



The World This Week

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AFRICA

Libyan's NTC deputy chief resigns



The deputy head of Libya's ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) says he has resigned amid growing protests against him.

Abdel Hafiz Ghoga told Al-Jazeera TV that he was resigning in the national interest. Several hundred protesters stormed the NTC headquarters in the second city Benghazi on Saturday. Observers say it was the most serious show of anger at the new authorities since Col Muammar Gaddafi was ousted. Mr Ghogha, an NTC spokesman, has become a focus for protesters demanding more openness from the NTC.

They accuse him of being an opportunist, who switched allegiances from the regime of Col Gaddafi as the uprising gained strength.

Egypt's new parliament holds first session



The first Egyptian parliament elected since President Hosni Mubarak resigned last February after a popular uprising is holding its inaugural session.

Islamists dominated the elections held for the People's Assembly over the past three months, winning 73 per cent of the seats. The Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice party won 235 seats, the ultra-conservative Salafist Nour Party 121 and the moderate al-Wasat Party 10.

The chamber is expected to elect a speaker and two deputies on Monday.

Liberal and secular parties polled badly, with the New Wafd securing 38 seats, the Egyptian bloc 35 and the Reform and Development Party 10.

Gaddafi had chemical weapon stock



Former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi had an undeclared stockpile of chemical weapons, the body that oversees a global ban on such munitions has said.

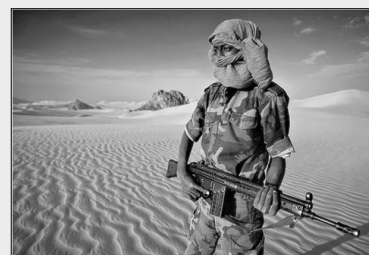
The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said inspectors visited Libya this week.

Among the chemical munitions they found were stocks of sulphur mustard agent, which can cause severe blistering.

Libya's new rulers told the group about the previously unknown stocks last year after removing Gaddafi from power.

"The inspectors verified the declared chemical weapons, which consist of sulphur mustard agent that is not loaded into munitions," the OPCW said.

Dozens of Tuareg rebels dead in Mali clash



Forty-five Tuareg rebels have been killed in two days of fierce clashes with Mali's government troops, the country's military says.

It says that two soldiers also died in the fighting in the vast desert area of northern Mali.

Some of the rebels have returned from Libya where they had been part of Col Muammar Gaddafi's security forces.

The Tuareg are calling for an autonomous Azawad region in the north of Mali.

"The attackers suffered heavy losses," Mali's defence ministry said in a statement.

At least eight people - including government troops - were injured.

EUROPE

Prison for horse-meat halal fraud in Netherlands



A 61-year-old from Breda was sentenced to a year in jail for halal meat fraud.

The man and his accomplices sold horse meat from South America as Dutch halal-slaughtered meat. In 2007 and 2008 the man bought horse meat and packed it like beef. He then bought certificates which said the meat was halal-slaughtered.

The certificates were then forged to change the weight of the meat. The meat was sold to French supermarkets.

The court sentenced him to less since there was no evidence that people suffered health problems from the meat. An accomplice, a 53 year old from Oosterhout, got 160 hours of community service.

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians condemn Hamas MP Dweik arrest



The Palestinian Authority has condemned Israel's arrest of Hamas politician Aziz Dweik, speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Mr Dweik was detained by soldiers on Thursday at a checkpoint near the West Bank city of Ramallah on suspicion of being a member of a terrorist group.

Palestinian officials said they would mount a campaign for his release. Hamas said the arrest was intended to undermine its recent attempts at reconciliation with the Fatah movement. The deputy speaker of the PLC, Ahmed Bahr of Hamas, said President Mahmoud Abbas - who is also leader of Fatah - should suspend the exploratory peace talks with Israel which took place in neighbouring Jordan.

Child dies of wounds suffered three years ago



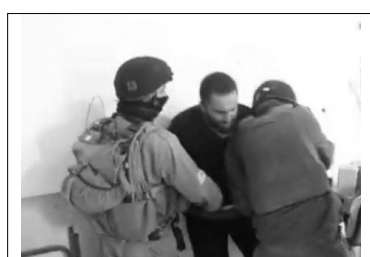
Palestinian medical sources reported that Hanin Kamal Abu Jalala, 16, died of wounds suffered during the Israeli offensive on Gaza three years ago, the International Middle East Media Center (IMEMC) reported.

The child was severely wounded by phosphorous shells fired by the Israeli army into civilian areas in Gaza.

Abu Jalala lived with her family in Al-Boreij refugee camp, in the central Gaza Strip. Her injury also resulted in lung fibrosis.

She was hospitalized at the Hadassah Israeli hospital, and fell into coma nearly twelve days ago after undergoing surgery.

Israeli troops raid centre and abduct organiser



A squadron of Israeli troops invaded the southern West Bank city of Hebron, raided a community centre, and abducted a leader in the non-violent protest movement, the International Middle East Media Center (IMEMC) reported.

Issa Amr, an organizer with "Youth Against Settlements", told reporters with the Ma'an News Agency that he was taken by Israeli troops from the community center, blindfolded and shoved into an army vehicle. He was released Saturday night, after being beaten, spat upon and ridiculed. Amr told the reporters, "Soldiers took me to a military base in Tel Rumeida [settlement], they handcuffed and blindfolded me, and I was brutally beaten for no reason.

ASIA

India authorities gave 'false intelligence'



Author Salman Rushdie has accused authorities in the Indian state of Rajasthan of giving "false intelligence information" of a threat to his life.

Mr Rushdie withdrew from the Jaipur literature festival on Friday, saying that he been told by sources that paid assassins were planning to kill him.

But he later said he believed he had been lied to about the threat.

The Rajasthan government has denied the charge, saying it was "baseless".

Salman Rushdie sparked anger in the Muslim world with his book *The Satanic Verses*, which many see as blasphemous.

Only 40 show up for Afghanistan War protest



Organisers had announced they expected between 500 and 750, but several amongst Norway's Muslim community had encouraged members to boycott the protest.

Just 37 people turned up in front of Parliament to hear one of two speakers, Arfan Bhatti, say, "the safety of the Norwegian people will be threatened as long as you are in Afghanistan. This is not a threat, but a warning."

Meantime those who stayed at home, saying, "You will answer on Judgment Day", Mr Bhatti also expressed his firm belief that Norway is doomed to lose in Afghanistan because "the fact is that it is at war with Islam and the Muslims."