



A picture released by the official website of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei shows Khamenei presenting a decree to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (R) during an official ceremony in Tehran yesterday. Khamenei praised Ahmadinejad as he confirmed him in office and hailed the "unprecedented" vote that returned him to power.

PHOTO: AFP

China detains 319 more for Xinjiang rioting

AP, Beijing

Police in western China have detained another 319 people suspected of being involved in deadly ethnic unrest between Muslim minority Uighurs and the dominant Han Chinese community last month, a state news agency said.

Police in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, said the detentions were made in the city and elsewhere in the far western region, based on information given by the public or obtained in investigations, the official Xinhua News Agency reported late Sunday.

It did not say how many of those detained were Uighur or Han Chinese.

The detentions came in addition to earlier announcements by the government that more than 1,600 people have been detained over the July 5 riots in Urumqi that started when police stopped a protest by the Turkic-speaking Uighurs. The Uighurs smashed windows, burned cars and attacked Han Chinese.

Two days later, the Han took to the streets and staged retaliatory attacks.

The fighting was China's worst ethnic violence in decades.

Xinhua said Urumqi police would not say how many if any of the 1,600 detained earlier have been released, and that suspects will face charges related to the July 5 riot.

Indian judges' assets disclosure bill deferred

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

The government yesterday deferred a bill that aimed to get judges to disclose their assets.

When the bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha, there was all-round opposition to Clause 6, which said judges could not be compelled to disclose their assets nor could the disclosures be made public. Even Jayanti Natarajan, MP from the ruling Congress party, expressed her reservations over the clause.

Massive turnout for Aquino cortege

AP, Manila

Masses of mourners yelled her name as former president Corazon Aquino's body was escorted Monday through rain-soaked streets to Manila Cathedral, along a historic avenue that 23 years ago became the site of a "people power" revolt against a dictator led by the woman in a yellow dress.

Tens of thousands left their offices, schools and homes and converged on streets and overpasses with clumps of yellow balloons, waving yellow ribbons and showering confetti on Aquino's flag-draped casket carried on a flatbed truck bedecked with flowers.

Iranian supreme leader endorses Ahmadinejad for new four-year term

AFP, Tehran

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday formally endorsed hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president for a new four-year term amid intense political turmoil in the Islamic republic.

But in a sign of the escalating feud between rival factions over Ahmadinejad's hotly disputed re-election, key opposition leaders were absent from the ceremony, state television said.

"Iranian people have voted in favour of a fight against arrogance, to confront destitution and spread justice," Arabic-language Al-Alam television quoted Khamenei as saying after confirming Ahmadinejad in office.

Ahmadinejad, 52, dressed in a grey suit, accepted the decree from Khamenei as he bowed before the all-powerful leader and kissed his shoulder.

In his speech, Ahmadinejad accused foreign governments on Monday of trying to cause trouble during the June election which returned him to power, the Fars news agency reported.

"I tell those few selfish and meddling governments that you were cruel during this election towards our people and you used your financial and political abilities inappropriately," Fars quoted Ahmadinejad as saying after he was endorsed as president for another four-year term.

"You do not want a new model of divine democracy rising in the world. You wanted to divert global opinion from the collapse of capitalism, so you insulted the Iranian people."

Among those who did not attend were Ahmadinejad's defeated rivals Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karubi, along with powerful cleric Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and former reformist president Mohammad Khatami, it said.

However, Mohsen Rezai, the former head of the elite Revolutionary Guards who was Ahmadinejad's only conservative rival in the June 12 vote, was at the ceremony.

The election set off the worst crisis in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution, with deadly street protests, a raft of political trials and increasing divisions among the ruling elite.

China seals off entire town as plague claims its 2nd victim

AP, Beijing

A second man has died of pneumonic plague in north-west China, in an outbreak that prompted authorities to lock down a town where about a dozen people were infected with the highly contagious deadly lung disease, a state news agency said.

The World Health Organization office in China said it was in close contact with Chinese health authorities and that measures taken so far to treat and quarantine sickened people were appropriate.

The man who died Sunday was identified only as 37-year-old Danzin from Ziketan, the stricken town in Qinghai province, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Danzin was a neighbor of the first person who died, a 32-year-old herdsman whose name was not given.

Malaria jumped from chimps to humans

AFP, Washington

Malaria, which affects some 500 million people a year worldwide, was first transmitted to humans by chimpanzees, according to a US study out yesterday.

The origins of mosquito-carried malaria has long been unclear, and has lead scientists to come up with several inconclusive theories.

Researchers knew that chimpanzees carry a parasite -- Plasmodium reichenowi -- that is similar to the human malaria parasite, Plasmodium falciparum, but they were not sure how the two strains were related.

One hypothesis suggested that they had

evolved from a common strain over millions of years in their respective host species.

Another theory held that the parasite first emerged in humans and was transmitted to chimpanzees, where it gradually evolved into a separate strain.

But the authors of the study, published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, examined a third possibility, using samples taken from wild and wild-born chimpanzees in Cameroon and the Ivory Coast.

They identified several new parasites among the chimpanzees they sampled, indicating that the malaria parasite first jumped from chimpanzees to humans.



Sudanese journalist Lubna Ahmed al-Husseini poses in Khartoum on June 13.

Sudan journalist faces 40 lashes for wearing trousers

AFP, Khartoum

A Sudanese journalist facing 40 lashes for wearing "indecent" trousers vowed on the eve of her judgment that she is ready to be whipped 40,000 times in her bid to change the country's harsh laws.

Lubna Ahmed al-Husseini, who works for the media department of the United Nations Mission in Sudan, is to be judged on Tuesday after waiving the immunity granted to UN workers.


She is to be judged under Article 152 of Sudanese law, which promises 40 lashes for anyone "who commits an indecent act which violates public morality or wears indecent clothing."



A sea of mourners crowd the cortege of former Philippine president Corazon Aquino as it passes along the main avenue of the financial district in Manila yesterday transferring her body to a cathedral.

PHOTO: AFP

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Deadline
Wednesday, 19 August 2009

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- Two letters of recommendation, at least one must be from the faculty members of the last institution attended

For information, please contact : Dept. of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (Sunday-Thursdays)
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