



ACTRESS-TURNED-POLITICIAN. India's southern Tamil Nadu state chief minister, Jayaram Jayalalithaa, addresses a press conference in New Delhi, India, in this June 14, 2011 file photo.

Indian actress-turned-politician Jayaram Jayalalithaa dies

CHENNAI, India (AP) — Hospital authorities have reported that South Indian actress-turned-politician Jayaram Jayalalithaa has died at age 68.

Jayalalithaa inspired intense loyalty among film and political fans alike, and was widely known as "Amma," which means "Mother" in the Tamil language.

She was hospitalized in September in Tamil Nadu's capital of Chennai after suffering from fever, dehydration, and an unspecified lung illness.

She worked on nearly 150 Tamil-language movies, many as a romantic lead, before following her mentor into politics. She was Tamil Nadu's chief minister for more than 15 years, and was praised for her efforts fighting rural poverty.

Tokyo breaks ground on new 2020 Olympics National Stadium

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for a \$1.5-billion National Stadium to host the 2020 Olympic Games.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike, and other dignitaries launched the construction at the site of the demolished National Stadium, which was used during the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, by putting their hands on a glass sphere that rotated through pastels of the colors of the Olympic logo.

The ceremony ended with a video replete with computer graphics showing how the stadium is expected to look and function once completed by November 2019.

Work on the stadium in the center of the city fell behind schedule because the government abandoned the original design amid spiralling costs and complaints over its scale and appearance.

Koike, Tokyo's first female governor, took office in July pledging to use her platform to host a cost efficient and environmentally friendly 2020 Olympics. She has lambasted organizers of the 2020 games for failing to keep costs under control.

An expert panel she appointed put the price tag of the 2020 Games at more than \$30 billion, barring drastic cost-cutting measures, a more than a four-fold increase from the initial estimate when the

city was awarded the games in 2013.

Fans of the old stadium, built in the late 1950s, lobbied to keep and renovate it. But in the end, the government opted to replace it with a more modern facility.

Kengo Kuma, the architect of the new, open-air stadium, chose a wooden lattice design that echoes traditional styles seen in Japanese shrines and pagodas.

Philippine vice president quits cabinet in new Duterte dilemma

By Jim Gomez The Associated Press

MANILA, The Philippines — The Philippine vice president resigned her cabinet post after citing irreconcilable differences with President Rodrigo Duterte, who had banned her from attending cabinet meetings, in a new political dilemma for the leader.

Leni Robredo, who stepped down as housing secretary, but will stay on as vice president, spoke of "major differences in principles and values" with the brash-talking president and a plot to remove her from the vice presidency. Duterte accepted her resignation "with a heavy heart" and immediately named a replacement.

In the Philippines, presidents and vice presidents are elected separately and often come from rival political parties, like Duterte and Robredo.

In her resignation letter, Robredo told Duterte that she "exerted all effort to put aside our differences, maintain a professional working relationship, and work effectively despite the constraints." But she said Duterte's order banning her from cabinet meetings made it impossible for her to do her job at the housing agency.

"Remaining in your cabinet has become untenable," she said.

A human-rights lawyer and respected political newcomer, Robredo said at a news conference that she would stay on in her elected post as vice president, adding that she would continue her anti-poverty projects.

"We will not allow the vice presidency to be stolen because that is against the voice of the majority," Robredo told reporters.

Robredo suggested that the Duterte administration may be supporting former senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., her closest opponent in May's vice presidential election. She did not mention the alleged plot to oust her from the vice presidency in her resignation letter.

Marcos Jr. is the namesake and son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was overthrown by a 1986 "people power" revolt. Robredo actively joined that uprising.

"We have fought this battle before and won," Robredo said. "We will never let anyone revise our history and twist it to turn evil into good."

Robredo's resignation comes amid a political storm over Duterte's decision to allow the burial of the long-dead dictator Marcos in the country's Heroes' Cemetery and a bloody crackdown against illegal drugs that has alarmed western governments and human-rights watchdogs.

Robredo is the second official to resign from Duterte's administration within the span of a week. Maria Serena Diokno quit as head of the government's historical



CABINET CLASH. Philippine vice president Leni Robredo smiles prior to a news conference following her resignation from her cabinet post under President Rodrigo Duterte, in suburban Quezon city, south of Manila, the Philippines.

commission to protest Duterte's decision to allow the November 18 burial of the former president in the cemetery.

Robredo cited her strong opposition to the burial, the drug killings, Duterte's plan to reimpose the death penalty, and "sexual attacks against women" among the issues on which she differed with Duterte, who took office on June 30.

The last straw, she said, was when she was notified by cabinet secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr. through a text message about the president's order for Robredo "to desist from attending all cabinet meetings."

Evasco said Duterte decided to bar her from cabinet meetings because of her "irreconcilable differences" with the Duterte administration.

Robredo, 52, did not provide details about the alleged plot to remove her from the vice presidency, but her electoral victory has been questioned by Marcos Jr., a friend of Duterte.

Marcos Jr. lost by a slim margin to Robredo, the widow of a popular politician who built a name as an honest, hands-on provincial mayor who wore slippers to work and reached out to the poor in the countryside.

Robredo's husband died in a plane crash in 2012; she later acceded to widespread calls for her to enter politics.



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4x4 grid puzzle with numbers 9, 5, 2, 3, 1, 7, 5, 6, 3, 2, 4, 8, 9, 8, 2, 7, 9, 4, 1, 6, 3, 2, 7

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last issue's puzzle

Puzzle #68353 (Medium) All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>

9x9 grid solution for the last issue's puzzle

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