

Syria must begin ceasefire 'now'

Says Annan; Hillary in new diplomatic push

AFP, Damascus

International envoy Kofi Annan urged Syria's President Bashar al-Assad to immediately implement a ceasefire, as fighting raged Friday even after the embattled leader said he had accepted the peace plan.

UN-Arab League peacebroker Annan made the appeal as monitors said shells rained down on Homs, a main rebel bastion which has been the focus of much of Assad's year-long crackdown on anti-regime protests.

Activists, meanwhile, appealed for more mass demonstrations after the weekly Friday prayers to denounce Arab states for "abandoning" protesters by not backing calls to send arms to rebels fighting Assad's forces.

Syria's state-run SANA agency said on Thursday that "President Assad... has informed Annan that Syria approves the plan (the envoy) submitted but had made remarks about it."

The fighting continued yesterday, however, according to monitors and activists.

Two people were killed near Bsas village, in Homs province, when the car in which they

were travelling was fired upon, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Before dawn, fighting broke out between the armed forces and rebel fighters in the towns of Harasta and Irbin, in Damascus province, after insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades at a security post, it said.

Fierce fighting was also reported in the provinces of Hama, in central Syria, and Deir Ezzor in the east, said the Local Coordination Committees activist group.

Annan's spokesman later issued the appeal for Assad to end the crackdown.

"We expect him to implement this plan immediately. Clearly we have not seen a cessation of hostilities on the ground. This is our great concern," the spokesman said in Geneva, adding the "deadline is now" for Assad's regime to end all violence.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday arrived in Saudi Arabia where she is scheduled to hold talks with Saudi King Abdullah in a bid to crank up pressure on Assad.

She is due to travel to Istanbul for a meeting of the "Friends of Syria" group tomorrow.



An Israeli mounted policeman disperses hundreds of Palestinian protesters during a demonstration marking Land Day in east Jerusalem on yesterday. Demonstrators waving huge Palestinian flags gathered for Land Day, sparking scuffles with hundreds of Israeli police who were seen beating some of the crowd, an AFP correspondent said.

13 killed in new Honduras prison fire

AFP, Tegucigalpa

At least 13 people died Thursday in a Honduras prison fire, officials said, less than two months after a deadly prison blaze killed more than 350.

"There are 13 bodies. We have not yet been able to identify the circumstances of the incident" at the San Pedro Sula prison in the north of the country, said Marleny Vanegas, of the city prosecutor's office.

According to initial reports by the authorities, the detainees themselves put out the fire with buckets of water.

Earlier, police spokesman Walter Amaya had put the death toll at one. Officials said the fire was rapidly brought under control.

Amaya said rival groups of detainees seemed to have caused the fire, but cautioned he was awaiting the results of the investigation for further details.

Iran will defend Syria's regime

AFP, Tehran

Iran will defend the regime of its regional ally Syria due to its anti-Israeli stance, supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told the visiting Turkish prime minister on Thursday.

"Iran will defend Syria because of its support for the anti-Zionist regime resistance," Khamenei said as he received Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the northeastern holy city of Mashhad, state television reported.

The supreme leader of the Islamic republic also reiterated Tehran's staunch rejection of foreign intervention in Syria, where he said reforms should be implemented.

Erdogan, for his part, was quoted as telling Khamenei that the region is facing "a very difficult situation which Turkey hopes to be resolved."

But Khamenei warned against any US-led initiative to resolve the conflict in Syria saying Iran would "strongly oppose" such a plan.

Erdogan arrived Wednesday in Iran for a two-day visit to hold talks on issues including Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

MIGRANT BOAT TRAGEDY Nato blamed for the death of 63 Libyans

BBC ONLINE

A report into the deaths of 63 Libyan refugees on a small boat last May said a "catalogue of errors" by coastguards and Nato meant they were never rescued.

The Council of Europe inquiry says two Nato ships close by failed to respond to distress calls, and no country launched a search and rescue mission.

Only nine people survived the 15-day Mediterranean voyage after the boat ran out of fuel and drifted back to Libya. Nato has said it has no record of any aircraft or ship contacting the boat.

However, it says other search and rescue missions were launched around this time.

The report by Europe's human rights watchdog says some 1,500 people died at sea trying to reach Europe in 2011.

Many of these were trying to flee from Libya or other conflicts in North Africa.

The Council of Europe launched its investigation into the incident after The Guardian newspaper spoke to survivors. The nine-month inquiry concludes that there were many opportunities to rescue the migrants, who were hoping to reach the Italian island of Lampedusa.

The report, called "Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea: who is responsible?" also says Nato failed to plan adequately for the likely exodus of asylum-seekers from Libya.

"These people did not need to die. If different actors had intervened or had intervened correctly, they could have been rescued on several occasions. More has to be done to avoid people dying in their desperate attempts to reach Europe," the report says.

The investigation was adopted on Thursday by the Council of Europe's Refugees and Displaced Persons committee.

The resolution also calls on European nations to fill the "vacuum of responsibility" left when a state such as Libya is unable or unwilling to fulfil its search and rescue responsibilities.

Every fifth British adult is illiterate!

IANS, London

One in every five adults in Britain is functionally illiterate, or has insufficient reading and writing skills for ordinary practical needs, a report has revealed.

It means up to eight million people are so poor at reading and writing that they struggle in their daily lives. In a devastating condemnation of the British education system, they have difficulty reading a medicine label or simply using a chequebook, the Sun reported.

The findings by the World Literacy Foundation are contained in a report which focused on the world's wealthiest nations. Its chief executive Andrew Kay described the findings as "shocking" for Britain.

Britain with 21.8 percent has been ranked third-worst in reading and writing behind Italy (47 percent) and Ireland (22.6 percent), he said. "No matter whether you live in the developed or developing world, poor literacy is ruining lives."

Revolution going wrong way Icon of Syrian revolt warns

AFP, Paris

Fadwa Suleiman, an actress who became an icon of Syria's revolution, is furious that her country's peaceful protest movement has been drawn into armed conflict with the regime.

She said she is saddened to see that "the revolution is not going in the right direction, that it is becoming armed, that the opposition which wanted to resist peacefully is playing the game of the regime and that the country is heading for sectarian war".

Her bitter assessment comes as she sits in a cafe in Paris, where she fled to last week after escaping from Syria.

"I didn't want to leave Syria but I didn't have the choice. I was being threatened and I was becoming a threat for the activists who were helping me," she said wearily.



Suleiman became a high-profile member of the opposition movement last November when she appeared in footage from the rebel city of Homs that was broadcast on the Al-Jazeera television news network.

The 39-year-old actress, well known in her homeland for her work in theatre, films and television, belongs to the same Alawite religious minority as President Bashar al-Assad.

She says that a major reason for her

participation in the protests was to do her bit to stop any slide into a sectarian war between factions of the Sunni Muslim majority, Alawites or Christians.

"Everyone was saying that salafist Sunnis were going to attack the Alawites," she said. So, in Homs last November, "I, an Alawite woman, got up on the stage and declared that we were all united against the regime."

She organised humanitarian aid networks, used Youtube and Facebook to make appeals and denounce the regime's brutal crackdown, and organised Alawite demonstrations.

Suleiman said it was during her time in Homs that she saw that Sunnis who had initially carried weapons only to defend themselves, were starting to use these arms to attack regime forces.

"It was then that I understood," she said.

Advertisorial

Photon Knife for Cancer Therapy Works! Real Experience! Photon Knife Can Intrude into the Restricted Area of Cancer Treatment and Accurately Eliminate Cancer Cells



The most advanced radiotherapy advice - photon knife was introduced into Modern Cancer Hospital Guangzhou. It is called knife, but in fact, it is not the knife we usually see.

Photon Knife is the abbreviation of Photon Parity System, not the real meaning of knife, but 3D Conformal Technique. Photon Knife can have acute localization under computer guidance, automatically light beam regulation, focus on the lesion where is needed destroying and make the lesion tissue engorge and die by photon irradiation with different energy according to the size, the location and depth of the lesion. What's more, dead cancer cells can be normal tissue around them absorbed, resolved and excreted.

Photon knife therapy has more advantages compared with traditional therapies: first, photon knife is non-invasive surgery, using ray instead of operating knife to destroy lesion, by which patient won't go through surgery pain; second, no blood will appear during the treatment, and no anaesthesia is needed; third, the whole process is finished under the control and acute guidance of specialized work station. The accuracy of photon knife for tumor is higher than operation concerning microneurosurgery, especially for those in life restricted zone, so photon knife therapy should be considered in the first place. Compared with traditional radiotherapy, it can treat tumor in deeper area accurately with little harm to surrounding tissue and little side effect. It is with high safety factor; fourth, photon knife can effectively protect the normal tissue around tumor, which can obviously reduce the damage compared with traditional surgery; fifth, there is no pain for patient during the treatment, which can relieve psychological burden of patient. You can consult this therapy by dialing 01730622222 or visiting us in 9C, Navana Tower, Gulshan 1, Dhaka, Bangladesh or the website [Http://www.asiancancer.com](http://www.asiancancer.com).

I am an overseas Chinese in Indonesia, 68-year-old. I developed primary lung cancer with a tumor on the right lung, measuring 3.5x3cm. I am aged and cannot suffer from surgery because of my emphysema and poor lung function. I came to China this May, and had 3 cycles of Photon Knife Therapy in Modern Cancer Hospital Guangzhou. The effect showed satisfactory after recheck. At present, the tumor in my lung had remarkably shrunk. As Professor Peng said, the tumor will disappear in several months.

Because I have real experience of treating tumor in China, and the effect showed well, I introduced my 40-year-old relative who is with nasopharyngeal cancer. He suffered from symptoms like recovery nasal discharge, tinnitus and headache, etc. A vague lump of lymph node was detected on the right neck, featuring solid and fixed and no pain. Biopsy showed diagnosis of nasopharyngeal cancer with metastasis to lymph nodes. He had scientific treatment of photon knife treatment for about one month, and his medical condition was improved and then discharged with recovery.

According to Professor Peng, there are three ways to treat cancer: surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy. Traditional radiotherapy can easily injure the normal tissue around tumor and leave focus of infection.

Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology

Admission Summer 2012

MS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Admission test: May 3, 2012
Time: 3 PM (Thursday)

Application deadline: May 2, 2012
Time: 5 PM (Wednesday)

Eligibility

4-year/ 3-year Bachelor of Master's Degree in Biochemistry, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Genetic Engineering, Agriculture, Pharmacy or any other Biological Science discipline.

- MBBS, BDS or MD or equivalent degree in Medical sciences including Dentistry & other Allied Health Sciences.

At least second class in all exams or a minimum CGPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 point scale.

Special Features

- Faculties Members have PhD (North American or equivalent) with long research experience
- Modern research laboratory facilities
- Industrial and research lab placements
- Course waiver based on background
- Financial aid for deserving students
- Graduate Assistantship
- Siblings/ Spouse discount
- Payment of fees in installment
- Evening classes
- NSU degree is globally accepted for higher studies and job placement.

Major Research Areas:
Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, Microbial Biotechnology, Environmental Microbiology, Molecular Medicine, Nutrition Sciences and Natural Products.

Other Programs offered by Dept. of Biochemistry & Microbiology

- BS in Biochemistry & Biotechnology
- BS in Microbiology

For further detail, please contact:

Dept. of Biochemistry & Microbiology,
SAC 8th Floor, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Tel: 8852000 Ext: 1915, 1921, 1916
Email: isohidul@northsouth.edu
akhaleque@northsouth.edu
Web : www.northsouth.edu

North South University

The first private university in Bangladesh