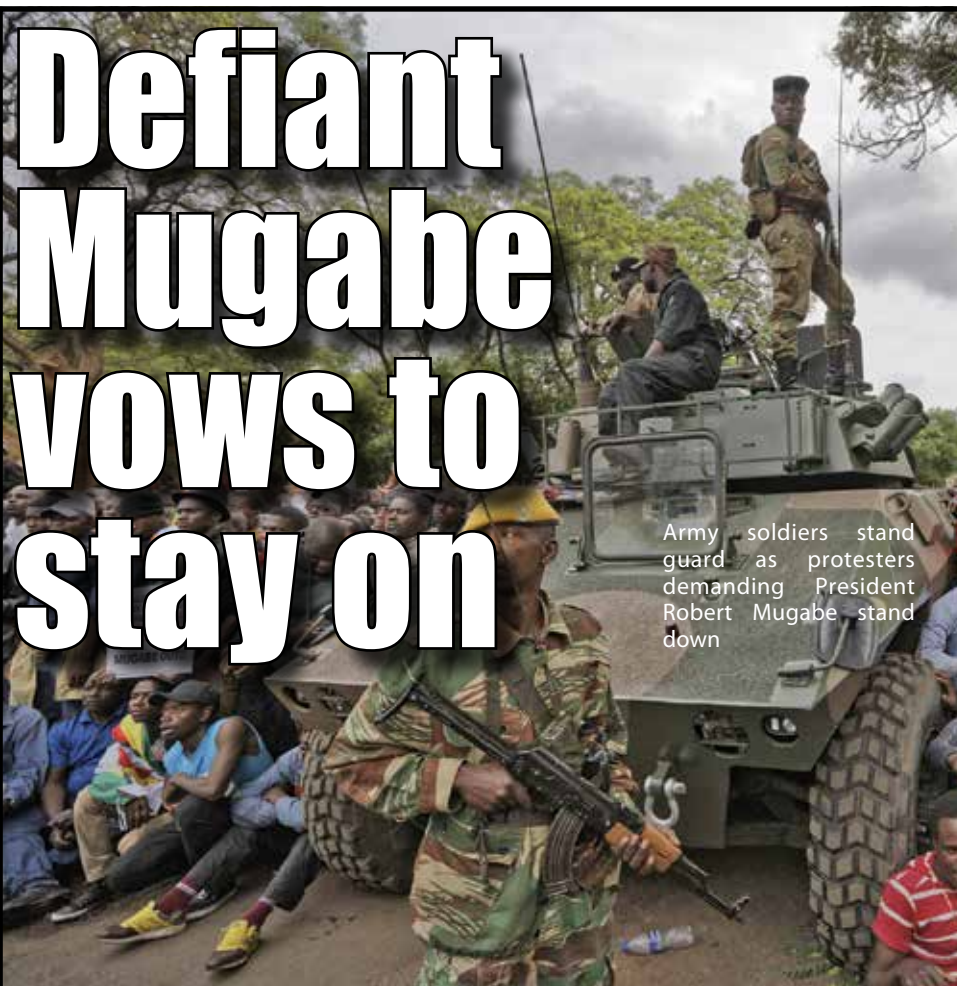


Defiant Mugabe vows to stay on



Army soldiers stand guard as protesters demanding President Robert Mugabe stand down

Harare
Zimbabwe's ongoing crisis descended into outright chaos yesterday after president Robert Mugabe failed to announce his resignation as widely expected in a national address on live television.

Instead, in a rambling address, Mugabe offered no concessions to his critics, the tens of thousands who marched calling for his resignation or the army commanders who led the military takeover last week.

Instead, the 93-year-old autocrat said that "we cannot be guided by bitterness or revengefulness which would not makes us any better ... Zimbabweans" and said that he would preside over a special congress of the ruling Zanu-PF party scheduled for next month - suggesting he has no immediate intention of stepping down.

Mugabe said he believed that the military "operation" launched last Tuesday by army commanders was motivated by "a deep patriotic concern for the stability of the nation" which "did not amount to a threat to our well-cherished constitutional order".

"I am aware that many developments have occurred in the party, given the failings of the past, and anger they might have triggered in some quarters [but] I am confident that from tonight our whole nation will put shoulder to the wheel," Mugabe said.

Earlier in the day, the veteran leader, who has been

in power for 37 years, was sacked as leader of the Zanu-PF and told by 200 of the party's top officials gathered at an extraordinary meeting in Harare to resign as head of state or face impeachment when parliament reconvenes on Tuesday.

Emmerson Mnangagwa, the vice-president whose sacking 13 days ago led to the military takeover, was appointed interim leader of the party.

Mnangagwa is widely expected to take over from Mugabe as president.

The moves by Zanu-PF follows huge demonstrations in cities across the country on Saturday demanding Mugabe leave power. His refusal to go plunges the country into deep uncertainty.

The leader of Zimbabwe's influential war veterans said plans for impeachment would go ahead as scheduled. (*The Guardian*)

Key players in post-coup Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's army appears to be lining up a government of national unity, headed by former deputy Emmerson Mnangagwa, as it negotiates the end of Robert Mugabe's 37 years in power

Possible posts	
<p>EMMERSON MNANGAGWA Lifelong Mugabe aide and 1970s liberation war veteran known as "The Crocodile"</p> <p>Mnangagwa's sacking as vice-president cleared path for Mugabe's wife, Grace to presidency and appears to have been trigger for army takeover</p>	<p>JOICE MUJURU Liberation war veteran alias "Spill Blood", formed own political party after being ousted as vice-president in 2014</p> <p>Mujuru's husband was General Solomon Mujuru, one of most feared men in Zimbabwe who died in 2011 in suspicious circumstances</p>
<p>GENERAL CONSTANTINO CHIWENGA Close ally of Mnangagwa has led Zimbabwe's national army since 1994</p> <p>Sanctioned in 2002 by EU and U.S., including travel ban and freeze on his foreign assets, which has been repeatedly extended</p>	<p>DUMISO DABENGWA Moscow-trained Dabengwa, nicknamed "The Black Russian", fought in 1970s anti-colonial struggle</p> <p>Dabengwa is leader of Zimbabwe's Zapu party - opposition to Robert Mugabe's Zanu PF</p>
<p>MORGAN TSVANGIRAI Head of <i>Movement for Democratic Change-Tsvangirai (MDC-T)</i> and main opposition leader in Zimbabwe.</p> <p>Tsvangirai, who has been abroad receiving treatment for cancer, is now back in Zimbabwe</p>	<p>TENDAI BITI Lawyer by training, Biti won international plaudits as finance minister in 2009-13 unity government that stabilised imploding economy</p> <p>He says he would be happy to reprise role if Tsvangirai was on board</p>

Sources: Reuters, BBC
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#PollToday



As Mugabe fails to resign, do you think he will be impeached?

Yes No Cant Say



"If in the eyes of the world they (the poor) have little value, they are the ones who open to us the way to heaven; they are our 'passport to paradise'. For us it is an evangelical duty to care for them ..."

Pope Francis

Rest in sight

'Butcher of Bosnia' faces war crimes verdict



UN war crimes judges will hand down a historic verdict against former Bosnian Serb army commander Ratko Mladic, blamed for steering Europe's worst atrocities since World War II.

6.6 magnitude quake strikes Pacific

An earthquake of magnitude 6.4 struck in the Pacific Ocean, 74 kilometres (46 miles) east of the Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia

Housing block fire kills 19 in Beijing

Nineteen people were killed in a fire in the outskirts of Beijing on the weekend, local media reported

French policeman kills three and himself

A 31-year-old French police officer shot three people dead before turning his gun on himself, in a killing spree sparked by a row with his girlfriend.

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US destroyer slightly damaged in collision

Tokyo
A U.S. guided-missile destroyer, USS Benfold, sustained minor damage when a Japanese tug drifted into it during a towing exercise off central Japan on Saturday.

"No one was injured on either vessel and Benfold sustained minimal damage, including scrapes on its side, pending a full damage assessment," a statement from the U.S. Seventh Fleet said.

"Benfold remains at sea under her own power. The Japanese commercial tug is

being towed by another vessel to a port in Yokosuka. The incident will be investigated," it said.

The incident, which occurred in Japan's Sagami Bay, marks the fifth time the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet in the Pacific has been involved in a crash.

The U.S. Navy announced a series of reforms this month aimed at restoring basic naval skills and alertness at sea after a review of deadly ship collisions in the Asia-Pacific region showed sailors were under-trained and over-worked. (*Daily Mail*)

US nuke deployment in Japan is a 50-year-old idea



Declassified documents dated 1967 show draft communiqués between US president Richard Nixon (right) and Japanese prime minister Eisaku Sato

Tokyo
The US government weighed its chances of convincing Tokyo in the late 1960s to allow the deployment of nuclear weapons on mainland Japan if an East Asia crisis broke out, declassified documents showed yesterday.

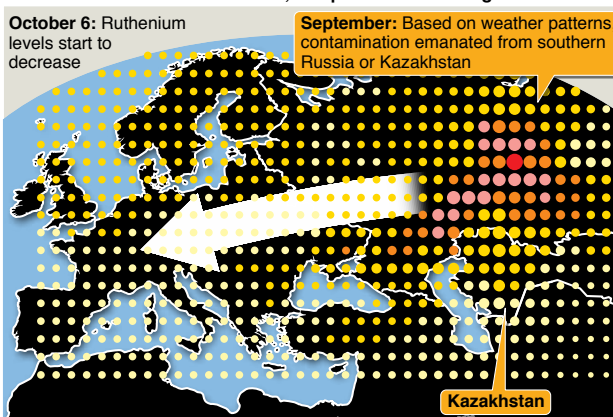
The idea, which was never proposed because it was apparently considered to have a "very slight" chance of being accepted, offers a look into how Washington

sought to expand its military footprint in the region after the second world war and the Korean war.

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had left the Japanese public with a strong aversion to nuclear weapons, with the prohibition of the possession, manufacture and introduction into Japanese territory of the weapons - first outlined in 1967 - coming to form the core of the country's nuclear policy. (*Kyodo*)

Mystery radioactive cloud over Europe

Monitoring stations measured elevated levels of ruthenium 106 drifting across Europe between September 29 and October 6. Levels of the radionuclide have now fallen, and pollution is no longer detected



Source: Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety

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