the world

Press&Dakotan

NEWS DEPARTMENT: news@yankton.net

War Crimes Trial Of Bosnian Serb Leader Mladic Begins

BY JANET STOBART AND CAROL J. WILLIAMS ©2012 Los Angeles Times

LONDON — Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic confronted the accusations against him at the opening of his war crimes trial Wednesday with contemptuous gestures to the court and the victims who had come to see him face justice for atrocities during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Slowed by age and the hardships of 15 years on the run from the U.N. tribunal's indictment, Mladic still mustered a hint of his trademark swagger as he entered the courtroom in The Hague, Netherlands, giving a thumbs-up to the judges and mocking applause for those watching from a glass-walled gallery.

At one point, Mladic responded to a defiant gesture from a spectator by drawing a finger across his throat in a slitting gesture, prompting censure from Presiding Judge Alphons Orie for "inappropriate interactions" with those watching the proceedings.

In a videotaped opening statement carried on the court's website and watched by Balkan refugees around the world, lead prosecutor Dermot Groome laid out the case against Mladic, backed with chilling statements from witnesses recounting the horrors experienced a generation ago.

Groome backed the accusations with recordings from the 3year siege of Sarajevo, including a 1993 tape on which Mladic was heard boasting that "every time I go by Sarajevo, I kill someone in passing. I kick the hell out of the Turks," a disparaging reference to Bosnian Muslims.

"The world watched in disbelief that in neighborhoods and villages within Europe a genocide appeared to be in progress, Groome told the court, detailing the brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing carried out by the army of the Republika Sprska under Mladic's command.

Muslim and Croat civilians 'were targeted for no other reason than that they were of an ethnicity other than Serb; their land, their lives, their dignity attacked in a coordinated and carefully planned manner," Groome said. 'In some locations, this attack arose to the levels of genocide.'

Mladic faces 11 counts of genocide, murder, persecution, terrorism and hostage-taking, including the 1995 slayings of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the town of Srebrenica and the siege of the Bosnian capital that killed at least 10,000 people.

The massacre in Srebrenica came after Bosnian Serb forces entered the town, separated the Muslim males from the women and small children and took them away. Victims' bullet-riddled bodies were later found in mass graves.

Mladic has refused to enter a plea, deeming the charges against him "obnoxious." But he has denied the accusations.

The 69-year-old defendant wore a gray suit for the opening of his trial, expected to last more than a year and serve as the crowning achievement of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The court's 10-year mandate expires in 2014, and with Mladic's case now under way all 161 indict-ments issued by the court have been brought to trial.

The judges are expected to hear from more than 400 witnesses, some of whom also testified in the trials of the Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic and Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslavia's former president. Milosevic died of a presumed heart attack during his trial for war crimes in 2006.

Survivors of the Bosnian bloodshed that cost at least 100,000 lives and left 2 million people refugees flocked to The Hague to cheer Mladic's belated arrival in the dock, though only about a dozen were able to gain entry to the crowded courtroom.

Members of the Mothers of Srebrenica group hoisted placards outside the courthouse that read: "We want justice for the victims of Srebrenica.³

Stobart reported from London and Williams from Los Angeles.



Early years

• Born March 12, 1943, Kalinovik, Bosnia and Herzegovina Education Military Industry School, KOV Military Academy, Officers Academy

Military leadership

· 1991 Commands troops in Kosovo; leads troops in the Croatian War · 1992 Leads the blockade of Sarajevo, beginning the four-

year siege of the city; commands the main staff of the army

 1995 Commands troops that overran Srebrenica, where about 8,000 Bosnian Muslims were murdered on his orders 1996 Dismissed from his post

Indictment, capture

• 1995 Accused by U.N. war crimes tribunal at The Hague of genocide, crimes against humanity and other crimes during the 1992-95 war, including the Srebrenica massacre

• 2011 Captured after having been on the run since 1995 • 2012 On trial at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, for war crimes

© 2012 MCT

Source: U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, BBC

U.N. Experts Say Iran Sends Arms To Syria

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS - An expert panel monitoring U.N. sanctions on Iran has reported that Syria continues to be the main destination of illicit Iranian weapons, a Security Council diplomat said Wednesday.

The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because the panel's report has not been released, said it identified three new illegal shipments, two involving Syria which was also the previous destination of a majority of Iranian arms shipments.

It said there was "a high probability" that the third large shipment of rockets originated in Iran, the diplomat said. Britain reported last year that the rocket shipment was destined for Taliban militants in Afghanistan.

arms transfers," the diplomat, who has seen the report, quoted it as saying.

The report to the U.N. Security Council committee monitoring sanctions is expected to be discussed by the 15 council members and could be changed before it is finalized. The diplomat said all eight experts on the panel signed off on it.

The U.N. Security Council first imposed sanctions on Iran in December 2006 and has been ratcheting up the punitive measures since then in hopes of pressuring the government to suspend uranium enrichment and start negotiations on its nuclear program. But despite four rounds of sanctions. Iran has refused to do so. Enriched uranium can be used to make both nuclear fuel and nuclear weapons material.

Iran insists its nuclear

clear energy.

The report coincides with a new round of talks in Baghdad next week between Iran and the six-nation group comprising the permanent U.N. Security Council members plus Germany on its nuclear program.

The diplomat said the report cites efforts by Iran to try to circumvent sanctions by constantly change the ownership, names and flags of ships from companies that are under U.N. sanctions. It said these changes "are suited to obscuring the identity of vessels" and it is likely that maritime shipments of prohibited items are continuing, the diplomat said.

It has also been using front companies, concealing the end use and end users of items, falsifving documents, reaching out to multiple suppliers for the same item, and using the Iranian diaspora to procure banned items,

the diplomat said.

The panel said Iranian financial transactions using money transfer businesses known as hawalas, its cash transfers, and barter trade have all increased, the diplomat said.

The report said the panel was informed of "the case of a small non-financial firm led by an expatriate Iranian that had transformed itself into a company involved in transferring funds received from a non-sanctioned Iranian bank to a variety of recipients through the world," the diplomat said.

It said "\$11 billion had been processed over 18 months" by this firm, the diplomat said.

"Understanding whether and how the above-described methods could be used for financing procurement for sanctioned nuclear and ballistic programs is challenging," the diplomat quoted the

Fondest Memories

panel as saving.

Navy Ship Collides With Tanker In Pacific

SAN DIEGO (AP) - A U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship and a refueling tanker collided in the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday, but there were no injuries and no fuel spills, the 3rd Fleet said.

The collision between the assault ship USS Essex and the oiler USNS Yukon occurred at midmorning about 120 miles off Southern California, according to a statement.

The Essex was approaching the Yukon to get in position to be refueled when a steering malfunction occurred, and the two ships collided, said Cmdr. Charlie Brown, a fleet spokesman.

Both ships reported some damage, Brown said. He gave no further details.

The fleet statement said neither ship's fuel tanks or systems were compromised, but a full assessment of any damage was continuing.

Drop In Oil Prices Helping Drivers, Businesses

NEW YORK (AP) - A threat that's been hanging over the economy is starting to look a lot less menacing.

Oil and gasoline prices are sinking, giving relief to businesses and consumers who a few weeks ago seemed about to face the highest fuel prices ever.

President Barack Obama's re-election prospects could also benefit, especially if prices keep falling as some analysts expect. A majority of Americans disapproved of Obama's handling of gas prices in an AP-GfK poll early this month. But that was before the full effect of the recent drop had reached drivers. The average U.S. retail gasoline price has dropped 21 cents a

gallon to \$3.73 since hitting a 2012 peak of \$3.94 on April 6.

The economy could gain, too. Consumers who spend less on fuel have more to spend on other purchases, from autos and furniture to appliances and vacations, that could help drive economic output and job growth.

Debate Emerges About Facebook Advertising

NEW YORK (AP) - Responding to extraordinary demand, Facebook said Wednesday that it would sell more stock in the company's initial public offering. But ahead of the IPO, a debate emerged between two of the nation's largest automakers: Does it pay to advertise on the social network?

General Motors, the nation's largest automaker, said it would abandon Facebook ads after concluding they were ineffective. At the same time, Ford reaffirmed its commitment to Facebook, saying their relationship was stronger than ever.

The direct financial impact of GM's move is minimal for Facebook, but the decision drew attention to the network's advertising system, which some observers regard as immature.

In a regulatory filing Wednesday, Facebook said it would add 84 million shares, worth up to \$3.2 billion, to the IPO, which is shaping up to be the decade's hottest. The company's stock is expected to begin trading Friday on the Nasdaq Stock Market under the ticker symbol "FB"

Almost half of the additional shares come from investment firms DST Global and Tiger Global. Goldman Sachs is doubling the number of shares it is selling. Facebook board members Peter Thiel and James Breyer are also selling more shares.

Prelim. Investigation Of JPMorgan Under Way

WASHINGTON (AP) - FBI Director Robert Mueller said Wednesday the bureau has launched a preliminary investigation of JPMorgan Chase & Co. following a \$2 billion trading loss at the bank.

Mueller's comment at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing was the first on-the-record confirmation of the probe.

On Tuesday, a law enforcement official said that the FBI's New York office is heading an inquiry into the JPMorgan loss.

'All I can say is we've opened up a preliminary investigation," Mueller told the Senate panel. Mueller said that opening a preliminary investigation "depends on a number of factors," which he did not enumerate.

Under attorney general guidelines for FBI operations, a preliminary investigation may be initiated on the basis of any allegation or information indicative of possible criminal activity. Time limits are set for completion of preliminary investigations – usually six months, although six-month extensions can be granted. Extensions of preliminary investigations beyond a year must be approved by FBI headquarters.

P&D CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL (605) 665-7811

'Syria continues to be the central party to illicit Iranian gram is purely peaceful and aimed solely at producing nu-

Clashes In Western Libyan Town Leave Six Dead

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) -Clashes in a western Libyan city left six dead and at least 20 injured on Wednesday, a government spokesman said.

Nasser al-Manei said unidentified assailants attacked an airport and a hospital in Ghadamis near the Algerian border, some 450 kilometers (280) southwest of the capital Tripoli. He says the attackers came from outside the city. Government forces were deployed to the city to stop the fighting, al-Manei said.

He did not say what caused the violence, but clashes have been common throughout the country since last year's overthrow of dictator Moammar Gadhafi. They have sometimes pitted rival members of the former rebel militias that fought his regime against each other. Other conflicts have involved ethnic



groups with grievances dating back to his time in power. Ghadamis is inhabited by

Berbers, an ethnic group who occupy most of the country's western desert mountains and who were long suppressed by Gadhafi.

The ruling National Transitional Council has struggled to impose its authority over the country since Gadhafi was killed and his loyalists' strongholds fell in October 2011.

Family Practice

In February, tribal strife left more than 100 people dead in the southern Libyan region of Kufra near the Chadian border. It pitted an Arab tribe against the Tabu, an African group who are some of the original inhabitants of south Libya. The Tabu, like the Berbers, were heavily suppressed under Gadhafi.

Fighting in another southern desert region, Sabha, left 147 people dead in March.

DEALER

Carrier

IG & COOLING

LEWIS & CLARK FAMILY MEDICINE, PC Aneta Allergy Testing Burrows NOW AVAILABLE Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002 Open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm · After Hours Clinic Saturday 9am-12noon Your courage and bravery WALK-INS WELCOME 1101 Broadway, Suite 103A, Morgen Square · Yankton, SD still inspire us all, and the (605) 260-2100 · www.lewisandclarkfamilymedicine.com memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter. Dan, Ann & Sarab FACTORY Z

We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us. On Saturday, May 26th we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten. Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute. 1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever. 2. May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever. 3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand. 4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in Gods heavenly glory. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter. 7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind. 8. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time. 10. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts. 11. May God's graces shine over you for all time. 12. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year. 13. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart. 15. I have written my own message and it is included. To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$10.00 per listing. Fill out the form below and mail to: Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan/With Fondest Memories 319 Walnut Street, Yankton, SD 57078 Deadline: Tuesday, May 22, 2012

"With Fondest Memories" • Deadline: May 22 • Submission Fee \$10

Name of deceased

Date of birth

Date of passing_

Number of selected verse_____ OR Personal message_

Print your name here_____

Phone

Number