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CHRIS HARRIS FOR THE TIMES

Turmoil at IMF as new sex claims hit chief

Will Pavia, Sam Fleming
Alexandra Freaan

The race to succeed Dominique Strauss-Kahn as the head of the International Monetary Fund broke into the open yesterday as the financier, on remand in a New York jail, became further embroiled in scandal.

While Gordon Brown's advisers continued a concerted campaign for the former Prime Minister to be appointed

Manhattan Madam: he paid to meet my escorts



as the next IMF managing director, governments across Europe and the emerging world jockeyed to put forward their candidates for the post of one of the world's most influential economic policymakers.

Leading European candidates to replace him include Christine Lagarde, the French Finance Minister; Thomas Mirow, the head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; and Josef Ackermann, the Swiss-born chief of Deutsche Bank.

The IMF's board appeared rudderless as it wavered over how to deal with Mr Strauss-Kahn, who faces an international chorus of calls to step down as chief of the Washington-based body.

Officials at the IMF have attempted

to contact Mr Strauss-Kahn to convince him to stand down, but he is being held in Rikers Island prison, charged with the attempted rape of a hotel maid.

Mr Strauss-Kahn is due in court today for a fresh bail hearing. His lawyer Benjamin Brafman wants him released on \$1 million cash bail and placed under 24-hour home detention with electronic monitoring.

Today's hearing may be a sign that the two sides have reached a deal that will allow Mr Strauss-Kahn to be released.

As the IMF floundered, fresh allegations about the financier's sexual conduct were made in an affidavit provided to *The Times*.

One of America's most famous former madams said that Mr Strauss-Kahn had been a client of her prostitution service and had provoked a complaint from one of her escorts for his aggressive behaviour.

Kristin Davis, 35, the self-styled Manhattan Madam, was jailed for promoting prostitution in 2008 after it emerged that Eliot Spitzer, the former Governor of New York, had been using call girls — a revelation that led to his downfall.

She alleges that Mr Strauss-Kahn used her Wicked Models service on two occasions in 2006, a period in which Mr Strauss-Kahn was an academic and a legislator, campaigning for the leadership of the French Socialist Party. She said that Mr Strauss-Kahn had been referred to her

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The Justice Secretary provoked fury yesterday by appearing to suggest that there was a distinction between "serious" and other forms of rape. News, page 3

Ken Clarke finally says sorry after rape blunder

Dark side of City's secretive new giant

David Robertson, David Charter
Girish Gupta

An international company set to become Britain's largest stock market listing is mired in allegations of corruption, tax evasion and environmental damage, *The Times* has learnt.

Glencore International has been accused of defrauding taxpayers of millions of euros in the most serious bribery plot to hit the European Commission in its 50-year history.

Just days before Glencore lists on the London Stock Exchange, with an expected valuation of £38 billion, it has emerged that the commodities trader is one of fifteen suspects in a corruption case being prosecuted in secret in Belgium.

For a period of more than four years a Glencore subsidiary is alleged to have procured lucrative market-sensitive information from a mole deep inside the EU bureaucracy.

A Dutch Eurocrat at the centre of

Sound investment or a punt in the dark?

Ian King, pages 16, 17

the investigation, Karel Brus, was allegedly offered thousands of euros in cash, holidays and cases of wine by the alleged conspirators, according to the court papers.

Mr Brus, 61, has been suspended on full pay since 2003 while investigators try to untangle an alleged web of corruption centred on the leaking of cereal prices and quotas.

Glencore Grains Rotterdam, a subsidiary of the Swiss-based company, and one current and one former employee of the company have been charged with corruption and are expected to stand trial this year.

The revelations about the case are hugely embarrassing for the company just days before it looks to raise \$11 billion (£7 billion) from investors.

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IN THE NEWS

New Lawrence trial

Two men will stand trial for the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence after judges ruled that there was new evidence to overturn a previous not-guilty verdict. News, pages 4, 5

'Free Ai' call to No 10

Anish Kapoor and Cornelia Parker presented an artwork to No 10 to mark the launch of a campaign calling for China to release the dissident artist Ai Weiwei. News, page 6

The Queen's speech

The Queen came as close as anyone could have dared hope to apologising for Britain's actions in Ireland in a speech that will define Anglo-Irish relations. News, pages 8, 9

Gloves off in Tehran

While the world has focused on the Arab Spring, something remarkable has happened in Iran: a furious power struggle between Supreme Leader and President. World, page 33

Lloyds bonus cuts

Lloyds executives could have their bonuses slashed after the £3.2 billion PPI scandal, it has emerged, as the state-backed bank faced anger at its annual meeting. Business, page 39

Inside today

Oprah

A-listers join TV star's long goodbye

News, pages 12, 13



