

Syria truce hopes dim as violence flares

80 killed; Regime violating UN demands: Ban

AFP, Damascus

At least 80 people were reported killed across Syria yesterday, 52 of them civilians, as regime forces pressed a protest crackdown three days ahead of a deadline to cease fire and pull back.

Each side has accused the other of intensifying assaults in the run-up to the truce due to take effect early on Thursday.

Monitors reported the latest deaths despite UN chief Ban Ki-moon's latest rebuke to Damascus for stepping up its assault on dis-sent hubs.

Ban said on Friday that the increased attacks by Assad's forces on cities "violate" a UN Security Council statement demanding an end to hostilities by Tuesday's truce deadline.

He indicated that he believes Assad's government is using the deadline to pull troops and heavy weapons away from cities as "an excuse" to step up the killing.

Forty civilians died "in bombardment and shooting on the town of Latamna," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Britain-based monitoring group said other civilians



Ban Ki-moon

were killed in Tibet al-Imam, also in Hama, as well as in Homs, in Idlib to the northwest and Aleppo in northern Syria.

Sixteen rebels and 12 regime fighters were also killed nationwide, it said.

At least 77 people were killed nationwide on Thursday and 35 on Friday, mostly civilians, according to Observatory figures.

Rebels attacked a military intelligence headquarters in the second city of Aleppo, the Observatory said, and army deserters also pressed a dawn assault on Ming air base in the same province.

Meanwhile, thousands of people demonstrated in Damascus yesterday in support of the ruling Baath party on the 65th anniversary of its creation, an AFP journalist said.

The official SANA news agency reported similar demonstrations in other cities to protest conspiracy against the country.

Syria said on Friday that the number of what it calls "terrorist acts" has risen since the deal was reached with Annan.

Damascus has also demanded a written commitment that the opposition will not seek to exploit the troop withdrawal to make territorial gains.



PHOTO: AFP

A Pakistani internally displaced girl pictured carrying her younger brother in Pakistan's largest refugee camp, Jalozi, about 35 km outside Peshawar. Starting from 2008, fighting between army and Islamist militants in the tribal border regions forced thousands of people to flee creating a humanitarian crisis.

Mali coup leaders to stand down

AFP, Bamako

Mali's embattled junta leader yesterday said a power handover agreed with neighboring countries would take place in a matter of days with the appointment of an interim government of national unity.

Mali's military junta and the West African bloc ECOWAS announced a deal late Friday that includes the lifting of sanctions and an amnesty for those involved in last month's coup.

It came after Mali's Tuareg rebels declared independence Friday in the north, a move rejected by the international community and the Islamist insurgents they fought beside, as fears grew of a humanitarian crisis.

"It is the will of the committee (junta) to quickly move towards the transition," Captain Amadou Sanogo said at the military barracks outside the capital Bamako which



PHOTO: AFP

Mali junta leader Amadou Sanogo, right, during the deal signing ceremony.

has been the headquarters of his two-week-old rule.

"In the next few days you will see a prime minister and a government in place," Sanogo said in an interview with Reuters, France's i-tele and the Spanish-language channel Telesur.

A five-page accord agreed for a

return to constitutional order did not specify when the handover would start.

The agreement calls for ousted President Amadou Toumani Toure, who is still in hiding, to resign. Sanogo's junta must then make way for a unity government with Mali's

parliament speaker Diounounda Traore as interim president.

New elections would then follow as soon as possible given the widespread lack of security in the north, where the Tuaregs swept in, accompanied by groups of Islamists with links to al Qaeda.

The agreement provides a framework for a return to constitutional rule under an interim leader who will oversee democratic elections and handle the crisis in the north, where Islamists and Tuareg rebels have seized control.

A democratic success since its last coup 21 years ago, Mali is now roughly divided into a Tuareg rebel-controlled north and junta-controlled south.

Mali's neighbors, who fiercely criticised the coup, said the military government would have to step down before they could help tackle the rebels.

'Iran capable of producing nuke weapon'

AP, Tehran

A prominent Iranian lawmaker says Iran has the knowledge and scientific capability to produce nuclear weapons but will never do so.

Gholamreza Mesbahi Moghadam says Iran can easily produce the highly enriched uranium that is used to build atomic bombs but it is not Tehran's policy to go that route.

Moghadam made the comment in an interview with the parliament's news website, icana.ir, late Friday.

It is the first time that a prominent Iranian politician has publicly stated that Iran has the technological capability to produce a nuclear weapon.

Boy in China sells kidney to buy iPhone

AFP, Beijing

A teenage high-school student in China sold his kidney for an illicit transplant operation and used the proceeds to buy an Apple iPhone and iPad, state press said on Friday.

The 17-year-old boy, who was paid 22,000 yuan (\$3,500), was recruited from an online chatroom and is now suffering from kidney failure and in deteriorating health, the Xinhua news agency said.

A surgeon and four others have been arrested and are facing charges of illegal organ trading and intentional injury.

The kidney donor, only identified by his surname Wang, agreed to the April 2011 operation in the central province of Hunan without his parents consent, the report said.

One of those detained was a hard-up gambler identified as He Wei, who acted as a middle-man between a hospital worker and the teenager. He was paid 220,000 yuan.

Health ministry statistics show that about 1.5 million people in China need transplants, but only around 10,000 transplants are performed annually.

The huge gap has led to a thriving illegal market for organs.

Japan sets new nuke safety standards

AFP, Tokyo

The Japanese government approved new safety guidelines for nuclear power plants on Friday in a bid to restart reactors idled after the Fukushima disaster last year.

The move comes as the government gears up to decide whether two reactors in western Japan should be restarted. Only one of the country's 54 reactors remains in operation, raising the possibility of power shortages.

The guidelines, approved by Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, include measures to prevent a nuclear accident even if reactors are hit by natural disasters as severe as those that ravaged the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

Japan's formerly-trusted nuclear power industry lost public confidence when the earthquake and tsunami of March last year knocked out cooling systems at Fukushima, sending three reactors into meltdown.

Tens of thousands of people were forced from their homes and vast swathes of farmland were contaminated in the world's worst nuclear accident for a quarter of a century.

The new safety standards are said to be more extensive than the two-stage stress test mandated for nuclear power plants in the wake of the Fukushima crisis.

Yemen military chief refuses to quit

Forces airport shutdown

AFP, Sanaa

The airport in Yemen's capital was shut down yesterday after forces loyal to a sacked general close to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh surrounded it and threatened to shoot down planes, a source said.

The airport has been encircled by forces loyal to air force chief General Mohammed Saleh al-Ahmar, Saleh's half brother, who has refused to step down after being sacked by President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi, the source said.

"No aircraft has taken off or landed since these forces made their threat late on Friday," the source said, adding that the troops surrounding the airport were backed by members of the Hamdan tribe that supports former strongman Saleh.

On Thursday, the UN Security Council expressed concern over recent events in Yemen, where followers of Saleh have been accused of hampering the political transition.

In a message to his troops, Ahmar said Hadi's presidential decree would not be implemented until Defence Minister Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, General Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar and chief of staff Ali al-Ashwal left their posts.

Advertorial

Ar-He Knife Works Accurately; Tumor Dies When It is Frozen

30% of Cancer Can Be Cured, 60% Can Be in Long-time Relieved and Life-prolonged.

Everyone knows surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy can treat cancer, but when it comes to cryotherapy, lots of people may feel strange to it. As a matter of fact, Ar-He knife surgery is physiotherapy with different diameter superconducting catheter. Put the catheter with argon gas into the tumor, and it can make temperature of the tumor drop fast below -160°c. within seconds, by which the tumor cells become kryogen; and then helium gas is inputted and reheat the kryogen up to -40° and then kryogen becomes a crystal, a bigger kryogen. Tumor cells die or break down when the temperature is increased to -10°c.

According to Chief Scientist Professor Peng Xiaochi from Modern Cancer Hospital Guangzhou, Ar-He Knife possesses the following features:

First, it can maintain the organ function. For example, during treating liver cancer, it just destroys cancer tissue, and it will not affect liver itself. This is very important for primary liver cancer patients, because these kind of patients usually have hepatic cirrhosis, and the "storage function" is reduced. Therefore, it means a lot to recovery from the illness that it can protect liver function and non-cancer liver tissues. Lung cancer patients with emphysema or pulmonary



insufficiency cannot accept surgical excision. However, Ar-He Knife does little harm to normal tissue. For example, using Ar-He knife to treat hysteromyoma can save uterus; using Ar-He Knife to treat breast cancer can save breasts; using Ar-He Knife to treat ostercarcinoma can avoid amputation.

Second, it is minimally invasive therapy by skin puncture, and no surgery is needed. Because of special design, argon gas and helium gas will not escape from the catheter, and this is very safe to patients.

Third, Does cancer spread even during cryotherapy ? Of cause not! It can prevent cancer cells from spreading. The frozen dead cancer cells stay in the body, and form antigen to enhance human immunity. This can help to eliminate the remaining cancer cells.

Forth, cryotherapy will not destroy great blood vessels, this is because blood is flowing in the vessel, which will not be frozen. Therefore, Ar-He Knife can treat those tumors near great vessels.

Fifth, Ar-He Knife has different diameter puncture catheter. Small Ar-He Knife can be 2mm in diameter, which can make "ice ball" in 2-3 cm. and catheter reaches 8mm in diameter can make "ice ball" in 10 cm. Therefore, using different catheters to perform cryotherapy and treat tumor of different size. What's more, several catheters can be put inside to perform cryotherapy according to tumor's shape and size. Multiple cancers can also be treated by Ar-He knife.

At Last, Dr. Peng said, tens of thousands of tumor patients had accepted cryotherapy around the world. It can be treated in more than 20 kinds of cancers—liver cancer, lung cancer, uterus cancer, ovary cancer, kidney cancer, prostate cancer. It can turn incurable cancer into curable cancer, non-radically curable into radically curable. You can consult this therapy by dialing 01730622222 (10am-5pm) or visiting us in 9/C, Navana Tower, Gulshan 1, Dhaka, Bangladesh or the website Http://www.asiancancer.com

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VP takes charge in Malawi

AFP, Blantyre

Malawi's government yesterday confirmed the death of President Bingu wa Mutharika after two days of silence, as his breakaway vice president moved to take the reins of power in a remarkable political shift.

Once Joyce Banda takes office, she would become only the second female African head of state in modern times.

The official confirmation ended two days of political intrigue following Mutharika's fatal heart attack on Thursday, as his inner circle scrounged for ways to keep Banda out of office.

Mutharika died on Thursday suffering a heart attack at State House at 11:15 am, a statement said.

Under the constitution, Banda automatically assumes power as vice president. But late Friday, Information Minister Patricia Kaliati claimed that Banda could not take office because she had "formed her own opposition party".