

# Nato strikes Gaddafi's command sites

Britain sending military advisers to aid rebels

AFP, Brussels

Nato has fired a barrage of missiles against Muammar Gaddafi's command and control centres as Britain and France announced yesterday to step up actions against the regime, officials said yesterday.

The military alliance conducted "deliberate, multiple strikes against command and control facilities of the Gaddafi regime" on Monday night, Nato said in a statement.

The targets included communications infrastructure used to coordinate attacks against civilians, and the headquarters of the 32nd Brigade located 10 kilometres south of Tripoli.

The brigade "has been used to lead and coordinate military actions against the Libyan civilian population," Nato said.

Meanwhile, Britain is sending a team of experienced military officers to

advise Libyan rebels fighting Muammar Gaddafi's regime, Foreign Secretary William Hague said yesterday.

Hague said the "military liaison advisory team" would advise the opposition fighters on improving their organisation, communications and logistics, but they would not be involved in training or arming them.

He insisted the deployment was "fully within the terms" of the UN Security Council Resolution on Libya that authorised international air strikes to protect civilians from Gaddafi's forces.

Britain had in recent weeks decided to supply the rebels with "non-lethal assistance" to help them protect civilians, including telecommunications equipment and protective body armour, Hague added.

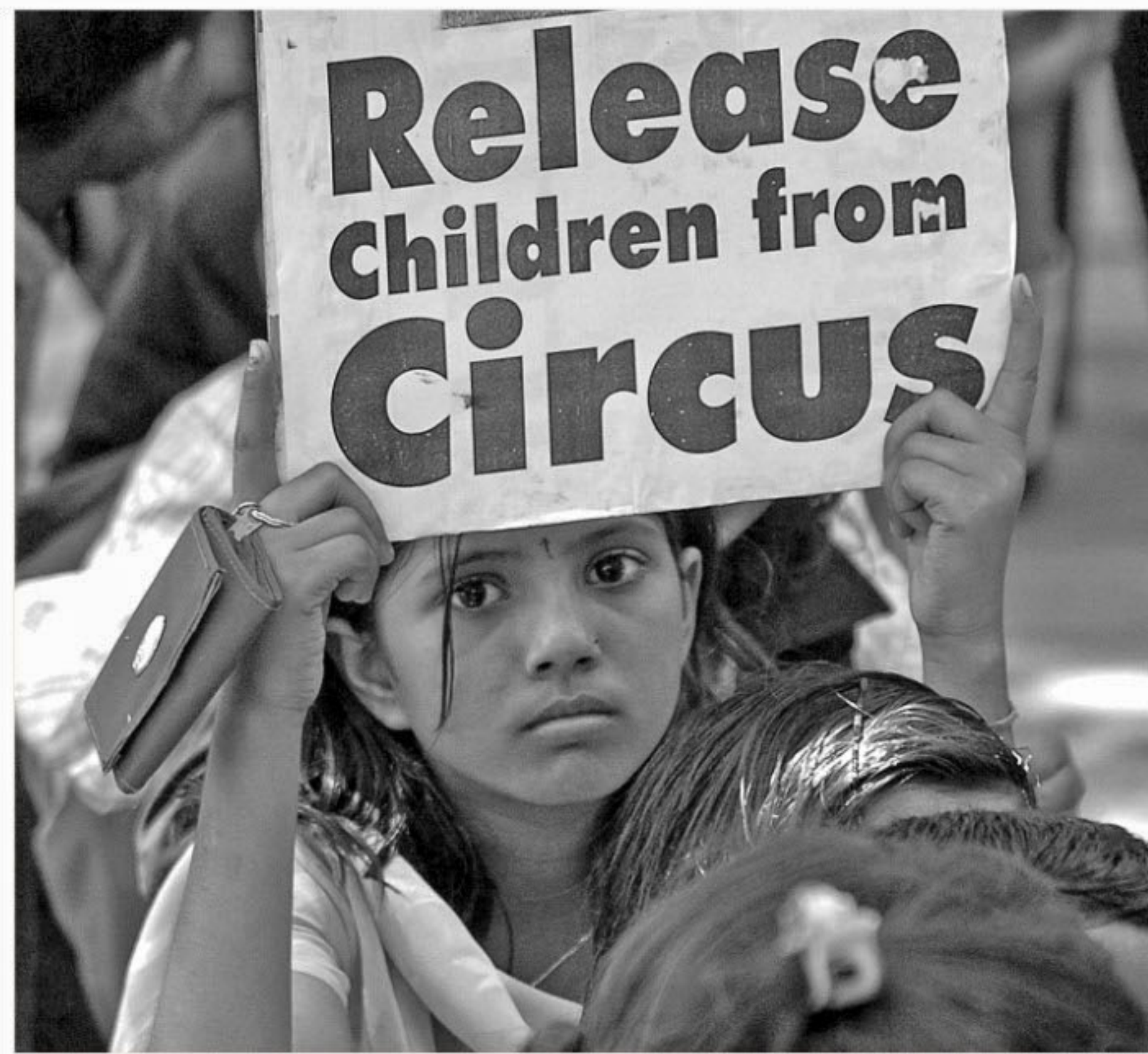
In a list of Monday's operations, Nato

said it destroyed nine ammunition bunkers in the vicinity of Tripoli as well as six surface-to-air missiles, four tanks, three air defence missile sites and one mobile rocket launcher near Misrata.

The alliance said it also struck three ammunition storage bunkers near Sirte, Gaddafi's home town, as well as three tanks, one anti-aircraft weapon system and one armoured vehicle near Zintan.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said yesterday that he was "entirely hostile" to the idea of sending coalition ground troops into Libya while French Prime Minister Francois Fillon agreed to step up its air strikes to protect civilians.

Juppe made the comments at a lunch with reporters in Paris even as France's chief ally in the conflict, Britain, said it was deploying military trainers and after a senior French lawmaker Axel Poniatowski called for commandos to be sent in.



## Gaddafi must be toppled by force: Rebels

AFP, Rome

Muammar Gaddafi can only be toppled by force, Libya's rebel president said yesterday during a visit to Rome in which Italy said the opposition could be aided with military equipment and foreign oil sales.

"Gaddafi will never give up power except by force, Mustafa Abdel Jalil said after talks with Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, as his advisers said that no type of political mediation with the Gaddafi regime was planned.

"He cannot be compared to Ben Ali or Mubarak," he said, referring to the Tunisian and Egyptian presidents ousted by uprisings earlier this year.

Jalil also thanked France, Italy and Qatar, for giving official recognition to the Libyan opposition.

An Indian child holds a placard during a sit-in protest against child labour in New Delhi. India's Supreme Court on Monday has banned travelling circuses from employing children and ordered the government to conduct raids on all circuses to rescue minors.

## NEWS IN brief

### Indian-American wins Pulitzer

PTI, Boston

Indian-American physician Siddhartha Mukherjee's acclaimed book on cancer, 'The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer,' has won the prestigious 2011 Pulitzer prize in the general non-fiction category.

According to the Pulitzer citation, the book by the New York-based cancer physician and researcher is "an elegant inquiry, at once clinical and personal, into the



### Pakistan tests nuclear-capable missile

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's military yesterday said it had successfully test-fired a newly developed short-range ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The military said in a statement that the "Hatf 9" missile with a range of 60 kilometres "could carry nuclear warheads of appropriate yields with high accuracy".

Pakistan's arsenal includes short-range, medium and

### Nelson Mandela joins Twitter

AFP, Johannesburg

You can now follow anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela -- on Twitter.

The 92-year-old world's most revered statesman, who led the struggle to replace the apartheid regime of South Africa with a multi-racial democracy, has joined the micro-blogging site after his foundation convinced a British man to hand over the @NelsonMandela account.

### UN warns Sri Lanka over staff security

AFP, United Nations

United Nations on Monday warned the Sri Lankan government that it must protect UN staff, after the country's president called for protests against a UN war crimes report.

President Mahinda Rajapakse has called for this year's May Day rally to be turned into a "show of our strength" against international calls for a war crimes investigation.

### Yemeni police kill three ahead of talks

AFP, Sanaa

Three people were shot dead in Yemen yesterday -- one a passer-by -- as security forces opened fire to disperse protesters calling for the ouster of embattled President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The latest killings came as a Yemeni government delegation was in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi for talks with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers to discuss an exit plan proposed by the oil-rich bloc.

In the Yemeni capital Sanaa, medics said two protesters were shot dead and hundreds more were wounded, mostly by tear gas, when security forces dispersed an anti-Saleh march.

### Japan pumps out toxic water from nuke plant

AFP, Tokyo

Workers at a quake-hit nuclear plant in Japan yesterday began removing highly radioactive water from a reactor turbine building, a key step towards restoring cooling systems, the government said.

To prevent a nuclear catastrophe, crews have pumped thousands of tonnes of seawater and later freshwater into the reactors and pools, creating a massive amount of radioactive runoff, some of which has leaked into the ocean.

About 10,000 tonnes of highly radioactive water will be transferred from the turbine building of reactor no. 2 to a treatment facility inside the plant for processing, Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) said.

NISA spokesman Hidehiko Nishiyama said the operation would allow emergency crews battling to stabilise the plant to "pour more water into the reactor in order to gradually decrease the amount of water dousing".

The move is necessary in order to start work to restore cooling functions at the nuclear plant, where workers have found turbine buildings, trenches and shafts submerged in highly radioactive water.

Meanwhile, Japanese consumers may have to help foot the reconstruction bill after last month's earthquake and tsunami caused \$300 billion of damage, further burdening the hugely indebted economy, a newspaper said yesterday.

### Egypt to join ICC

Says foreign minister

AFP, Cairo

Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil al-Arabi said yesterday that his country is to join the International Criminal Court, as post-revolution Egypt works to become a "legally constituted state".

"Egypt is currently taking the required steps to join all United Nations agreements on human rights and to join the International Criminal Court," Arabi said during a joint press conference in Cairo with visiting German foreign minister Guido Westerwelle.

He said Egypt was working hard to become a "legally constituted state" after the overthrow of president Hosni Mubarak on February 11.

### Syria bans all demonstrations

10 killed in Homs

AFP, Damascus

Syria imposed yesterday a total ban on all demonstrations after warning of a crackdown on an "armed revolt" by Islamist radicals and security forces fired on protesters in the city of Homs, killing at least four.

Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim al-Shaar told people "to refrain from taking part in all marches, demonstrations or sit-ins under any banner whatsoever," state news agency SANA reported.

He warned that if demonstrations were held, "the laws in force in Syria will be applied in the interest of the safety of the people and the stability of the country."

Shaar was understood to be alluding to the emergency law in place since 1963. Its repeal has been a central demand of reformists demonstrating since March 15, and President Bashar al-Assad promised at the weekend to rescind it within a week.

The law restricts civil liberties, imposes restrictions on public gatherings, freedom of movement and allows the "arrest of anyone suspected of posing a threat to security."

When the protests first began, the authorities relaxed its enforcement to permit peaceful gatherings, but Shaar's announcement would appear to close that loophole.

## Total transit facility

FROM PAGE 20

Dipu Moni, Prime Minister's foreign affairs Adviser Gowhar Rizvi and economic affairs Adviser Mashiur Rahman were present at the meeting at Muhith's residence.

None of the five responded to the awaiting journalists' repeated queries about the discussion.

Tariff Commission Chairman Mujibur Rahman, who heads the committee on transit, said the report needs to be reviewed.

He added that the government has taken the report into consideration and they will hold further discussion.

Mujibur said the meeting gave some guidelines and they will improve the report and submit it soon.

An official told The Daily

Star that the meeting discussed fixing of transit fees through a sub-committee. The amount will be determined as per the rules of the World Trade Organisation.

A minister wishing anonymity said the fee will be fixed considering the benefits of all the participating countries.

According to the report, the countries taking the transit facility will save between 12 and 70 percent on their transport cost.

Bangladesh will take a portion of the amount as transit charges in addition to an amount against various services, it added without mentioning any amount.

Of the Tk 49,835 crore (\$7.11b) investment, roads will require Tk 11,941 crore, rail Tk 32,023 crore, inland water transport Tk 1,161 crore, Chittagong Port Tk 1,709 crore, Mongla Port Tk 2,798 crore and land ports Tk 202 crore.

The report said the river routes are now unfit for transit. And although roads are somewhat fit, major infrastructural development of rail routes

is required. With the present condition, roads are capable of transporting 10 percent of the probable transit traffic.

Quoting opinion of the Bridge Division, the report said the Bangabandhu Bridge is incapable of handling container cargo at present. A separate bridge will be required for those, which will take about three years to construct.

The government assigned the committee to conduct an extensive study to fix the transit routes and fees, prepare its economic analysis, and assess the volume of the traffic through five sub-committees.

The heads of the sub-committees include former UN ESCAP director M Rahmatullah, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Mustafizur Rahman, Vice-chairman of Policy Research Institution and former World Bank official Sadik Ahmed and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Senior Research Fellow Mohammad Yunus.

## Many killed in post-poll riots in Nigeria

AFP, Abuja

Post-poll riots overnight in northern Nigeria have killed "many people" and the number of wounded from two days of unrest has reached more than 360, a Red Cross official said yesterday.

"Things are relatively calm right now, but violent protests went on last night, especially in Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara (states)," Umar Abdul Mairiga, the Nigeria Red Cross disaster management coordinator, told AFP.

"What may come out of there is not very palatable because many people were killed, especially in southern Kaduna."

He said the number of wounded in two days of unrest has increased to 362 from 276 on Monday. The injuries vary from gunshots and machete wounds to bruises, he said.

At least 15,000 people have been displaced by the riots that began sporadically over the weekend and spread quickly to some 14 states on Monday over allegations of rigging in Saturday's elections won by President Goodluck Jonathan.

## Indian social worker Binayak Sen released on bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

After remaining behind in jail for about four months, India's leading civil rights activist Binayak Sen, convicted for sedition and accused of links with Maoists, was released on Monday evening from a prison in central Indian state of Chattisgarh.

The release of 61-year-old Sen, a doctor by profession, from jail, where he is serving a life sentence, came three days after the Supreme Court granted him bail.

Sen, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court on charges of sedition and links with Maoists, was reunited with his family amid emotional and poignant scenes.



Hours before he walked free out of his cell in the prison, Additional District and Sessions Judge BP Verma directed Sen to surrender his passport as a bail condition in line with the Supreme Court order. He was released on a personal bond and surety of Rs 50,000 each.

Verma also ordered Sen not to leave the country and appear in the High Court during hearings as and when required.

Sen has been lodged in the prison since December 24 when he was convicted and sentenced to life.

Sen thanked national and international rights activists who had campaigned for his release.

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