

UN blames Syria for massacre

Air strike hits rebels as blast rocks Damascus; OIC set to suspend Syria

AFP, Aazaz

UN investigators yesterday said the Syrian regime had committed crimes against humanity...



Smoke billowing from the scene of a bomb explosion in central Damascus yesterday near the hotel used by the UN observer mission, left, a woman holds her dead baby following an air strike by regime forces, right.



PHOTO: AFP

Human Rights said more than 30 people were killed, including civilians and rebels, in an attack on a Free Syria Army base...

In all at least 73 people were killed yesterday in Syria, where more than 23,000 people have died in violence since an uprising against the regime erupted in March 2011...

In Damascus, the FSA claimed a bomb attack targeting a military headquarters near a hotel used by UN observers, saying it was a warning to Assad that it could strike anytime at the very heart of the regime.

A gunbattle also erupted between rebels and troops near the offices of new Prime Minister Wael al-Halqi.

Damascus has been rocked by several bomb blasts since the start of the increasingly brutal conflict, including a July attack also claimed by the FSA that killed four top security chiefs in a major body blow to the regime.

Yesterday's attack came a day after former prime minister Riad Hijab, the highest profile government figure to defect, said the regime had collapsed and only controlled 30 percent of the country.

by outgoing international envoy Kofi Annan.

The UN investigators also said there were "reasonable grounds" to believe that government forces and their shabiha allies were responsible for other "gross violations of international human rights law" including arbitrary arrest, unlawful killing

and indiscriminate attacks against civilians.

The report was issued as reports emerged of a major air strike in Aazaz, a rebel bastion north of the second city Aleppo that activists said had killed at least 30 people, including children.

The Syrian Observatory for

Human Rights said more than 30 people were killed, including civilians and rebels, in an attack on a Free Syria Army base, as Muslims were observing the dawn-to-dusk Ramadan fast.

'Israel ready for war at multiple fronts'

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel is prepared for a 30-day war on multiple fronts should it decide to strike Iran, and is "ready as never before" for such a clash, the outgoing home front defence minister said yesterday.

In an interview with the Maariv newspaper, Matan Vilnai said Israel was ready to face the consequences of a clash with Iran that could be sparked if the Jewish state decides to launch a strike against Tehran's nuclear programme.

But he warned that any military engagement should be weighed carefully, and cautioned that Israel should "always coordinate" with the United States.

"The assessments are for a war that will last 30 days on a number of fronts," he said, repeating the predictions of other senior Israeli officials that the Jewish state would suffer around 500 deaths in such a clash.

Speculation has risen in recent weeks about the possibility of an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear programme, which the Jewish state and much of the international community believes masks a weapons drive.

Tehran vehemently denies those accusations, saying the programme is for peaceful energy and medical purposes.

As the speculation grows, observers in Israel have raised concern about the country's preparedness for war.

But Vilnai brushed aside such concerns, saying there was "no reason for hysteria."

"I can say in the most authoritative manner that the home front is ready as never before in the country's history," he said.

Morsi appoints new military chiefs

CNN ONLINE

Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi appointed three new commanders Tuesday, just days after he shook up the country's powerful military leadership.

He tapped leaders to head the navy, the air force and the air defense force, Morsi spokesman Yasser Ali announced on state TV.

The president sent the previous leaders into "retirement" on Sunday, alongside Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi and Lt Gen Sami Anan, once the country's top military rulers.

Morsi appointed Staff Maj Gen Abdel-Monen Bayoumi al-Terras as head of the air defense force, Staff Vice-Marshal Younes Elsayed Hamed as commander of the air force, and Staff Rear Adm Osama Ahmed el-Gendy as head of the navy, Ali said.

The fact the announcement came from Morsi directly, and not his defense minister, suggested the president is determined to take control of the military, which has been a mainstay of Egyptian politics for the past 60 years.

Morsi assumed office June 30 and has moved quickly to assert his authority.

Obama ahead in web campaign

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama's campaign team is proving again in 2012 to be more conscious than rival Republicans are of the power of the Internet, particularly Twitter, a study released yesterday said.

With online communications set to be even more important than in 2008, when Obama raised the bar on targeting voters and donors via the Internet, the Pew Research Center said he is dominating the 2012 digital campaign stakes.

While Republican White House candidate Mitt Romney's team averaged one tweet per day, Obama averaged 29 tweets - 17 on @BarackObama (the Twitter account associated with his presidency) and 12 on @Obama2012 (the account associated with his campaign), during the research study period.

"Obama holds a distinct advantage over Romney in the way his campaign is using digital technology to communicate directly with voters," said a statement from the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism.

Ecuador to grant Assange asylum

GUARDIAN ONLINE

Ecuador's president, Rafael Correa, has agreed to grant Julian Assange asylum, officials within Ecuador's government said yesterday.

The WikiLeaks founder has been holed up at Ecuador's London embassy since 19 June, when he officially requested political asylum.

"Ecuador will grant asylum to Julian Assange," said an official in the Ecuadorian capital, Quito, who is familiar with the government discussions.

On Monday, Correa told state-run ECTV that he would decide this week whether to grant asylum to Assange. Correa said a large amount of material about international law had to be examined to make a responsible, informed decision.

Government sources in Quito confirmed



that despite the outstanding legal issues, Correa would grant Assange asylum a move that would annoy Britain, the US and Sweden.

But it remains unclear if Assange will be allowed to leave Britain and fly to Ecuador. At the moment he faces arrest as soon as he leaves the embassy for breaching his bail conditions.

They added that the offer was made to Assange several months ago, well before he sought refuge in the embassy, and following confidential negotiations with senior London embassy staff.

However, on Tuesday night after the Guardian broke the story Correa wrote on Twitter: "Rumour of asylum for Assange is false. There is still no decision on the subject. I await report from [Ecuadorian] foreign office." Assange retweeted the message.

Australia MPs pass asylum camp deal

BBC ONLINE

Australian MPs have approved laws allowing offshore processing camps for asylum seekers to be re-established in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

The lower house passed a bill presented to parliament on Tuesday, following recommendations from an expert panel.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where it is expected to pass in coming days because both the governing Labor Party and the opposition back it.

Labor, under former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, closed the camps in 2008.

The debate on the legislation in the lower house lasted for six hours on Tuesday and continued the next day. Only two MPs - an independent and one from the Australian Greens party - voted against the bill.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard - whose party had until Monday opposed the move - said on Tuesday that she hoped processing centres for asylum seekers could be reopened "within a month".

The vote followed the release on Monday of a report by an expert panel appointed by Gillard to break the deadlock on the issue of asylum.

It set out 22 recommendations aimed at tackling people-smuggling issues, including re-opening moth-balled offshore processing centres.

The move comes amid rising numbers of asylum seekers travelling to Australia by boat from Indonesia.

Hypersonic jet eyes Mach 6



X-51A Waverider

BBC ONLINE

The US military yesterday conducted a test flight of its hypersonic jet Waverider, aiming to reach Mach 6 (4,300mph; 6,900km/h) above the Pacific Ocean.

At that speed it could travel from London to New York in about an hour.

Results from the test flight were expected later yesterday. The Pentagon and Nasa hope to use the project to develop faster missiles.

During a test in June 2011, Waverider travelled at Mach 5, but failed to reach the target speed.

It is one of several projects currently under way to create a hypersonic aircraft.

The research could also be used to build a commercial plane, able to reach much higher speeds than today's jets, after Concorde was decommissioned in 2003.

The military used a B-52 bomber to lift the wingless unmanned jet from US Edwards Air Force Base in California to 15,250m between 17:00 and 18:00GMT.

After being dropped from the B-52, the engine of the X-51A Waverider was supposed to ignite after a free fall of about four seconds.

The 8m long craft was then expected to climb to 21,300m and eventually reach Mach 6.

The Mach number is the ratio of the speed of an object to the speed of sound. Mach 1 is the speed of sound - approximately 768mph, depending on various factors including temperature and altitude.

So Mach 6 is six times the speed of sound. Concorde's cruising speed was Mach 2 - it flew from London to New York in just over three hours.

The Waverider test flight was expected to last for about five minutes before the craft fell into the Pacific.

The test is essentially a repeat of last summer's attempt, when the hypersonic aircraft reached Mach 5, but the engine failed to attain full power.



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY Bashundhara, Baridhara, Dhaka- 1229

Undergraduate Admission Fall 2012

Interview Schedule

Successful applicants, whose test pass numbers are shown in the result sheet, are required to come to NSU (Room 801 OAT) in person with their original documents (certificates and mark sheets) as per following schedule for interview.

Table with 3 columns: Range of Test Pass Numbers, Date, Time. It lists interview slots for various test pass number ranges across four dates from August 30 to September 5, 2012.

Abul L Haque, Ph.D.

Professor, EECs Dept. &

UG Admission Test Coordinator, Fall 2012

Large advertisement for Sony Cyber-shot cameras and Handycam projectors. Features various camera models like DSC-W620, W630, W650, W670, W520, W530, TX10, TX55, J10, H70, H90, and projector models like DCR-SR68E, SR21E, PJ600VE, PJ580VE, PJ260VE. Includes prices and promotional offers.

SONY RANGES Outlets. Sanatari Tower: 9663556, Shimanto Square (Old Rifles Square): 8624792, Airport Road: 8124986, 01720783909, Farmgate: 9139200, Sony Center Bashundhara City: 9111440, Ext. 104013, Palton Mir: 9555519, 9563433, Stadium-1: 9555594, Stadium-2: 9552376, Stadium-3: 9554749, Mouchak: 9331870, 01816747841, Lalmaia: 9118328, Mohammadpur: 8112970, Mohakhali: 8837041, Gulshan-1: 9883344, Gulshan-2: 8811576, 9880516, Uttara: 8911971, Lalbag: 8629567, Lumtbarar: 7167548, Bashabo: 7252018, Holland Centre: 8850545, Mirpur-1: 9010878, Mirpur-10: 9005843, Mirpur-6: 01712635155, Ibrahimpur: 9872098, Sherwopara: 9015324, Dholapur: 7443236, Jinjira: 7772026, Savar: 7742831, Khikhet Bazar: 8920404, Narayanganj: 7632704, Narsingdi: 63086, Gaspur: 9295925, Chowmista Gaspur: 9262381, 01751864508, Shufipur: 01751864509, Kanabari: 01915349394, Moawna: 01711187717, Myminsingh: 01712999980, Jamalpur: 01711787154, Kishoreganj: 55540, 0171673632, Sirajganj: 65044, Comilla: 65567, Laksham: 51184, Mojidpur: 63467, Chittagong Sava Corner: 611334, Agartabad: 712810, Hattahar: 710995, Feni: 61147, Feni-2: 01711235174, Cox Bazar: 51130, Chalk Bazar: 2553774, Khagochari: 62429, Bandarbar: 62164, Rajshahi: 774676, 775864, Khulna: 722605, 731698, Jessore: 67331, Jessore-2: 62154, 01712644041, Kushtia: 63121, 01710747889, Chourmuhoni: 62007, Barishal: 64062, Kallikla, Bogra: 01818305105, Nababbari Bogra: 51444, 60066, 01718942733, Sylhet: 7107171, 2831791, Moulabari Bazar: 53707, Faridpur: 66111, Habiganj: 62289, Daulatpur: 760663, Narail: 62126, 01913250752, Shalthikha: 62424, Magura: 62597, 01716436680, Chapalnababganj: 01712095267, Natore: 62189, Naogaon: 01715041616, Ishwardi: 63057, Pabna: 51813, Brahmanbaria: 52799, 01717105838, Ramgonj: 01712268370, Chuadanga: 62131, Rangpur: 6521-62141, 01199380344, Dinajpur: 61087, Faridpur: 66111. CALL FOR CORPORATE QUERY: 01715140222 > 01720508733 > 01722037389 > 01719446678 > 01711677214 > 01712555002 > 01717000988 > 01718611372 > 01720510412 > 01712555002 > 01815005141 > 01717000988 > 01718611372 > 01720510412 > 01720508733 > 01711677214 > 01816747841 > 01199056404