

WORLD
world

Mohamed Morsi buried in Cairo

Cairo, Egypt

Egypt's first democratically elected president Mohamed Morsi was buried yesterday as calls mounted for an independent investigation into the causes of his death after he collapsed in a Cairo courtroom.

The Islamist leader, who was overthrown in 2013 after a year of divisive rule and later charged with espionage, was buried at a cemetery in eastern Cairo's Medinat Nasr, one of his lawyers said.

Abdel Moneim Abdel Maksoud said family members had washed Morsi's body and prayed the last rites early Tuesday morning at the Leeman Tora Hospital.

The prosecutor general's office said the 67-year-old leader had collapsed and "died as he attended a hearing" in a retrial hearing Monday over alleged collaboration with foreign powers and militant groups.

Abdel Maksoud said only around 10 family members and close Morsi confidants were present, including himself.

A reporter saw a handful of mourners entering the cemetery complex, accompanied by police officers, but journalists were prevented from entering the site.

The attorney general's office said Morsi, who appeared "animated", had addressed the court Monday for five minutes before falling to the ground inside the defendants' cage.

Another of Morsi's lawyers, Osama El Helw, said other de-



An Egyptian police vehicle is parked inside the Al-Wafaa Wa al-Amal cemetery after the former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was buried, in Nasr city district, east of the capital Cairo.

fendants had started banging loudly on the glass, "screaming loudly that Morsi had died".

The attorney general said he had been "transported immediately to the hospital", where medics pronounced him dead, a version of events confirmed by a judicial source.

Since Morsi's overthrow on July 3, 2013, his former defence minister, now President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, has waged an ongoing crackdown that has seen thousands of Muslim Brotherhood supporters jailed and hundreds facing death sentences.

Morsi last saw his family in

September 2018. A month later, one of his sons, Abdallah, was arrested.

Abdel Maksoud was the last member of his defence team to see him, in November 2017.

A group of British parliamentarians in March 2018 warned that his detention conditions had not met international standards and could lead to his "premature death". Other Brotherhood leaders have also died in custody.

He spent just one turbulent year in office after the 2011 uprising, before being toppled by the military after millions took

to the streets demanding his resignation.

He has been in prison since his ouster, on trial on charges including for spying for Iran, Qatar and militant groups such as Hamas.

Morsi was also accused of plotting terrorist acts.

He was sentenced to death in May 2015 for his role in jailbreaks during the uprising that ousted his predecessor, longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Morsi's turbulent rule was marked by widening schisms in Egyptian society, a crippling economic crisis and often-deadly opposition protests.

Mohamed Morsi

The former President of Egypt dies at 67



2010

Becomes a spokesman for the **Muslim Brotherhood** and a member of its politburo

June 2012

Becomes Egypt's first president chosen in a free vote, also the first Islamist and civilian to head the country

July 2013

The army overthrows Morsi and bans the **Muslim Brotherhood**

December 2013

The government declares the **Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organisation**

April 21, 2015

Sentenced to 20 years in prison for inciting violence against protesters in 2012

May 16, 2015

Sentenced to death for his role in a massive jailbreak in 2011

November 2016

Court overturns his death sentence, but he remains in prison

June 17, 2019

Dies after collapsing in court

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Sri Lanka policeman defies president

Colombo, Sri Lanka

ASri Lankan police officer yesterday defied President Maithripala Sirisena and testified before a parliamentary investigation into the Easter Sunday suicide bombings that killed 258 people.

Sirisena has come in for major criticism after ordering top brass not to allow police, military or intelligence personnel to take part in hearings into the attacks being held by a parliamentary committee.

The president, who has said the hearings could reveal classified information, is accused by critics of presiding over a security and intelligence apparatus which ignored warnings.

Japan lifts tsunami advisory after quake: weather agency

Tokyo, Japan

Japan lifted a tsunami advisory early Wednesday hours after a strong 6.4-magnitude earthquake hit the country, but there were no immediate reports of damages or serious injuries.

The nation's meteorological agency lifted it at 1:02 am (1402 GMT Tuesday) after only small ripples of 10 centimetres were monitored on the coast of the Sea of Japan, north of Tokyo.

Southwestern China rattled by series of quakes



This picture taken on April 21, 2018 shows part of the destroyed Xuankou Middle School, now the memorial site for the 2008 quake

Beijing

A string of five earthquakes -- including one with a magnitude of 6.0 -- shook China's southwestern Sichuan province on Monday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The epicenter of the largest quake was located outside the city of Yibin. It occurred at about 10:55 pm (1455 GMT) at a depth of 16 kilometres (10 miles), according to the China Earthquake Networks Center.

The subsequent smaller quakes, the largest of which had a magnitude of 5.1, took place in the following 40 minutes. Videos circulating on so-

cial media showed chandeliers and other light fixtures swaying from the shaking.

State news agency Xinhua said local authorities had dispatched personnel to determine if there had been any casualties.

Earthquakes regularly strike Sichuan, where a powerful 7.9-magnitude quake left 87,000 people dead or missing in 2008.

In February, three earthquakes hit Rongxian county in the province, killing two people and injuring 12 others -- casualties that residents blamed on fracking.

Local authorities later halted shale gas mining after thousands of residents protested.

Trump promises 'wild' campaign rally

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump promised a "wild" 2020 campaign launch rally in Florida yesterday, even if dismal early poll numbers show he faces a difficult reelection.

Organizers claim the Orlando rally has sold out a 20,000-seat arena, with many more to gather outside, watching on big screens.

Trump portrayed the scale of the event as only one step below a rock concert.

"Look what is going on in Orlando, Florida, right now! People have never seen anything like it (unless you play a guitar). Going to be wild - See you later!" he tweeted.

Trump then returned to his almost daily claim that the media fails to reflect what he considers his achievements and popularity.

"The Fake News doesn't report it, but Republican enthusiasm is at an all time high," he tweeted.

After more than two drama-filled years at the White House, the fast-talking real estate salesman bets that a strong economy and his promise to fight for forgotten blue collar workers will persuade the country to give him a second term



Supporters of US President Donald Trump wait along one of the main streets outside the Amway Center on June 17, 2019 some 40 hours before a Trump campaign event in Orlando, Florida.

in 2020.

But more than 20 Democrats are lining up to take him on and there's no question that a lengthy probe into Trump's dealings with Russia and his divisive, bruising style have wounded the unconventional president.

A wide range of polls show Trump lagging far behind Democratic frontrunner Joe Biden, who is campaigning on a promise to return the country to what he portrays as the calmer, gentler days of Barack Obama, under whom he served as vice

president.

And it's not only Biden who is ahead.

Even Pete Buttigieg, the gay, small-city mayor emerging as one of the surprise stars of the Democratic field, narrowly leads Trump, according to a poll from Fox News released this weekend.

Polls so far in advance have limited value and in 2016 they famously failed to predict Trump's defeat of Democrat Hillary Clinton.

But in a sign of frayed nerves, Trump is lashing out at what he

calls "fake" polling, while multiple US media reports say that his campaign has fired several of its own pollsters.

Back to basics

Democrats are fired up, with the party's most active wing veering left and a vocal minority pushing for Trump's impeachment.

So if Trump is going to win, he'll need everyone from his own fervent base on the right to turn out, setting the stage for a sharply polarized election.

The Orlando speech will see him aim directly at that demographic in a state likely to be crucial to either candidate in amassing the necessary electoral college votes for victory.

Expect Trump, the self-promoting hero of his ghost-written book "The Art of the Deal," to claim the US economy is richer, the military stronger, and the country more respected than ever in its history.

And expect ultra-loyal, core Republican supporters in red "Make America Great Again" baseball caps to chant "USA!"

These are the voters who steered Trump to improbable victory in 2016, when he faced the polished and experienced Clinton.