



Ex-leaders of China face genocide claim

CNN ONLINE

A Spanish judge issued international arrest warrants for China's former President Jiang Zemin and former Prime Minister Li Peng for alleged genocide against the people of Tibet, Spain's National Court in Madrid said.

The warrants against them and three other senior Chinese officials are the latest chapter in a long-running lawsuit by pro-Tibetan groups and a dual Tibetan-Spanish citizen who seek international legal action against some Chinese officials.

Judge Ismael Moreno issued the arrest warrants for alleged "genocide, torture and crimes against humanity," and ordered them to be sent to Interpol, the international police agency, according to a copy of the order viewed by CNN.

The former officials will surely not be arrested in China, but there's a "medium chance" of them being arrested if they go abroad, "depending on the country and its ethics," said Alan Cantos, president of the Barcelona-based Tibet Support Committee.

Cantos expressed satisfaction with the judge's order, which his group has been pushing with its co-plaintiffs: the House of Tibet Foundation and Thubten Wangchen Sherpa.

Sherpa, a Tibetan who has lived in Spain for about 20 years and has Spanish citizenship.

"It shows that justice after all works, against all odds. If you let justice work, victims can have retribution," Cantos said.



'Lollipop' star Shirley Temple dies at 85

AFP, Los Angeles

Shirley Temple, the Hollywood child star who captured hearts in Depression-era America with her trademark blond ringlets and dimpled smile, has died at the age of 85, her family said yesterday.

Temple, who started acting at the age of 3 and shot to stardom with songs including her signature tune "On the Good Ship Lollipop," died of natural causes on Monday night in her California home, surrounded by her family and caregivers.

Her death triggered an outpouring of tributes on social media and elsewhere. "The Good Ship

Lollipop has sailed today with Shirley Temple aboard a true 1 of a kind," tweeted Oscar-winning actress and TV star Whoopi Goldberg. Delighting audiences with her singing, dancing and sweet and simple innocence at a time when money and jobs were scarce and everyday life in America was especially challenging, the star of "Curly Top" and "The Little Princess" became, at 6, the youngest person ever to win an Oscar.

She reigned supreme at the box office for three consecutive years, from 1936 to 1938, and starred in more than 40 movies, most of them before the age of 12.

Later in life she also served as US ambassador to Ghana and what was then Czechoslovakia, as well as a US delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. Shirley was born in April 23, 1928 in Santa Monica, California.

China, Taiwan hold historic talks

REUTERS, Beijing

China and Taiwan, at odds for more than six decades, agreed at historic talks yesterday to set up representative offices as soon as possible, though sensitive political issues like a formal peace treaty were not up for discussion.

The talks between Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Minister Wang Yuchi and China's Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun, who heads the Taiwan Affairs Office, were the first since the 1949 creation of the People's Republic of China.

They mark a big step towards expanding cross-strait dialogue beyond economic and trade issues.

China's ruling Communist Party considers Taiwan a renegade province and has never ruled out the use of force to bring the island under its wing after taking control of the

mainland at the end of a civil war. But economic ties have grown considerably in recent years.

Taiwan's Wang described his meeting with Zhang, in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing, as "an unimaginable occasion in earlier years", China's official Xinhua news agency reported.

"Being able to sit down and talk is a really valuable opportunity, considering that the two sides were once almost at war," Wang said.

The mainland's Zhang told Wang that both sides should have "a little more imagination" regarding relations.

"We meet under great attention and expectations and bear great responsibilities," Zhang said.

Xinhua later reported that the two sides agreed to set up representative offices "as soon as possible" for the two semi-official organisations

Nuke power Iran's right

Says Rohani, slams West on Islamic revolution anniversary

REUTERS, Dubai

Iranian President Hassan Rohani yesterday hit out at Western assertions that a military solution to a nuclear dispute with Tehran remained an option and pledged that Tehran would press on "forever" with what he called peaceful atomic research.

In a speech marking the 35th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution, Rohani also attacked economic sanctions imposed by the West as "brutal, illegal and wrong" and said countries in the region had nothing to fear from Iran.

Iran's military test-fired two new domestically made missiles on Monday, a gesture of national resolve ahead of talks next week with world powers to try to reach an agreement on curbing Tehran's nuclear programme.

Rohani said Western officials continued to argue that if such efforts came to nothing, there was always the option of using military force against its nuclear facilities.

"I say explicitly to those delusional people who say the military option is on the table, that they



should change their glasses ... Our nation regards the language of threat as rude and offensive," he said.

"I want to expressly announce that the movement of the Iranian nation towards the peaks of scientific and technical progress and advancement, including peaceful nuclear technology, will be forever," he added.

The Iranian president also called for "fair and constructive" nuclear talks.

Iran and six world powers struck an interim deal in November under which Tehran agreed to limit parts of its nuclear work in return for the easing of some international sanctions.

Hardliners, unsettled by the foreign policy shift since Rohani was elected in June, have repeatedly criticised the agreement. Iran's most powerful authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has so far backed the deal.

Iran and the six powers will start negotiating a full agreement in Vienna on February 18. Easing of sanctions, imposed on Iran over its nuclear activities, began in late January.



Water surrounds flooded properties in the village of Moorland on the Somerset Levels near Bridgwater after the River Thames burst its banks yesterday. **Top right**, members of a family stand inside of their flooded house; **Bottom right**, Rescue personnel assist in the evacuation of a family from their home in Wraybury, west of London, yesterday. Flooding in Britain spread along the River Thames and began to threaten London, as a political row over the handling of devastating winter storms erupted into the open.



PHOTO: AFP, MAIL ONLINE

Grenade attack at Pak cinema kills 11

Pak-Taliban peace talks resume

AFP, Peshawar

A triple grenade attack on a cinema showing pornography in northwest Pakistan killed 11 people yesterday as government and Taliban negotiators met for a second round of peace talks.

It was the second such attack within two weeks on a cinema in the city of Peshawar, which has been on the front line of Pakistan's homegrown Islamist insurgency.

The attack came as negotiators representing the Pakistani government and Taliban militants met for a second time as part of efforts to end the bloody seven-year insurgency.

After the meeting in Islamabad the chief negotiator for the Taliban, hardline cleric Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, said the two sides had proposed a ceasefire "to make the atmosphere for talks more conducive".

In Peshawar, city police chief Mohammad Ijaz Ahmed said three grenades were used in the attack and up to 80 people were in the Shama cinema at the time.

The cinema is known for showing explicit erotic movies as well as regular films.

Another senior police officer, Faisal Mukhtar, told AFP that 11 people were killed and 17 wounded.

Scraps of human flesh, blood-soaked shoes, caps and condoms littered the floor of the hall after the blasts, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

The attack bears striking similarities to one on the city's Picture House cinema on February 2, when two grenades were thrown into the auditorium. Four people were killed and 31 injured.

US moves to improve ties with Modi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The United States has signalled its desire to end more than a decade-long boycott of controversial Narendra Modi, Prime Ministerial candidate of India's main opposition BJP, with fresh parliamentary elections in India just two months away.

The US said its Ambassador to India Nancy Powell last week asked and received permission from Indian External Affairs Ministry to meet Modi, the Gujarat chief minister, whose handling of riots in his state in the year 2002 -- that left 1000 people dead -- has come under severe criticism.

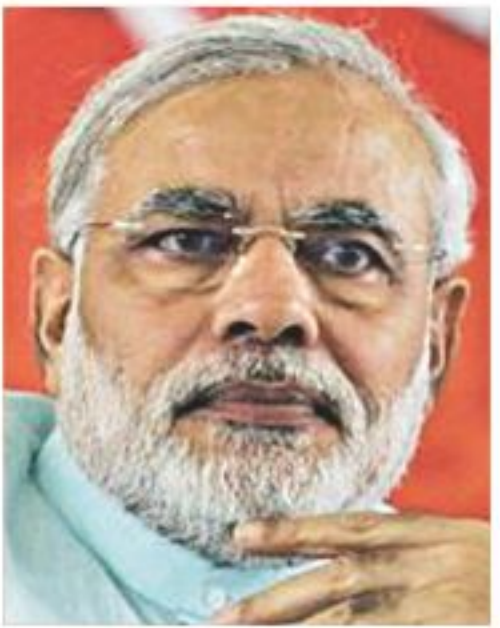
The go ahead, just before the announcement of general elections in a few weeks from now, seems to have been taken after intensive debate within the various wings of the Obama Administration -- the White House and the State Department in particular -- with crucial inputs from the members of the Congress, and the influential leaders of the corporate sector, the US India Business Council in particular, media reports reaching here said.

Three years after the Gujarat riots, the US had refused Modi a visa citing US immigration and nationality laws which make any foreign government official applicant ineligible if they are responsible "for or directly carried out, at any time, particularly severe violations of religious freedom".

Not only the US, all western governments had boycotted Modi since the riots before Britain was the first two reverse the policy two years ago followed by the European Union.

The proposed meeting between Modi and Powell is unlikely discuss the visa issue and instead bilateral relations would come up.

According to a BJP leader, the US Embassy here has been sounding out



Indian youth call for govt change

AFP, Mumbai

More than half of young Indians would emigrate to the United States if given the chance and 80 percent want a change of government, a survey showed Tuesday, just months before national elections.

Seventy-two percent also said politicians' children should not enter politics, suggesting Rahul Gandhi, scion of India's renowned political dynasty and frontman for the Congress campaign, may not fare well at the polls.

The results of the survey of young smartphone users -- conducted by The Economist and mobile phone messaging platform Nimbuzz -- are another ominous sign for Congress, tipped to lose the elections due to take place by May.

Some 77 percent said a strong leader was the answer to India's problems, which The Economist said could be read as support for Narendra Modi, the "strong-man candidate" of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

More than 80 percent of those surveyed said they would vote in the coming elections -- the last time they were held was in 2009.

There are 120 million people in India aged 18 to 22 who are eligible to vote for the first time at the elections, according to The Economist.

Bill Clinton's sex scam resurfaces with papers

NEW YORK TIMES ONLINE

It has been more than 16 years since the Monica Lewinsky scandal. The 22-year-old White House intern is now a low-profile 40-year-old. The once-embattled president Bill Clinton has assumed a post-presidential role as global philanthropist and the scorned first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, is now a former senator, a former secretary of state, and a potential 2016 presidential candidate.

And yet, it seems difficult these days to escape the scandal that rocked the late 1990s and led to Clinton's impeachment.

In response to attacks on the Republican Party as waging a "war on women," Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky has repeatedly recalled Clinton's White House indiscretions. Paul said on "Meet the Press" late last month that Clinton had taken advantage of a young intern. "That's predatory behaviour," he added.

On Monday, The Washington Free Beacon, a conservative website, unloaded a trove of documents from Clinton's White House years from a close friend of Hillary Clinton, Diane D Blair who died in 2000. The Blair papers include diary entries based on conversations with Hillary Clinton,

private memos and letters that had been kept at the archives of the University of Arkansas where Blair had taught political science.

The papers underscore the tensions contained in Hillary's reaction to her husband's infidelities. As first lady, she was viewed broadly as a champion of women's



equality, but, according to the Blair papers, she did not see her husband's behaviour toward Lewinsky as exploitation.

She called Lewinsky a "narcissistic loony toon," according to a 1998 conversation Blair recalled. "HRC insists, no matter what people say, it was gross inappropriate behaviour but it was consensual (was not a power relationship) and was not sex within real meaning" of the word, Blair wrote.

Homs truce extended

UN mediator reports little progress in Syria talks in Geneva

AFP, Damascus

A truce that has allowed the evacuation of hundreds of civilians from besieged districts of Syria's Homs was extended for three days but fresh peace talks in Switzerland bogged down Monday in mutual recriminations.

The extension of the tenuous truce in Homs came as around 450 civilians were given safe passage out of the war-ravaged city, according to Syria's Red Crescent, bringing the total number allowed out since Friday to some 1,200.

The evacuation of civilians from neighbourhoods of Homa where they had been trapped for nearly 18 months was marred by violence over the weekend, with 14 people killed in shelling that threatened to derail the humanitarian mission.

In Geneva meanwhile, the warring sides blamed each other for escalating violence that has killed hundreds of people across the country in recent days, as they did throughout a previous round of talks in late January.

Ahead of the talks, mediator Lakhdar Brahimi told delegates to commit first to discussing both ending the fighting and setting up a transitional government.

Brahimi yesterday said the talks were "laborious" and reported little progress has been made.

The government side said combating "terrorism" - its catchall term for the revolt - should be agreed first. In a further bad sign, Brahimi cancelled a planned news conference.

The Syrian opposition warned it would not return for a third round if no progress was made in the current session.

NEWSIN brief

Congress expels six MPs over Telengana

PTI, New Delhi

India's ruling party Congress yesterday expelled six MPs from Andhra Pradesh who had given notice of no-confidence motion against the UPA govt. Earlier, there was turmoil in parliament over Telangana and other issues taking a toll on proceedings for the fifth consecutive day. As a result no substantive business

33 children died in Indian relief camps

PTI, New Delhi

33 children have died in Muzaffarnagar riot relief camps in Uttar Pradesh, Lok Sabha was informed yesterday. Indian Minister of State for Home RPN Singh said there was no available documentary evidence for the number of death as well as reasons

Berlusconi bribery trial opens in Italy

AFP, Naples, Italy

Silvio Berlusconi's latest trial opened in Naples yesterday, this time for allegedly bribing a senator in 2006 to join his party in a move aimed at destabilising a rival centre-left government in power at the time. The trial is the third ongoing case against Berlusconi, who is appealing a prison sentence for having sex with an under-age 17-year-old prostitute and abuse of office and another for leaking a confidential police wiretap.

Road accidents kill 18 in West Bengal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Eighteen people were killed and two injured in separate accidents in West Bengal state's Malda district yesterday. Police said 16 people died when a truck collided head-on with a car on the national highway near Malda town while two others were killed when their vegetable-laden pick-up van rammed into a stationary truck at Gajol in the district.

Gas price hike: Kejriwal takes on Ambani

REUTERS, New Delhi

Delhi's chief minister yesterday ordered an investigation to be opened into India's richest man, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, and government policymakers over the pricing of natural gas.

Kejriwal has long had Ambani in his sights, having accused him of buying government favour.

The investigation into the tycoon relates to gas produced from the Reliance-operated D6 block on India's east coast. Kejriwal said Ambani's company had created an artificial shortage to "blackmail" the govern-