

# Police launch inquiry into student fees protest

Thousands marched peacefully in London over plans to increase fees in England

Outside Tory party headquarters in Millbank, a minority smashed windows, lit fires and threw missiles at police. Met Chief, Sir Paul Stephenson, said the violence, which led to 35 arrests and 14 people being injured, was unexpected and 'an embarrassment to London'.

The police inquiry was welcomed by Prime Minister David Cameron, who said he watched live the pictures of the Conservative party headquarters being attacked from South Korea, where he was attending a G20 summit. Mr. Cameron noted, "I was worried for the safety of people in the building because I know people who work in there, not just the Conservative party, but other offices as well, and so I

was on the telephone."

Essex University student Leila Khaled, 22, was among those held in the police cordon. She said demonstrators, who were not there to cause trouble, were left 'freezing' and 'desperate' as they waited to be let out.

The former Flying Squad commander, John O'Connor, accused the Met of having 'no tactics and nowhere near enough people' at the scene. "It's an absolute disgrace," he said. "I don't understand how anybody could have sat there planning that event and not taken the contingency plan into consideration that this is likely to erupt into violence."

Police had been 'naive' to talk to student planners without taking into account



Police and demonstrators confront each other during a protest in London

the threat from anarchist groups aiming to infiltrate the protest and 'gee up' the peaceful protesters into supporting them. Mr. Johnson said he was appalled that 'a small minority had abused their right to protest'.

Conservative party Chairperson Baroness Warsi, who was inside the building during the protest, said police had responded 'in the circumstances that they felt best'. "People had a legitimate right to protest on issues that they felt very strongly, and it is a shame that a small minority of

those protesters ruined it for the rest of them," she said.

Demonstrators were also cleared from outside the Liberal Democrat headquarters, where a car window was smashed. National Union of Students (NUS) President Aaron Porter said the violence was 'despicable' and not part of the plan. "This action was by others who have come out and used this opportunity to hijack a peaceful protest," he said.

The NUS is threatening to try to unseat Liberal Democrat MPs who go back on pre-election pledges they

made to oppose any rise in tuition fees. Higher education funding is being cut by 40 percent — with teaching grants being all but wiped out except for science and maths.

The Government expects the costs of teaching other courses to be funded by tuition fees from 2012. The plan is for a lower cap at £6,000, with universities able to charge up to £9,000 — triple the current cap — in 'exceptional circumstances'. Ministers insist their plans offer a 'fair deal for students'.

# Robert De Niro to receive lifetime Golden Globe award

Oscar-winning actor Robert De Niro is to receive the Cecil B DeMille Award for lifetime achievement at the Golden Globes next year

The *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull* star, 67, will collect the prize at the 2011 awards, to be held on January 16th. Making the announcement, actor Kevin Spacey described De Niro as being 'universally acknowledged as one of the greatest actors of all time'. Previous recipients include Al Pacino, Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg.

Spacey hailed De Niro — who has made more than 70 films — for creating 'some of cinema's most unforgettable moments'. "He has set the bar for every actor," the American Beauty star continued, saying the Godfather actor was 'unafraid to transform himself, both inside and out'.

De Niro is also being honoured for his contributions as a director, as a producer through his Tribeca Productions, and as a co-founder of the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

# G20 group agrees to address currencies

Leaders of the G20 group of major economies have agreed to avoid 'competitive devaluation' of currencies after difficult talks in the South Korean capital, Seoul

Leaders agreed to come up with 'indicative guidelines' to tackle trade imbalances affecting world growth. Tensions had been high between some delegations over how to correct distortions in currency and trade. Some fear

the conflict, chiefly between China and the US, may threaten growth.

Washington says that China's currency, the yuan, is artificially weak and gives Chinese exporters an unfair advantage as well as leading to Beijing amassing huge foreign reserves. However, Chinese officials argue that Beijing has an 'unswerving' commitment to reform its currency regime, but that global economic stability is needed to achieve it. However, the agreement to



develop new guidelines to prevent so-called 'currency wars' fell well short of the 4 percent limit on national trade deficits and surpluses proposed by the US, which had been blocked by China and Germany — the world's two largest exporters. The G20 leaders also gave their backing to reforms designed to give emerging economies such as China a bigger say in the International Monetary Fund.

# Discovery space shuttle again faces three-week delay

The final mission of the space shuttle Discovery postponed again because of a fuel leak

After 26 years of service, the vehicle is due to make one last flight to the international space station before being retired. NASA has struggled to get Discovery off the ground, frustrated by poor weather and technical problems. Escaping hydrogen detected midway through fuelling left NASA no choice but to stand Discovery down once more.

NASA has simply run out of time in the current launch window. There then follows a three-and-a-half-week period of unfavourable sun angles at the orbiting platform that produce strong heating on a docked shuttle. US politicians have



Discovery on launch pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Centre

confirmed that the reusable orbiters should give way to a new era of spaceflight, and one by one these remarkable vehicles are taking a final bow.

Discovery is the oldest of the surviving ships. First launched in

1984, it has since completed 38 missions, travelling some 230m kilometres in the process. Its commander on the final mission, Steve Lindsey, says Discovery is probably the most important of three remaining shuttles.

# Museum to return King Tut artefacts to Egypt

A New York museum is to repatriate to Egypt 19 items found in King Tutankhamen's tomb

The 19 artefacts, including a tiny bronze dog and a sphinx bracelet jewel, were discovered in the collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Under the terms of the British-led excavation, the tomb's contents were not to leave Egypt's possession. The boy-pharaoh's tomb was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter.

"These objects were never meant to have left Egypt, and therefore should rightfully belong to the Government of Egypt," Thomas Campbell, Director of the museum, said. Zahi Hawass,

Egypt's chief archaeologist, described the move as a 'wonderful gesture' and said

the objects had been 'illegally exported'. The artefacts are to be displayed in Times Square in New York City,

then will be shown again at the Metropolitan Museum, then will be returned to Egypt in June.

Researchers at the museum concluded the objects, which came into the museum's collection between the 1920s and 1940s, had originated in King Tutankhamen's tomb by examining tomb records and probate accounts.



# Eleven airlines penalised over cargo route price fixing

The European Commission has fined 11 airlines almost 800m euros (£690m) for fixing the price of air cargo between 1999 and 2006

British Airways was fined 104m euros, Air France-KLM 340m euros and Cargolux Airlines 79.9m euros. The fines follow lengthy investigations by regulators in Europe, the US and Asia, dating back to 2006. The EU said that the airlines 'co-ordinated their action on surcharges for fuel and security without discounts',

between early 1999 and 2006. The carriers contacted each other so as to ensure that worldwide air freight carriers imposed a flat rate surcharge per kg for all shipments.

The Commission imposed the biggest fine — 340m euros — on Air France-KLM, which was formed from a merger in 2004 and which now owns Martinair, which was also fined. The German carrier Lufthansa escaped a fine because it alerted the regulatory authorities to the cartel.

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