

Turkey won't start Syria war: Erdogan

Calm returns to border; UN condemns Syria

AGENCIES

Turkey's PM said his country has no intention of starting a war, after parliament in Ankara authorised military action inside Syria.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan said at a news conference in Akcakale on Thursday evening: "We want peace and security and nothing else. We could never be interested in something like starting a war."

Erdogan said the authorisation was purely derivative but he also warned that his country's determination should not be tested.

Parliament earlier approved military action in response to Syria's deadly shelling of a Turkish town. Syria has apologized for the shelling called it an accident.

Meanwhile, the UN has condemned the Syrian attack "in the strongest terms".

A statement by the Security Council called on the Syrian government to "fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbours".

It said the incident "highlighted the grave impact the crisis in Syria has on the security of its neighbours and on regional peace and

stability".

Thousands of Turks have gathered in towns and cities across the country to protest against the possibility of going to war with Syria.

Many social media users in Turkey reacted strongly against the possibility of war with Syria.

The closed-doors, emergency session vote followed Wednesday's shelling of the Turkish town of Akcakale, which killed two women and three children.

Turkey responded by shelling targets inside Syria - the first time it had done so in the 18-month-long unrest there.

Syria's UN envoy said two Syrian army officials were injured in the retaliatory shelling.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was "alarmed by escalating tensions along the Syrian-Turkish border", according to his spokesman, Martin Nesiry, and has called for "maximum restraint".

US state department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Turkey's retaliatory shelling was appropriate, proportionate and designed to protect its sovereignty.

Upbeat job data blessing for reeling Obama

AFP, Washington



US PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

An unexpectedly upbeat jobs report yesterday gave President Barack Obama a shot in the arm in the wake of a listless debate performance and pushed the economy center stage one month before the election.

Obama had been braced for bad news from the Labor Department but, while fresh data for September showed just 114,000 jobs generated last month, its revisions to numbers for July and August provided a sharply better picture.

The changes pushed the overall unemployment rate down to 7.8 percent from 8.1 percent in August, and undermined Republican nominee Mitt Romney's claim that Obama has proved unable to bring the jobless rate below 8.0 percent.

Earlier, fresh from a much-needed debate win and aiming for the political center, Romney said his earlier remarks dismissing 47 percent of Americans as government dependents were "completely wrong."

The admission came after Romney overwhelmed Obama at Wednesday's debate, seizing the center ground and vowing to fight for middle-class families being "crushed" by

the president's policies.

A secretly-recorded video released last month showed Romney in a closed-door gathering with wealthy donors, saying 47 percent of Americans paid no income taxes, viewed themselves as "victims" and would vote for Obama to keep getting government handouts.

Suddenly, the new job numbers that analysts had predicted would once again show sluggish economic growth could help boost Obama's standing and provide the rebound he needs on the campaign trail.

On Thursday Obama went on the attack at big rallies in Colorado and Wisconsin, delivering the verbal blows he missed in the previous night's debate.

The president besieged voters not to be duped by the suave debater seen by 67 million TV viewers, but to focus on the "real Mitt Romney" who he said promised tax cuts for the rich and cared little for ordinary Americans.

"If you want to be president, you owe the American people the truth," a fired-up Obama told supporters anxious not to see him fritter away his opinion poll in the election's home stretch.

Libya's national assembly rejected on Thursday the government line-up put forward by new Prime Minister Mustafa Abu Shagur after protesters stormed its headquarters, a representative told AFP.

"We voted to reject the government proposed by Abu Shagur and to grant him until Sunday to present a new line-up," said Abdelfati al-Dersi, who represents the eastern town of Al-Bayda in the assembly. "The government didn't represent all the sectors or regions of Libyan society. It was thrown together arbitrarily and on the basis of friendships," he added.

Representative Saleh Jaauda, an independent from the second city Benghazi, told AFP that the government team failed to win the assembly's approval because "it did not meet the aspirations of the Libyan people."

Abu Shagur made a televised statement shortly after the vote, saying he had picked "highly-qualified" individuals for his cabinet and that he had expected the congress to discuss the merits of each individual candidate.

Abu Shagur said he formally asked the assembly to withdraw and amend the list. General National Congress representatives had begun discussing the lineup late Thursday after more than 100 demonstrators had barged into their headquarters complaining that the western town of Zawiya was not represented on the list.

Several representatives criticised the proposed cabinet during an extraordinary meeting which was broadcast live on television.

Abu Shagur's proposed government would have kept several ministers from the previous cabinet, which was widely criticised for its failure to take tough stances on security and plagued by corruption scandals.

Libya assembly rejects government line-up

AFP, Tripoli

'Bangladesh-model govt' functioning in Pak: Gilani

PTI, Lahore

Months after the Supreme Court unseated him, former Pakistan prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani has claimed that an "unnamed Bangladesh-model government" is functioning in his country in the presence of a "worthless" parliament that has no say in decision-making.

"An unnamed Bangladesh-model government is functioning in the country as decisions are taken somewhere else and parliament is worthless. The opposition also wants such a government," Gilani said, indirectly referring to the Supreme Court's growing influence in the country.

"When I was declared disqualified for upholding the constitution of Pakistan, parliament did not put its weight behind me. And now it is shedding tears at the disqualification of other parliamentarians with dual

nationality, which is of no use now," he told reporters at Lahore airport on Thursday.

The Supreme Court convicted Gilani of contempt and subsequently disqualified him after he refused to revive graft cases in Switzerland against President Asif Ali Zardari, who heads the ruling Pakistan People's Party.

The apex court has also disqualified 11 federal and provincial lawmakers who have dual nationality and ruled that Interior Minister Rehman Malik, a close aide of Zardari, stands to lose his seat in parliament as he had made a false declaration about his British citizenship at the time of the 2008 polls.

Gilani regretted that Parliament had failed to assert its rights.

"The Pakistani parliament should have risen to the occasion when its boss (prime minister) was shown the door by the Supreme Court for protecting the Constitution," he said.



PHOTO: AFP
Kenyan who claim to have been abused by British colonial authorities celebrate as they leave the High Court after the group won the right to proceed with their legal claims against the British government in central London, England yesterday.

COLONIAL-ERA ABUSES Kenyans win right to sue UK

AFP, London

Three elderly Kenyans who claim they were victims of torture and sexual abuse at the hands of British colonial rulers during the 1950s Mau Mau uprising were given the right to sue Britain yesterday.

The judgement at the High Court in London came after a two-week hearing in July on allegations that Jane Muthoni Mara, Paulo Muoka Nzili and Wambuwa Wa Nyingi were subjected to torture and sexual mutilation.

The trio's lawyers said Nzili was castrated, Nyingi severely beaten and Mara subjected to appalling sexual abuse in detention camps during the Mau Mau rebellion.

A fourth claimant, Nduki Mutiwa Mutua, has died since legal proceedings began.

Supporters of the Kenyans wept when they heard the judgement, although the claimants themselves were not in court.

The hearings will have access to an archive of 8,000 secret files that were sent back to Britain after Kenya became independent in 1963.

The British government accepts that British forces tortured detainees but denies liability and says it will appeal against the decision.

London had initially argued that all liabilities were transferred to the new rulers of Kenya when the east African country was granted independence and that it could not be held liable now.

1st Death Anniversary

This picture of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs was taken during the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference at the Moscone Center in San Francisco on June 6, 2011. Apple yesterday paid tribute to Steve Jobs a year after his death, with a video and homage to the man who co-founded and led the iconic technology company. Jobs died October 5, 2011 at the age of 56 after a long battle with cancer.

PHOTO: AFP

Last will of Alfred Nobel

AFP, Stockholm

Swedish inventor and scholar Alfred Nobel (1833-1896), who made a vast fortune from his invention of dynamite in 1866, ordered the creation of the Nobel Prizes in his will.

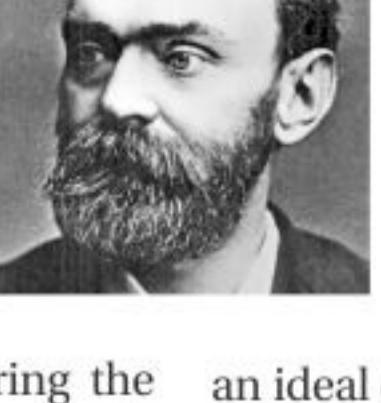
His 1895 testament stipulated his fortune was to be placed in a fund destined to honour "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind."

He died a year later in San Remo, Italy.

He had decreed the bulk of his estate should be invested in "safe securities," and as a result, some 31.5 million Swedish kronor, the equivalent today of about 1.5 billion Swedish kronor (\$225 million, 175 million euros) were used to create the Nobel Foundation.

Nobel's will specified that the prizes should be divided into five equal parts, apportioned as follows for the physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace prizes:

"One part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery or invention within the field of physics; one part to the



person who shall have made the most important chemical discovery or improvement; one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine; one part to the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction; and one part to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

But when Nobel died childless and the will was read, the contents surprised many, including his own family. The document was challenged by two nephews who tried to have it declared null and void, and even King Oscar II of Sweden opposed Nobel's wishes, saying they were not "patriotic minded."

After more than three years of haggling, the Nobel Foundation was created to manage the capital in Nobel's estate and the five institutions agreed to award the prizes as Nobel had wished.

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The 27-year-old rape victim faces possible indecency charges with her fiance based on the testimony of the alleged rapists, policemen who say they took the couple by surprise in an "improper position" just before the attack purportedly took place.

Magistrate Mohamed Ben Meftah is due to decide whether the woman and her fiance should be charged, after questioning them for more than two hours on Tuesday.

Tunisia offers state apology to rape victim

AFP, Tunis

Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki on Thursday offered a state apology to the women allegedly raped by two policemen who is waiting to hear if she will face indecency charges, Marzouki's office said.

"The Tunisian president received the young woman raped by the policemen... and after listening to the details of this painful case... he expressed total sympathy (with the woman) and offered a state apology," a statement said.

Marzouki also "strongly" condemned the rape and hailed the police agents who refused to cover up for their colleagues, something which he said demonstrated that the problem "is not the security institution itself but the mentality of some of its members."

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NEWS IN brief

Venezuela poll campaigns end

AFP, Caracas

Venezuelans packed the streets of Caracas and other cities Thursday to hear President Hugo Chavez and opposition rival Henrique Capriles make their final pitches ahead of weekend elections.

As a downpour fell on Caracas, Chavez, who is seeking a new six-year term in Sunday's presidential vote, addressed hundreds of thousands of supporters who waved flags, danced and chanted: "Ooh! ah! Chavez won't go!"

While Chavez remains the odds-on favorite to win, Capriles has given the former paratrooper his biggest election challenge. Capriles cut the president's lead by half to 10 points over the past four months, accusing Chavez of dividing the country.

Britain to extradite Hamza

AFP, London

Radical Islamist preacher Abu Hamza and four other men are set to be extradited to the United States after a British court yesterday rejected their last-ditch attempts to block their removal.



Two senior judges at the High Court in London dismissed a plea by Hamza, an Egyptian-born 54-year-old former imam, to be allowed a stay of extradition in order for medical tests to be carried out to assess his fitness to face trial.

Fellow terror suspects Khaled Al-Fawwaz, Syed Tabah Ahsan, Adel Abdul Bary and Babar Ahmad were also denied an injunction.

S Korea resumes Iran oil imports

AFP, Seoul

South Korea has resumed imports of Iranian crude oil after halting them in July due to Western sanctions targeting Tehran's nuclear programme, a report said yesterday.

SK Energy, the refining arm of SK Innovation Co., received a shipment of two million barrels in an Iranian tanker earlier this week, a company official told Dow Jones Newswires.

Another refiner, Hyundai Oilbank, expects to receive a shipment of two million barrels this month, said another company official who declined to be named.

Two die in Israel hotel shooting

AFP, Jerusalem

A US national opened fire at a hotel in the southern Israeli resort town of Eilat on the Red Sea yesterday, killing a hotel employee, before being shot dead by the security forces, Israeli police said.

The shooting, which took place in the Leonardo Club hotel, occurred as the southern beach resort was packed with tourists and Israelis enjoying the weekly Jewish holiday of Sukkot, or Feast of Tabernacles.

Police later said the man had been working as a trainee sous-chef at the hotel and had recently been dismissed.

Early on Friday, he entered the hotel lobby and