

Aquino III sworn in as Philippine president

AP, Manila

Benigno Aquino III was sworn in as the Philippines' 15th president, leading a Southeast Asian nation his late parents helped liberate from dictatorship and which he promises to deliver from poverty and pervasive corruption.

Hundreds of thousands of people, many clad in his yellow campaign colour, applauded and yelled Aquino's nickname, "Noyonoy," as he took his oath before a Supreme Court justice at Manila's seaside Rizal Park.

Vice President Jejomar Binay was sworn in before Aquino in the nationally televised ceremony that resembled a music concert, with celebrity singers and an orchestra belting out nationalist and folk songs. Yellow confetti rained from two helicopters.

Diplomats from more than 80 countries and two former Philippine presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada attended. East Timor President Jose Ramos Horta, a long-time supporter of the Aquino family, and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk, sent as head of the American delegation by President Barack Obama, were among the foreign dignitaries.



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (C) toasts with military academy graduates at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. Russia and the United States sought to cool a heated scandal sparked by the arrest of 11 suspected Kremlin spies, amid fears of Cold War-style furor could harm improving ties.

German chancellor faces electoral test

BBC ONLINE

Voting has begun for a new German president in what is being seen as a test of the popularity of Chancellor Angela Merkel's government.

The role is largely ceremonial but the election may also become a verdict on her raft of austerity measures.

Her candidate, Christian Wulff, faces a strong challenge from former East German rights activist Joachim Gauck.

The president is chosen in an Electoral College secret ballot. The result should be known yesterday afternoon.

A total of 1,244 elected representatives take part in the ballot. Half are federal legislators and half state-parliament nominees.

EUROZONE CRISIS
The president has little power and the role is largely symbolic.

But the BBC's Steve Rosenberg in Berlin says a win for Mr Gauck would be considered a major blow to Mrs Merkel.

She is under increasing pressure over her government's package of austerity measures and because of infighting in the cabinet, our correspondent says.

Her candidate is Lower Saxony state governor Christian Wulff, deputy leader of her Christian Democratic party.

He remains the favourite to win as Mrs Merkel's ruling coalition enjoys a majority in the electoral college.

But Mr Gauck is a strong challenger - a non-partisan human rights campaigner who did much to expose the crimes of the East German secret police, the Stasi.

Our correspondent says Mr Gauck is both popular and widely respected - with even some members of Chancellor Merkel's own coalition saying they might vote for him.

There are two minor party candidates, from the far left and far right.

There can be up to three ballots if the first does not give a candidate an absolute majority. A simple majority will suffice in the final ballot.

Analysts say the number of ballots it takes may in itself be seen as a comment on the popularity of Mrs Merkel's coalition.

Since coming to power last October, the coalition has had to tackle the eurozone debt crisis.

This has led to rescue packages for European partners that have been deeply unpopular in Germany.

Judges quash UK troops' human rights ruling

AP, London

Human rights legislation enshrining the right to life does not apply to troops on overseas missions, Britain's Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

Six of nine justices quashed a lower court decision, which said the Human Rights Act applied to soldiers everywhere even at war. But the judgment said they didn't believe the act applied to armed forces on foreign soil.

The Ministry of Defence had argued it would be difficult to give soldiers serving overseas or in battle situations the protection required by human rights legislation. They also said it could have an impact on tactical decisions made by commanders who might be concerned about the legal implications of their choices.

The case centred on the death of Pvt Jason Smith, 32, who died of heatstroke while serving in Iraq in 2003.

An inquest into Smith's death found the military failed to recognize and take appropriate steps to address the difficulty he had adjusting to Iraq's climate.

Arrests show US-Russia espionage still active after Cold War

AFP, Washington

The case reads like a plot from a cheap spy thriller, but analysts say the break-up of an alleged Russian undercover network in the United States shows that espionage remains serious business decades after the Cold War ended.

"Russia is continuing to spy on the US, as other countries which harbour animosity do," said Ariel Cohen, a Heritage Foundation senior research fellow specializing in security issues.

But he said the indictments of the alleged spies "indicate mostly old and sloppy tradecraft, which reads like a parody on (British author John) Le Carré books from the 1970s, agents who are not well placed or tech-savvy."

Because the spy craft appears unsophisticated, Cohen said, "some old timers from the intelligence community speculated that the network is a decoy to mask a much more sophisticated espionage operation in the US."

Fred Burton, a former State Department intelligence agent who is now vice president at the security and consulting firm Stratfor, said the arrests after years of surveillance suggest that the network was nearing some key information or knew it had been compromised.

"The FBI didn't wake up Sunday morning and decide to take these folks down," he told AFP.

"Clearly, they were probably bumping up against something that was valuable," he said, adding that the spy ring may have "stumbled" onto "someone who has access to classified information or who is a defence contractor."

Because the suspects were not charged with espionage but with acting as agents of a foreign

government, Burton said the investigation is not complete but that prosecutors "may build an espionage case" later against the group.

"I view this as a very sophisticated Russian illegal operation. But having said that, I think the FBI did a wonderful job in ferreting these people out."

Burton said there was "a logical assumption" that more Russian agents and sleeper cells may be operating on US soil and that "one of the results of these takedowns is that you will rattle a few trees that will lead to other people or fill in other parts of other investigations."

The US Justice Department said the 10 "deep-cover" suspects were held on suspicion of seeking details of US nuclear weapons and foreign policy. According to court documents, the spy ring had been under FBI surveillance for a decade.

The case nonetheless reads like a work of fiction, with a glamorous Russian female agent, "sleeper" cells and cloak-and-dagger secret drops in public places, as one might expect in the Cold War era, even though that ended with the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

"It's not surprising that even when relations are good, countries will continue their intelligence programs against one another. It's what intelligence agencies do," said Olga Oliner, senior international policy analyst at Rand Corp.

But Oliner noted that the case still raises questions about why the network operated in various cities away from the centre of US government.

"This particular program has been in place for some time so it's very possible that a certain amount of inertia is what kept it going," she said.

Russia plays down US spy arrests

BBC ONLINE

Moscow has played down the arrest of alleged Russian spies in the US, saying the issue would "not negatively affect relations".

The Russian foreign ministry said it had "noted" a similar White House statement that ties should not be hurt.

Russia had said on Tuesday that the US charges were baseless and a throwback to the Cold War. PM Vladimir Putin said US police had "let themselves go".

Ten people were arrested in the US and one in Cyprus after an FBI inquiry.

A Russian foreign ministry spokesman, quoted by the Interfax news agency, said on Wednesday: "We expect that the incident involving the arrest in the United States of a group of people suspected of spying for Russia will not negatively affect Russian-US relations."

"In this connection, we take note of the statement of White House official representative Robert Gibbs."

On Tuesday Mr Gibbs said: "I think we have made a new start to working together on things like the United Nations, dealing with North Korea and Iran."

Is Belgium about to break into two?

NEWS ANALYSIS

TIME ONLINE

Watching Belgium's Kim Clijsters' three-set, fourth-round victory over her compatriot Justine Henin on Monday would have thought of how lucky one small country could be to produce two stunningly successful tennis stars. But lucky is not what Belgium feels right now.

And even that sports rivalry between the Belgian stars embodies the current political fracas that has exposed the division between the country's Dutch and French speakers: Clijsters' family is from the Dutch-speaking half, Henin's from the French.

Indeed, this is a moment of truth for the country straddling the dividing line between Europe's Germanic and Latin cultures. Wallonia, Belgium's French-speaking southern region, has struggled to recover economically from a postwar industrial decline, and its proponents argue that Dutch-speaking Flanders should show more solidarity in help-

ing it through. But the Flemish, who see themselves as more entrepreneurial and outward-looking, label Wallonia as sponging and feckless.

The split personality of the country emerged in a befuddling election earlier this month, which left the country with no viable government.

The biggest party in the Belgian Parliament is now the New Flemish Alliance (N-VA), which seeks independence for Flanders, while the largest party in Wallonia is the Socialist Party (PS), which wants a stronger central government.

Their respective leaders, the N-VA's Bart De Wever and the PS's Elio Di Rupo, are tentatively negotiating a coalition, but it is hard to see their common ground. A working coalition isn't even likely until October, at the earliest.

In the meantime, the economy is sputtering, and the country's debt is one of the largest in Europe (currently at 99% of GDP; it is lower only than the debts of Greece and Italy). Then there is the grim irony of Belgium this week assuming the presidency of the troubled European Union for the next six months.

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা
ঢাকা-১২০৮।

সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমটি প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারী / সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করছেঃ-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ
০১।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/লোকাল/টেভার/২০১০/১৬৬ তারিখঃ ২৮/০৬/২০১০ইং	সুক্রেস বিপি (Sucrose BP) (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)।	৫,০০০.০ কেজি

সিকিউরিটি / আর্নেট মানি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরযোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
২.৫%	টাকা ৫০০.০ (পাঁচশত) মাত্র	০১/০৭/২০১০ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	০১/০৭/২০১০ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহাদের ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

(মোঃ কিরোজ-উল-আলম)
পরিচালক অপারেশন ও ইনচার্জ,
গ্রানিং এন্ড প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিভাগ
পক্ষেঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।

Career Opportunity

Madina Group of Companies is one of the leading and diversified business conglomerates in Bangladesh with involvement in Cement, Plastic Water Tank, PP Woven Sack Bag, Real Estate, Cold Storage, Shipping Sector & has its own Distribution Network. For further strengthening we invite eligible candidate interested to work with such a reputed organization for the following position:

Position : **Manager, Finance & Accounts**
Department : Corporate Head Office
Job Location : Dhaka

Job Description:

Perform the full spectrum of financial and management accounting functions, with a focus of internal control and financial analysis, maintain structuring, accelerating and timely financial formation in a changing business environment, ensure the preparation, presentation and submission of financial reports, operating budgets and forecasting Group's requirement and statutory accounting and taxation requirements. Financial planning, financial forecasting and budgetary control. Administer budgetary and internal controls, perform variance analysis and reconciliation. Hand on financial planning and analysis, cash flow management and assisting in business decision making.

Qualification :

M.Com in Accounting or MBA major in Finance or CA course completed.
Should have minimum 8 years service experience in the relevant field.
Must have knowledge on accounting software.
Strong command over both English & Bengali Language and basic knowledge on Computer Operation.
Experience having manufacturing concern (Cement, Plastic, Textile, Steel, Spinning Industry etc.) will be given preference.
Should possess strong leadership quality to lead the team.
Age should not exceed 35 years.

Salary : Negotiable

The candidates who are willing to take up challenges in a performance based organization are requested to apply with a detailed CV with contact telephone number(s), two copies of recent passport size photographs within 7 (Seven) days from publication of this advertisement in the following address.



Madina Group

The General Manager
HR & Administration
DCCI Building (2nd Floor)
65-66, Motijheel C/A
Dhaka-1000



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks proposals from interested and well qualified International, National or Local NGOs/Organizations in response to the following RFP in the CHT.

RFP for hiring Service Providers for NGO Capacity Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) under Capacity Development Cluster of CHTDF, UNDP

The RFP along with the instructions for submission can be downloaded from UNDP website: http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php

All interested NGOs/Organizations are requested to attend a **pre-bid meeting** to be held on **Sunday, 11th July, 2010 at 10am** at conference Room, Conference Room, 3rd floor, IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1000. Maximum two (2) participants from each organization are allowed.

The deadline for proposal submission is **Saturday, 17th July, 2010 04:30 pm** (Local Time)