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Palestinian ministers sworn in again after oath foul-up

Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Palestinian government ministers were sworn in for a second time yesterday after a lawyer noticed that the oath they took the day before had been missing a phrase.

Lawyer Nael Al-Hawah spotted the omission after Palestinian prime minister Mohammad Shtayeh's new government was sworn in before president Mahmud Abbas on Saturday.

The oath had dropped a clause where ministers swear to be loyal "to the people and its national heritage", he said.

"I noticed the error and I posted a status update on Facebook," he said.

Shtayeh called Al-Hawah to acknowledge the error and inform him that the oath would be repeated in its entirety on Sunday, he said.

Official Palestinian news



The new ministers following a swearing-in ceremony (Courtesy of the Palestine Chronicle)

agency Wafa said the oath was indeed repeated, adding that the mistake had been caused by a "typing error."

Al-Hawah said he was familiar with the vow having closely followed Palestinian governments and because it was part of his teaching for law trainees.

He said the error could have

placed the government's legality in doubt.

According to Wafa, the full oath reads: "I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to the homeland and its sanctities, to the people and its national heritage, to respect the constitutional order and the law, and to take full care of the interests of the Palestinian

people."

The new ministers took office following a change of government that several analysts said was made to further isolate Hamas, at odds with the Fatah party of Abbas for more than a decade.

Abbas, 84, is seen as retaining the real decision-making

authority.

While his term was meant to expire in 2009, Abbas has remained in office in the absence of elections since the Fatah-Hamas split.

The Palestinian Authority government is based in the occupied West Bank, while Hamas rules the Gaza Strip.

Israel arrests Palestinian governor of Jerusalem



Adnan Gheith

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli police arrested the Palestinian governor of Jerusalem yesterday after he allegedly violated an order previously given to him by authorities, police and his lawyer said.

The governor, Adnan Gheith, has been arrested several times in recent months in connection with an investigation related to a land sale.

His lawyer Mohammed Mahmud said he had been given a six-month order not to visit the occupied West Bank or contact certain people there, and police accused him of violating the order.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld confirmed Gheith had been arrested and was being questioned, but could not provide further details. Official Palestinian news agency Wafa said he was released later yesterday and given a 1,000-shekel fine (\$280, 250 euros).

Police had previously investigated Gheith over suspicions he was involved in the Palestinian Authority's arrest in October of American-Palestinian Issam Akel, who was accused of involvement in selling an east Jerusalem building to Jewish buyers.

Palestinian officials have condemned his arrests and claimed it was intended to pressure the Palestinian leadership over Akel's case.

Akel was sentenced to life by a Palestinian court, but he was reportedly later allowed to leave to the US.

Three killed in aircraft runway accident near Everest

Kathmandu, Nepal

A small plane veered off the runway and hit two helicopters while taking off near Mount Everest on Sunday, killing three people and injuring three, officials said.

The accident happened at Lukla airport which is the main gateway to the Everest region and is reputed to be one of the most difficult in the world for landings and take-offs.

A co-pilot of the turbo-prop Let-410 plane run by Summit Air bound for Kathmandu and a police officer on the ground were

killed on the spot, Lukla airport official Ema Nath Adhikari told AFP.

Another policeman died in hospital in Kathmandu, a police spokesman confirmed.

"The plane slipped towards the helipad during take-off and collided with two helicopters. The injured have been sent to Kathmandu for treatment," Adhikari said.

"We are not sure about the cause of the accident."

Pictures from the scene showed mangled and scorched wreckage of the plane and helicopters.



A Summit Air Let-410 Turbolet aircraft bound for Kathmandu is seen after it hit two helicopters during take off

Egypt unveils colourful Fifth Dynasty tomb

Cairo, Egypt

In a major archaeological discovery, Egypt on Saturday unveiled the tomb of a Fifth Dynasty official adorned with colourful reliefs and well preserved inscriptions.

The tomb, near Saqqara, a vast necropolis south of Cairo, belongs to a senior official named Khuwy who is believed to have been a nobleman during the Fifth Dynasty, which ruled over Egypt about 4300 years ago.

"The L-shaped Khuwy tomb starts with a small corridor heading downwards into an antechamber and from there a larger chamber with painted reliefs depicting the tomb owner seated at an offerings table," said Mohamed Megahed, the excavation team's head, in an antiquities ministry statement.



Journalists filming inside the newly-discovered tomb of the ancient Egyptian nobleman "Khuwy" dating back to the 5th dynasty (2494-2345 BC), at the Saqqara necropolis, about 35 kilometres south of the capital Cairo.

Flanked by dozens of ambassadors, Antiquities Minister

Khaled al-Enani said the tomb was discovered last month.

It is mostly made of white limestone bricks.



The L-shaped Khuwy tomb starts with a small corridor heading downwards into an antechamber and from there a larger chamber with painted reliefs depicting the tomb owner seated at an offerings table,

MOHAMED MEGAHED
THE EXCAVATION TEAM'S HEAD

Ornate paintings boast a special green resin throughout and oils used in the burial process, the ministry said.

The tomb's north wall indicates that its design was inspired by the architectural blueprint of the dynasty's royal pyramids, the statement added.

The excavation team has unearthed several tombs related to the Fifth Dynasty.

Archaeologists recently found an inscription on a granite column dedicated to Queen Setibhor, who is believed to have been the wife of King Djedkare Isesi, the eighth and penultimate king of the dynasty.

Egypt has in recent years sought to promote archaeological discoveries across the country in a bid to revive tourism that took a hit from the turmoil that followed its 2011 uprising.