

Hundreds flee north Syria unrest

UN council to discuss Syria resolution

REUTERS, Beirut

Turkey called on Syria yesterday to stop violence against civilians and promised not to turn away refugees as some residents of a Syrian border town headed for the Turkish frontier in fear of a military assault.

"Syria should change its attitude toward civilians and should take its attitude to a more tolerant level as soon as possible," said Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, who has had warm relations with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Assad's government has accused armed bands of killing scores of its security men in Jisr al-Shugour and has vowed to send in the army to carry out their "national duty to restore security."

Accounts of the violence that began in the hilly town of Jisr al-Shugour Friday vary, with officials saying gunmen ambushed troops and residents reporting an army mutiny.

The bloodshed has triggered international alarm that Syria may be entering an even more

violent phase after three months of popular unrest that has cost more than 1,000 lives.

France and Britain, allies in the war against Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, was to put forward a UN Security Council resolution yesterday condemning Assad's crackdown on protesters, British Prime Minister David Cameron said.

"And if anyone votes against that resolution or tries to veto it, that should be on their conscience," Cameron said.

The draft resolution condemns the repression and demands humanitarian access, Cameron said in London. But it was unclear how Russia, which holds a veto, would vote. Citing Nato's inconclusive bombing of Tripoli, Moscow says it will not back intervention against Syria in the Security Council.

At Jisr al-Shugour, home to tens of thousands of people, residents said they were taking cover and bracing for attacks. Some 120 men, women and children fled into Turkey overnight to seek refuge, the Anatolian news agency said.



Yemeni anti-government protesters dance in Sanaa yesterday as they celebrate the departure of embattled president Ali Abdullah Saleh and demand to form an interim presidential council to prevent him from returning to power.

PHOTO: AFP

E COLI OUTBREAK
Germany claims crisis over

BBC ONLINE

Germany's health minister said yesterday new E coli infections from a deadly outbreak are dropping significantly and the worst of the illness is over.

Daniel Bahr said he was cautiously optimistic the outbreak had peaked, but warned that more deaths were expected as new cases emerged each day.

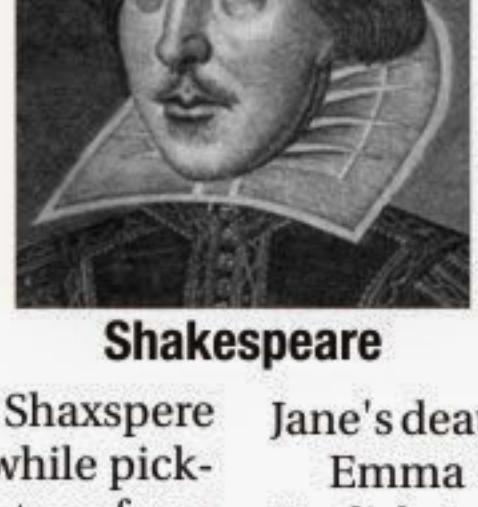
The outbreak has so far left 24 dead, infected 2,400 and left hundreds with a complication that attacks the kidneys.

Germany has been criticised across Europe for its chaotic response.

Earlier, the EU proposed 150m euros £134m of compensation for farmers.

Childhood tragedy inspired Hamlet's Ophelia: Study Shakespeare modeled Ophelia on a relative

AFP, London



Shakespeare

The death of William Shakespeare's relative may have provided the inspiration for tragic heroine Ophelia, the doomed object of Hamlet's love, Oxford University researchers claimed yesterday.

Coroner's reports of accidental deaths in Tudor England showed that a Jane Shaxspere drowned aged two-and-a-half while picking corn marigolds 32 kilometres from Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon home, researchers found.

In Shakespeare's classic, Ophelia drowns in a brook after hanging flowers in a willow tree. The poetic moment is famously captured in John Everett Millais's 1852 painting.

The Bard would have been five at the time of Jane Shaxspere's 1569 death, and the Oxford team believe the two children may have been related.

"It was quite a surprise to find Jane Shaxspere's entry in the coroners' reports," Steven Gunn of Oxford University's Faculty of History said.

"It might just be a coincidence, but the links to Ophelia are certainly tantalising," he added.

The coroner recorded a verdict of 'misfortune' on Jane's death.

Emma Smith, of Oxford's Faculty of English Language and Literature, agreed the incident could be behind one of literature's most poignant scenes.

"Even if Jane Shaxspere were not related to the playwright, the echo of their names might well have meant this story stuck in his mind," she argued.

"It's a good reminder that, while Shakespeare's plays draw on well-attested literary sources, they also often have their roots in gossip, the mundane, and the domestic detail of everyday life."

No sign of Mladic terminal illness says UN court

AFP, The Hague

There is no indication that ex-Bosnian Serb army chief Ratko Mladic is suffering a terminal illness but he is still undergoing tests in prison, a UN war crimes court spokeswoman said yesterday.

"What I can tell about his claims that he is terminally or seriously ill is that the rule is that doctors in the detention unit have a duty and obligation to inform the registrar should there be any indications of a life-threatening situation," Nermia Jelacic told reporters.

"To date no such situation has been reported in regards to Mladic," added Jelacic, spokeswoman for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

China floods kill 52 as 100,000 flee homes

AFP, Beijing

Floods triggered by torrential rain in southern and central China have killed 52 people and forced more than 100,000 to flee their homes, state media reported yesterday.

Another 32 people were missing in the floods which have inundated parts of 12 provinces since the start of June, Shu Qingping, deputy head of the Office of State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, told a conference, Xinhua news agency said.

The southwestern province of Guizhou was the hardest hit, with 21 dead, more than 30 missing and some 100,000 evacuated, Xinhua said in a separate report citing the ministry of finance.

Guizhou's Wangmo county recorded 122.5 millimetres of rainfall in one hour, the most in 200 years, Shu said.

The floods across China have destroyed nearly 7,500 houses and submerged 255,000 hectares of farmland, causing direct losses of 4.92 billion yuan (\$760 million), he said.

Shu warned local authorities to monitor rainfall and water levels as further heavy rains are expected to hit many parts of the

country over the next few days.

In the province of Hunan, which neighbours Guizhou, around 16,000 people were evacuated in Loudi city during rainstorms, Xinhua reported on Monday.

The province has recently been hit by a severe drought, and the recent rains had helped alleviate the situation.

China suffers from serious summer rainfall every year. In 2010, torrential downpours across large swathes of the country triggered the nation's worst floods in a decade.

More than 4,300 people died or went missing in China last year in landslides or floods, including 1,500 people who were killed in one devastating mudslide in the northwestern province of Gansu in August.

China's flood control and drought relief headquarters said Monday that the recent downpours had helped ease a severe drought along the Yangtze river, but warned that more than two million people still faced water shortages.

Weather authorities warned that rainfall this month, while relieving drought-hit areas, would also trigger floods in other parts of the country, Xinhua reported.

Declare assets, liabilities

Indian PM reminds ministers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has asked his ministerial colleagues to declare their assets, liabilities and business interests in keeping with a code of conduct framed for them.

In a letter to ministers, cabinet secretary K M Chandrasekhar has said the ministers need to declare their involvement in conduct and management of businesses and the employment of spouses and children with foreign governments or organisations.

The letter, a reminder and an annual exercise, assumes significance in the light of the government facing a slew of scams and coming under pressure from civil society to go for tougher anti-graft laws.

The cabinet secretary has drawn the attention to certain aspects of the code that ask ministers to sever all connections with the conduct and management of any business they were involved with before being appointed.

The code also says ministers must distance themselves from any business concern that supplies goods or services to the government or official undertakings.

Ministers are required to report to the prime minister if any member of their family sets up or joins in the conduct and management of any business. There are restrictions on spouses working for a foreign government in India or abroad, or a foreign organisation without prior approval of the prime minister.

US missiles kill 20 in Pakistan

AFP, Miranshah

US missiles struck a militant training camp in Pakistan's tribal district of North Waziristan yesterday, killing 20 fighters close to the Afghan border, security officials said.

The camp in the Shawal area was run by fighters loyal to Pakistani warlord Hafiz Gul Bahadur, whose loyalists attack in Afghanistan, and was targeted by five US missiles at around 12.00pm, the Pakistani officials said.

"The death toll is 20. It is likely to go up," a senior security official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Local officials in Miranshah, the main town of North Waziristan, also confirmed the attack and the death toll.

Yesterday's strike came two days after US missiles killed 18 militants in neighbouring South Waziristan, then the deadliest strikes for months.

Indian guru threatens to form yoga militia

AFP, New Delhi

A television yoga guru who has led protests against corruption in India threatened to form a militia as a new demonstration against the government drew thousands in New Delhi.

Yoga star Swami Ramdev, who was evicted from the capital along with thousands of followers at the weekend in a police crackdown, warned of violence if he was targeted again.

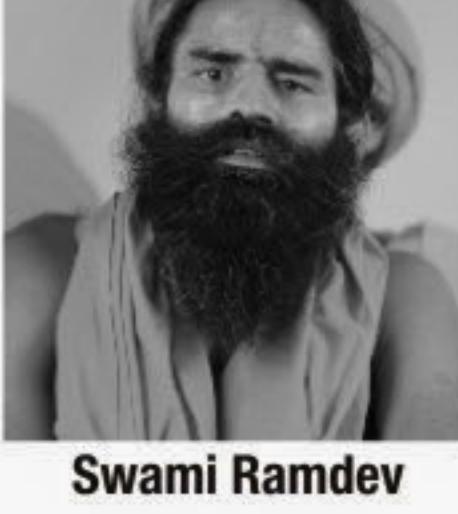
The activist, an eccentric figure watched by millions of Indians daily on a religious television channel, called for men and women to join his "army".

"They must be dedicated, ready to make the ultimate sacrifice," he said from his base in northern India in remarks reported by the NDTV news channel. "They will be given arms training. We will build an army of 11,000 men and women."

His spokesman told AFP that the force would have weapons but would act only in self-defence. He said that Ramdev, who has been fasting since Monday, was determined to stand up to police if they again attacked him or his supporters.

Anger about corruption is mounting in India after a series of scandals, notably a telecom licence scam that might have cost the country up to \$39 billion.

Some observers predicted the guru's call for an army and the threat of violence is likely to alienate many Indians who had previously sympathised with his cause.



Swami Ramdev

Drug makes hearts repair themselves

BBC ONLINE

A drug that makes hearts repair themselves has been used in research on mice.

The damage caused by a heart attack had previously been considered permanent.

But a study in the journal Nature showed the drug, thymosin beta 4, if used in advance of a heart attack, was able to "prime" the heart for repair.

The British Heart Foundation described repair as the "holy grail of heart research", but said any treatment in humans was years away.

Due to advances in health care the number of people dying from coronary heart disease is falling.

But those living with heart failure are on the rise - more than 750,000 people have the condition in the UK alone.

Russian Libya envoy 'ready to meet Gaddafi'

AFP, Moscow

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am ready to do so now, if he receives me," Mikhail

The special envoy of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said he was prepared to meet embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, after meeting top opposition figures in their stronghold of Benghazi.

"I have met with Muammar Gaddafi in the past and am