

'You'll live forever'

AFP, Qunu

South African President Jacob Zuma yesterday told a country mourning for its founding father Nelson Mandela that it was incumbent on them to carry on his legacy.

The president thanked Mandela's family for sharing him with the world and said his memory will live on.

"We have to take the legacy forward," Zuma said in an address to Mandela's state funeral in the former leader's boyhood home of Qunu.

"As your journey ends today ours must continue in earnest.

"One thing we can assure you of today Tata (father), as you take your final steps, is that South Africa will continue to rise. "South Africa will continue to rise because we dare not fail you," Zuma said.

"We shall not say goodbye, for you are not gone," Zuma said. "You'll live forever in our hearts and minds."

Mandela's passing comes at a difficult time in the life of this young nation forged from his ideals of non-racialism, democracy and equality.

During Sunday's ceremony Zuma attempted to channel the spirit of hope Mandela engendered.

"Thank you for being everything we wanted and needed in a leader in a difficult period in our life," he said.

"We pledge today to continue promoting non racialism and tolerance in our country and to build a south Africa that truly belongs to all.

"You were indeed an extraordinary human being you will remain our guiding light, illuminating the path as we continue the long journey to build the South Africa of your dreams," he said.



1. A billboard says "Sleep well, father" in Pritoria. 2. The ex-wife of Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela Madikizela (L), and the widow of Nelson Mandela, Graca Machel (C), stand by the coffin of Mandela during his funeral ceremony. 3. Britain's Prince Charles attends the funeral. 4. People weep as the coffin of the South African champion is buried in the compound of his former home in Qunu, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Madiba was human

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Dear revisionists, Mandela will never, ever be your minstrel. Over the next few days you will try so, so hard to make him something he was not, and you will fail. You will try to smooth him, to sandblast him, to take away his Malcolm X. You will try to hide his anger from view.

You will say that Mandela was not about race. You will say that Mandela was not about politics. You will say that Mandela was about nothing but one love, you will try to reduce him to a lilting reggae tune. "Let's get together, and feel alright." Yes, you will do that.

You will make out that apartheid was just some sort of evil mystical space disease that suddenly fell from the heavens and settled on all of us, had us all, black or white, in its thrall, until Mandela appeared from the ether to redeem us. You will try to make Mandela a Magic Negro and you will fail. You will say that Mandela stood above all for forgiveness whilst scuttling swiftly over the details of the perversity that he had the grace to forgive.

You will try to make out that apartheid was some horrid spontaneous

historical aberration, and not the logical culmination of centuries of imperial arrogance. You will imply or audaciously state that its evils ended the day Mandela stepped out of jail. You will fold your hands and say the blacks have no-one to blame now but themselves.

Well, try hard as you like, and you'll fail. Because Mandela was about politics and he was about race and he was about freedom and he was even about force, and he did what he felt he had to do and given the current economic inequality in South Africa he might even have died thinking he didn't do nearly enough of it.

Just imagine if Cape Town were London. Imagine seeing two million white people living in shacks and mud huts along the M25 as you make your way into the city, where most of the biggest houses and biggest jobs are occupied by a small, affluent to wealthy group of black people. There are no words for the resentment that would still simmer there.

Nelson Mandela was not a god, floating elegantly above us and saving us. He was utterly, thoroughly human.



"I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die"

Nelson Mandela, April 20, 1964

NEWSIN brief

McCain backs Ukraine protesters

AFP, Kiev

US Senator John McCain on Sunday met the daughter of imprisoned opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko and backed sanctions directed personally against officials in the Ukrainian government.

"People of Ukraine, this is your moment.... The free world is with you, America is with you, I am with you," he told to a jubilant crowd in Kiev yesterday.

Japan diplomat stabbed in Yemen

AFP, Sanaa

Assailants stabbed a Japanese diplomat in Yemen yesterday as he drove his car in the capital Sanaa, scene of a recent spate of attacks on foreigners, the embassy said. The consul and second secretary at the embassy suffered five stab wounds in the morning attack. It was unclear if the attack was an attempt to kidnap the diplomat.

Iran cancels Pakistan gas line loan

AP, Tehran

Iran says it has canceled a planned \$500 million loan to Pakistan to build part of a pipeline to bring natural gas from Iran. Deputy Oil Minister Ali Majedi says Iran has no obligation to finance the Pakistani side of the project. He said Tehran will demand compensation if Islamabad fails to take Iranian gas by end of next year.

Ireland exits bailout

AFP, Dublin

Ireland on Sunday formally left its three-year bailout programme, becoming the first eurozone nation to do so. Ireland is now returning unaided to the international lending markets -- while eurozone strugglers Greece, Portugal and Cyprus remain locked into the bailout process.

Iran to continue talks despite US blacklist

AFP, Tehran

Tehran said yesterday it will keep talking with world powers on its disputed nuclear programme despite a US move to blacklist Iranian companies for evading sanctions.

"We are pursuing the negotiations seriously and of course we will give a well-considered, purposeful, smart and proper reaction to any inappropriate and unconstructive move," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on his Facebook page.

This was despite the Americans having made "inappropriate moves to which we gave the appropriate response by considering all aspects of the issue".

The United States blacklisted a dozen overseas companies and individuals on Thursday for evading its sanctions imposed on Iran to halt what the West sees as its bid to build a nuclear bomb.

Senior US officials argued the move was taken under an existing sanctions regime which had forced Tehran to negotiations that led to an interim deal under which it agreed last month to freeze parts of its nuclear programme.

The measures, which angered Iran and prompted its negotiating team to withdraw from the talks in Vienna, have drawn strong criticism in the Islamic republic.

But Zarif vowed to answer at the right time domestic critics who were using his "necessary silence" to voice their displeasure at the nuclear deal reached with the six world powers in Geneva on November 24.

"Some friends who were not happy with the Geneva joint action programme have already announced its premature death, which is more the expression of their desire rather than the truth," he said on Facebook.

Under the interim deal reached in Geneva, Iran agreed to freeze parts of its suspect nuclear programme in return for some relief from Western sanctions as it negotiates a comprehensive accord to allay suspicions that it seeks a weapons capability.

Top administration officials argued that Thursday's blacklisting was carried out within the framework of the existing sanctions regime and did not constitute new measures.

I ain't a Marxist: Pope Francis

CNN ONLINE

Pope Francis responded to critics who call his stance on capitalism Marxist, saying in a new interview that the political and economic philosophy is flat "wrong."

"Marxist ideology is wrong," the Pope told the Italian newspaper La Stampa in an interview published yesterday. "But I have met many Marxists in my life who are good people, so I don't feel offended."

Earlier this month, the conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh blasted the pontiff, calling his latest major writing, an apostolic exhortation called Evangelii Gaudium, "pure Marxism."

Pope Francis told La Stampa that, "there is nothing in the Exhortation that cannot be found in the social Doctrine of the Church." The 50,000-word statement calls for church reform and castigates elements of modern capitalism.

Francis warned in "Evangelii" that the "idolatry of money" would lead to a "new tyranny."



President's rule likely in Delhi

PTI, New Delhi

A spell of president's rule loomed large in Delhi as the political deadlock continued over formation of a government in the national capital even eight days after announcement of outcome of the election that returned a hung verdict.

The tenure of the current assembly will end on Dec 18 and president's rule has to be imposed after that if a government is not put in place by then, top officials said.

BJP has 32 MLAs in the 70-member House while AAP has 28 seats followed by Congress' eight. BJP had declined to form government citing lack of majority following which EC had invited AAP to discuss government formation.

BJP yesterday attacked AAP saying the party was not interested in forming the government as it will not be able to fulfil the promises made in its manifesto.

China eyes moon for minerals

AFP, Beijing

China's moon rover will survey for minerals on a dusty, barren crater named the Bay of Rainbows, but experts say there may be no pot of gold on the Earth's natural satellite.

The potential to extract the moon's resources has been touted as a key reason behind China's space programme, which made its latest breakthrough on Saturday with the landing of its first lunar rover.

State media said early yesterday that the rover vehicle had been deployed on the moon's surface. It is the first such mission for 40 years, after the United States and former Soviet Union did so, and the first soft landing on the lunar surface of any kind since 1976.

China's space exploits are covered widely by the country's media, and have become a huge source of pride for ordinary Chinese.

Luan Enjie, a senior adviser to China's lunar programme, told state media that the ultimate aim was to use the moon as a "springboard" for deep space exploration.

The Earth's natural satellite is also believed to hold uranium, titanium, and other mineral resources, as well as offering the possibility of solar power generation.

Roger Waters compares Israelis to Nazis

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Inflammatory remarks by the musician Roger Waters, formerly of Pink Floyd, comparing the modern Israeli state to Nazi Germany have put him at the centre of a furious dispute.

Performers and religious figures reacted angrily to the veteran rock star's argument that Israeli treatment of the Palestinians can be compared to the atrocities of Nazi Germany. "The parallels with what went on in the 1930s in Germany are so crushingly obvious," he said in an American online interview last week.

Writing in the New York Observer -- in response to Waters' remark, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach said: "Mr Waters, the Nazis were a genocidal regime that murdered six million Jews. That you would have the audacity to compare Jews to monsters who murdered them shows you have no decency, you have no heart, you have no soul." Speaking to the leftwing CounterPunch magazine, the musician criticised the US government for being unduly influenced by the Israeli "propaganda machine".

The former Pink Floyd frontman went on to describe the Israeli rabbinate as "bizarre" and accused them of believing that Palestinians and other Arabs in the Middle East were "sub-human". On the subject of the Holocaust, he said: "There were many people that pretended that the oppression of the Jews was not going on. So this is not a new scenario. Except that this time it's the Palestinian people being murdered."



Toxic 'e-waste' being dumped in poor nations

Says United Nations

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Millions of mobile phones, laptops, tablets, toys, digital cameras and other electronic devices bought this Christmas are destined to create a flood of dangerous "e-waste" that is being dumped illegally in developing countries, the UN has warned.

The global volume of electronic waste is expected to grow by 33% in the next four years, when it will weigh the equivalent of eight of the great Egyptian pyramids, according to the UN's Step initiative, which was set up to tackle the world's growing e-waste crisis.

Last year nearly 50m tonnes of e-waste was generated worldwide -- or about 7kg for every person on the planet. These are electronic goods made up of hundreds of different materials and containing toxic substances such as lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic and flame retardants. An old-style CRT computer screen can contain up to 3kg of lead, for example.

Once in landfill, these toxic materials seep out into the environment, contaminating land, water and the air. In addition, devices are often dismantled in primitive conditions. Those who work at



these sites suffer frequent bouts of illness.

An indication of the level of e-waste being shipped to the developing world was revealed by Interpol last week. It said almost one in three containers leaving the EU that were checked by its agents contained illegal e-waste. Criminal investigations were launched against 40 companies.

According to the Step report, e-waste -- which extends from old fridges to toys and even motorised toothbrushes -- is now the world's fastest growing waste stream. China generated 11.1m tonnes last year, followed by the US with 10m tonnes, though there was significant difference per capita. For example, on average each American generated 29.5kg, compared to less than 5kg per person in China.

Although it is legal to export discarded goods to poor countries if they can be reused or refurbished, much is being sent to Africa or Asia under false pretences, says Interpol. "Much is falsely classified as 'used goods' although in reality it is non-functional. It is often diverted to the black market and disguised as used goods to avoid the costs associated with legitimate recycling," said a spokesman.

POLITICAL STANDOFF Thai military backs fresh election

DPA, Bangkok

Thailand's influential military yesterday confirmed its support for holding nationwide elections on February 2, as a way to end the country's political deadlock.

"The armed forces will support the February 2 election," said Army General Nipat Thonglek, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Defence.

The military's supreme commander, General Tanasak Patimapragorn, reportedly told a forum with anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban on Saturday that he wanted to see an election held on February 2, as scheduled.

Government sources welcomed the military's support of the polls.

"The armed forces leaders sort-of confirmed that they will not stage a coup," said Chaturon Chaisaeng, Caretaker Education Minister.

There have been 18 military coups in Thailand since 1932, the last of which ousted former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, in 2006.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's sister, dissolved parliament earlier this month and called a snap election in response to a mass protest. Suthep had mobilized against her government.