



**Sonia Gandhi back at work after surgery**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The President of India's ruling Congress party Sonia Gandhi, who had undergone a surgery in the US last month, was back in party affairs yesterday presiding over meeting of key leaders to finalize the candidates for crucial assembly elections in politically key state of Uttar Pradesh.

The meeting of Congress' Central Election Committee, which she presided, was her first collective interaction with Congress leaders after she returned here last week from the US.

The ruling Congress government has had a difficult time during her absence with an unsolved bombing at New Delhi High Court that killed 14 people and the sudden emergence of a nationwide anti-corruption protest movement.

# Britain, France to help Gaddafi hunt

AFP, Tripoli

David Cameron yesterday pledged British help in hunting down Muammar Gaddafi as he and France's Nicolas Sarkozy became the first foreign leaders to visit the new Libya and forces advancing on the fallen strongman's hometown came under heavy fire.

"We must keep on with the Nato mission until civilians are all protected and until this work is finished," the British prime minister told a joint news conference in Tripoli on a lightning visit.

"We will help you to find Gaddafi and to bring him to justice," he said.

The French president said the toppled despot remained a "danger" and that there was a "job to finish" in eliminating his forces' remaining strongholds.

Sarkozy, accompanied by Foreign Minister Alain Juppe on what Finance Minister Francois Baroin called an "historic" visit, insisted there was "no ulterior motive" in Western assistance to the new Libya.

Cameron and Sarkozy, whose forces spearheaded the Nato air war that helped topple Gaddafi, are immensely popular among ordinary Libyans for their role in ending the fugitive strongman's 42 years of iron-fisted rule.

They met the head of the National Transitional Council, Mustafa Abdel Jalil, who earlier gave assurances that Tripoli had been sufficiently secured since its capture from Gaddafi forces last month for their visit to go ahead.

Cameron said Nato would continue its UN-mandated air operations until Gaddafi's remaining redoubts around his hometown of Sirte on the Mediterranean coast and in a slew of Saharan oases extending to Libya's southern borders are neutralised.

"We will go on with the Nato mission for as long as is necessary under UN Resolution 1973 to protect civilians," he said.

"And the message I think to Gaddafi and all those still holding arms on his behalf is it is over. Give up. The mercenaries should go home."

Cameron said Britain would release \$950 million in Libyan assets as part of a series of measures aimed at supporting the new authorities in Tripoli.

He also said Britain would release another 12 billion pounds in frozen Gaddafi regime assets as soon as the UN Security Council approved a draft resolution that Britain and France are to put forward on Friday.

The visit came as a large convoy of NTC forces zeroed in on Gaddafi's hometown of Sirte in gruelling heat, confident of overcoming one of the final pockets of resistance.

Fighting erupted after the heavily armed convoy neared houses after driving into the desert town of Wadi Bey, some 130 kilometres southwest of Sirte, an AFP correspondent reported.

Their task appeared to have been made easier as their advance was preceded by a series of Nato air strikes in and around Sirte.

**Palestinians state bid at UN on Sept 23**

AFP, Ramallah

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki said yesterday that the Palestinians will submit their UN bid on September 23 but are willing to listen to other ideas in the meantime.

Envoy from the United States, the European Union and the diplomatic Quartet have been holding 11-hour talks with Palestinian and Israeli leaders in an effort to get them back into direct peace talks that stalled a year ago.

"We will see if any of them is carrying a credible offer that will allow us to look into it seriously," Malki told foreign journalists in Ramallah.

"Otherwise, on the 23rd at 12.30 (Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas) will submit the application."

Abbas is to make a broadcast address to the Palestinian people today.

So far, 127 countries have recognised a Palestinian state based on the lines that existed before the 1967 Six Day War, including Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

# Burma growing as global drug hub

AFP, Bangkok

Myanmar is expected to grow as a global source of heroin and methamphetamines in the years ahead amid efforts to stem the flow of drugs from Afghanistan, a US narcotics official said yesterday.

Myanmar, already the world's second biggest opium producer, looks likely to become increasingly attractive to drug smugglers, said William Brownfield, assistant secretary of the US Bureau of International Narcotics.

He said international efforts to stop drugs from Afghanistan, currently the biggest supplier of heroin and opium, will "eventually succeed".

"It is inevitable that the trafficking organisations will seek out other countries from which to produce and market their products. The most logical country that will be next on their checklist is... Myanmar," he added.

He said the army-dominated nation "is likely to be a greater producer and a greater exporter of the illicit drugs in the years ahead".

Brownfield was speaking in neighbouring Thailand about Bangkok's efforts to combat drug trafficking across its border with Myanmar, also known as Burma.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has expressed strong concern about a drug surge in Myanmar, which has re-emerged as a major producer of heroin and amphetamine-style synthetic drugs.

In June it said a "blight" on opium crops in Afghanistan, which accounts for about two-thirds of the global area under poppy cultivation, meant that world production declined by 38 percent to an estimated 4,860 tons.

Cultivation of opium crops in Myanmar rose by 20 percent in 2010 and with Afghanistan's decline, its share of global opium production has risen from five percent in 2007 to 12 percent last year, the UN agency said.

It added that Myanmar was a prime source of amphetamine pills seizures in Southeast Asia -- with the amount caught in raids rising by a third in 2009, to 15.8 tons.



**Al-Qaeda chief in Pakistan: US Pak ops chief killed**

AFP, Washington

Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri is still in Pakistan, a Pentagon official said Wednesday.

We have no information to indicate that he is anywhere else than in Pakistan, Pentagon spokesman George Little said.

Meanwhile, al-Qaeda's chief of operations in Pakistan Abu Hafs al-Shahri has been killed, a senior US official said yesterday, revealing the latest blow to the terror group's senior leadership.

The death of Abu Hafs in a Pakistani tribal district follows the killing of al-Qaeda's number two Atiyah abd al-Rahman last month.

"It has been confirmed that al-Qaeda's chief of Pakistan operations, Abu Hafs al-Shahri, was killed earlier this week in Waziristan," the official said.

## Delta Brac Housing Finance Corp. Ltd.

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### PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Company in its 63rd meeting held on Thursday, September 15, 2011 has taken the following Price Sensitive decisions:

Dividend recommended for the year ended 30th June 2011.	Stock Dividend : @ 100% i.e. 1 (one) Bonus Share for each share held.
Date of the 15th AGM	November 22, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.
Record Date for AGM	September 29, 2011
Earning Per Share (EPS)	Tk. 98
Net Asset Value Per Share (NAV)	Tk. 328
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share	Tk. (204)
Venue of AGM	Army Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

By Order of the Board  
Sd/-  
S H Aslam Habib  
Company Secretary

September 15, 2011

## NEWS IN brief

### No free rein for Israel in Mediterranean: Turkey PM

AFP, Tunis

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed yesterday in Tunisia that his navy would patrol the Mediterranean and keep Israel in check.

"Israel will no longer be able to do what it wants in the Mediterranean and you'll be seeing Turkish warships in this sea," Erdogan said after a meeting with his Tunisian counterpart Beji Caid Essebsi.

Erdogan reiterated his insistence on an Israeli apology for last year's raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla that left nine pro-Palestinian activists dead, all of them Turks or of Turkish origin.

"Relations with Israel cannot normalise if Israel does not apologise over the flotilla raid, compensate the martyrs' families and lift the blockade of Gaza," the Turkish prime minister said.

### Syrian opposition announces 'national council'

AFP, Istanbul

Members of the Syrian opposition meeting in Istanbul yesterday announced a list of 140 dissidents forming a "national council" they established in August.

The council aims to coordinate the opposition's policies against the Syrian leadership.

Sixty percent of the members live in Syria, while the remainder are in exile, Abdel Basset Sidah, a council member, told a press conference.

The organisers disclosed only 72 names of council members and kept the rest confidential for what they said were security reasons.

Revolutionary youth represents more than half of the council, Ahmed Ramadan, another council

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UNDP  
Bangladesh

### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks quotations for following Request for Quotation (RFQ).

#### RFQ for ICT Product for CHTDF

The RFQ along with the detail specification and instruction for submission can be downloaded from the UNDP website [http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_detail.php?id=294](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_detail.php?id=294)

The deadline for submission of quotation is 22nd September 2011, 4:30 pm (local time)

## VACANCY NOTICE



UNDP  
Bangladesh

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancies for the below positions for "Local Governance Cluster":

- Consultant for Backstopping support and technical guideline to project team & piloting UP for smooth implementation of pilot activities on UP Revenue Mobilization in LIC working areas. (Re-advertisement). - Total 03 Positions

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be submitted no later than Saturday, 24 September 2011.

Only Bangladeshi nationals are eligible to apply.  
Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.