

Mubarak trial resumes in Cairo

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.

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.

BRICS resents civilian deaths in Libya

AFP, Moscow
The BRICS group of emerging powers are unhappy with developments in war-torn Libya where many civilians have been killed, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Sunday.

China offered Gaddafi weapons: Report

Beijing strongly denies accusation
AFP, Montreal
China offered huge stockpiles of weapons to Muammar Gaddafi during the final months of his regime and held secret talks on shipping them through Algeria and South Africa, The Globe and Mail reported.



LIBYA RENDITION CLAIMS UK PM calls for inquiry

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.

Pakistan arrests senior Qaeda leader

AFP, Islamabad
A senior al-Qaeda leader has been arrested in southwest Pakistan along with two other high-ranking operatives for the global terror network, the army announced yesterday.

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.



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.

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

FROM PAGE 20
According to two leaked cables posted on the whistleblower site WikiLeaks 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.

Khaleda, acknowledging some dissent within her party, bristled at suggestions the military would take action against her or act extra-constitutionally. She accused the US, UK and civil society of encouraging such speculation, an allegation which both the ambassador and the British high commissioner categorically denied.

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 Khaleda. 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 proposal out-of-hand.

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.

FROM PAGE 1
trip to Dhaka with Manmohan in protest against the final draft of the 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 49-member security team and a 42-member media team.

Hotel Sonargaon where he will stay during his visit. As per the programme schedule, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Finance Minister AMA Muhith will separately call on Manmohan at Hotel Sonargaon from 4:10pm. Manmohan will start for Prime Minister's Office at 4:55pm and have a tete-a-tete with Prime Minister Hasina for half an hour.

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 on "India, Bangladesh and South Asia" at the Senate Bhavan of Dhaka University around 11:00am.

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 Indian prime minister separately. He will leave Dhaka for New Delhi around 6:00pm. Sheikh Hasina will see him off. Manmohan will be accompanied by his wife Gursharan Kaur during his visit. Gursharan will also visit Gurudwara Nanakshahi at Dhaka University on the first day.

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 government.

However, the then government 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 months ago." The trial of the murder of SAMS Kibria, former finance minister and Awami League leader, figured prominently in the meeting held barely a month and a half after the killing of Kibria in a grenade attack in Habiganj on January 27, 2005.

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/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 issue.

Sheikh Hasina during her 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 election. "BNP does not want us to participate because we will win," Hasina declared with confidence. She complained that the 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.

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