

Syrians to launch more protests

7 more killed
AFP, Damascus

Syrian activists yesterday launched a campaign of civil disobedience to pile pressure on President Bashar al-Assad, after he drew a stinging rebuke from the US for denying he ordered a deadly crackdown.

Forces loyal to Assad yesterday killed at least seven civilians, including a woman, in an assault on the restive central city of Homs.

The LCC, which organises anti-regime protests on the ground in Syria, urged citizens to begin the action on Sunday -- the first day of the working week in Syria -- starting with sit-ins at work and the closure of shops and universities, before the shutdown of transportation networks and a general public sector strike.



A picture released by the official Syrian Arab News Agency shows a thick plume of smoke rising above an oil refinery, situated to the west of the flashpoint city of Homs yesterday. Armed "terrorists" have blown up an oil pipeline west of the flashpoint Syrian city of Homs, state media reported, but an anti-regime group said the government was behind the blast.

US Republicans slam Obama on Iran, Syria
Urge covert operations to solve crisis

AFP, Washington

Republican White House hopefuls slammed US President Barack Obama's policy towards Israel on Wednesday, charging he has undermined its security, set back Middle East peace efforts, and coddled Iran.

Speaking to hundreds of their party's Jewish activists, the candidates called for "regime change" in Iran and Syria and accused Obama of placing undue pressure on Israel to return to the negotiating table with the Palestinians.

Gingrich, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and other candidates for the party's nod to take on Obama in the November 2012 elections spoke to the Republican Jewish leaders' forum one month before the first nominating contest.

"President Obama has immeasurably set back the prospect of peace in the Middle East," charged Romney.

Republicans energized by Obama's low popularity have slammed his Middle East policy, hoping to pump up Christian conservatives and erode Democrats' usually strong

support from Jewish voters, a small but potent voting bloc.

Former House speaker Newt Gingrich, who has led the calls for secret war, told a gathering of party activists on Wednesday he would use "covert capability" to bring about "regime replacement" in Tehran.

"They only have one very, very large refinery. I would be focused on how to covertly sabotage it every day," he told the Republican Jewish Coalition, a group highly critical of President Barack Obama's handling of ties to Israel.

Gingrich said US policy towards Syria must be to "replace" President Bashar al-Assad and "do everything we can, indirectly and covertly -- but without American forces -- to help" the opposition topple his government.

Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, who recently lost to Gingrich the mantle of front-runner for the party's nomination to take on Obama in November 2012, called for Washington to secretly help dissidents in Iran.

NEWS IN brief

Assange's ruling by Christmas

AFP, London

Britain's Supreme Court will decide by December 25 whether to hear an appeal by WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange against his extradition to Sweden, a court spokeswoman said Wednesday.

On Monday judges at the High Court in London said that his fight against deportation to face rape allegations in Sweden raised an issue of public importance, and ruled that he could ask the Supreme Court to consider the case.

A source said there would not be a hearing but that a panel of three Supreme Court judges would examine Assange's application on paper, before deciding

Noriega's extradition on Sunday

AFP, Panama City

Panama's former strongman Manuel Noriega could be extradited from France on Sunday to serve prison time in his native land, officials said Wednesday.

A Panamanian team including members from the foreign ministry, police and medical staff, has been in Paris since Sunday taking care of paperwork and medical checks before Noriega is sent to his home country.

The former US ally, now 77, ruled Panama from 1983 until his overthrow in a US invasion in 1989. He has spent 21 years in US jail, 6 years in France and

Kabila set to win in Congo

AFP, Kinshasa

President Joseph Kabila is poised to claim a new five-year term yesterday when officials announce the winner of DR Congo's elections, a result the opposition is likely to contest both in court and on the street.

Leading a pack of 11 candidates with 49 per cent of valid votes and just over one-tenth of polling centres uncounted, Kabila, in power since 2001, looks likely to reap the benefits of January constitutional changes that scrapped two-round presidential elections for a

Thai royal insult put US man in jail

AFP, Bangkok

A court in Thailand yesterday jailed an American for two-and-a-half years for insulting the king, drawing a protest from the United States, which said he was exercising his right to free speech.

The Criminal Court sentenced Gordon to five years in prison, but halved the term as the car salesman from Colorado pleaded guilty to publishing online a banned biography of King Bhumibol

US denies delaying global climate deal

AGENCIES

The United States yesterday denied the allegation that it was trying to delay a new global climate deal until 2020, saying it supported an EU proposal that aims to chart a path to a more ambitious pact to fight climate change.

Delegates from almost 200 countries have until today to decide whether to commit to signing up to an internationally binding climate deal by 2015, which would take effect from 2020.

Some countries and pressure groups says the United States is trying to delay a deal until 2020 or later, saying there is little chance of progress before a presidential election next year, especially given squabbling between Republicans and President Barack Obama's Democrats over environmental legislation.

"It is completely off base to suggest the US is proposing it will delay action to 2020," US climate envoy Todd Stern told reporters yesterday.

"The EU has called for a roadmap to a future deal. We support that," he said.

The EU is pushing for a global deal in 2015



COP17/CMP7 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011 DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

but will not extend the Kyoto Protocol -- the world's only legally binding pact on fighting climate change -- unless all major emitters, including the United States and China, pledge ambitious cuts of their own.

United States has said it will only make its emissions cutting actions binding under an international agreement if China and other developing countries that are big polluters back their commitments with equal legal force.

The UN summit was "rapidly setting up" a green climate fund to help developing nations adapt to climate change, he said, ways to share green technology and help poor countries adapt to climate change.

Meanwhile, head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Ippc) Rajendra Pachauri said, the perils of greenhouse gases are flirting with escapism.

The UN's Nobel-winning climate scientists said on the sidelines of the UN climate talks in Durban, "You cannot possibly keep waiting forever for new evidence of global warming to act".

Egypt Islamists wins in poll run-offs

AFP, Cairo

Egypt's largest Islamist party claimed victory Wednesday after elections officials named winners in run-off polls for the first round of parliamentary elections since the ouster of former president Hosni Mubarak.

The Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice party (FJP) said 24 of the 44 winners announced by election committee chief Abdel Moez Ibrahim were its candidates, along with four winners it supported as allies.

Ibrahim announced the winners at a news conference, though he did not give their party affiliations.

The candidates were forced into run-offs this week after failing to get an outright majority in the first round of voting November 28.

The ruling military has decided on a complex election system in which voters cast ballots for party lists, which will comprise two thirds of parliament, and for individual candidates for the remaining third of the lower house.

FJP spokesman Ahmed Sobeaa said that, after the run-offs, his party controlled 32 out of 56 individual candidate seats that were contested in the first round, and said another four successful candidates were party allies.

37 killed in South Sudan massacre: UN

AFP, United Nations

Unknown assailants killed at least 37 people and wounded 22 others in an attack on a South Sudan village this week, the UN said Wednesday.

A team from the UN Mission in South Sudan went on Tuesday to the village in Bor county, Jonglei state, following reports of a massacre, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told a briefing.

Four people who were seriously wounded were taken to the country's capital, Juba, for treatment, Nesirky said. Bor is about 100 miles (160 kilometres) north of Juba.

Occupy protesters target lobbyists

Mass arrest as San Francisco camp evicted

AFP, Washington

Police arrested 62 protesters Wednesday as supporters of Occupy Wall Street targeted lobbyists who promote the interests of corporate America in Washington's corridors of power.

Undeterred by steady rain, more than 1,000 marchers -- many of them labour-union activists -- shut down several blocks of K Street, epicenter of the US capital's influential and lucrative lobbying industry, around midday.

Police intervened when several dozen protesters sat or lay down on the wet pavement at 14th and K streets and refused to budge when threatened with arrest.

Sixty-two people were arrested, a spokesman for Washington's Metropolitan Police told AFP. Details of the charges they faced were not immediately available.

Wednesday's shutdown of K Street came a day after demonstrators backed by labour unions and civic groups occupied Congressional and Senate offices on Capitol Hill as part of a three-day Take Back the Capitol action.

Earlier Wednesday, about 100 protesters from Occupy DC marched on the Podesta Group, a lobbying firm with close ties to the Democratic Party whose blue-chip clients include BP, Lockheed Martin and the coal industry.

In San Francisco, 70 people were arrested in the early hours of Wednesday when police cleared the city's Occupy Wall Street offshoot, after giving its occupants five minutes' notice to clear out.

Nato, Russia fail to defuse missile defence row

AFP, Brussels

Nato and Russia failed to resolve a rift over a European missile shield yesterday but agreed to press on with negotiations aimed at reaching a cooperation deal.

"On missile defence, we do not agree yet," Nato Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said after talks between foreign ministers of the military alliance and Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

"But we all agreed that it is important to keep on trying, to keep on talking, and to keep on listening to each other's concerns," he told a news conference.

Seeking to assuage Russian concerns after Moscow threatened to deploy missiles near EU borders, Rasmussen reiterated that Nato allies "do not consider Russia an enemy".

"We want to have clear guarantees that the missile defence capabilities will not be targeted against our strategic capability," Lavrov told a news conference after the talks.

Moscow also suggests that both sides operate a joint missile shield.

Putin accuses US of fueling unrest

AFP, Moscow

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin yesterday accused the United States of provoking the post-election protests in Russia, warning that demonstrators who broke the law would be punished.

Around 1,000 people have been arrested in three days of protests in Moscow alleging mass fraud in the parliamentary polls and organisers defiantly vowed to stage a mass protest in Moscow at the weekend.

In his first public comments on the demonstrations, Putin lashed out at US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who he said had criticised Sunday's elections before even reading the reports of international monitors.

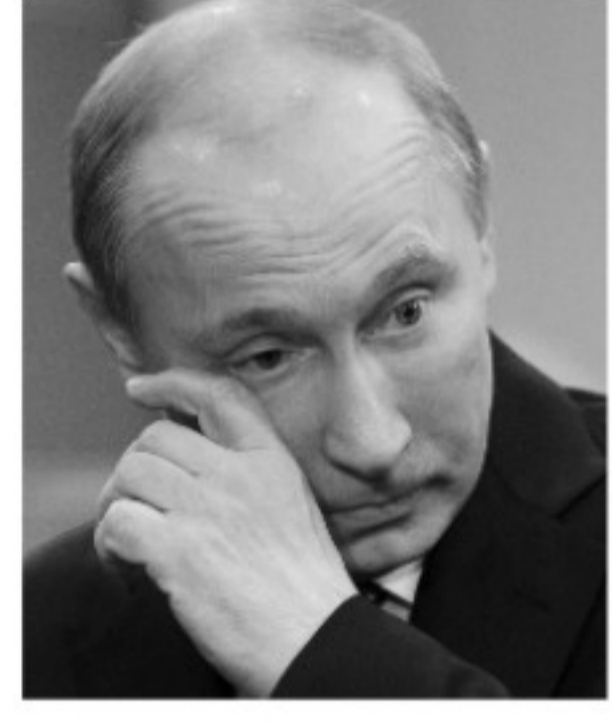
Hillary had complained the polls were neither free nor fair, a concern echoed by the last president of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev who said they should be re-run due to ballot rigging.

The US criticism "had set the tone for some people inside the country and given a signal," Putin said. "They heard the signal and with the support of the US State Department started active work."

In the run-up to the election, Putin had already questioned the validity of the elections. Independent poll monitoring group Golos said it had subsequently been subjected to harassment by the authorities.

Putin said Russia did not want to see the instability endured by Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, two ex-Soviet states that saw regimes toppled in so-called "colour revolutions" after the fall of the Soviet Union.

The authorities should enter into dialogue with the opposition -- but protestors should be punished with the full force of the law if they broke the rules, he added.



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Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)
North South University Library
North South University, Bashundhara, Dhaka 1229

Corrigendum

This is to inform to all potential tenderers that the Tender notice of North South University Library, NSU Ref# NSU/LIB/HEQEP/CP-458/G-2/2011 which has been published in the daily "The Daily Star" on 24 November 2011 and "The Samokal" on 25 November 2011 have the following corrections in the row number 26 of that IFT.

	Identification of Lots	Location	Tender Security Amount in Taka	Completion Time
26	Lot-1: RFID equipments, Tags and accessories	North South University Library	BDT 400,000 (Four Lac) only	Twelve (12) weeks from the date of signing contract
	Lot-2: Data conversion, data entry and tags fixing	North South University Library	BDT 40,000 (Forty Thousand) only	Twelve (12) weeks from the date of signing contract

Dr. Md. Mostafizur Rahman
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North South University, Bashundhara, Dhaka -1229