

Syria troops pound rebel strongholds, 52 killed

AFP, Beirut

Helicopter gunships yesterday fired on rebel positions in central and north-western Syria in a bid to snuff out the gunmen as violence killed 52 people across the country, a monitoring group said.

Helicopters strafed rebels positions in Al-Heffa, in the northwestern province of Latakia, and in Rastan, in the central province of Homs, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Regime troops have pounded Al-Heffa daily for the past week to snuff out rebel Free Syrian Army fighters deployed in the rugged countryside near the Turkish border, activists said.

Activists said yesterday's assault was violent and described the situation in Al-Heffa as "terrible," although there were no immediate reports of casualties.

"Army tanks are deployed at the entrances of the town. They have never come this close before," local activist Sema Nassar told AFP in Beirut via Skype, weeping as she spoke.

"There's only one doctor working to treat the wounded in the town," of 30,000 people, said Nassar, adding that most of the residents have fled.

"Some civilians have stayed behind to help the rebel fighters defend the town," she added.

Nassar also pointed to report carried by the official SANA news agency and Syrian TV claiming that "terrorists" were planning "to carry out a massacre" in Al-Heffa and nearby Tfil.

"This is cause for great concern. It seems there are plans to kill many people," said Nassar.

Government troops also used helicopters to attack rebel positions in the Homs province town of Rastan which has been under intermittent army shelling "for months," the Britain-based Observatory said.

Four civilians, including a young girl, were killed in the violence, it added.

Troops have trying to overrun Rastan since mid-May, after rebel fighters from the battered city of Homs regrouped in the town which straddles the main highway linking Damascus to the north.

In restive Qusayr, also in Homs province, another two civilians were killed, the Observatory said.

Activists in the central province of Hama told AFP that regime troops continued to target towns and villages in the region, where anti-regime sentiment was strong.

"We are worried about how much violence there might be there right now, because we have heard that regime forces are using residents as human shields," an activist who identified himself as Abu Ghazi al-Hamwi told AFP via Skype.

At least five people were killed across Hama yesterday, the Observatory said.

Elsewhere, at least nine people were killed in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, where rebels and regime forces clashed, while a blast in the northwestern city of Idlib killed a civilian and seven regime forces.



PHOTO: AFP
Rohingya protesters gather in front of a United Nations regional office building to call for an end to the ongoing unrest and violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in Bangkok yesterday.

Police raid homes of Putin foes

AFP, Moscow

Police armed with assault rifles raided the homes of Russia's top protest leaders yesterday in a show of force on the eve of a mass Moscow rally against President Vladimir Putin's rule.

The coordinated security sweep in the early hours of a public holiday targeted the homes of a new brand of young Russian politicians who analysts believe represent the biggest threat to ex-KGB spy Putin's 12-year rule.

Officers beat down the doors of the increasingly popular anti-corruption blogger Alexei Navalny as well as media celebrity and more recent Putin critic Ksenya Sobchak.

Others on the list included Sergei Udaltsov -- an outspoken ultra-leftist.

Hollande's leftists ahead in parliamentary vote

AP, Paris

President Francois Hollande's Socialist Party, bolstered by leftist allies, stands positioned to take control of the lower house of parliament so he can revamp a country his partisans see as too capitalist for the French, and push to save the eurozone through growth, not austerity.

The conservative party of former President Nicolas Sarkozy, which has controlled the 577-seat National Assembly since 2002, will likely lose its grip on power in the final round of voting in a week. Sarkozy was defeated in the May 6 final round of the presidential race.

Hollande will likely not get his wish for a pure Socialist Party sweep of the seats of power in France, but he need not fret.

Polling agency projections after Sunday's first round of voting in legislative elections show the Socialists slightly behind Sarkozy's UMP party. But other leftist parties expected to support Hollande -- including the communist-inspired Leftist Front and the main



environmental party - did well Sunday.

A leftist victory in the voting, five weeks after Hollande took office, would brutally jar the French political landscape.

Leftists are forecast to take between 300 and 366 seats in the next parliament, and the conservatives between 210 and 270 seats, according to the CSA and TNS-Sofres polling agencies.

That would be a sharp shift from the current parliament, where the conservative UMP and its allies had 346 seats and leftists 226 seats.

Sarkozy's party, the Union for a Popular Movement, or UMP, is trying to save its honor. Leading UMP figures vowed not to make alliances between rounds with the extreme-right National Front, which moved into position to grab its first small presence in parliament in more than 25 years.

Eyes are on the National Front at voting time both because of the stigma of racism and anti-Semitism which clings to the party and because of its potential for cutting into the win margin of the mainstream right.

INDIAN PRESIDENTIAL RACE Poll schedule to be declared shortly: CEC

PTI, New Delhi

The announcement on Presidential election schedule is due shortly, new Chief Election Commissioner V S Sampath said yesterday.

"All preparatory works are in full swing and an announcement regarding the election schedule is due shortly," he said soon after assuming charge as the CEC.

Asked as to when the schedule will be announced, he said let there be some suspense.

He said the immediate task at hand for him was the conduct of elections to the offices of the President and Vice President of India.

Sampath said that an orientation workshop for the returning officer, assistant returning officers and presiding officers for the Presidential poll was held

Police collect bodies in strife-hit Myanmar town

AP, Sittwe

With fearful residents cowering indoors, security forces patrolling a tense town in western Myanmar collected bodies yesterday from the debris of homes burned down over the weekend in some of the country's deadliest sectarian bloodshed in years.

The Buddhist-Muslim violence, which has left at least seven people dead and hundreds of homes torched since Friday, poses one of the biggest tests yet for Myanmar's new government as it struggles to reform the nation after generations of military rule.

The United Nations said it had temporarily relocated 44 of its 150 personnel in Rakhine state. Local state television said cargo and passenger boats to Sittwe were suspended.

The handling of the unrest will draw close scrutiny from Western powers, which have praised President Thein Sein's administration in recent months and rewarded it by easing years of harsh economic sanctions.

Thein Sein declared a state of emergency in the region late Sunday and pleaded for an end to the "endless anarchic vengeance," warning that if the situation spun out of control, it could jeopardize the democratic reforms he has launched since taking office last year.

"We have not had any sleep for the last five days," said Ma Ohn May, a 42-year old textile shop owner in the coastal port of Sittwe, adding that residents were holed up and bracing for further ethnic clashes, though the area was calm yesterday.

Violence between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and members of a Muslim minority who call themselves Rohingyas erupted in Rakhine state and spread Saturday to Sittwe.

The unrest - triggered by the alleged rape and murder last month of a Buddhist girl by three Muslims and the June 3 lynching of 10 Muslims in retaliation - stems from longstanding tensions in the region.

The region's Rohingya Muslims are seen by the government as illegal migrants from Bangladesh and are not officially recognized as one of the country's national ethnic minorities. Although some are recent settlers, many have lived in Myanmar for generations. The government position has rendered the Rohingyas effectively stateless, and rights groups say they have long suffered

NEWS IN brief

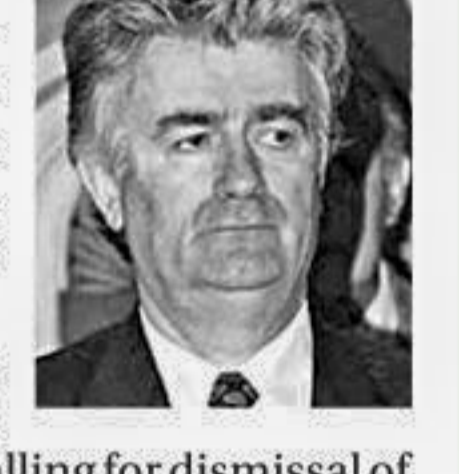
Karadzic asks judges to dismiss his genocide case

AP, Amsterdam

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic has asked UN judges to dismiss his war crimes case halfway through the trial.

Prosecutors finished presenting evidence against Karadzic last month, and he is calling for dismissal of all or some charges before he presents a formal defense. Such requests are rarely granted.

"The prosecution has made a huge effort to try to make some kind of an indictment out of nothing," he said yesterday at the Yugoslav tribunal in The Hague. He claimed he could not have foreseen the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica, Bosnia.



Nobel Foundation slashes prize size amid crisis

AFP, Stockholm

This year's Nobel Prize laureates will have a little less to pad their wallets with than previous winners, organisers said yesterday, announcing a 20-percent cut in the award because of the economic crisis.

"At its meeting on June 11, 2012, the board of directors of the Nobel Foundation set the amount of the 2012 Nobel Prizes at 8.0 million Swedish kronor (900,800 euros, \$1.13 million) per prize," the foundation said in a statement.

That meant it was effectively lowering the prize sum from the 10 million kronor that has been given

British ex-PM Brown blasts Murdoch press at inquiry

AFP, London

Former British prime minister Gordon Brown repeatedly criticised Rupert Murdoch's newspapers in his evidence to a press ethics inquiry yesterday, denying his policies were ever influenced by the tycoon.

Brown, Labour premier from 2007 to 2010, blasted Murdoch's Sun daily tabloid for its "sensationalised" coverage of the war in Afghanistan and for its decision to reveal in 2006 that Brown's son had cystic fibrosis.



Sufferings unbearable

FROM PAGE 20

Most of the Dhaka-bound launch services remained suspended and highway buses kept off the roads till yesterday afternoon from Sunday evening.

A small number of buses left the capital during the first half of yesterday. In the city, people waited for hours at different points for transport.

"We have verbal orders from the administration to reduce the number of trips to Dhaka from other parts of the country," said a leader of Mohakhali Bus Terminal Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity (owners' association).

Many bus owners claimed they suspended their service, fearing opposition supporters attempting to travel free.

"A BNP leader paid for two tickets, but he and his followers occupied 40 seats in my bus on Sunday. In this situation, I had to suspend the service," said the owner of a bus on Dhaka-Bogra route.

Almost all transport owners have faced such problems, he added.

An Eagle Paribahan official claimed pro-ruling party workers in Barisal forced them to postpone bus operations to Dhaka until 2:00pm yesterday.

Some owners alleged that an artificial tailback was created near Paturia-Daulatdia ferry terminals since Sunday night to delay the passenger buses bound for Dhaka.

In the capital, many commuters had to walk miles to reach destinations yesterday.

"I waited at Shahbagh for two hours, but failed to get a bus. Finally, I came to my office at Shukrabad on foot," said Abdullah Al Sakib, a private firm employee.

Shakil Mahmud came from Narayanganj with his mother to consult doctors at Birdem Hospital. "We have been standing at Shahbagh for more than one and a half hours but have not got a bus or auto-rickshaw," he said around noon.

Those who managed to reach the capital using alternative means of transport got in trouble with their luggage.

"I came from Satkhira, suffering a lot. Now, I am waiting here for two hours for transport," said Chand Miah at Gabtoli bus station around 1:00pm.

However, the situation started easing late in the afternoon.

Starting Sunday evening, the snap in river communications between Dhaka and other districts including Barisal and Munshiganj continued until 2:00pm yesterday.

"Local administration did not allow any launch to leave Barisal terminal for Dhaka on Sunday evening," alleged Badiuzzaman Badal, senior vice-president of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier's) Association.

The pro-Awami League workers at Sadarghat launch terminal did not allow any launch to anchor till 2:00pm, claimed Badal. The vessels were moored at the middle of the Buriganga, or at Badamtoli ghat and Shyampur.

However, launches on Chandpur-Dhaka and Shariatpur-Dhaka routes plied amid tight police patrol.

Our correspondents from Barisal, Munshiganj, Narayanganj and Manikganj, Chandpur and Madaripur reported on the transport mess.

People in Barisal found no road or river transport to go to Dhaka from Sunday

Around 100 feared dead in Afghan quake

AP, Kabul

As many as 100 people are feared dead in an earthquake and landslide that buried more than 20 houses in northern Afghanistan yesterday, officials said.

Rescuers have so far pulled two women's bodies from the rubble of the landslide in Baghlan province, said provincial Gov Abdul Majid. The UN confirmed one other death and said houses were destroyed across five districts.

A massive landslide of mud and rocks buried houses so deep in the remote mountain village of Sayi Hazara that rescuers gave up trying to use shovels to dig through the buried buildings, said Jawed Basharat, a spokesman for the provincial police chief who was part of a team that examined the village after the slide.

There were no visible signs of the buildings underneath.

"We need bulldozers or other machinery to remove all this earth and get the bodies out, or the survivors if there are any," Basharat said.

They knew how many houses were buried only from information provided by area residents, who said between 25 and 30 houses disappeared in the landslide.

An earthquake measuring a magnitude 5.4 struck the Hindu Kush region yesterday morning, followed by a 5.7 quake, the US Geological Survey said. Both were felt as far away as the Afghan capital, Kabul, where buildings shook.

Baghlan province's Burka district, the site of the landslide, is a remote collection of mountain villages. It takes more than two hours to drive the approximately 40 kilometres from the provincial capital of Pul-e-Khumri to there.

The police led a team of rescue workers and medics from Pul-e-Khumri, but discovered on arrival that they could be of little use. The handful of people who survived the landslide had already been driven to clinics.

"The ambulances were there, but there was no one to put in the ambulances," Basharat said.

The UN said in a statement that it was working with local authorities to try to help in the rescue effort but did not provide details. Basharat said the police team was the only group to arrive yesterday, and they returned to Pul-e-Khumri when they realized there

Hosni Mubarak defibrillated twice

AFP, Cairo

Ousted Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, who has been in critical condition since moving to prison, was defibrillated twice after his heart stopped yesterday, a prison hospital source told AFP.

Mubarak's "heart stopped twice. Doctors had to use a defibrillator. He has been in and out of consciousness and has been refusing food," the source said.

Earlier, an interior ministry source told AFP his condition was "critical but stable", as officials weigh transferring him to a Cairo hospital.

The 84-year-old former strongman was sentenced to life behind bars for suppressing a revolt against his rule in early 2011 during which nearly 850 protesters were killed.

His medical condition deteriorated and he suffered an emotional breakdown after being moved to Tora prison on the outskirts of Cairo on June 2, where he remains in intensive care in the prison hospital.

He has suffered from acute depression since his transfer, as well as periodic increases in blood pressure and shortness of breath, the interior ministry source said.



বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ অফিসার্স বহুমুখী সমবায় সমিতি

রেজিঃ নং- ১৩৩৭
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা

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অডিটর নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ অফিসার্স বহুমুখী সমবায় সমিতির বিগত মে/২০১০ হতে জুন/২০১২ মাস পর্যন্ত সময়ের আয়-ব্যয়ের হিসাব নিরীক্ষণের লক্ষ্যে স্বনামধন্য ও অভিজ্ঞ অডিট টিম/ফার্ম প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত কোটেশন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র আগামী ২৮/০৬/২০১২ তারিখের পূর্বে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় অথবা তদপূর্বে পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্সের ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ভবনের নীচ তলায় সমিতির কার্যালয়ে পৌঁছাতে হবে। যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র কর্তৃপক্ষ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখেন।

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