 12 presidential election, a newspaper reported yesterday.

## Saad Hariri named Lebanese PM

AFP, Beirut

Saad Hariri, son of slain billionaire ex-premier Rafiq Hariri, was named Lebanon's new prime minister on Saturday, a presidential statement said.

"According to the constitution and after the president consulted with the speaker of parliament and parliamentarians, he (Lebanese President Michel Sleiman) summoned Saad Hariri and tasked him with forming a new government," the statement said.

In total, Hariri was proposed by 86 of Lebanon's 128

deputies -- the 71 from his own majority alliance, plus pro-Syrian parliament speaker Nabih Berri and his bloc of 12 MPs and two Armenian MPs, the various groups said.

Berri's allies in the Hezbollah-led minority coalition said they abstained from naming anyone for the top post, reserved for a Sunni Muslim under Lebanon's complex sectarian political system.

Hariri, who heads the Sunni Future movement, has urged his supporters to refrain from firing celebratory shots after his expected designation.

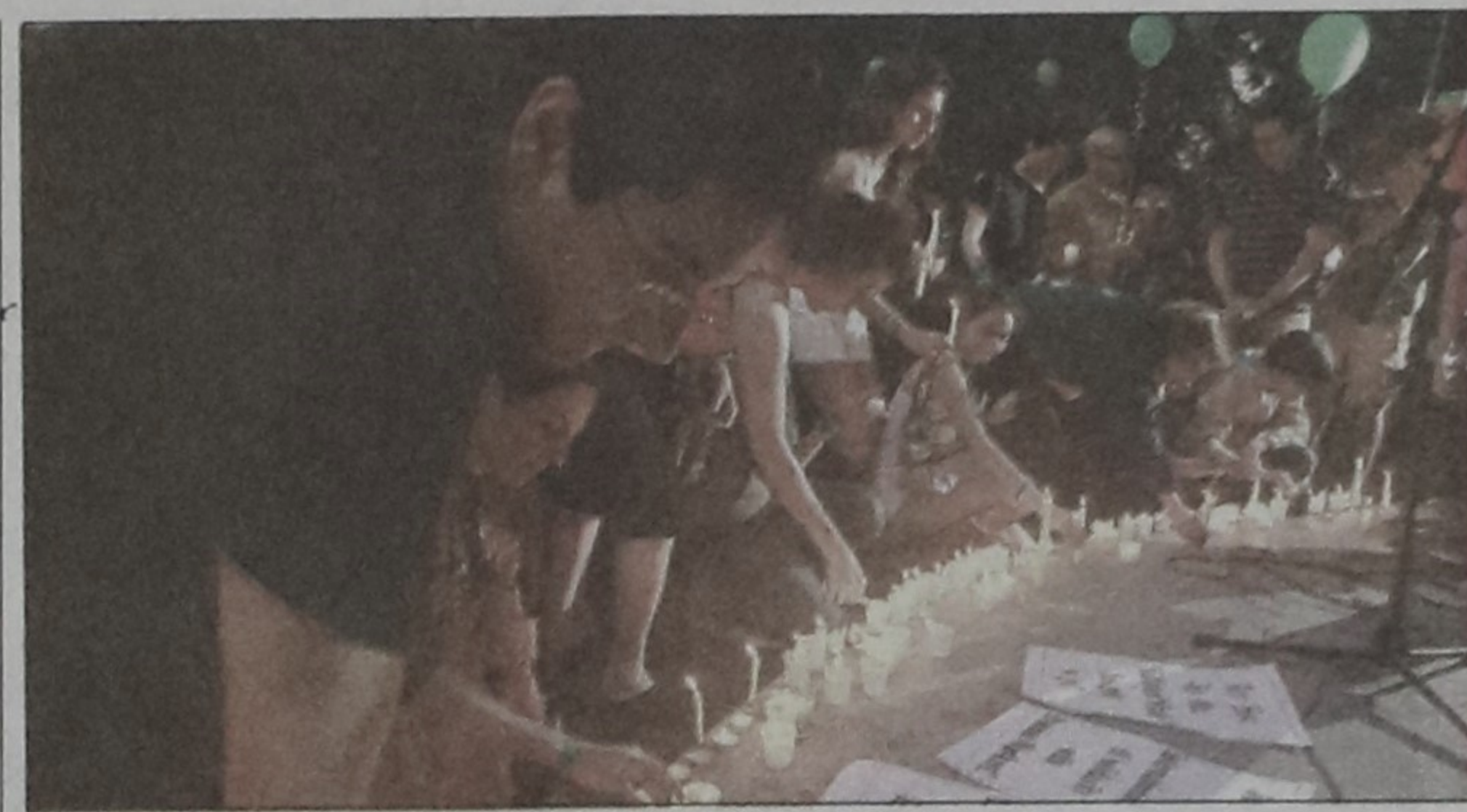


PHOTO: AFP

Demonstrators place candles at a rally in support of Iranian election protesters organised by Amnesty International on Friday in New York City.

## '1m H1N1 cases in US'

AFP, Washington

At least one million people in the United States have had swine flu, or around 50 times more than the number of cases reported to health authorities, US health authorities said Friday.

"We're saying that there have been at least a million cases of the new H1N1 virus so far this year in the United States," said Anne Schuchat of the Centres for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC).

"Reported cases are really just the tip of the iceberg," said Schuchat, director of the CDC's National Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, of the roughly 28,000 confirmed cases of A(H1N1) flu in the United States.

Around 3,000 people infected with swine flu in the United States have had to be hospitalised and 127 people are reported to have died.

## Nato, Russia look to turn page on Georgia war

AFP, Corfu

Nato and Russian foreign ministers gathered Saturday to turn the page on their dispute over the war in Georgia and rubber stamp an action plan for revamping their relations.

For two hours on the Greek island of Corfu, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his counterparts will convene their Nato-Russia Council, the forum where they cooperate on

security issues and air their many concerns.

"I've come in a confident mood," Nato Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told reporters, as he arrived to chair the first meeting at this level in almost a year.

"I am confident that this will be the restart of our relationship, that we can see where we can more intensively work together, not shying away from the differences of opinion that we have, but discussing them as well," he said.

## Taliban kill eight Afghan cops

AFP, Kabul

Taliban militants stormed a police checkpoint in southern Afghanistan's troubled Helmand province overnight and killed eight policemen, the provincial government said yesterday.

Other policemen were able to escape the attack, perhaps because they had ties with the insurgents, Helmand government spokesman Daud Ahmad told AFP.

The ambush took place about 10 kilometres (six miles) north of the provincial capital Lashkar Gah. "Eight police were killed," Ahmad said.

Helmand is perhaps Afghanistan's most intense battlefield in an insurgency that has brought roughly 90,000 international troops to the country, with more on the way.

## 'Gilani's fake son-in-law' is a master forger on the loose!

ANI, Lahore

Sharing a surname with some famous personalities of the world would obviously make people proud, but in Pakistan, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's name is being utilized by tricksters for fraudulent activities.

Pakistan police has registered a case against a man named, Tasawarul Hassan Gilani for swindling a person while pretending to be a close relative of the prime minister, The Daily Times reports.

Claiming to be the son-in-law of the prime minister, Gilani sold a car having fake documents to a person named Shahzada Ahsan.

Ahsan, who complained about the forgery to the police, said he never thought that he would be cheated by Gilani, as he pretended to be Yousuf Raza Gilani's close relative.

Ahsan said that surname 'Gilani' removed all doubts from his mind. He added that he was shocked to the core, as the Excise Department confirmed that vehicle's documents which Gilani had given him were fake.

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