

Hillary hints at unease over early Mubarak exit

AFP, Washington

The timetable of President Hosni Mubarak's departure lies with the Egyptian people but his early exit could raise electoral complications, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said.

Under pressure from mass protests, Mubarak has pledged to step down after September polls but many demonstrators want his immediate departure and US news reports have suggested Washington was also pressuring him to quit now.

However, Clinton, speaking to reporters Sunday on the way back from international talks on Egypt in Germany, stressed that Mubarak's fate was not up to the United States. "That has to be up to the Egyptian people," the chief US diplomat said when asked if reality dictated Mubarak play some role in the political transition toward free and fair elections in Egypt.

"As I understand the constitution, if the president were to resign, he would be succeeded by the speaker of the house, and presidential elections would have to be held in 60 days," she said.

"Now the Egyptians are going to have to grapple with the reality of what they must do," she said.



Clinton said, for example, that she had heard a leader from the opposition Muslim Brotherhood as well as leading dissident Mohammed ElBaradei say "it's going to take time" to organize elections.

"That's not us saying it. It's them saying it," she said.

President Barack Obama, meanwhile, also emphasized Egypt's political transition when pressed in an interview Sunday on Fox television whether Mubarak was going to quit now.

"Only he knows what he's going to do. Here's what we know, is that Egypt is not going to go back to what it was," Obama said.

"He's not running for re-election. His term is up this year," he added.

Clinton said retired diplomat Frank Wisner, whom Obama sent to Mubarak with a message last week, did "not speak for the administration" when he said the Egyptian leader should stay in office during the transition.

She, like other members of the administration, have distanced themselves from Wisner's remarks but have not actually said he was wrong.

"President Mubarak's continued leadership is critical," Wisner told the Munich Security Conference, the same one Clinton attended.



PHOTO: AFP

(Clock-wise from left) Anti-government demonstrators and journalists stage a symbolic funeral for colleague Ahmed Mohammed Mahmud (picture), killed during clashes with pro-government supporters on February 4, at Cairo's Tahrir square yesterday. Members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement pray in front of soldiers at the square. A handout picture from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities shows a skull from the late period that was damaged by looters amid protests.



NEWS IN brief

Rights groups vow to hunt Bush over torture

AFP, Geneva

Human rights groups vowed yesterday to pursue George W. Bush wherever he travels, claiming that the former US president had cancelled a trip to Switzerland over fears that he could be probed for torture.

Bush was due to attend a fund-raising gala evening in Geneva this week, but organisers said Saturday that he had cancelled because of the risk of disturbances.

"The reach of the Convention Against Torture is wide -- this case is prepared and will be waiting for him wherever he travels next," said Katherine Gallagher, an attorney of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Suicide bombing rocks Kandahar

AFP, Kandahar

A suicide bomb hit the southern Afghan city of Kandahar yesterday, the interior ministry in Kabul said, giving no word on possible casualties.

"We know that there has been a suicide bombing in Kandahar city but we have no further details yet," interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary told AFP.

An AFP reporter at the site said the blast took place inside Kandahar's customs office. The reporter saw dozens of US soldiers sealing off the customs office and nearby areas.

Sri Lanka floods return, death toll rises to 17

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's latest monsoon rains have claimed at least 17 lives and left around 1.2 million people flooded out of their homes, officials said yesterday.

The Disaster Management Centre in Colombo said 311,000 people had sought refuge in state-run relief shelters by yesterday morning, while approximately 900,000 were living with friends and relatives.

Monsoon rains only last month in the same areas of the north, east and centre of Sri Lanka killed at least 43 people and drove more than a million people from their homes.

Musharraf now accused in Benazir killing case

Says a media report

IANS, Islamabad

Former president Pervez Musharraf's name was yesterday included in the list of accused in the Benazir Bhutto assassination case, a media report said.

Musharraf's name was added to the list following a statement of former Rawalpindi city police chief Saud Aziz, the daily Dawn reported.

Aziz claimed that Musharraf had given the order to change Benazir's security in-charge. He also claimed that the murder scene was immediately washed on Musharraf's orders.

Bhutto was assassinated Dec 27, 2007, as she was leaving Liaquat Bagh in a motorcade after addressing an election rally in Rawalpindi, Islamabad's twin city and Pakistan's old capital in northern punjab.



in her vehicle 'her head banged against the lever of the sunroof of her vehicle, which caused her death'.

Musharraf ruled Pakistan for nine years after taking power in a bloodless coup in 1999. He stepped down in 2008 and left Pakistan. He now lives in London.

In December last year, Pervez Musharraf was sent a questionnaire by the interior ministry regarding Bhutto's assassination during his presidency.

Wildfires rage out of control near Perth

BBC ONLINE

Bushfires raging out of control on the outskirts of Perth in Western Australia have destroyed at least 59 homes.

Firefighters are battling blazes to the east and north of the city, with the area declared a natural disaster zone.

High flames are being whipped up by winds of up to 70km/h (44mph). Hundreds of people have left their homes.

The blazes come exactly two years after 173 people died in bushfires that swept through the southern state of Victoria, causing widespread devastation.

More than 100 firefighters are battling from the ground and air to contain the fires that are burning out of control in the bush-fringed suburbs of Perth.

Swirling flames reported to be up to 3m (9ft) high have engulfed 59 houses and damaged nearly 30 more.

The weather forecast is for hot, gusty winds that will make the fires even more dangerous and unpredictable.

Emergency chief Craig Hynes said there had been no serious injuries or fatalities.

He said officials were prepared for the "remarkable" winds, but added that the fires were yet to be brought under control.

"Life is our priority," he said.

Fire destroys Samba City

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

A large fire has destroyed Samba City, a part of Rio de Janeiro where costumes and floats for the city's famed carnival are being made, media reports and officials said yesterday.

The disaster occurred just about a month before this year's carnival was set to begin.

"We are heartbroken," said Jorge Castanheria, president of the League of Samba Schools. "Everything was practically ready for the carnival."

He said he was not certain workers would be able to rebuild everything that was lost before the popular event.

A large plume of smoke was seen over the Sambadrome where the annual carnival parade takes place.

S Korea must prepare for food crisis

Says President Lee Myung-Bak

AFP, Seoul

South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak called yesterday for new strategies to help secure a stable supply of food amid growing concerns about a global food crisis.

"The likelihood of a global food crisis is rising due to climate change. We need to set up national strategies and research to tackle the issue," Lee's spokesman quoted him as saying during a meeting with senior advisers.

Lee also called for a task force from the government and private sector to be set up to attract investment in farming, and stressed the need to tackle rising energy prices also blamed for fanning inflation.

Affected by surging global prices for oil and other commodities and higher domestic prices of agricultural products, South Korea's consumer prices jumped 4.1 percent year-on-year in January.

South Korea has recently intensified efforts to secure stable sources of food and hedge against price swings.

State-run Korea Agro-Fisheries Trade Corp said last month it plans with private companies to buy a US grain trading firm this year to secure new sources of soybeans and grain.

Iran to launch several satellites: Ahmadinejad

AFP, Tehran

Iran plans to launch several home-built satellites by March 2012, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday after the unveiling of four new prototypes.

"I think from the end of this (Iranian) year (to March 20) and through the next year, we will see many launches" of domestically-built satellites, Ahmadinejad said at a ceremony

in Tehran.

The president's remarks coincide with celebrations of the 32nd anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution that falls on February 11.

Every year Iran uses the run-up to the anniversary to trumpet its scientific, technological and military achievements.

Iran's missile and space programmes have sparked concern abroad that such advanced technologies, combined with

the nuclear know-how which the nation is acquiring, may enable Tehran to produce an atomic weapon.

Tehran denies its nuclear programme has military aims.

Iran unveiled yesterday what it said were prototypes of four new home-built satellites -- Rasad (Observation), Fajr (Dawn), Zafar (Victory) and Amir Kabir-1 and also the engines of a Safir-B1 (Ambassador-B1) rocket, reports said.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE BANGLADESH 2011

Role of Supply Chain Management in Building a Responsive Bangladesh

Date: Friday & Saturday, February 11 & 12, 2011 Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel Dhaka

| DAY- ONE - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011 | DAY- TWO – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2011 |
|---|---|
| Opening Ceremony : 09.00 am Chief Guest : Mr. Dilip Barua Honorable Minister, Ministry of Industries Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh. | Seminar - 04 : 09.00 am Role of ERP in enhancing productivity in the RMG Sector Key Note Speaker : Ranjan Neogi Director & Co-founder CSL Software Resources Ltd. |
| Seminar - 01 :10.30 am Supply Chain Management for Competitive Advantage. Key Note Speaker : Mr. Naquib Khan Supply Chain Director, Nestle Bangladesh Ltd. | Seminar - 05 : 11.15 am Enhance Competitive Performance by Closely Integrating the Value Chain of a Firm to the Extended Supply Chain. Key Note Speaker : Dr. Premkumar Rajagopal Dimp(MIM), BBA(RMIT), MBA(UUM), PhD(USM) Sr. Associate Professor & Director of CGES and Head of Business Faculty at AIMST University. |
| Seminar- 02 : 02.15 pm Green Supply Chain Management - An Imperative for Any Business's Future Supply Chain. Key Note Speaker : Mr. Mike Sheahan CFPIM, CIRM, CLM, CSCM President IBS (ISCEA International Standards Board) Vice President Transformation Advisors & Former International President, APICS. | Seminar - 06 : 02.00 pm Are We Prepared For The Supply Chain Talent Crisis? Key Note Speaker : Mr. Ejazur Rahman CEO, ISCEA-Bangladesh. |
| Seminar - 03 : 04.30 pm Implementing ERP – needs to be carefully managed to reap the benefits. Key Note Speaker : Mr. Shakhawat Hussain Head of Supply Chain & IT, IDS Group. | Closing Ceremony : 05.00 pm Bangladesh Supply Chain Excellence Award & CSCM Certificate Distribution Ceremony. Chief Guest : Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Muhammad Faruk Khan, MP Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh. |

CEOs Night : 11 February, 2011, 06.00 pm
Chief Guest : Mr. Dilip Barua, Honorable Minister
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