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SUMMARY:

- ONE) – AFRICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH TO SLOW DOWN IN 2011 – Page 2**
- TWO) - CHINA BEGINS TO LOOK AWAY FROM AFRICA- Page 2**
- THREE) - BELGIUM SUSPENDS CONTRIBUTION TO UN AIDS FUND – Page 3**
- FOUR) - GLOBAL CLIMATE TALKS WILL MISS KYOTO DEADLINE - Page 4**
- FIVE) – EU COMMISSION WANTS SINGLE EU SEAT AT IMF - Page 4**
- SIX) – CROATIA MOVES TOWARDS FINALISING EU ENTRY TALKS - Page 4**
- SEVEN) – SERBIA WANTS EU MEMBERSHIP TALKS NEXT YEAR - Page 5**
- EIGHT) – BIG PHARMA SAYS IT WILL CUT VACCINE PRICES FOR POORER NATIONS - Page 5**
- NINE) – ANGOLA EYES AFRICA'S TOP OIL SPOT - Page 6**
- TEN) – CHINA DIPLOMAT MEETS LIBYAN REBEL LEADERS IN BENGHAZI - Page 6**
- ELEVEN) – ITALY ACCUSES LIBYA OF PUSHING IMMIGRANTS TO THE SEA - Page 7**
- TWELVE) – WESTERN-BACKED LIBYAN ARMED REBELS SEIZE MOUNTAIN TOWN - Page 7**
- THIRTEEN) – NATO CONTINUES LIBYA BOMBARDMENTS, USES ATTACK HELICOPTERS – Page 7**
- FOURTEEN) – EGYPT SEALS \$ 3 BILLION IMF ACCORD - Page 8**
- FIFTEEN) – MOROCCANS CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE FOR POLITICAL CHANGE - Page 8**

ONE) – AFRICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH TO SLOW DOWN IN 2011

L'Afrique, où la croissance va ralentir cette année, doit renforcer son intégration régionale pour peser davantage face à ses partenaires commerciaux, notamment les pays émergents, selon un rapport publié lundi par l'OCDE, la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) et l'ONU. L'Afrique a plutôt bien traversé la crise économique mondiale, estiment l'OCDE, la BAD, le Programme de l'ONU pour le développement (PNUD) et la Commission économique des Nations unies pour l'Afrique, dans ce rapport publié à Lisbonne. Après s'être établie l'an dernier à 4,9%, la croissance sur le continent devrait ralentir en 2011 à 3,7%, sous le coup de "forts vents adverses": les événements politiques en Afrique du Nord et la flambée des prix alimentaires et du pétrole. L'an prochain, la croissance devrait toutefois rebondir à 5,8%, "sous réserve d'un retour à la normalité économique" en Libye et en Côte d'Ivoire, estiment les auteurs du rapport. "Donner la priorité à la santé, à l'éducation et aux services de base est indispensable pour s'assurer que les personnes les plus vulnérables ne sont pas laissées pour compte", estime Pedro Conceição, économiste en chef au bureau régional du PNUD pour l'Afrique. Le chômage structurel reste élevé dans de nombreux pays et malgré les avancées observées entre 1996 et 2005, l'Afrique continue de progresser plus lentement sur le front de la lutte contre la pauvreté que les autres régions en développement, soulignent les auteurs du rapport. Selon eux, une des clés pour doper la croissance est d'attirer des investissements dans des secteurs plus diversifiés et à plus forte valeur ajoutée que le pétrole, qui draine aujourd'hui la plupart des flux. D'autant que les événements survenus en Afrique du Nord avec la guerre en Libye risquent de refroidir les investisseurs. L'Afrique peut néanmoins tirer profit de l'arrivée des pays émergents sur le continent, qui s'imposent désormais comme des partenaires à part entière, souligne le rapport. En 2009, la Chine a ainsi dépassé les États-Unis, devenant le principal partenaire commercial de l'Afrique. Et au cours des dix dernières années, la part des échanges de l'Afrique avec les pays émergents a sensiblement augmenté, passant de 23% à 39%. Si les partenaires traditionnels assurent encore la plus grande partie des échanges commerciaux (62%), de l'investissement (80%) et de l'aide publique au développement (90%) de l'Afrique, les pays émergents sont susceptibles d'offrir au continent noir de nouvelles opportunités de croissance et de développement. **REGIONAL INTEGRATION ESSENTIAL** Mais, préviennent les auteurs du rapport, l'intégration régionale, qui souffre aujourd'hui de l'instabilité politique dans certaines régions ou de sérieuses lacunes dans l'interconnexion, doit absolument s'accélérer. "Les pays africains doivent améliorer les infrastructures régionales", a déclaré à l'AFP Jean-Philippe Stijns, économiste au Centre de développement de l'OCDE. "Cela aurait un double avantage", estime-t-il: "stimuler l'économie au niveau régional, mais aussi attirer des investissements majeurs, ce dont manque l'Afrique aujourd'hui". Une plus forte intégration régionale permettrait aussi aux pays africains d'accroître leur pouvoir de négociation lors des discussions avec leurs partenaires commerciaux, souligne le rapport. Car "on ne peut pas espérer une discussion d'égal à égal entre un pays comme le Malawi et un pays comme la Chine", souligne M. Stijns. (See full details of [African Economic Outlook 2011](#)) (AFP)

TWO) - CHINA BEGINS TO LOOK AWAY FROM AFRICA

Jasmine blossoms' fall from grace in the Chinese flower industry is not the only blow Chinese businesses have suffered as a result of the North African and Middle Eastern democratic uprisings this spring. China is evaluating the impact of the Jasmine revolution on its overseas investment and outward business expansion strategy.

Africa – once considered the lab for Chinese companies' reach outside - is being relegated into a destination with too many risk factors. Safer political destinations and countries closer to home are likely to benefit from the shift.

The readjustment has been in the works for some time but the uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya have made those subtle shifts more pronounced.

"North Africa's unrest and Libya's situation in particular are testing China's 'go out' strategy," says Wang Jinyan, research fellow at the Beijing Foreign Studies University. "This will have a definite impact on the future direction of our overseas investment."

According to press reports, China's Ministry of Commerce new five-year plan, which is being finalised at the moment, makes Asia and the new emerging economies the centrepiece of the country's "go out" investment strategy.

"The political risk aside, investment in Africa is no longer what it used to be," the Economic Observer quoted an unnamed official from the ministry in May. "Opening a mine there is not so easy any more, now you need to take into account the environment, local employment and benefits to local economy."

By contrast, Asia is perceived as a mature market full of economic potential and fewer political risks.

Determining the direction of China's future investment remains a full-time occupation of analysts the world over. Flush with cash from years of exports-driven economic expansion and sitting on top of the world's largest foreign exchange reserves, China has been on a shopping spree of late for commodities, oil, energy and agricultural land.

A study released in May by the Asia Society in New York forecast that by 2020 China's overseas direct investment could reach 2 trillion dollars. Last year the United States' foreign investment amounted to 300 billion dollars.

The financial crisis of 2008 has provided Chinese companies with impetus and opportunities to channel some of their money into most remote corners of the world, snapping minerals, securing oil fields and acquiring stakes in major companies.

But before spreading their wings further afield many companies, including major state oil firms like Petro China, have used Africa as their testing ground. Entering as contractors to build railways, roads and telecommunications, Chinese companies now boast a sizeable presence on the continent. By the end of 2010, some 2,000 Chinese companies operated in Africa with an accumulated investment of 32 billion dollars.

Last year China became Africa's largest trading partner, and its march into the continent seemed unstoppable. Not surprisingly, this has been met with criticisms by some that China is acting as a neo-coloniser, stripping Africa of its rich resources.

But the Arab spring has cast doubts over this relentless expansion. The figures of China's economic losses suffered during the civilian unrest in North Africa and Libyan conflict are beginning to emerge, giving officials cause to pause.

In Libya where China's involvement is quite recent, the losses suffered and the cost of repatriating some 36,000 Chinese employees is set to surpass 3 billion dollars. Since 2007 Libya had contracted some 50 engineering projects to Chinese companies, including several image projects to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1969 revolution.

Although China's role as a contractor has limited its exposure to direct losses in the unrest, some Chinese assets like Sinopec refineries in Libya were raided and destroyed. Experts say that on the whole Beijing has been left to deal with a messy aftermath of compensation claims, third party debts and the re-employment of all returned workers.

And Libya's fallout is only one piece in the big picture of Arab revolutions that have derailed Chinese business interests.

At a working conference in Shanghai in May, Sinosure, China's official export credit insurance agency revealed that in the first three months of 2011 its reported loss claims from North Africa and the Middle East have risen by 167 percent over the same period of last year.

According to figures from the Ministry of Commerce, new Chinese contracts in North African countries in the first quarter have dropped dramatically, by 70.8 percent in Algeria and by 46.9 percent in Libya over the same period of last year.

The civil unrest and safety concerns have made the Chinese even more invisible in Africa, adding fuel to accusations that Chinese contractors are isolating themselves from the local population behind high walls, and remain aloof to local grievances. But even as Beijing takes a closer look at its investments in Africa, China's involvement there is far from over.

"You may not see the Chinese but you can see the stadiums and the roads and everything they have built," says Lawrence Brahm, a Beijing-based political columnist. "The jury on their role in Africa's development is out. I still think that the great game between China and the West will be played out in Africa."

THREE) - BELGIUM SUSPENDS CONTRIBUTION TO UN AIDS FUND

La Belgique a suspendu sa contribution au Global Fund to Fight Aids, TBC and Malaria qui organise notamment le financement de la lutte contre le sida. Le paiement de 21 millions d'euros dépend désormais d'un audit interne sur des cas de corruption avec l'argent de ces aides au sein du Global Fund, indique lundi De Morgen. La Belgique a versé ces trois dernières années près de 20 millions d'euros par an au Global Fund, qui gère un quart des aides consacrées à la lutte contre le sida. La Belgique a prévu une aide de 21 millions d'euros pour l'année 2011. "Mais le paiement dépend désormais d'un audit interne sur la corruption réalisé par le Global Fund et la Commission européenne", indique Aurélie Czekalski, porte-parole du ministre de la Coopération au développement, Olivier Chastel (MR). Le versement des fonds pour 2011 doit avoir lieu pour la fin de l'année. "Si les résultats de l'audit ne sont pas positifs les aides seront allouées à d'autres organisations." La députée Marleen Temmerman (spa) et Gorik Ooms, chercheur à l'Institut de médecine tropicale et ancien président de Médecins sans frontières, considèrent que cette décision est dommage. (BELGA)

FOUR) - GLOBAL CLIMATE TALKS WILL MISS KYOTO DEADLINE

U.N. talks have run out of time to meet a December 2012 deadline to put in place a binding successor to the Kyoto Protocol on curbing greenhouse gas emissions, the U.N.'s top climate official said on Monday. After more than three years of talks, Christiana Figueres said countries could not agree in time a full deal to follow on from Kyoto targets, which bind nearly 40 industrialised nations to emissions cuts in 2008-2012. Countries would have to ratify any new deal in national parliaments for it to have equal legal force with the Kyoto Protocol. That is now considered impossible in the timeframe, given that the earliest a deal could be agreed is in Durban at the end of this year, said Figueres, head of the U.N.'s climate secretariat, speaking on the first day of June 6-17 climate talks in Bonn, Germany. "Even if they were able to agree on a legal text for a second commitment period (of Kyoto), that requires an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, it requires legislative ratifications on the part of three-quarters of the parties, so we would assume that there's no time to do that between Durban and the end of 2012," Figueres told reporters. "Countries have realised this, that they actually stand before the potential of a regulatory gap, and are involved in constructive negotiations as to how they're going to deal with that," she said. A deal in Durban is widely viewed as unlikely. The European Union's chief climate negotiator told reporters that 2014 or 2015 was now a more realistic target for a full legal framework. "Let's say 2014, 2015 is a broadly realistic time, but if parties could agree to do that earlier the EU would be happy to do so," said Artur Runge-Metzger. He said such a timetable would dovetail with the publication of the next major report by the U.N. panel of climate scientists in 2014, and a review from 2013-2015 of existing, voluntary commitments. The U.N. talks have stalled on the future of the Kyoto Protocol, which only caps the emissions of rich countries. Developing countries want to extend the pact while most developed nations want to replace it. (Reuters)

FIVE) – EU COMMISSION WANTS SINGLE EU SEAT AT IMF

La Commission européenne a plaidé lundi en faveur d'un siège unique de l'Union européenne - ou au moins de la zone euro - au sein des instances du Fonds monétaire international (FMI), en dépit des réticences que cette idée suscite parmi les pays intéressés. "La commission est d'avis qu'il est dans l'intérêt de l'Union européenne et des Etats membres d'aller dans le sens d'un siège unique pour l'Union européenne, ou au moins pour la zone euro, au sein du FMI", a déclaré le commissaire européen aux Affaires économiques et monétaires Olli Rehn, devant le Parlement européen à Strasbourg. "Il faudra que cela se fasse de manière graduelle et progressive", a-t-il ajouté. Le président de la BCE Jean-Claude Trichet avait avancé la semaine dernière des propositions similaires, en suggérant la création d'un ministère des Finances de la zone euro qui aurait notamment parmi ses attributions "la représentation de la confédération de l'Union au sein des institutions financières internationales". En février 2010, Herman Van Rompuy avait déjà implicitement plaidé en faveur de cette idée. Un siège unique au FMI est aussi soutenu par le chef de file des ministres des Finances de la zone euro, Jean-Claude Juncker, qui a jugé que les pays européens étaient "ridicules" au sein de l'institution du fait de leur représentation fragmentée. Mais pour l'heure, l'hypothèse ne soulève pas l'enthousiasme des pays concernés, notamment du côté de l'Allemagne, de la France et de l'Italie. Pour faire davantage de place aux pays émergents au sein du FMI, un débat a été lancé ces dernières années sur l'opportunité de rationaliser la représentation des différents pays européens, en la limitant par exemple à un siège au nom de la zone euro ou de l'Union européenne. Dans ce cadre, a rappelé M. Rehn, les Européens ont accepté, lors d'une réunion du G20 en novembre dernier à Séoul, de réduire de deux sièges leur représentation au sein du Conseil d'administration du FMI, ceci "afin d'augmenter la représentation et la voix des économies émergentes". (AFP)

SIX) – CROATIA MOVES TOWARDS FINALISING EU ENTRY TALKS

Croatia took a new step on Monday towards finalising its European Union entry negotiations, wrapping up talks on fisheries policy, as it races to finish accession preparations this month. The Balkan state of 4 million people hopes to win EU approval to join the bloc later in June and become a member in 2013, but many EU governments say it may not be possible to conclude talks this month. Closing the fisheries chapter means Croatia has cleared 31 out of 35 policy areas needed to end accession negotiations. However, the remaining chapters cover some of the most controversial discussion areas -- competition policy and anti-corruption reforms -- and some EU capitals may ask for more time to assess Zagreb's progress. EU governments said in a statement that more talks on these policy areas were scheduled later in June, leaving open the possibility of finalising accession preparations this month. "A further accession conference is planned this month with a view

to finalising ... negotiations," the statement read. Zagreb is waiting for an opinion from the European Commission on its efforts to combat corruption, which will be crucial in persuading EU governments it is ready to join. Hungary's ambassador to the EU, Peter Gyorkos, who oversaw Monday's talks on fisheries policy, said the EU executive's report could be issued in the coming days. Many EU states are wary about sounding too lax about justice reforms, having been stung by the accession experience of Romania and Bulgaria, whose anti-corruption efforts dwindled significantly after the two Balkan states joined the EU in 2007. Once admitted, Croatia will become the second EU member from the former Yugoslavia after Slovenia, which joined in 2004. (Reuters)

SEVEN) – SERBIA WANTS EU MEMBERSHIP TALKS NEXT YEAR

Serbia expects its EU membership talks to start early next year now that war crimes suspect Ratko Mladic has been caught and extradited, the country's president said Monday. President Boris Tadic said that following Mladic's arrest and extradition to the war crimes court in The Hague, he will now focus on turning this Balkan nation into a free-market democracy where international business can thrive. "That is the only way to bring new investors in our country and to increase living standards," Tadic said, following his meeting with EU President Herman Van Rompuy. "You can count on us implementing reforms in Serbia," he said. Van Rompuy, meanwhile, told Tadic to speed up reforms in key sectors - such as the justice department - so an EU summit in December can approve the candidate status of the Balkan nation. "We have six months ahead of us" before EU government leaders will meet at the end of the year to assess progress. "The remaining timeframe must be used well," Van Rompuy said. Kosovo is another stumbling block since the former Serbian province declared independence in 2008. Serbia has steadfastly opposed it. Van Rompuy, however, lauded the improved dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. "They are close to pragmatic agreements in terms of regional cooperation, which is essential for the European integration process," he said. Serbia has been the political center of the Balkans since World War II and is still a vital transport hub of the region. Its political influence, good and bad, continues to spill well beyond its borders. With Croatia finishing up membership negotiations and Montenegro and Macedonia candidates for membership, continued stalling would have left Serbia trailing in the Western Balkans. (AP)

EIGHT) – BIG PHARMA SAYS IT WILL CUT VACCINE PRICES FOR POORER NATIONS

Several leading drug makers are cutting their prices on potentially life-saving vaccines for people in developing countries in an effort to sustain supplies via the [GAVI international vaccine alliance](#). The price cuts, offered by both generic and branded drug makers including [GlaxoSmithKline](#), Merck, Johnson & Johnson's Crucell and Sanofi-Aventis' Sanofi Pasteur, should help the alliance narrow a \$3.7 billion funding gap for its commitments up until 2015. GSK said on Monday it would provide its Rotarix rotavirus vaccine to GAVI at a 67 percent discount to the current public price -- bringing it to \$2.50 per dose, or \$5 to fully immunise a child. Merck said it will offer its Rotateq rotavirus shot at \$5.00 a dose initially. "The RotaTeq price will decrease to \$3.50 once the purchase volume increases to 30 million doses," it said. Julie Gerberding, president of Merck Vaccines said long-term purchase commitments help to speed up availability of vaccines. "Confirming volumes to be purchased will enable further price reductions as manufacturers expand production and lower costs in the future allowing for greater access," she added. Diarrhoea is one of the top two killers of children under five worldwide and rotavirus is the leading cause of severe diarrhoeal disease in children. Each year, rotavirus-related diarrhoea kills more than 500,000 children. In 2009, the WHO recommended that all countries should include rotavirus vaccines in national vaccination programmes, but many poorer countries struggle to afford them. GAVI, which funds bulk-buy vaccination programmes for nations that can't afford shots at Western prices, has committed to help fund rotavirus vaccine introduction in at least 40 of the world's poorest countries by 2015. But the alliance is facing a shortfall of \$3.7 billion to fund it projects through to 2015, and has been seeking extra donor money and price cuts from drug firms to close that gap. It has a pledging conference in London on June 13. "These are promising offers that demonstrate industry commitment to work towards affordable and sustainable prices," Helen Evans, GAVI's interim chief executive, said in a [statement](#). GSK said it had offered to supply up to 125 million doses of Rotarix over five years at an approximately 95 percent price cut from the Western market price. "Whilst most babies in the world will get rotavirus at some point, those in developing countries do not have access to the medical care they need which means millions of babies die unnecessarily," GSK's CEO Andrew Witty said in a statement. He said the British drug maker was committed to finding new

ways to get urgently needed vaccines to children in poor countries. Evans said that if rotavirus vaccine could be purchased this year at \$2.50 a dose, the impact on public health could be significant and would allow GAVI to save approximately \$500 million through to 2020, or about \$140 million through to 2015. The price GAVI pays for pentavalent vaccines, which protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenzae type b, will also be cut by the India-based firms Serum Institute and Panacea Biotec. Serum, which had already cut its price to \$1.75 a dose, said it would "continue to provide the most competitive pricing," while Panacea said it would cut its price by up to 15 percent. Crucell and Sanofi Pasteur said they would extend GAVI prices on their pentavalent vaccines to 16 countries who are moving on from GAVI support to begin buying shots themselves. Sanofi Pasteur said this would also apply to its yellow fever vaccine and a rotavirus vaccine being developed by its Indian subsidiary Shantha. Merck also announced it will offer GAVI its Gardasil shot, which protects the human papillomavirus (HPV) that causes cervical cancer, at a discounted price of \$5 per dose -- a 67 percent reduction on the current public price. Although GAVI has not yet committed to funding HPV vaccines, it said they were part of its investment strategy and it hoped "to see further price reductions." More than 90 percent of deaths from cervical cancer now occur in developing countries, killing 200,000 women a year. (Reuters)

NINE) – ANGOLA EYES AFRICA'S TOP OIL SPOT

Angola is set to overcome technical problems to boost oil output to over 2 million barrels per day (bpd) next year and has the potential to overtake Africa's top oil producer, Nigeria. Angola briefly replaced fellow OPEC member Nigeria in the number 1 spot in 2009, but patchy production in some fields and relative peace in the Niger Delta have reversed their standing. Oil exports for the first seven months of this year showed a difference of around 460,000 bpd between Nigeria and its closest African rival, according to Reuters data based on provisional loading programmes. But analysts say the dip in Angolan output is temporary and likely to be reversed as fresh supplies come onstream in the next two years and deepwater exploration accelerates. "We expect next year for there to be upwards of 2.2 million bpd and (Angola) could overtake Nigeria. There might have been a bit of a decline but it's just temporary," said Martin Kelly, an analyst for sub-Saharan Africa at Wood Mackenzie. The news will come as a relief to customers in Asia and the United States of the country's mostly sweet crudes and to those seeking alternative supplies given Middle East turmoil and a near halt in exports from third-largest African producer Libya. The government will also welcome this development as over 90 percent of the country's export income comes from oil. But the sector employs less than 1 percent of its people, and the benefits have generally gone to the secretive governing elite. (Reuters)

TEN) – CHINA DIPLOMAT MEETS LIBYAN REBEL LEADERS IN BENGHAZI

A Chinese diplomat visited the Libyan rebel stronghold of Benghazi for talks with the National Transitional Council fighting to oust Muammar Gaddafi, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. A Egypt-based Chinese diplomat went to the east Libyan city to "understand the local humanitarian situation and the state of Chinese-funded firms", the Foreign Ministry said in a statement late on Monday. The diplomat also met leaders of the rebel Council, the statement said, without giving any details. The disclosure comes a few days after China announced its ambassador in Qatar had met Mustafa Abdel Jalil, the rebel's de facto political leader, its first confirmed contact with the insurgents. China has so far stuck to its public position of not taking sides in the fighting in Libya, but the meetings amount to a fresh diplomatic setback for the embattled Muammar Gaddafi. China has also moved to bolster ties with the emerging governments in Egypt and Tunisia after their long-time leaders fell from power in popular uprisings sweeping Arab nations. The Chinese engagements of the rebels follow a spate of defections by high-profile members of the Libyan government, including senior former Prime Minister Shokri Ghanem. The Libyan conflict is deadlocked, with rebels unable to break out of their strongholds and advance towards Tripoli, where Gaddafi appears to be entrenched. China was never especially close to Gaddafi, but it generally tries to avoid taking firm sides in other countries' domestic conflicts, including in the Middle East. But about half of China's crude imports last year came from the region, and Chinese companies have a big presence there. Beijing mobilised navy ships and civilian aircraft to help tens of thousands of Chinese workers flee Libya after fighting erupted there earlier this year. China was among the emerging powers that abstained in March when the United Nations Security Council voted to authorise NATO-led air strikes. China could have used its veto power as a permanent members of the Council to block the authorisation. But China also quickly condemned the expansion of those strikes, and since then has repeatedly urged a ceasefire that it says could

open the way for a political compromise between the Libyan government and rebels. **LIBYA'S FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS CHINA** China says Libya's foreign minister is visiting Beijing this week. The trip comes after China announced last week it had reached out to the rebel forces challenging Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a one-sentence statement Tuesday that Libyan Foreign Minister Abdul-Ati al-Obeidi would be visiting China from Tuesday to Thursday. (Reuters)

ELEVEN) – ITALY ACCUSES LIBYA OF PUSHING IMMIGRANTS TO THE SEA

The Italian foreign minister says Rome is collecting evidence to show Moammar Gadhafi's regime is forcing migrants to make sometimes deadly journeys across the Mediterranean as retaliation against Europe for NATO airstrikes. Franco Frattini said in a newspaper interview published Monday that there's enough for prosecutors at the International Criminal Court to intervene because "we are faced with a crime against humanity." Since the uprising against Gadhafi began earlier this year, thousands of illegal migrants have sailed from Libya to Italian shores, with hundreds dying in the voyage. In the latest possible tragedy, about 200 immigrants are still missing after a vessel sank off the North-African coast last week. The vessel is thought to have taken off from Libya. (AP)

TWELVE) – WESTERN-BACKED LIBYAN ARMED REBELS SEIZE MOUNTAIN TOWN

Libyan rebels seized all of the mountain town of Yafran on Monday, driving out Muammar Gaddafi's forces in a sign NATO air strikes may be paying off. Yafran is spread over a hill, the bottom part of which had been controlled by pro-Gaddafi forces for more than a month and used to besiege the rebel-controlled part. Food, drinking water and medicines were running short. "The rebels say they have taken the town," said a Reuters photographer, after entering the town from the north. "There is no sign of any Gaddafi forces." Rebel flags could be seen along with defaced posters of Gaddafi. Yafran, 100 km southwest of Tripoli, is in the Western Mountains where the population, mostly from the Berber ethnic minority, have joined the uprising against Gaddafi. British warplanes destroyed two tanks and two armoured personnel carriers in Yafran on June 2. At least two powerful blasts were heard early on Monday evening in Tripoli, where NATO has been bombing targets of Gaddafi's government since March. Libyan television said the neighbourhood of al-Karama was hit by NATO forces, but gave no further details. **APACHES ATTACK** NATO attack helicopters were in action in the east on Sunday. Apaches destroyed a rocket launcher system on the coast near the eastern town of Brega, Britain's Defence Ministry said. A French military source said French planes and helicopters had been in Libya every night since Friday, but give no details. Gaddafi's forces also fired rockets into the rebel-held town of Ajdabiyah in the east on Monday and clashes broke out on the main road further west, rebel sources said. Gaddafi's troops and the rebels have been in stalemate for weeks, with neither able to hold territory on a road between Ajdabiyah and the Gaddafi-held oil town of Brega further west. **ICG URGES NEGOTIATIONS, NOT MORE BOMBARDMENTS** The new deployment of the helicopters is part of a plan to step up military operations to break the deadlock. Critics say NATO has gone far beyond its U.N. mandate to protect civilians. In a report on Monday, the [International Crisis Group](#) (ICG) urged the rebels and their NATO allies to propose a ceasefire. "The (rebels) and their NATO supporters appear uninterested in resolving the conflict through negotiation," it said. "To insist, as they have done, on Gaddafi's departure as a precondition ... is to prolong the military conflict and deepen the crisis. Instead, the priority should be to secure an immediate ceasefire and negotiations on a transition." Western governments and rebels say a combination of NATO air strikes, diplomatic isolation and grassroots opposition will eventually bring an end to the Libyan leader's rule. But Gaddafi says he has no intention of stepping down. He insists he is supported by all Libyans apart from a minority of "rats" and al Qaeda militants, and says the NATO intervention is designed to steal Libya's abundant oil. (See full text of ICG report [Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East: Making Sense of Libya](#)) (Reuters)

THIRTEEN) – NATO CONTINUES LIBYA BOMBARDMENTS, USES ATTACK HELICOPTERS

Tripoli a été une nouvelle fois la cible de raids aériens de l'Otan dimanche soir, tandis que les hélicoptères de combat britanniques et français Apache sont entrés en action, ciblant notamment Brega, verrou sur la route de la capitale libyenne. Des hélicoptères Apache britanniques ont mené samedi une nouvelle attaque près du site

pétrolier de Brega, la position la plus à l'est des forces pro-Kadhafi, a annoncé dimanche le ministère britannique de la Défense. La veille déjà Brega avait été la cible des tirs de ces appareils très utilisés en Irak et en Afghanistan. Les Apache ont décollé du porte-hélicoptères HMS Ocean, actuellement au large des côtes libyennes, et ont détruit un lance-roquettes avant de regagner le navire sans encombre. Parallèlement aux opérations menées samedi par ces hélicoptères, des avions de combat britanniques Tornado ont participé à une "attaque de grande ampleur" avec d'autres appareils de l'Otan contre un dépôt de missiles anti-aériens à Tripoli, a ajouté le ministère. Au moins cinq explosions ont secoué la capitale libyenne dimanche soir, tandis que des avions étaient entendus dans le ciel. Une première détonation a retenti vers 21H00 (19H00 GMT), suivie d'autres plus puissantes quelques minutes plus tard. Dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi, hélicoptères de combat français et britanniques étaient intervenus pour la première fois dans le cadre des opérations. Des Apache avaient frappé une installation radar et un poste de contrôle militaire près de Brega. Viser cette position est "assez logique" car "il s'agit de faire sauter le verrou sur la route côtière qui mène à Tripoli", selon François Heisbourg, conseiller spécial à la Fondation pour la recherche stratégique. Dans son compte-rendu quotidien sur les opérations de la veille, l'Otan a annoncé dimanche avoir détruit samedi le dépôt de missiles anti-aérien visé près de Tripoli, ainsi qu'un 'centre de commandement et une installation militaire dans la région de la capitale. L'Alliance a aussi annoncé la destruction près de Brega d'un lance-roquettes, d'un baraquement et de deux postes de contrôle, un type de cible qui semble nouveau pour les frappes aériennes de l'Otan. (AFP)

FOURTEEN) – EGYPT SEALS \$ 3 BILLION IMF ACCORD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed a \$3 billion financing deal with Egypt on Sunday and praised the policies of an interim government struggling to stabilise the economy after the popular uprising. Egypt has been seeking funds to plug an estimated \$10 billion to \$12 billion balance of payments gap in the wake of the upheaval that toppled the government in February. Anger at a growing rich-poor divide in the country of 80 million helped spark the mass demonstrations that toppled President Hosni Mubarak in February. The government last week approved a budget for the 2011-12 financial year that increases spending by a quarter, partly to help the poor. "The authorities' economic programme is a first step to laying the foundation for a more inclusive private sector-led economic growth," the IMF said in a statement. It agreed with the government that some reforms could not be pushed through straight away as work was still needed to ensure an effective safety net to protect low-income households. "Monetary and exchange rate policies will aim at maintaining macroeconomic stability, including by preserving a comfortable level of reserves to ensure that Egypt will have a buffer against unanticipated shocks," the IMF said. (Reuters)

FIFTEEN) – MOROCCANS CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE FOR POLITICAL CHANGE

Plusieurs milliers de jeunes du Mouvement du 20 février ont manifesté pacifiquement dans plusieurs villes du Maroc dimanche pour exiger des changements, sans que la police n'intervienne pour les disperser. A Rabat, Casablanca, Tanger (nord) mais également à Safi (350 km de Casablanca) où Kamal Omari, un islamiste du Mouvement est décédé jeudi suite à ses blessures, la police a laissé les jeunes marcher pour plus de démocratie et une limitation des pouvoirs du roi Mohammed VI. Les marches de dimanche avaient été interdites par les autorités. Lors des précédentes manifestations, les 15, 22 et 29 mai, les forces de sécurité avaient fait usage de la force pour disperser les jeunes. Pour le politologue Mohamed Darif, "le fait que les manifestants aient décidé de ne pas manifester dans les quartiers populaires a sans doute conduit les autorités à ne pas recourir à la force". "Les dernières critiques de l'Union européenne (UE) ont également joué un rôle important dans cette décision (des autorités) d'éviter la violence", a-t-il estimé. La Commission européenne avait appelé lundi le Maroc "à la retenue dans l'usage de la force et au respect des libertés fondamentales", après les incidents qui avaient émaillé les rassemblements du 29 mai. "Nous manifestons pour revendiquer une véritable démocratie, où le roi règne et ne gouverne pas et pour mettre un terme à l'injustice sociale", a déclaré à l'AFP Ahmed Mediany, l'un des membres de la section de Casablanca du Mouvement du 20 février. Une partie des manifestants à Casablanca étaient des militants du Mouvement islamiste Justice et bienfaisance, l'un des plus importants au Maroc, venus dénoncer le décès jeudi du jeune Kamal Omari. Un responsable du ministère de l'Intérieur, joint par téléphone, a indiqué pour sa part à l'AFP que "près de 2.500 personnes ont participé à cette manifestation (de Casablanca)". Et, selon lui, "plus de la moitié sont des islamistes". Pour les manifestants, le nombre des participants "a dépassé 10.000 personnes" à Casablanca. "Nous voulons une vraie démocratie", "Nous sommes des citoyens, pas des sujets", "Je n'ai pas peur", "Un roi qui règne et ne

gouverne pas", scandaient les manifestants. A Safi (350 km au sud de Casablanca), où le jeune Kamal Omari est décédé, des milliers de personnes ont également manifesté pour demander "toute la vérité sur les circonstances de cette mort", a indiqué à l'AFP un témoin qui a requis l'anonymat. Près d'un millier de personnes avaient manifesté pacifiquement dimanche matin à Rabat pour revendiquer des changements politiques au Maroc et une limitation des pouvoirs du roi Mohamed VI. Ces manifestations interviennent 10 jours avant la remise au roi Mohammed VI, par une commission consultative nommée en mars, de propositions pour une prochaine réforme constitutionnelle. Le 9 mars, le roi Mohammed VI a annoncé d'importantes réformes constitutionnelles prévoyant notamment le principe de séparation des pouvoirs et un renforcement des pouvoirs du Premier ministre. (AFP)

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