

Maldives president reappoints cabinet

AFP, Colombo
Maldivan President Mohamed Nasheed yesterday reappointed his cabinet in a bid to end the power struggle between himself and parliament, an official said.
Nasheed swore in his 13-member cabinet in the seafort capital of Male, giving ministers the same portfolio they had before they resigned last Tuesday, a senior official in the president's office said.
"The president said after the swearing-in ceremony that the cabinet had resigned for a valid reason," the official, who declined to be named, told AFP by telephone from Male.
The president said a minority of MPs were allegedly involved in buying votes in return for blocking legislation. Police investigation is still ongoing and cabinet can return to work, the official said.
Under the Maldives' system of government, the president chooses his cabinet and each nomination must be approved by parliament, which can later seek to remove a minister through a no-confidence vote.
The opposition-controlled parliament had planned to bring a no-confidence motion against the education minister but the cabinet resignation pre-empted the move.
The cabinet's reappointment came as two key opposition lawmakers remained under two weeks' house arrest, in terms of a high court order issued Friday.
MPs Abdulla Yamin and Qasim Ibrahim, leaders of small opposition parties, were arrested by police Tuesday shortly after a political crisis erupted when the cabinet resigned en masse.
The president's office said police were still investigating them for allegedly trying to bribe independent MPs.
The cabinet's reappointment came amid a one-day state visit by Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse to discuss bilateral issues.



Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari (2nd R) and Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) shake hands as Zardari's daughters stand behind, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari appealed to Chinese business leaders for help in developing his country's ailing energy sector, pointing to nuclear power as one area of growth but making no public mention of a deal with China that has alarmed the US and others.

Nato air strike kills five Afghan soldiers

BBC ONLINE
Five Afghan soldiers have accidentally been killed in a Nato air strike, officials in Afghanistan have said.
A spokesman for the Afghan defence ministry condemned the incident saying it was not the first time Afghan soldiers had died in "friendly fire".
Gen Mohammad Zahir Azimi said the soldiers had been launching an attack against insurgents in Ghazni province in eastern Afghanistan.
Nato confirmed the air strike had gone wrong and said it regretted the deaths.
Spokesman Brig-Gen Josef Blotz said a joint investigation had been launched.
He extended the personal condolences of US Gen David Petraeus, the new commander of Nato forces in Afghanistan, to families of the victims.

Rajapakse visits Maldives amid political deadlock

AFP, Colombo
Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse travelled yesterday to the Maldives, where a power struggle has left the country without a government, an official said.
Rajapakse was invited to visit the atoll nation by President Mohamed Nasheed, who is in a stand-off with the opposition-led parliament.
"The president is due to meet his counterpart as well as key opposition figures during the one-day visit," an official close to Rajapakse said.
Nasheed's 13-member cabinet quit last week saying the parliament was blocking all its efforts to govern the nation of 330,000 Sunni Muslims.
Under the Maldives' system of government, the president handpicks his cabinet and each nomination must be approved by parliament, which can later seek to remove a minister through a no-confidence vote.

UN office in Lanka shut over protests

REUTERS, Colombo
The United Nations in Sri Lanka closed yesterday when a headline presidential ally led a protest outside for a second day, vowing to stay until Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon dissolves a war crimes panel.
On Tuesday, police clashed with protesters led by Engineering Services and Construction Minister Wimal Weerawansa, after they stopped officers from escorting trapped UN staff out of the building in the capital, Colombo.
Weerawansa, who holds enough sway with President Mahinda Rajapakse's government that he was able to get the police intervention stopped on Tuesday, has pledged that supporters will hold a hunger strike unless the world body rescinds the panel.
"By tomorrow if we do not get a favourable answer, a parliamentarian will also join this fast unto death campaign and we are asking all Sri Lankans abroad to stage protests in front of UN offices all over the world," Weerawansa told reporters.
Staff at the UN office did not go there on Wednesday.
"The office did not work today but we hope it will tomorrow," UN Resident Coordinator Neil Buhne told Reuters.
The government strongly objected to Ban's June 22 appointment of a three-member panel to advise him if war crimes were committed at the end of Sri Lanka's 25-year war with the Tamil Tiger separatists, which government troops won in May 2009.
However, the government said it had been mindful of both its obligations to protect the United Nations as a diplomatic institution, and the democratic rights of the demonstrators.
"The government understands that those who are demonstrating intend to continue with their protest," it said in a statement. "At the same time, the freedom of entry and exit to and from the complex for authorised personnel will remain constant."
Sri Lanka views the panel as a violation of its sovereignty and a hypocritical application of double standards by Western governments engaged in the war on terror. It also is concerned it is a precursor to full-blown investigation.
Ban insists the panel is merely a resource to help Sri Lanka reconcile after thousands of Tamil civilians died in the war's final months. Sri Lanka's government, led by the Sinhalese ethnic majority, says the casualty figures are hugely inflated.

Nepal parties seek extension on unity govt talks

AFP, Kathmandu
Nepal's political leaders said yesterday they would seek to extend a deadline to form a new unity government set by the Himalayan country's president.
The nation was plunged into crisis last week when Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal stepped down under pressure from opposition Maoists.
Nepal's president, Ram Baran Yadav had set Wednesday as the deadline for parties to form a national "consensus" government. But days of talks between the three biggest political parties have failed to yield an agreement.
The parties are deadlocked over an insistence by the Maoists that they should lead the new power-sharing administration and oversee the drafting of Nepal's constitution since it became a republic two years ago.
Leaders of the main political parties said they would ask the president to delay the deadline so the dispute can be settled.
"We've decided to ask the president to extend the date for government formation," said Pradeep Gyawali, a senior leader of the Communist Party of Nepal Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML).
"We have to settle a few issues and that takes time," Gyawali told AFP.

Army marches through Kashmir streets

BBC ONLINE
Indian army soldiers have marched through Srinagar, the capital of Indian-administered Kashmir, in a show of force to help quell street protests.
A curfew is being strictly enforced in parts of the Kashmir Valley after a wave of violence between protesters and police over the past month.
Police and paramilitaries have been deployed in Srinagar and several towns are under curfew.
Some 14 civilians have died in clashes with security forces since June.
Correspondents say the Indian government is concerned over the situation, especially as the country's foreign minister is due to hold talks with Pakistan next week.
Kashmir is an issue that has long affected relations between the two countries which both claim the territory in its entirety - the Indian government has already accused Pakistan-based militant groups of instigating the latest protests.
Hundreds of thousands of troops are based in Kashmir to fight a two-decade insurgency against Indian rule.
The state government sought the army's help on Tuesday evening after three civilians were killed in police firing, the BBC's Altaf Hussain in Srinagar reports.
The federal government has yet to decide whether to deploy the army in Kashmir.
"We are out to give support to the state machinery. We are ready to move anywhere, anytime," the Associated Press news agency quoted army spokesman Col Vineet Sood as saying.

চট্টগ্রাম ভেটেরিনারি ও এনিম্যাল সাইন্সেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
চট্টগ্রাম-৪২০২, বাংলাদেশ
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চট্টগ্রাম ভেটেরিনারি ও এনিম্যাল সাইন্সেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদের বিপরীতে উল্লেখিত বেতন কেলে শূন্য পদ পূরণের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের (পুরুষ/মহিলা) নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।



Indian admiral shot dead in firing range 'accident'

BBC ONLINE
A senior Indian navy officer has been killed as the result of an "accidental firing," a navy spokesman said.
Rear Admiral SS Jamwal died at a firing range in the southern city of Kochi and an inquiry has been ordered into the accident, a navy statement said.
The officer was a specialist in anti-submarine warfare and had earlier served as a naval attaché in Moscow.
Rear Admiral Jamwal, 51, was the second in command at the Navy's southern command.

UK to hand control of Afghan area to US

AFP, London
Britain was to announce that its troops will withdraw from an area of southern Afghanistan where they have suffered heavy losses and hand control to the United States.
British Defence Secretary Liam Fox was expected to announce that British forces will pull out of Sangin district in the north of Helmand province by the end of August, reports said.
US forces, who now outnumber British troops in Helmand, will then take charge.
Sangin, a market town, has witnessed some of the fiercest fighting the British military has faced since World War II.

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