

World

Carla Bruni had affair with foreign minister

She had a 'brief but very passionate' relationship with Laurent Fabius

LONDON: Former French First Lady Carla Bruni had an affair with the country's foreign minister.

Carla Bruni is facing embarrassing revelations about her past love affair with France's new foreign minister. The 44-year-old former supermodel reportedly had a "brief but very passionate" relationship with Laurent Fabius, 65, before she married the then president Nicolas Sarkozy in 2008.

Around this time, political biographer Valerie Benaim wrote a book called "Carla and Nicolas: The Real Story" in which she discussed Bruni's numerous "secret" lovers including English rock stars Mick Jagger and Eric Clapton.

One of the most famous Frenchmen whom Bruni dated was former Socialist prime minister Fabius. "It's true that their relationship was known to the French media, but no-



Carla Bruni

body reported it," the *Daily Mail* quoted Benaim as saying in an interview four years ago. The author explained as to

why the affair may have been kept secret. "Perhaps because neither Laurent Fabius nor Carla Bruni confirmed their short relationship.

"One thing is certain — Carla must like politicians, because she also had an affair with the former minister Luc Ferry," she said.

Ferry, the 61-year-old former education minister, went out with Bruni in the early 2000s, but it is her relationship with Fabius which is now causing a stir in France.

"It was brief but very passionate, and it's one which we are

now going to hear a lot about," a Socialist Party source who knows both former lovers well, said. "At the time Carla was very much a left-winger with plenty of friends in the Socialist Party. Laurent was France's youngest ever prime minister in the mid-1980s, and Carla found this very attractive indeed.

"They carried on as a couple in the 2000s, but Fabius's colleagues and friends were very discreet about the whole thing. Carla herself was very used to conducting secret affairs.

"Now people will be very interested in knowing exactly

what went on, and everything is likely to be revealed very soon," the source added.

One of Bruni's most high-profile affairs was with the philosopher Raphael Enthoven, whom she started sleeping with while officially going out with his father, Jean-Paul Enthoven. She had a son with Raphael, and was blamed for destroying his marriage to the writer Justine Levy. But after becoming France's first lady she turned into a loyal conservative wife, and had her first child with Sarkozy last year.

ANI

World at a glance



Kay Solberg takes photos of the 'Persian Ceiling' during a preview of the Chihuly Garden and Glass exhibit at the Seattle Centre, on Thursday. The new, permanent 1.5 acre exhibit is located near the base of the Space Needle and opens to the public on Monday. AP

Lanka HC grants bail to Fonseka

President to free ex-army chief within next few days

COLOMBO: Jailed former Sri Lankan army chief Sarath Fonseka was on Friday granted bail by the High Court here in a case for harbouring military deserters, ahead of an imminent presidential pardon for him.

Fonseka, 61, was in detention since early February 2010 soon after he had unsuccessfully challenged President Mahinda Rajapaksa in the snap presidential election of January 2010.

Rajapaksa is expected to free

Fonseka within the next few days, Fonseka's wife Anoma told reporters.

The presidential pardon would set him free from jail where he is serving a three-year term on a conviction in a different case.

Fonseka, who led the Army to victory against LTTE in the war which crushed the Tamil separatist outfit, fell out with his commander-in-chief Rajapaksa after war victory.

The former army chief was arrested and convicted by both military and civil courts and stripped off military ranks in August 2010.

Served with a 30-month jail term beginning September 2010, Fonseka was convicted again last November for breaching national security and handed a three year sentence. Rajapaksa ignored mass protests for his release including international pressure.

A US green card holder, Fonseka was named a political prisoner in the US State Department's 2010 human rights report.

PTI



Sarath Fonseka AFP/FILE PHOTO

Baghdad pet market bombs kill five

BAGHDAD, AFP: Three near-simultaneous bomb blasts at a pet market in east Baghdad killed five people on Friday, officials said, just hours after an attack in the city's southeast left five dead.

The explosions, which occurred at around 7:00 am (0400 GMT) in the Maamal area, also wounded at least 31 other people, the security and medical officials said.

"At least five people were killed and 31 others were wounded when three bombs exploded in sequence inside a pet market," an interior ministry official said. A medical source in al-Sadr general hospital said it had received five bodies and treated 34 other people, more than 20 of whom were youths.

The attack came just hours after a bomb attack at a restaurant killed five people in Jisr Diyala, southeast Baghdad.

Violence has diminished in Iraq since its heights in 2006 and 2007, but there are still regular attacks in the country. In April, 126 Iraqis died in attacks nationwide, compared with 112 in March, the lowest figure since the 2003 US-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein.

US sanctions on 2 Taliban, Haqqani network leaders

WASHINGTON: The US has slapped sanctions on two individuals linked with the Taliban and the Haqqani network based along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, barring American citizens from any dealings with them.

Bakht Gul, a Haqqani network communications official, has been designated for acting for or on behalf of Badruddin Haqqani.

Abdul Baqi Bari, a Taliban financier, is being designated for providing financial support for or financial services to, the Taliban, Adam Szubin, Director of Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control said here on Thursday.

"By designating these individuals, treasury is taking another step to ensure all those who perpetuate ongoing violence and terrorist activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan will continue to be marginalised and cut off from the international financial system, and they will find it increasingly difficult to carry out their objectives," Szubin said.

As a result of this action, all property in the United States or in the possession or control of US persons in which Bakht Gul or Abdul Baqi Bari has an interest is blocked, and US persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.

The treasury said Bakht Gul has been a key Haqqani network communications official since at least 2009.

Gatekeeper

Gul works directly for senior Haqqani network leader Badruddin Haqqani and has served as a gatekeeper for Badruddin.

"Bakht Gul's responsibilities include relaying reports from commanders in Afghanistan to senior Haqqani network officials, Taliban media officials, and legitimate media outlets in Afghanistan," Szubin added.

Gul also works with Haqqani network officials, including Badruddin Haqqani, to coordinate the movement of Haqqani insurgents, foreign fighters, and weapons.

PTI

34 die as bus plunges into river bank

HANOI (VIETNAM), AP: A crowded bus plunged into a river bank in central Vietnam, killing 34 people and injuring 21 others in one of the country's deadliest road accidents.

Local official Tran Bao Que said the bus smashed through the rails of a bridge on Thursday night and plunged into the

bank of the Serepok River about 18 metres below. The bus was travelling on a regular 350-km route from the central highland province of Dak Lak to the southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh City.

Y Bliu Arul, deputy director of the General Hospital in Dak Lak, said the bus's two drivers

were among the 32 people who died at the scene. Two others died at the hospital. Of the 21 injured, 16 were in serious condition.

Que said it took rescuers four hours to pull the bodies from the bus, part of which was submerged in the river. "When the accident happened, every-

one in the bus was sleeping," online newspaper *Dan Tri* quoted survivor Nguyen Van Khanh as saying. "I vaguely heard a noise like a gun fire and then people were screaming when the bus was overturned. ... I managed to escape through a window which was smashed opened by others."

US relaxes investment ban on Myanmar, names new envoy

WASHINGTON: Launching a new chapter in its ties with Myanmar, the US has announced relaxing investment restrictions to support democratic and economic reforms there and named its first ambassador to the Southeast Asian country in 22 years.

The Obama administration announced the move on Thursday which received mixed reactions from the US lawmakers and many human rights bodies, prompting US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to ask American businesses to invest in Burma responsibly and be an agent of positive change.

"We say to American busi-

ness, invest in Burma and do it responsibly; be an agent of positive change and be a good corporate citizen; let's all work together to create jobs, opportunity, and support reform," Clinton said at a joint media appearance with the visiting Burmese Foreign Minister, Wunna Maung Lwin.

The US will issue a general licence that will enable American businesses to invest across the economy, allow citizens access to international credit markets and dollar-based transactions, she said.

Clinton argued these are important steps that will help bring the country into the glob-

al economy, spur broad-based economic development and support the ongoing reforms. "We expect our businesses to create a grievance process that will be accessible to local communities; to demonstrate appropriate treatment of employees, respect for the environment; to be a good corporate citizen; and to promote equitable, sustainable development that will benefit the people," she added.

The US also announced to nominate senior American diplomat Derek J Mitchell as his new Ambassador to Myanmar.

PTI

IAEA chief to visit Iran on Monday: Agency

VIENNA, AFP: IAEA director general Yukiya Amano will visit Iran on Monday and meet Tehran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, the UN nuclear watchdog said on Friday.

Amano will "discuss issues of mutual interest with high Iranian officials," the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a statement.

The IAEA chief will arrive in Tehran on Sunday, joined by the agency's chief inspector Herman Nackaerts and its number two Rafael Mariano Grossi, it added.

A meeting between Iran and the IAEA, including Nackaerts, that was planned for Monday in Vienna was cancelled, said an agency spokesperson.

Four Indians charged with trafficking

LONDON, PTI: Scotland Yard today charged four Indian citizens and two Ghana citizens of Indian-origin — all based in London — for allegedly trafficking a woman from Hyderabad for sex.

Official sources confirmed to PTI that four of the suspects were Indian citizens while two were Ghana citizens of Indian-origin. The woman has not been named.

The six suspects include a computer professional, optician, a butcher, a supermarket manager and a secretary, they said.

200-year-old shipwreck found in Gulf of Mexico

A 19th century shipwreck has been discovered off the coast of the Gulf of Mexico during a scientific expedition led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, ANI reports from Washington.

Researchers, working from the NOAA ship *Okeanos Explorer*, first found remnants of the wooden-hulled vessel that is believed to be about 200 years old. Using underwater ro-

bots and high definition cameras, scientists later found a wealth of artifacts, including anchors, navigation equipment, glass bottles, ceramic plates, an iron stove, cannons and a box of muskets in and around the wreck. "This discovery was part of a larger mission to look at unknown or poorly-known areas in the Gulf of Mexico," ABC News quoted Frank Cantelas, a maritime archaeologist with NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, as saying.

Gilani son involved in brawl

A brawl occurred between Pakistan International Airlines crew members and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's son Ali Musa on a flight from Lahore to Karachi, PTI reports from Islamabad.

Ali Musa, a parliamentarian, insisted that his guard, who had an economy class

ticket, sit with him in the business class, *The Express Tribune* reported.

The matter was resolved when the captain of the flight intervened and told the premier's son that he would turn the aircraft back to Lahore if he persisted with his demand, which was against the rules.

Man becomes dad at 75

In a rare case, a man in Southwest China has become a dad at the age of 75. The man's wife gave birth to a baby girl on Sunday at Jintang Hospital in the Yubei district of Chongqing, PTI reports from Beijing.

The man, who gave his name only as Shi, kept the door of his wife's hospital ward room shut for two days, fearing that he may be hauled up for violating one child policy as he already has three children.



From left, actress Laura Weissbecker, director Jackie Chan, actresses Yao Xingdong and Zhang Nan Xin during a photo call for Chinese Zodiac at the 65th International Film Festival in Cannes on Friday. AP

Chapman's gizmos on display

The gizmos used by sexy Russian spy Anna Chapman are on display at an exhibition, allowing the public a chance to see the unique gadgets, including a Chanel bag with built-in wi-fi, she employed in her top-secret missions, PTI reports.

Chapman, dubbed as a modern-day Mata Hari, was outfitted with a \$2,300 Chanel

bag featuring a hidden, high-powered wi-fi device so she could secretly communicate with her Moscow-led overseers.

A pair of FBI handcuffs used to arrest the flame-haired stunner and the Toshiba laptop that eventually unmasked the 30-year-old are among the other items on display.

End of an era

'Queen of Disco' Donna Summer dies at 63



Donna Summer AP

LOS ANGELES, PTI: "Queen of Disco" Donna Summer, who shot to fame with iconic hits like "Last Dance", "Bad Girls" and "Love to Love You Baby" in the 70s, died after losing her battle to lung cancer.

Summer, 63, whose real name is LaDonna Adrian Gaines, died at her Naples, Florida home on Thursday. "Early this morning, surrounded by family, we lost Donna Summer Sudano, a

woman of many gifts, the greatest being her faith. While we grieve her passing, we are at peace celebrating her extraordinary life and her continued legacy," Summer's family said. The five-time Grammy winner was the first artist to have three consecutive albums reach No 1 on the US Billboard chart. Her other hits during the era include "Hot Stuff", "I Feel Love" and "She Works Hard for the Money".

TMZ cited sources as saying that Summer was trying to keep the extent of her illness under wraps. She also believed that inhaling toxic air after 9/11 gave her the lung cancer.

Summer's early musical training came through her devout Christian parents who introduced her to both gospel and classical music. The disco diva's last album, "Crayons", was released in 2008. She is survived by husband, Bruce

Sudano, three children, and four grandchildren.

President Barack Obama said Summer's death was a huge loss to the music industry. "Michelle and I were saddened to hear about the passing of Donna Summer. Donna truly was the 'Queen of Disco.' Her voice was unforgettable, and the music industry has lost a legend far too soon. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Donna's family," he said.



MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong