AFP, Cairo

The trial of Hosni Mubarak resumed yesterday after dozens of the ousted Egyptian president's supporters and opponents clashed near the Cairo court before he arrived on a stretcher.

The session was to hear witness testimony to try to determine who gave the orders for the killing of hundreds of protesters in the revolt that ousted the former autocratic leader in February.

The hearing was to be held off-camera unlike the first two sessions.

Before he drew up, demonstrators clashed near the courtroom. "We have not abandoned you," the pro-Mubarak protesters chanted, while their rivals shouted, "Punishment, punishment, they killed our children with bullets."

arrests senior

Qaeda leader

A senior al-Qaeda leader has

been arrested in southwest

Pakistan along with two

other high-ranking opera-

tives for the global terror

announced yesterday.

network, the army

Younis al-Mauritani, who

was involved in planning and

carrying out international

operations, was picked up in

the suburbs of the south-

western city of Quetta, the

Cooperation between the

military said in a statement.

CIA and Pakistan's Inter-

Services Intelligence agency

led to the arrests by the para-

when Mauritani was detained.

military, it said, without saying

It named the two other

senior operatives as Abdul

Ghaffar al-Shami and

Messara al-Shami.

Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

# Gaddafi bastion waits attack as talks fail

AFP, Shishan

Anti-Gaddafi fighters were playing a waiting game yesterday after an official said negotiations for the surrender of the town of Bani Walid had failed and would not resume.

"I am leaving the military commander to resolve the problem," Abdullah Kenshil, the chief negotiator for Libya's new government, the National Transitional Council (NTC), said late Sunday. The town southeast of Tripoli is one of the

last strongholds of pro-Gaddafi fighters where at least one of the ousted despot's sons is reported to be hiding. "We are waiting for orders to start the

attack or to extend the deadline until Saturday," Abdulrazzak Naduri, second in command in the military council in Tarhuna, north of Bani Walid, told AFP. Kenshil said Gaddafi himself, his sons and

much of his family had been in Bani Walid, without specifying when. Some had left but two of Gaddafi's sons, Saadi and Mutassim, were still believed to be there.

Negotiations began several days ago through tribal intermediaries with the hope of taking Bani Walid without bloodshed.

Meanwhile, Nato secretary general ingpowers are unhappy with China offered huge stockpiles of weapons to Muammar icantly closer to success and will end soon.

moved significantly closer to success, but we : Lavrov said Sunday. are not there yet," Anders Fogh Rasmussen · told a news conference yesterday.

body, the North Atlantic Council, to determine when Operation Unified Protector can end, he said. Saadi Gaddafi, son of Muammar and who

is believed to be in Bani Walid, blamed his high-profile brother Seif al-Islam for the talks' failure. Saadi told CNN in a telephone interview that an "aggressive" speech broadcast by his

brother a few days ago had led to the break-

down of the negotiations. line of 0800 GMT Sunday for Bani Walid's surrender, although the NTC last week that he saw no end to "this : Appendices stapled to the main memo show that the and US to apologise for announced an overall truce until September : sad situation". 10 in a bid to negotiate the surrender of the :

remaining strongholds of Gaddafi forces.

### civilian deaths in Libya

AFP, Moscow

The BRICS group of emerg-

It will be up to Nato's decision-making ; satisfy us," he told a joint · obtained. press conference with his. The papers do not confirm whether any military assis-

South Africa.

mandated by the UN - officials had visited China in July for talks with "interested : Security Council is to defend : companies." · the civilian population but · ; bers," Lavrov said, adding : Libya in any direct or indirect form," a statement said.

· finally recognised NTC.

#### BRICS resents China offered Gaddafi weapons: Report

Beijing strongly denies accusation

· AFP, Montreal

Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the military : developments in war-torn : Gaddafi during the final months of his regime and held alliance's mission in Libya has moved signif- · Libya where many civilians · secret talks on shipping them through Algeria and South : LIBYA RENDITION CLAIMS have been killed, Russian Africa, The Globe and Mail reported. "Our operation to protect civilians has : Foreign Minister Sergei : State-controlled Chinese arms companies were ready to : UK PM calls

· sell weapons and ammunition worth at least \$200 million · "Unfortunately, what is (141 million euros) to Gaddafi in late July, despite UN sanc- for inquiry happening in Libya cannot itions, the Canadian daily said, citing secret documents it had

Brazilian counterpart in : tance was delivered, but senior members of Tripoli's new Moscow carried by Russian ruling council say they reinforce their suspicions about the · recent actions of China, Algeria and South Africa, the report He was speaking on : said on Sunday. behalf of the BRICS -- Brazil, · Algeria, China and South Africa have been reluctant to

· Russia, India, China and · endorse Nato's actions in Libya, the Toronto newspaper recalled. 'The main objective as : Beijing denied the allegation yesterday, but said Libyan

The representative came without noticing Beijing and The anti-Gaddafi fighters had set a dead- : they are dying in large num- : "Chinese companies have not provided military products to

> · parties discussed truck-mounted rocket launchers, fuel-air On Thursday, Russia : explosive missiles and anti-tank missiles, among others items, the report said.



BBC ONLINE

Allegations that MI6 was involved in the rendition of Libyan terror suspects should be examined by an independent inquiry, David Cameron has said.

It comes after papers suggesting close ties between MI6, the CIA and the Gaddafi regime were · found in Tripoli.

An anti-Gaddafi military leader says he wants the UK organising his 2004 transfer to Libya.

An existing inquiry into allegations of UK security agencies' involvement in torture has said it will investigate. Abdel Hakim Belhaj, then

a terror suspect but now in charge of the Libyan capital's military forces, says he was tortured after being arrested in Bangkok. He says he was taken to

Libya by a CIA and MI6 operation, allegedly confirmed by documents sent to Gaddafi's regime, and sent to prison. The Foreign Office said

the government had a "longstanding policy" not to comment on intelligence matters.

Belhaj told the BBC: "What happened to me and my family is illegal. It deserves an apology. And for what happened to me when I was captured and tortured.

According to the Guardian, these documents were discovered in an abandoned office building in Tripoli by staff from Human RightsWatch.

Belhaj said that MI6 and the CIA did not witness his torture at the hands of the former Libyan regime, but did interview him afterwards.

## Somalia famine spreads: UN Hundreds dying daily

REUTERS, Nairobi

Famine has spread to six out of eight regions in southern Somalia, with 750,000 people facing imminent starvation, the United Nations said yesterday, and hundreds of people are dying each day despite a ramping up of aid relief. "The entire Bay region has now been declared a famine

area," said Mark Bowden, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for Somalia.

Bay is the sixth region of Somalia to slip into famine since the UN's initial declaration of famine in the war-torn country in July that has left 4 million Somalis, or 53 percent of the population, unable to meet their food needs. Hundreds of people are dying each day and at least half of

them are children, the UN' Grainne Moloney said, adding she expected the remaining regions of southern Somalia to slip into famine by the end of the year. "The rate of malnutrition (among children) in Bay region is 58 per cent. This is a record rate of acute malnutrition,"

Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit. Somalia is at the epicenter of a hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa region which is affecting over 13 million people.

said Moloney, the chief technical advisor for the UN Food

While a small harvest is expected in January, following rains in October, the situation is unlikely to improve until main harvest of August 2012.



A Jewish settler's child sits in front of the rubble of a structure demolished by Israeli police in the outpost settlement of Migron, outside the West Bank city of Ramallah and a mosque, inset, was torched and Hebrew graffiti insulting the Prophet Mohammed was posted on its wall in an apparent retaliatory attack after the demolition.

According to two leaked cables posted on the whistleblower siteWikiLeaks on August 30 this year, the then US ambassador in Dhaka Patricia A Butenis and British high commissioner Anwar Chowdhury called on

Hasina on January 6, 2007 and Khaleda the next day. In the meetings, the envoys apprised the leaders of a possible martial law or a coup, the cables say. They also said a political compromise was possible that would spare the country from violence and end rumours and speculation

about military intervention.

The beginning of 2007 saw political turmoil sweep across the country following the then opposition Awami League's boycotting of January 22 elections under the caretaker government headed by Iajuddin Ahmed. Supporters of two alliances led by AL and BNP were locked in a series of clashes. Emergency was declared on January 11.

The ambassador and the high commissioner stressed they had consistently opposed any unconstitutional role for the military but felt obligated to bring these reports to Hasina's attention, one of the cables say.

Hasina, now the prime minister, then expressed little concern over her personal security. She said she was not troubled by military involvement, either directly or under a state of emergency. If the military can intervene and "make things okay," that would be

The ambassador queried Hasina why she thought the military would be willing to return power to the very politicians who created the need for military intervention in the first

The AL chief said she did envision marshal law; opining that no officer was strong enough to lead a coup. Moreover, she was confident the people would not allow the military to retain power longer then necessary to resolve the political crisis.

"There would be violence, bloodshed, the country could collapse," if the military refused to step down, she said.

Hasina, however, said she would sooner support a solution involving the military than one that returned the BNP to power.

Khaleda, acknowledging some dissent within her party, bristled at suggestions the military would take action against her or act extraconstitutionally. She accused the US, UK and

civil society of encouraging such speculation, an allegation and the British high commissioner categorically denied. Now leader of the opposi-

tion, Khaleda then at the meet rejected discussions with Hasina before elections. Instead, she reiterated the BNP position that elections must go forward but offered to hold new elections within 12-15 months once returned to office. Once elected, BNP would

also implement election reforms, including AL demands for voter ID cards. She acknowledged many would not recognise the January 22 elections as credible, but said the government would be legitimate under the constitution. Khaleda Zia also said she

always wanted AL to participate in the elections, but it was then too late.

mats, Khaleda excused from the meeting her usual advisers (former foreign minister Morshed Khan, former political adviser Reaz Rahman and BNP general secretary Mannan Bhuiyan). They later returned for the discussion on election

talks with the envoys argued that the current political impasse was the direct result of an orchestrated BNP plan, implemented with the collusion of the chief adviser, to create conditions to force AL and its partners in the "Grand Alliance" to boycott the elec-

"BNP does not want us to participate because we will win," Hasina declared with confidence.

president/chief adviser, Iajuddin Ahmed, does not listen to his advisers or the international community, but simply follows BNP instructions.

The president, she said, just wanted to hold elections and hand over power to Khaleda, leaving Awami League and its alliance partners with no alternative but to boycott a "rigged" election.

which both the ambassador

At the request of the diplo-

Sheikh Hasina during her

She complained that the

Asked how she would respond if the BNP chairperson reached out to her to find a solution, Hasina said she would reject any such overtures from

As the two envoys described a possible scenario suggested by some in the BNP under which elections would be held with the understanding that new elections would be called within 12 months, Hasina dismissed the proposalout-of-hand.

Emphasising the need to take a hard line now, Hasina said her supporters already blame her for initially accepting Iajuddin's decision to appoint himselfthe chiefadviser.

Many argue that continuing the street violence that forced former chief justice Hasan to refuse appointment as the chief adviser, would have been better than allowing Iajuddin to engineer a biased election.

She denied that cancellation of Jatiya party leader Ershad's nominations caused her to

boycott the election. Jatiya party is now a component of ruling coalition led by her party.

When US ambassador Butenis raised the possibility of United Nations mediation, the AL president showed some interest in UN-mediated election, but it was clear she envisioned an election effectively run by the UN and not just UN mediation of the political issues separating the two major political alliances.

The cable on the meeting with Hasina noted that the AL president wrote to the UN secretary general in December asking for UN monitoring of the election.

On reconstitution of the caretaker government and the Election Commission, Hasina insisted Iajuddin must relinquish his position as the chief adviser; the original ten advisers, however, would be acceptable.

## Khaleda reacted sharply, Hasina took it lightly 30-hr trip schedule

FROM PAGE 1

trip to Dhaka with Manmohan in protest against the final draft of the schedule, Foreign Minister Teesta water sharing agreement.

The Indian delegation also includes External Affairs Minister SM Krishna, Water Resources Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal, National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon, Media Adviser Harish Khare, TKA Nair, principal secretary to PM; Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, a 49member security team and a 42-member media team.

From the airport, Manmohan will directly go to National Mausoleum, Savar to lay wreaths. He will plant a sapling there and sign the visitors' book. Then he will go to Pan Pacific

Hotel Sonargaon where he will stay during his visit.

As per the programme Dipu Moni and Finance Minister AMA Muhith will separately call on Manmohan at Hotel Sonargaon from 4:10pm. Manmohan will start for

4:55pm and have a tete-atete with Prime Minister Hasina for half an hour. After the private conversation, the two prime ministers at 5:35pm will join offi-

Prime Minister's Office at

cial talks. Hasina will lead a 16member official delegation while Manmohan an 18member delegation in the discussion followed by signing of some 10 agreements/protocols/MoUs and media statements. The

entire programme will last for about 80 minutes.

Around 8:00pm, the

Indian prime minister will attend a banquet to be hosted by his Bangladesh counterpart in his honour at Sonargaon Hotel. On the concluding day of his visit tomorrow, Manmohan will give a talk

South Asia" at the Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University around 11:00am. Manmohan will also go to Bangabhaban at noon to visit President Zillur Rahman. The two will hold

talks for 25 minutes. From Bangabhaban, Manmohan will leave for Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi to place a wreath at the portrait of Father of the Nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He will then return to Sonargaon Hotel.

After lunch, BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party President HM Ershad and leaders of the grand alliance are expected to pay courtesy call on the on "India, Bangladesh and Indian prime minister separately.

> He will leave Dhaka for New Delhi around 6:00pm. Sheikh Hasina will see him

> Manmohan will be accompanied by his wife Gursharan Kaur during his visit. Gursharan will also visit Gurudwara Nanakshahi at Dhaka University on the

## Khaleda failed by saving

FROM PAGE 20

Tarique Rahman has been accused in 15 cases -- eight for extortion, three for graft, two for links with the August 21 grenade attack, one for money laundering and another for tax evasion.

Tarique held sway on Hawa Bhaban, political office of the then premier Khaleda Zia, which was widely considered as an alternative power centre during the tenure of the previous BNP-led coalition govern- months ago." ment.

Rajshahi region and arrest the 27,2005. "gangsters" of Jama'atul global image.

outfit founded in 1998, and its media speculation that an leaders Abdur Rahman and insider of the Prime Minister's Bangla Bhai gained nation- Office had links to the local wide notoriety for terrorist BNP leaders charged with the activities between 2001 and grenade attack. 2005.

ment had been in denial in initial years of JMB's operation and said "Bangla Bhai is a creation of the media." Later, the kingpins of the banned outfit were captured and executed in 2007.

Siddiqui said, "That's the problem with this BNP government... It only acts under pressure, so it doesn't get the credit it deserves for doing what it should have done The trial of the murder of

In the meeting with the US SAMS Kibria, former finance envoy, Siddiqui said US pres- minister and Awami League sure and the World Bank meet-leader, figured prominently in ing on Bangladesh in the meeting held barely a Washington had finally con- month and a half after the vinced Khaleda to stop pro- killing of Kibria in a grenade tecting BNP lawmakers in attack in Habiganj on January Siddiqui even referred to

Mujahideen Bangladesh for the then prime minister's the sake of Bangladesh's political secretary Harris Chowdhury when the ambas-JMB, a banned Islamist sador enquired about the

Referring to Harris, he issue.

However, the then govern- asked whether the US envoy wanted him to name the person, who is from Sylhet and "is a problem."

Siddiqui told Thomas that

sustained US pressure on

Bangladesh government was

essential to bring Kibria's killers to justice. The principal secretary also indicated that Mir Nasiruddin, the then state minister for civil aviation, wanted a bribe to decide on whether state-run

airline Biman should buy

Boeing or Airbus.

Siddiqui said he had declined to meet a Boeing official, who was to visit Dhaka the next week (March 2005), as there was no need for Boeing "to preach to the converted." The principal secretary said

he supported Biman's purchase of Boeing aircraft, and would press the reluctant state minister underscoring the political and commercial benefits of choosing Boeing. He indicated that the state

minister's desire for a bribe was one of the factors behind the delay in deciding on the

