

PHONE HACKING SCANDAL

# British PM calls emergency parliament session

AFP, London

Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday bowed to opposition pressure and called an emergency session of parliament as the spiralling phone-hacking scandal claimed the scalp of Britain's top policeman.

As the former head of Rupert Murdoch's British newspaper empire, Rebekah Brooks, was bailed by police, Cameron defended himself against pressure for hiring another ex-Murdoch employee, Andy Coulson, as his press chief.

Scotland Yard Chief Paul Stephenson resigned on Sunday over the force's hiring of Coulson's former deputy at the shuttered News of the World tabloid, but took a parting swipe at the premier's own ties to Coulson.

"I don't believe the two situations are the same in any way shape or form," Cameron told a joint news conference in Pretoria with South African President Jacob Zuma when asked

about Stephenson's comments.

Cameron had already cut short a trip to Africa from four days to two, and after demands from the main opposition Labour party he announced that he would now delay parliament's summer break for a day to deal with the crisis.

"I am asking for parliament to sit an extra day on Wednesday so I can make a new statement adding to the details of the judicial inquiry and answer questions that come up from today's announcements or indeed tomorrow's announcements," he said.

Today, the Australian-born Murdoch, his son James, who is chairman of his father's British newspaper operation News International, and Brooks are scheduled to give evidence before a committee of British lawmakers.

Brooks, who resigned as chief executive of News International on Friday, was arrested and questioned by police for 12 hours on suspicion of phone-

hacking and bribing police on Sunday before being bailed until October.

Her spokesman David Wilson confirmed that Brooks, who edited the News of the World when it was accused of hacking a murdered girl's voicemails in 2002, would be attending the session.

"She consulted with her lawyer this morning... and it was decided that she will appear tomorrow," Wilson told AFP. At a previous hearing in 2003 the flame-haired Brooks, the 10th person and most senior Murdoch aide to be arrested over the scandal, admitted the paper had made payments to police.

With the scandal coming to the door of Scotland Yard, Stephenson resigned but defended his "integrity" and pointedly compared the Coulson issue with the force's employment of Neil Wallis, a former executive editor at the tabloid.

Stephenson added that he had not made Wallis' employment public because he did not want to "compromise" the prime minister. Wallis was himself arrested last week.

## Who's who in the British media phone-hacking scandal

Prominent names linked to the scandal that brought down Murdoch's News of the World

**Rupert Murdoch**  
Head of News Corp., the British section of which (News International) owned the News of the World (NOW)  
Also owns: The Sun, The Times, The Sunday Times, Wall Street Journal, Fox News  
Faces questions in a British parliamentary committee on Tuesday

**Rebekah Brooks**  
Resigned Friday as chief executive of Murdoch's News International  
Arrested in connection to illegal phone-hacking and corruption

**James Murdoch**  
Son of Rupert, runs News Corp's Asian and European operations  
Faces questions in a British parliamentary committee on Tuesday

**Andy Coulson**  
Former editor of NOW, and communications chief for the British Conservative Party, later Downing Street under Cameron until resignation in January, Arrested July 8

**Paul Stephenson**  
Metropolitan Police Commissioner resigned due to speculation about links to Murdoch's empire, and the force's botched investigation into NOW hacking

**David Cameron**  
British Prime Minister hired Andy Coulson as communications chief

**Les Hinton**  
Served as chairman of News International during the phone-hacking era, resigned Friday as chief executive of News Corp's Dow Jones unit

## Murdoch under fire

AFP, London

A ruthless businessman with a passion for news, media baron Rupert Murdoch is set to face tough questions from British lawmakers today over the phone hacking scandal which has already cost him dearly.

As his News Corporation global empire lurches from one shock to the next, the Australian-born magnate has closed the News of the World, the tabloid at the centre of the scandal, which was Britain's biggest-selling weekly newspaper.

He has also seen his dreams of acquiring Britain's pay-TV satellite broadcaster BSkyB crumble and two of his closest lieutenants resign.

In the United States, questions are being asked as to whether the News of the World attempted to access the phones of September 11 victims and their families, as the company's stock takes a battering in Australia.

## Unrest aims to derail polls Says Tunisia PM

AFP, Tunis

A new outbreak of deadly violence in Tunisia is designed to prevent the country holding its first post-revolution elections, Prime Minister Beji Caid Essebsi said yesterday.

"There were disturbances aimed at preventing elections," he said during an address to the nation. "These elections will be held on October 23 as scheduled."

He said that "some parties and marginal groups are not ready for the elections", pointing to the "strange" timing of the violent incidents that occurred across the country over the past few days.

The leader's address from government headquarters in Tunis was broadcast across television and radio stations.

It follows a string of incidents fueling growing fears that the revolution's gains were being rolled back.

## Libya rebels claim victory in Brega oil town

REUTERS, Misrata

Rebel forces have routed most of Muammar Gaddafi's troops in the Libyan oil town of Brega in the biggest boost for the insurgents' military campaign in eastern Libya in weeks, a rebel spokesman said yesterday.

The rebel fighters have encircled Brega, an oil export terminal with a refinery and chemical plant which for months marked the eastern limit of Gaddafi's control, rebel spokesman Shamsiddin Abdulmolah said.

But its streets are littered with landmines, making it hard to secure full control of the area.

"The main body (of Gaddafi's forces) retreated to Ras Lanuf" to the west, Abdulmolah said by telephone. "I am told they have some four-wheel-drive trucks with machineguns spread out between Ras Lanuf and Bishr."

While rebel fighters have been making gains in eastern and western Libya in recent days, Russia criticized the United States and other countries for recognizing the rebel leadership as the legitimate government of Libya, saying they were taking sides in the insurgents' five-month-old war to oust Gaddafi.

"Those who declare recognition stand fully on the side of one political force in a civil war," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei

Lavrov told reporters in Moscow yesterday.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced US recognition of the rebels on Friday, while in Turkey for a meeting of an international contact group on Libya -- a major diplomatic step that could unlock billions of dollars in frozen Libyan funds.

Russia and China have taken a softer line toward Gaddafi, and neither attended the contact group meeting.

Brega, about 750 km east of Tripoli, is the site of a strategic oil terminal. The attack could signal a new rebel push westwards from their main stronghold in the east of the country after weeks of stalemate.

Gaddafi is refusing to step down despite the five-month-old rebellion against his rule, a campaign of Nato air strikes, and the defections of members of his inner circle.

The slow progress of the rebel military campaign has caused strains within Nato, some member states pressing for a negotiated solution to hasten the end of a conflict many thought would last only a few weeks.

Reports have circulated that Gaddafi is seeking a negotiated way out of the crisis, but in a speech on Saturday he described the rebels as worthless traitors and rejected suggestions that he was about to leave the country.

## Egypt cabinet swearing-in delayed

AFP, Cairo

The swearing-in of a new Egyptian cabinet has been postponed for a day after the choice of antiquities minister came under fire and protesters demanding quicker reforms pledged to continue sit-ins, state media reported yesterday.

"The government of Prime Minister Essam Sharaf will take the constitutional oath tomorrow to allow for the completion of negotiations," state-run Nile Television reported.

The ceremony had been scheduled to take place at 1400 GMT yesterday.

The new cabinet will include former World Bank official Mohammed Kamel Amr as foreign minister and veteran economist Hazem Beblawi, who will serve as finance minister as well as deputy premier for economic affairs.

## Community of rare gibbons found in Vietnam

AFP, Hanoi

The lively morning calls of a rare species of gibbon has led to the discovery of the only known "viable" community of the talkative primates in remote Vietnamese forests, conservationists said yesterday.

A "substantial" population of 455 critically endangered northern white-cheeked crested gibbons were found living at high altitudes and far from human settlements on the border with Laos, Conservation International (CI) said.

Researchers, who had previously found sparse groups in other areas, used the animals' "loud, elaborate and prolonged" calls to locate the creatures in Pu Mat National Park in Nghe An province, northern Vietnam.

The community represents two thirds of the total number in Vietnam and the "only confirmed viable population" of the variety worldwide.

"This is an extraordinarily significant find, and underscores the immense importance of protected areas in providing the last refuges for the region's decimated wildlife," said CI president Dr Russell Mittermeier.

Gibbons, which are threatened across the world, are considered the "most romantic" of primates as they mate for life and serenade their partners with song.

Habitat loss and hunting for the pet trade and the "assumed medicinal value of primate body parts" are among the major threats to the creatures in Vietnam, the CI statement said.

White-cheeked gibbon numbers are



thought to have declined by as much as 80 percent in the last 45 years, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

Mittermeier, who also works with the IUCN, described the species as "on the brink of extinction".

They are believed to be "functionally extinct" in China and while there could be significant numbers in Laos, CI said a lack of research means the situation in the country is unclear.

But CI said plans to build a road through the Pu Mat area to increase patrols on the Vietnam-Laos border pose a "serious threat" to the future of the rare primates.

## 30 reported killed in Syrian clashes

AFP, Damascus

At least 30 people were killed in 24 hours in the central Syrian city of Homs in clashes between supporters and opponents of President Bashar al-Assad's regime, a human rights activist said on Sunday.

The deaths came as the army moved in on two border towns in the east and west seeking to quell anti-regime protest.

"More than 30 civilians have been killed over the past 24 hours in Homs in clashes that broke out late on Saturday between the opposition and supporters of the regime," said Rami Abdel Rahman of the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

He said the clashes in the city 160 kilometres north of the capital came after three regime supporters kidnapped last week were killed and their dismembered bodies were returned to their relatives on Saturday.

"The two sides started out beating each other with sticks, but then firearms were used," he said.

Abdel Rahman said a large number of the dead were killed by gunmen, and that security forces did not intervene.

"Their duty is to maintain national security and protect citizens, not stand idly by when faced with clashes, as this can encourage even more violence," he charged.

Earlier Abdel Karim Rihawi, who heads the Syrian League for the Defence of Human Rights, reported the army moving in to Homs after clashes on Saturday.

## W BANK SETTLEMENT Israel to build 336 new homes

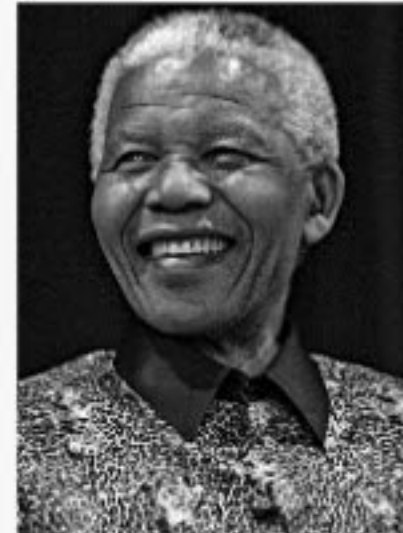
AFP, Jerusalem

Israel is to issue tenders for 336 new homes in two West Bank settlements, a spokesman for the Israeli ministry of construction and housing told AFP yesterday.

"We will very shortly issue tenders for the construction of 336 houses for Jews in Judea and Samaria" Ariel Rosenberg said, using the biblical term for the West Bank.

"In total, 294 homes are planned for Beitar-Illit, and 42 others in Karnei Shomron," said Rosenberg. Beitar Illit is south of Jerusalem, while Karnei Shomron lies 15 kilometres (nine miles) west of the northern West Bank city of Nablus.

## Mandela's 93rd birthday celebrated



AFP, Johannesburg

Millions of South African schoolchildren sang happy birthday to Nelson Mandela as he turned 93 yesterday, while politicians and ordinary citizens did charity work to support his call to do good.

For the third year, at the request of his charitable foundation, July 18 is observed as Mandela Day, recognised by the United Nations as a global call to volunteer for good causes for 67 minutes -- representing each year of Mandela's life in active politics.

The nation's 12.5 million schoolchildren sang "Happy Birthday" before starting class yesterday, with television and radio stations urging the nation to join in the special rendition of the song, given an African twist by a local composer.

"This week there will be no extra mural activities. You will spend that time going to charities to do your charity work. It is only appropriate as a school to devote 67 minutes of our time in his honour," Les Lambert, principal at Johannesburg's Rosebank primary school, told his 500 students.

Kabelo Masemola, 10, said he wished Mandela a long and happy life.

"He must relax and must not get sick. He must live long." Mandela spent his birthday with his family at his childhood village Qunu in the Eastern Cape province.



(L to R) West Bengal state Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Gorkha People's Liberation Front supreme Bimal Gurung, and Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram wave to the crowd at Pintail village in the outskirts of Siliguri yesterday. India signed an "historic" deal granting autonomy to an ethnic group in the Himalayan tea-growing area of Darjeeling.

## India signs deal to end ethnic unrest

AFP, Kolkata

India signed an "historic" deal yesterday granting autonomy to an ethnic group in the Himalayan tea-growing area of Darjeeling that has fought for decades for a homeland.

The agreement between the federal government, the state of West Bengal in India's east and a political group leading the Gorkha protesters was sealed in the scenic village of Pintail, about 600 kilometres from Kolkata.

The newly created Gorkhaland Territorial Administration will have powers to manage public works, social welfare, education, health and forests in administrative areas under its mandate.

Newly elected West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee termed it as a "historic day" that would end the violence in the popular tourism spot, where decaying infrastructure is a legacy of decades of neglect.

"There is nothing to fear... Bengal is not being divided. Darjeeling is close to our heart and it will now smile," the mercurial leader, who ended 34 years of continuous Marxist rule in her state in May.

"There will be an elected local body, there will be schools, colleges, hospitals, jobs will be available and Darjeeling will shine," said Banerjee.

### Finished Apartments at Baridhara Block-J

CALL FOR DETAILS AT  
Tel: 8857230 - 4  
01713 018405 | 01713 065055  
01714 016887 | 01714 039847  
01714 039843 | 01713 048556  
01714 040457

**ASSET DEVELOPMENTS**

### North South University

The first private university in Bangladesh

#### SALE TENDER NOTICE

North South University is going to sale 01 Microbus of following specifications:

Brand	Model	Capacity	CC	Fuel	Color
Toyota Hiace	1998	12 Seat	2000	Octane/CNG	White

Interested bidders may inspect the vehicle from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on any working day from Sunday to Thursday at the University premises. The bidders must submit their offer to the undersigned along with **earnest money @ 2.5%** of quoted price in the form of pay order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University on or before July 26, 2011 by 12:30 p.m. Tender will be opened on the same day at 12:45 p.m. Earnest money of unsuccessful bidder's will be returned after finalization of the sale.

NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

**Director (Logistics & Resources)**  
**North South University**  
Plot # 15, Block # B, Bashundhara, Dhaka - 1229  
Ph: 02- 8852000, Ext. 1204 & 1216. Fax: 8852016  
Website: www.northsouth.edu