

Gaza crisis brings Hamas, Fatah truce

AFP, Ramallah

Rival Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas yesterday said they have decided to end infighting in a show of solidarity in the West Bank over the Gaza crisis, an AFP reporter said.

"From here, we announce with other (factional) leaders, that we are ending the division," senior Fatah official Jibril Rajoub told a crowd of about 1,000 who gathered for a demonstration in Ramallah, the West Bank's political capital.

Among those present at the rally were top members of Hamas's leadership in the West Bank as well as senior officials from its smaller rival Islamic Jihad, the AFP correspondent said. "Whoever speaks about the division after today is a criminal," top Hamas leader Mahmud al-Ramahi told the crowd.

Fatah and Hamas, the two main Palestinian national factions, have been locked in a bitter dispute for years.

But the ongoing bloodshed in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, where Israel was yesterday pressing a sixth day of a major aerial campaign which has so far killed 96 Palestinians, appears to have prompted a rethink of traditional rivalries.

Meanwhile, More than 44 million hacking attempts have been made on Israeli government web sites since Wednesday, the government said on Sunday.



A Palestinian woman is helped by a paramedic out of her building, damaged during an Israeli air raid on a nearby sporting centre in Gaza City yesterday. Inset, Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian protester during clashes in the West Bank town of Nablus as Palestinian across the territories protest against Israel's military action on the Gaza Strip.



PHOTO: AFP

Fiscal crisis deepens in Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's president yesterday gave warring political factions three days to avert a budget crisis that could leave 500,000 public workers unpaid, and also to agree a date for elections.

Nepal has not had a parliament or fully functioning government since June and the Maoist caretaker administration has failed to fulfil a pledge to arrange polls which were due this week.

The Himalayan country's opposition parties have said they will not agree on a new election date or support the budget without the resignation of Maoist Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai.

Nepal has been surviving on emergency funds but they ran out last week.

President Ram Baran Yadav has insisted he will not sign off on the 450 billion-rupee (\$5.2 billion) budget unless it can be agreed upon by all parties.

ASEAN SUMMIT Nations feud over South China Sea

AFP, Phnom Penh

Asian leaders feuded yesterday over how to handle tense maritime territorial disputes with China, overshadowing talks at a regional summit meant to strengthen trade and political ties.

The leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations had hoped to present a united front on the South China Sea row as they hosted Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and US President Barack Obama for annual talks.

But that effort broke down just before the Asean leaders met Wen, amid divisions between Chinese ally Cambodia and the Philippines.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda also weighed into the debate at the 18-nation East Asia Summit, warning the South China Sea was of concern to the international community and could impact "peace and stability" in the region.

Cambodia, this year's Asean chair and host of the summit, said on Sunday that Southeast Asian leaders had agreed not to "internationalise" the disputes and would confine negotiations to those between the bloc and China.

The apparent deal would have been a victory for China, which has long insisted that it should only negotiate directly with rival claimants to the sea.

The Philippines has consistently sought wider help, such as from close ally the United States, in dealing with its more powerful Asian neighbour on the issue.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino yesterday publicly rebuked Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, saying no such consensus had been reached and he would continue to speak out on the global stage.

The feud echoed unprecedented infighting at an Asean foreign ministers' meeting in Phnom Penh in July, which ended for the first time in the bloc's 45-year history without a joint communique.

SYRIA CRISIS Opposition to set base in Egypt

AFP, Cairo

A newly formed Syrian opposition bloc that has received Arab and international backing is to be based in Egypt, its head Ahmed Moaz al-Khatib told the official MENA news agency yesterday.

"It has been decided that the Syrian National Coalition will have its headquarters in Egypt," Khatib was quoted as saying after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel Amr.

Amr said Egypt was willing to "offer any assistance to the coalition in the coming phase".

The National Coalition was formed last week after extensive talks in Doha.

Meanwhile, Italy yesterday joined France to recognize Syria opposition.

We have recognised the coalition that brings together the various opposition groups as legitimate representatives of the Syrian people," Italy's Prime Minister Mario Monti said in Doha.

China new leader issues stern graft warning

AFP, Beijing

The new head of China's ruling party sounded a strong anti-corruption warning in his first speech to top politicians, state media said yesterday, following a series of stern messages by top officials.

Xi Jinping stressed the theme as he and other top leaders take charge for the next decade in the world's most populous country, where public anger has mounted at perceived privileges and abuses of power in the one-party system.

"A large body of evidence has shown us that the issue of corruption is growing more intense and in the end will kill the party and the country," Xi said, according to the party-linked People's Daily and



Xi Jinping

other outlets. "We must be alert," he told the top 25-member Politburo Saturday.

"In recent years in some countries, long-festering disputes have led to popular anger, social unrest and a collapse of government power -- and in all this corruption played an important role."

Xi also warned against graft last week in his widely watched first speech as party leader, as did his predecessor Hu Jintao a week earlier in his last major address before handing over the reins.

Xi is expected to succeed Hu as China's president early next year in a move that would formalise his leadership of the country.

US in breach of detainee deal: Karzai

AFP, Kabul

President Hamid Karzai has accused the United States of breaching an agreement to transfer more than 3,000 detainees at a controversial prison north of Kabul to Afghan control.

Karzai had hailed the transfer of Bagram prison, sometimes called the Guantanamo Bay of Afghanistan, as a victory for national sovereignty as Nato prepares to hand over security to Afghans and withdraw its combat troops by the end of 2014.

Azmi testifies for his father

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Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar in 1982-83, during the second spell of the martial law.

Azmi was a second lieutenant at that time and carried out his responsibilities under supervision of superior officers of the army, he claimed.

A military ruler always imposes strict control over the media while assuming power, Azmi said, adding that a military ruler does so, so that the media can not spread resentment among the people and to stop the media from criticising military activities and the ruler.

Azmi said he had to check all the items to go on

the air, entertainment or news programmes. He also controlled schedule of the programmes.

"If there were any approved but sensitive news, I stayed at the news control room beside the news reader until the end of the broadcast," said the dismissed army officer.

The defence witness also talked about India's stance toward East Bengal before 1947 and East Pakistan from 1947 to 1971.

Azmi said Indians, more specifically people of the Congress party, were always active to retain its control and authority over East Bengal.

After independence in

1947, India exposed its "colonial and expansionary" attitude, Azmi claimed.

Azmi also talked about India's early relationship with its neighbouring countries but the tribunal expunged it from the records.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until today.

The tribunal yesterday rejected a petition of the defence seeking a recall of the investigation officer in the war crimes case against Ghulam Azam for cross-examination.

The tribunal also rejected another petition for providing division facility to Ghulam Azam.

UNHR invited to open office in Myanmar

AFP, Yangon

In a statement issued on the eve of Obama's visit, the Myanmar government said it would invite the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an office in the former army-ruled nation.

Myanmar also released 56 political prisoners yesterday in an amnesty coinciding with a landmark visit by US President Barack Obama.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Sunday said Myanmar local security forces killed Muslim villagers and assaulted people trying to flee a fresh outbreak of sectarian violence in western Rakhine state last month.

Local forces killed ethnic minority Muslims in the town of Kyauk Pyu while government troops "stood by and watched", according to New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW).

Soldiers from the local border guard force meanwhile "severely beat" dozens of displaced Rohingya Muslims arriving by boat near the Rakhine state capital Sittwe from violence-hit local villages, it added.



Request For Proposals

Study on high value fish species (tilapia, pangas, koi) in Bangladesh

Katalyst, a pro-poor market development project implemented under Ministry of Commerce by Swisscontact and GIZ International Services requests proposals from interested firms/individual consultant for carrying out the following assignment.

"A Comprehensive Study on high value fish species (tilapia, pangas, koi) in Bangladesh"

The detailed RFP for the assignment can be downloaded from the following web-link: http://www.katalyst.com.bd/abtus_procurement.php

Organizations/consultants bidding for the assignment are to submit their respective proposals consisting of separate technical and financial bids by 5.00pm December 6, 2012.

VACANCY

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Qualifications and Experiences: Masters degree preferably in Business Administration / English/ Social Sciences. Minimum 5 years work experience in Administration department in any large/ multinational organization preferably in well reputed university. Excellent communication skills in English and Bengali. Well conversant in MS Word, MS Excel and other computer applications with good typing speed. **Age limit:** Not exceeding 35 years.

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Qualifications and Experiences: Masters degree preferably in Business Administration / English/ Social Sciences. Minimum 5 years work experience in academic administrative job in any large/ multinational organization preferably in well reputed university. Excellent communication skills in English and Bengali. Well conversant in computer applications. **Age limit:** Not exceeding 35 years.

Secretary to the Treasurer: 1 position

Qualifications and Experiences: Masters degree preferably in Business Administration / English/ Social Sciences. Minimum 5 years work experience in academic administrative job in any large/ multinational organization preferably in well reputed university. Excellent communication skills in English and Bengali. Well conversant in computer applications. **Age limit:** Not exceeding 35 years.

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Qualifications and Experiences: Excellent academic credentials; Masters degree preferably in Business Administration / English / Social Sciences. Minimum 5 years of experience in university administration. Candidates should have the knowledge of handling Admissions, Registration, Scheduling exams, responding verification queries of student's records and maintaining liaison with the related Govt. organizations. Knowledge of Private University Act will be considered added qualification. High level computer literacy is essential. **Age limit:** Not exceeding 35 years.

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Qualifications and Experiences: Masters degree preferably in Business Administration / English/ Social Sciences. Minimum 2-3 years work experience in academic administrative job in any large/ multinational organization preferably in well reputed university. Excellent communication skills in English and Bengali. Well conversant in computer applications. **Age limit:** Not exceeding 32 years.

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