

## Murdoch to face BSKyB board

AFP, London

The board of British satellite broadcaster BSKyB met yesterday with the status of chairman James Murdoch on the agenda amid questions over his role in the phone-hacking scandal at his father's empire.

The 38-year-old son and heir apparent of News Corporation boss Rupert Murdoch has faced calls from some shareholders to resign, but reports said the pay TV giant's board was likely to give him its backing, at least for now.

The Wall Street Journal, which is owned by News Corp., said yesterday the board would discuss its earnings report due out today, shareholder payments and the status of the younger Murdoch.

## Inquiry begins into hacking scandal

AFP, London

A British judge formally opened an inquiry yesterday into the phone-hacking scandal that has rocked the country, saying the first public hearings will be in September and will focus on media ethics.

Lord Justice Brian Leveson also sought to quash claims about his own links to Rupert Murdoch's media empire after it emerged that the judge previously had social connections with the tycoon's daughter and son-in-law.

Prime Minister David Cameron ordered the inquiry earlier this month into the swirling scandal that shut down the Murdoch-owned News of the World (NoW) tabloid and dragged in the police, politicians and the premier himself.

"In the first instance, the inquiry will focus primarily on what I am calling the relationship between the press and the public, and the related issue of press regulation," Leveson



Rupert Murdoch

said in his opening statement.

Sitting alongside the six other panel members, the bespectacled judge said he would "exercise (his) powers" to compel witnesses to give evidence on phone-hacking.

Evidence will be given under oath, an inquiry spokesman told AFP.

Leveson urged editors, journalists and proprietors to flag up "inappropriate practices."

"It may be tempting for a number of people to close ranks and suggest that the problem is or was local to a group of journalists then operating at the News of the World but I would encourage all to take a wider view of the public good and help me grapple with the width and depth of the problem," he said.

The lord justice of appeal said the inquiry would also hold seminars in October focusing on journalism and later turn to press relationships with the police and politicians.



Libyan girls wave the Libyan flag used by the rebels and shout anti-Gaddafi slogans as they drive by in the Libyan rebel stronghold city of Benghazi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## NEWS IN brief

### Libyan rebel council nominates envoy to London

AFP, London

Libya's rebel National Transitional Council has nominated Mahmud Nacua as its ambassador to London, a council official said yesterday after Britain recognised the group as the country's sole government.

"The NTC has appointed an ambassador to take over all current affairs. The ambassador is Mahmud Nacua," Guma Al-Gamaty, the UK coordinator for the NTC, told reporters in London.

"He is a 74-year-old writer and intellectual. He has lived outside of Libya for almost 32 years and is involved with the opposition since the '80s."

Britain said Wednesday that it was expelling all remaining loyalists of Libyan leader Moamer Gaddafi from the Libyan embassy and that it now recognised

### BBC reporter among 21 killed in Afghan attacks

AFP, Kandahar

Taliban bomb and gun attacks on an official's compound and a militia base in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan killed 21 people yesterday, including a local BBC reporter.

Five hours of fighting were triggered after insurgents detonated a car bomb outside the deputy provincial governor's compound close to the main hospital in Trinkot, Uruzgan's capital, a provincial government spokesman told AFP.

Gunmen also attacked the nearby base of a militia commander who provides security to Nato convoys. The assault was launched from a radio and television office where 25-year-old BBC reporter Ahmed

### South Sudan joins African Union as 54th member

AFP, Addis Ababa

South Sudan became the 54th member of the African Union (AU) after it received a majority vote from member states, including one from Sudan, the Pan-African bloc said yesterday.

"The Commission has received the requisite number of written communications supporting the admission of South Sudan to the African Union as the 54th union member state," the AU said in a statement.

Membership was granted after South Sudan submitted an official request to join the AU and became the first nation to be admitted to the body

## NORWAY MASSACRE No trial before next year: prosecutor

AFP, Oslo

Norwegian mass killer Anders Behring Breivik will not be brought to trial before next year, the country's top prosecutor said yesterday, ruling out the laying of formal charges until at least January.

"We hope that we can conduct the court trial in the course of next year," the king's general prosecutor Tor Aksel Busch -- the country's highest legal officer -- told public broadcasters NRK.

The indictment for the 32-year-old, in solitary custody after acknowledging responsibility for 76 deaths in a shooting spree and bomb attacks, "will not be ready before the end of the year."

"That's the starting point," he said. "And then, we'll see how long we will need next year."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg announced an independent review into the massacre. He vowed that a commission of inquiry would get to the truth.

Acting prosecutor Ingunn Fossgard told AFP yesterday that given the "huge and demanding investigation, the police need time."

Police have so far cited the law on terrorism as the basis for possible charges, provoking public uproar given that the longest likely sentence would be 21 years.

But prosecutor Christian Hatlo said this week that police are also envisaging charging him with "crimes against humanity" for the bombing of Oslo's government district and the shooting of participants in a youth camp on a nearby island.

## INDO-PAK PEACE

### Pak FM prays at Delhi dargah

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
New Delhi

Visiting Pakistan Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar yesterday paid obeisance at the dargah of famous Sufi saint Nizamuddin Auliya here and prayed for peace between the two countries.

Concluding her three-day official visit, Khar, along with Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir and other members of the Pakistani delegation, spent over 30 minutes at the dargah in Nizamuddin in south Delhi.

The 34-year-old foreign minister was accorded a traditional welcome by the office bearers of the dargah and was taken to Amir Khuro's grave where she offered a 'chadar'.

Since women are not allowed inside the shrine, she touched the 'chadar' with her hand and gave it to other members of the delegation and office bearers who went inside and placed it.



Hina Rabbani Khar

was taken around the dargah by our nizamis and finally she also offered namaz," Diwan Syed Tahir Nizami, one of the office bearers of the dargah, said.

At the mosque, Khar offered namaz. Nizami said prayers were also held for Khar's "successful tenure" as foreign minister of Pakistan and for her future.

"Whoever comes to the dargah, they come with a prayer. They say their prayer in their mind. For Khar, we prayed for her successful tenure as foreign minister and also for her future," he said.

## Suicide attack kills 12 in Iraq

AP, Baghdad

A suicide bomber yesterday struck an Iraqi bank in Saddam Hussein's hometown where policemen were picking up their paychecks, killing 12 and wounding 30 people, officials said.

The midmorning blast was the fourth major attack this year on Iraqi security forces in the northern city of Tikrit, a former hotbed for Sunni insurgents bent on targeting the government and exposing the country's instability.

Salahuddin provincial spokesman Mohammed al-Asi said the explosion went off outside the state-run Rafidain bank where policemen were picking up their monthly pay. It wasn't known how many policemen were among the dead and wounded.

Television footage of the blast showed a huge white mushroom cloud over the two-storey bank.

## Libyan rebels seize Gaddafi frontier base

AFP, Al-ghazaya

Libyan rebels seized the town of Al-Ghazaya near the Tunisian border yesterday as part of a pre-Ramadan offensive aimed at unseating strongman Moamer Gaddafi, an AFP correspondent said.

The heaviest fighting was on the eastern side of the town, some 12 kilometres from the border with Tunisia, in a two-pronged attack that also came from the west and began around 8:00 am (0600 GMT).

The capture of Al-Ghazaya, being used as a base by Gaddafi troops to fire rockets onto rebel forces in nearby Nalut town, followed a defiant speech by the Libyan leader that he is ready to "sacrifice" to ensure victory in the civil war.

The early morning assault from the surrounding mountains was part of the offensive by the rebels aimed at marching on Tripoli and toppling Gaddafi.

Initial attacks had begun on Wednesday, a military source told an AFP correspondent in Zintan, in the Nalut region of western Libya.

Before the rebels overran the town, an

AFP correspondent watching through binoculars saw dozens of army vehicles pulling out in the face of rebel artillery fire from heights overlooking Al-Ghazaya.

The mountainous Nafusa region has seen some of the fiercest fighting between loyalist troops and rebel forces.

The two sides had fought their way into a stalemate five months after the start of a popular uprising that quickly turned into a civil war.

The Libyan leader controls much of the west and his Tripoli stronghold, while the opposition holds the east from its bastion in Benghazi.

A defiant Gaddafi said late Wednesday he is ready to "sacrifice" to defeat the rebels after they warned the deadline for him to step down and stay in Libya has expired.

"We are not afraid. We will defeat them," Gaddafi said in an audio message, referring to the Nato alliance and the insurgents.

"We will pay the price with our lives, our women and our children. We are ready to sacrifice (ourselves) to defeat the enemy," he added in a message to loyalists in the town of Zaltan, also near the Tunisian border.

## I 'cry every day'

Says Strauss-Kahn accuser

AFP, New York

Nafissatou Diallo, who accuses French politician Dominique Strauss-Kahn of trying to rape her when she went to clean his hotel room, said yesterday she is traumatised.

"We cry every day. We can't sleep," Diallo said at a packed press conference called to thank her supporters and give her side in the increasingly sensational case.

Diallo said she and her teenage daughter were "going through a lot."

Speaking in a quiet, hesitant voice and nervously clasping her hands, Diallo said it was "too much for me, too much for my

daughter."

More than 100 journalists crammed into a Brooklyn church to see Diallo who revealed her identity on Sunday for the first time since accusing Strauss-Kahn of forcing her into oral sex on May 14 in his Manhattan hotel room.

The unusual strategy of going public has further fueled already high interest in the sensational case.

Prosecutors have expressed doubts about the credibility of the maid, suggesting they may drop charges against Strauss-Kahn, who until the alleged incident was a leading French presidential candidate and the head of the International Monetary Fund.

## CHINA TRAIN CRASH Signal design flaw blamed

BBC ONLINE

Serious flaws in a signalling system caused a fatal collision on China's high-speed rail network, officials say.

Thirty-nine people died when a train ran into the back of another which had stalled on a viaduct near Wenzhou after lightning cut its power supply.

The system "failed to turn the green light into red", said An Lusheng, head of the Shanghai Railway Bureau.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, who has been visiting the crash site, vowed to "severely punish" those responsible. The country's development is for the people, so the most important thing is people's lives," Wen told reporters at the scene.

"No matter if it was a mechanical fault, a management problem, or a manufacturing problem, we must get to the bottom of this," he said.

## Suu Kyi calls for Myanmar ceasefire

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday called on the army and ethnic insurgents to end a decades-long civil conflict in her first direct letter to the country's new president.

Suu Kyi, who held her first talks with a minister in the new government on Monday, said armed ethnic minority rebel forces could not be achieved by "military means".

"I would like to earnestly call for an immediate ceasefire and the peaceful resolution of the conflicts for the benefit of all ethnicities in the Union of Myanmar," she said in the letter, also addressed to ethnic groups.

Myanmar -- where power was handed to a nominally civilian government in March after almost 50 years of military rule -- has been plagued by decades of civil war. Fighting has intensified in the north and east of the country in recent months.

Suu Kyi was released from house arrest days after the controversial election last November and has since been warned to



stay out of politics.

In her letter, she said she was willing to get involved in halting the unrest.

"I am ready to do as much as I can to support the ceasefire and the peace process," she said.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner addressed the letter directly to Myanmar president Thein Sein, a former general

who took power after the poll, having previously communicated only through her National League for Democracy (NLD).

She has shown increasing confidence in recent weeks, testing the limits of her freedom with her first trip outside Yangon earlier this month and leading hundreds of people in a memorial to her father on her return to the city.

A source from the NLD said Suu Kyi is planning another trip at the beginning of next month, although the outing has not been finalised and it is not clear whether the visit will be political or personal.

"She will go to meditate at a monastery in Yangon for about three days, after that she is likely to go to Bago," the source said, referring to a region north of Yangon. The NLD was not able to officially confirm any details.

## Fighting breaks out in Somali capital

AFP, Mogadishu

Heavy fighting broke out yesterday in the Somali capital Mogadishu as government forces backed by African Union troops launched an assault on an insurgent stronghold, officials and witnesses said.

Several civilians were injured in the fighting, medics said.

The clashes came just a day after the UN World Food Programme began an airlift of emergency relief into the war-torn capital, to bring supplies for thousands at risk of starvation from an extreme drought in the Horn of Africa.

"There is heavy fighting this morning in several locations, it is too early to say about casualty numbers, but there are some civilians who were injured in the crossfire," said Ali Muse, the head of Mogadishu's ambulance service.

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Application Forms are available for Tk. 800 at UCBL, Baridhara Branch. A complete application includes: (i) application form (duly filled in); (ii) two passport size photographs; (iii) clean copies of certificates and mark-sheets (attested).

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