

French jets strike Libya

US, Europe, Arab allies launch UN-backed military action against Gaddafi

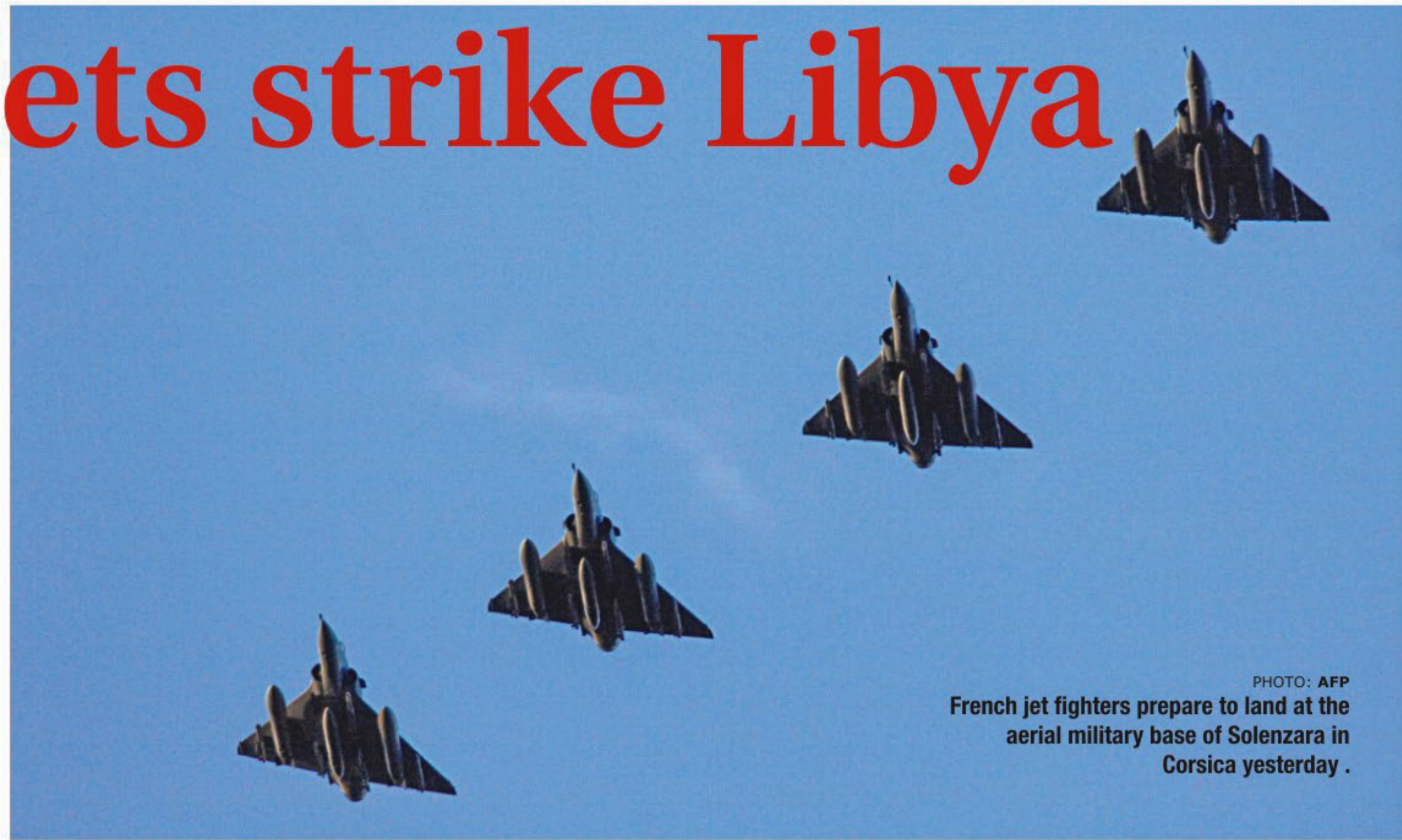


PHOTO: AFP
French jet fighters prepare to land at the aerial military base of Solenzara in Corsica yesterday.

- US missile operation follows
- Paris summit agrees to use air power to enforce no-fly zone
- Moscow regrets armed intervention
- US defence chief postpones Russia trip
- Red Cross urges all to respect humanitarian

AGENCIES

France launched an air strike on a target in Libya yesterday, kicking off an international campaign to prevent Gaddafi forces from crushing a month-old uprising against his rule.

A French warplane "opened fire at 5:45 pm (1645 GMT) on an unspecified vehicle," French army spokesman Colonel Thierry Burckhard told journalists in Paris.

Al Jazeera reports, French warplanes have hit four tanks used by forces loyal to Muammar Gaddafi on the outskirts of the opposition stronghold of Benghazi.

Later, a US warship fired Tomahawk cruise missiles into Libya, targeting Gaddafi's air defence sites.

The US operation -- named "Odyssey Dawn" -- followed initial missions by French warplanes, which carried out four air strikes, destroying several armoured

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Frustration runs deep

Bangladeshis demonstrate as repatriation comes to halt

MORSHED ALI KHAN from Choucha, Tunisia-Libya border

ON TUNISIA-LIBYA BORDER



MORSHED ALI KHAN writes from the spot where thousands of Bangladeshi workers have taken shelter after fleeing the Libyan upheaval

With repatriation coming to a virtual halt since Friday, hundreds of stranded

Bangladeshi workers at Choucha camp staged a demonstration yesterday demanding return of their passports by the local authorities, and sending them back home.

The demonstrators, mostly young men, who fled Libyan upheaval over the last few

weeks, chanted slogans demanding resumption of flights from Djerba airport. They said they must get compensation for the enormous financial losses and agonies they suffered in the process of coming to Libya and then fleeing the turbulent north African country.

"They (authorities) are neither giving us our passports nor are they doing anything to send us home," shouted a young

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YUNUS REMOVAL Khaleda, Blake share same view

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robert O Blake, US assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs, has hoped the issue involving Prof Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank would be resolved amicably.

"The United States has expressed concern about the way the matter [removal of Prof Yunus from Grameen Bank] has been handled. We hope the issue would be resolved through mutual understanding," he told a press briefing after meeting the leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office.

US Ambassador James F Moriarty, BNP chairperson's

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Keep army in barracks

Said Mujib

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

On March 20, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led a team of senior Awami League figures to the President's House for talks with General Yahya Khan and his advisers. On the Awami League side were, besides Mujib, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansoor Ali,



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Tigers sent packing

BISHWAJIT ROY

The most cherished team has exited the ICC Cricket World Cup yesterday. A hundred and sixty million people who have turned this shore into a fever pitch for the last one month are stunned by a spectacular déjà vu.

The heart of the party will now be a mere spectator after Bangladesh's roller coaster journey ended in an ignominious fashion. The Tigers suffered a 206-run defeat in their final group B match against South Africa on a day when the batting

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh-flagged ship MV Jahan Moni, hijacked by Somali pirates more than three months back, berthed safely at Port of

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