

The Daily Bread

World (as of 10:55 PM)

Metro Traffic

Weather Update

UPDATES

National

Business

World

Celebrity

Sports

Opinion

Metro

Regions

TV NEWS MAGAZINES

Sports Unlimited

The Correspondents

Probe

COMMENTS

Text Back

News Feedback

Message Board



Malaysia's Mahathir announces war crimes tribunal

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Malaysia's ex-premier Mahathir Mohamad announced Wednesday he is forming a war crimes tribunal to focus on victims of abuse in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories.

He said the tribunal -- and an investigating commission linked to it -- was necessary as an alternative to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, which he accused of bias in its selection of cases.

However, the court does not have government backing, nor will its findings enjoy any legal authority. Moreover, Mahathir admitted he needed more money to set it up and that it would be hard to persuade leaders accused of wrongdoing to attend.

Nevertheless, he said, "there will be people who take this thing seriously. This is not a show."

"The one punishment that most leaders are afraid of is to go down in history with a certain label attached to them," he added at a press conference.

"In history books they should be written down as war criminals and this is the kind of punishment we can make to them.

"We cannot arrest them, we cannot detain them, and we cannot hang them the way they hanged Saddam Hussein."

Mahathir, who played a high-profile role on the international stage before stepping down in 2003, has seized on the issue of conflict in the Middle East during his retirement.

He did not specify who would be targeted by the tribunal, but said it would focus on abuses in Iraq, Palestinian territories and Lebanon -- indicating it was aimed at United States and Israeli military actions.

"We think that it is time we set up a body, a tribunal, which will give an opportunity for these people to bring up their complaints to be heard."

Mahathir also plans a war crimes commission which would first investigate allegations of abuse. He will sit on its panel along with five Malaysian legal experts, including one from the nation's hardline Islamic opposition party.

The tribunal would be staffed by former judges and law professors from home and abroad, including a Malaysian former chief justice, he said.

However he conceded it would be difficult to obtain the evidence needed to conduct a thorough trial and that the proposal was short on funding.

"We are asking for donations from interested people," he said. "It's not been easy."

Mahathir will next week host a war crimes conference attended by some 17 Palestinians, Iraqis and Lebanese who allege they are

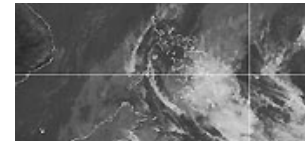
OPINION

Turmoil in both administration and opposition camps

By WILLIAM M. ESPOSO



WEATHER



Tail-end of a cold front extending over Eastern and Central Visayas and Mindanao. Moderate to strong Northeasterly surface windflow prevailing over Luzon and Visayas. More...

MARKET INDICATORS

As of January 31, 2007

4 p.m.

PSEi

3,239.27 up 42.61

Forex (US\$)

PHP : 48.90 \$ JPY : 121.4100

EURO : 0.7720 CAD : 1.1798

HKD : 7.8071 SAR : 3.7507

[Ticker Here](#)



PANAYAM



Palparan: Resulta ng imbestigasyon ng Melo handa 'kong harapin



Archbishop Cruz: Kailangang may managot sa mga kaso ng pagpatay



filgifts.com

Ads by Google

[beachfront development](#)

2 fabulous homes on spacious blocks Year round swimming on 17km beach

www.azzemoore.com.au

[Find a Development Job](#)

Jobs with leading NGOs & companies working in sustainable development

www.developmextex.com

[Invest in Ghana](#)

Open an account today and invest in the Ghana Stock Exchange

www.africanselect.com

[whatif? Simulation Models](#)

Computer simulation models for planning and scenario analysis.

www.whatiftechnologies.c

the victims of abuse and torture.

The new commission will then begin investigating their cases. The tribunal itself, provided its judges have been appointed, would operate as soon as the inquiry panel has referred its first dossier upward.

Mahathir did not specify if the court would have a defense and prosecution, saying the accused would be invited to send their representative, but vowed it would not be like the "kangaroo court" that tried Saddam.

Text back your reaction to this article using your Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk n' Text, Sun and Addict, cellphone by sending REACT to 2366

or send an email to newsfeedback@abs-cbn.com

Please refrain from offensive language, slanderous statements and commercial messages.

Discuss this article on our message boards

OTHER STORIES

(UPDATE) 'UK terrorism kidnap plot thwarted'

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - Police in central England arrested eight people in a major security swoop on Wednesday which a defense source said involved a plot to kidnap and possibly kill a Muslim British soldier.

Reuters (2/1/2007 2:43:38 AM)

Ailing Castro looks stronger in new TV images

HAVANA (Reuters) - State television showed Fidel Castro for the first time in three months on Tuesday and the ailing Cuban leader said he was still in the fight to recover from surgery that forced him to relinquish power last July.

Reuters (1/31/2007 8:01:14 PM)

US commander urges lower expectations in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - The U.S. military reported three more combat deaths on Wednesday after the man tapped to take over command of U.S. forces in the Middle East said Americans may have to lower their expectations for Iraq.

Reuters (1/31/2007 7:04:36 PM)

Fight against time to preserve Auschwitz

OSWIECIM, Poland (Reuters) - Auschwitz is disintegrating.

Reuters (1/31/2007 6:23:07 PM)

British police arrest 8 in anti-terrorism raids

LONDON (Reuters) - Police arrested eight people in a series of dawn raids in central England on Wednesday as part of a major counter-terrorism operation, police said.

Reuters (1/31/2007 5:04:20 PM)

Thailand will not force refugees to Laos

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thailand Wednesday backed down on a plan to deport 153 Hmong refugees to neighboring Laos after dozens barricaded themselves inside a detention center and threatened to commit suicide.

AFP (1/31/2007 4:59:43 PM)

N.Korea nuclear talks aim for a deal, Seoul says

SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korea on Wednesday cautioned against hopes for a breakthrough in six-way talks next week with North Korea but said they would aim for a deal committing Pyongyang to real steps to end its atomic weapons program.

Reuters (1/31/2007 3:02:21 PM)

Sex trial to determine Israel cabinet reshuffle, say officials

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is planning a major cabinet reshuffle which largely depends on Wednesday's verdict in the sexual harassment trial of former justice minister Haim Ramon.

AFP (1/31/2007 10:54:21 AM)

Strong quake hits remote area of North Pacific

SAIPAN (AFP) - A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.3 struck an isolated area in the North Pacific on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

AFP (1/31/2007 10:20:29 AM)

Greek nuns on the run, chased by bad debts

ATHENS (Reuters) - A group of Greek nuns abandoned their convent and went into hiding after running up debts of more than 600,000 euros (\$777,000) from a knitting business that went bust, authorities said on Tuesday.

Reuters (1/31/2007 10:20:13 AM)

Australia to send cops to Afghanistan

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia will send four policemen to Afghanistan to mentor and advise local officers on issues including cracking down on heroin smuggling, Justice Minister Chris Ellison said Wednesday.

AFP (1/31/2007 10:02:46 AM)

Negroponete sees Iraq success without Iran, Syria

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A democratic Iraq can still emerge from sectarian violence, but the United States does not plan to open talks with Syria and Iran on stabilizing the country, President George W. Bush's pick for deputy secretary of state said on Tuesday.

Reuters (1/31/2007 2:32:45 AM)

AIDS rising among S.Africa's rich, best-educated

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South Africa's AIDS epidemic, often regarded by health workers as a disease of the poor, is in fact spreading quickly among the country's richest and best educated people, researchers said on Tuesday.

Reuters (1/31/2007 1:11:07 AM)

Thais halt Hmong deportation after standoff

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Thailand was forced on Tuesday to halt the deportation to Laos of 153 Hmong, the ethnic minority who fought alongside America in the Vietnam War, after the men in the group put up a struggle, the general in charge said.

Reuters (1/31/2007 12:44:11 AM)

Ashura pilgrims attacked in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Bombers killed 36 people in attacks on Shi'ite worshippers marking the climax of the religious festival of Ashura near Baghdad on Tuesday and gunmen killed four in Baghdad's southwestern district of Bayaa.

Reuters (1/31/2007 12:02:34 AM)

[PinoyAuctions](#)

[Investor Relations](#)

[Knowledge Channel](#)

[ABS-CBN Foundation](#)

[Star Cinema](#)

[CCAI](#)

[Advertise with Us](#)